

Archaeological observations at 63 Castle Street, Reading

An engineering test trench was observed on May 4th 2005 on the above site (see sketch plan below).

A test trench was observed which was *c.* 6m long and orientated N-S. It measured initially 1.5m wide. Due to the instability of the ground and successive collapses this was increased to 3m wide. The trench went to a depth of 4m before the main storm water pipe was encountered running NW-SE. The ground immediately below the wooden fence is topsoil, the brown soil and then chalk about 2m down. Further to the south the ground is entirely artificial, as follows:

1. Top soil 0.2m thick
2. Layers of tipped chalk 0.35m thick
3. Brown, rubble soil *c.* 1.35m thick
4. Loose back-filled chalk and occasional lines of tipped soil.

At about 2m down there was another pipe and no sign of natural ground.



Plate 1: View looking south along the axis of the trench

Conclusion

No pre-modern features or artefacts were observed on this site.

