

Appendix 1 Deposit descriptions

Trench 1

Context number	Description	Depth	Interpretation
101	Friable dark greyish brown silty clay with common small roots and rare small gravels	0.00-0.40m	Topsoil
102	Compact mid greyish-orange loamy clay with very rare, fine manganese (Mg) flecks, rare fine roots, orange flecks of iron oxide and mottles of grey silty clay (from the topsoil)	0.40-0.50m	Subsoil
103	Cleaning layer above surface 104	0.50-0.55m	
104	Compact dark reddish-grey clay silt with occasional brick and tile fragments and occasional small to large various stones (sub-angular and sub-rounded). Some brick and tile fragments show residual heat and soot-like marks	+0.55m	Unexcavated gravel surface
105	Compact mid reddish-brown clay silt. See 104 for inclusions.	+0.55m	Linear feature thought to be part of the system of field boundaries from the C18th. Unexcavated, but probably similar in shape and depth to the extant ditches delineating the field today
106	Compact reddish brown clay silt with fine roots and rare sub-angular stones and very rare brick fragments	+0.55m	Probably the natural soil with some intrusion from the activity surrounding 104 and 105

Trench 2

Context number	Description	Depth	Interpretation
201	See 101	0.00-0.40m	See 101
202	See 102	0.40-0.50m	See 102
203	Friable light grey silty clay with rare, fine roots	0.50-0.53m	Fill of possible posthole 204
204	A very shallow, bowl-shaped feature	0.50-0.53m	Cut for a possible posthole. Half-sectioned and found to be not real
205	Friable patchy light reddish-brown silty clay with dark organic patches	0.50-0.56m	Fill of a possible posthole 206
206	An uneven shallow feature with diffuse edges	0.50-0.56m	Cut for a possible posthole. Half-sectioned and found to be not real.

Trench 3

Context number	Description	Depth	Interpretation
300	Soft mid to light greyish-brown clay silt with common fine roots. Diffuse lower boundary	0.00-0.32m	Topsoil
301	Firm mid to light reddish-brown clay silt with few fine roots. Diffuse lower boundary	0.32-0.41m	Subsoil
302	Firm mid reddish-brown silty clay with rare Mg flecks towards the base of the deposit. Diffuse lower boundary. All features cut this deposit	0.41-0.65m	Subsoil
303	Firm mid greyish-brown clay silt with common Mg flecks. Diffuse lower boundary	0.65-0.85m	Subsoil?
304	Firm mid greyish-red clay silt with common Mg flecks. Diffuse lower boundary	0.41-0.58m	Upper fill of ditch 305, same as 306
305	Shape of profile taken from section 12C. The south east edge is initially steep to 0.08m then breaks gradually to a moderate slope. Break of slope to base is concave and the base itself is convex. The north-west edge slopes moderately from the ground surface to the base. The break of slope to the base is concave	0.41-0.68m	East-west ditch cut. Same as 307
306	See 304	0.41-0.63m	Upper fill of ditch 307. Same as 304
307	Shape of profile taken from section 12A. The south-east edge is initially steeply sloping then breaks gradually to a gentle slope and a concave base. The north-west side has a similar profile but is slightly steeper overall	0.41-0.68m	East-west ditch cut. Same as 305
308	Soft mid reddish-brown clay silt with rare Mg flecks and rare fine roots. The lower boundary is diffuse and the context as a whole is almost indistinguishable from the surrounding alluvium 302	0.41-0.68m	Upper fill of ditch 310
309	As 308 but more grey, and has a higher clay - silt ratio. Very rare Mg flecks. Diffuse lower boundary	0.68-0.75m	Primary fill of ditch 310
310	Both edges are concave and slope steeply to the shallow, concave base. Both breaks of slope to the base are gradual and concave, with the north-west slightly more oblique	0.41-0.75m	East-west ditch cut

Context number	Description	Depth	Interpretation
311	Firm mid brownish-red clay silt with rare Mg flecks and rare fine roots. Diffuse upper horizon	0.63-0.68m	Primary fill of 307. Same as 312
312	See 311	0.58-0.68m	Primary fill of 305. Same as 311
313	Hard mid brownish-grey mottled silty clay	0.39-0.54m	Upper fill of ditch 316
314	Hard mid orange-brown mottled silty clay	0.54-0.65m	Mid fill of ditch 316
315	Hard mid greyish-brown mottled silty clay with frequent Mg flecks	0.65-0.90m	Primary fill of ditch 316
316	The south edge slopes fairly steeply and forms a concave base. The north edge has a shallow convex slope initially, then becomes concave and meets the base almost imperceptibly	0.39-0.90m	East-west ditch cut

Trench 4

Context number	Description	Depth	Interpretation
400	Machining layer	0.00	
401	Friable dark greyish-brown silty clay with very rare small sub-angular and sub-rounded gravel, very rare small post-Medieval pottery sherds and common fine roots	0.00-0.40m	Topsoil
402	Compact mid greyish-orange loamy clay with very rare small Mg flecks, rare fine roots and mottles of grey silty clay. Also flecks of orange iron oxide	0.40-0.50m	Subsoil
403	Cleaning layer above gravels 404	0.50-0.52m	
404	Soft mid brownish-red clay silt with abundant gravels, frequent Mg flecks and very rare sub-rounded cobbles	0.50-0.65m	Gravel layer
405	Compact mid reddish-brown silty clay with rare Mg flecks and small fine roots	0.60-0.80m	See 407
406	Soft mid reddish-grey silty clay with very rare Mg flecks and gravel and evidence of past root activity	0.60-0.90m	A naturally(?) occurring alluvial deposit underlying gravel layer 404
407	See 405	0.60-0.75m	Clay-based alluvial deposit underlying gravel layer 404
408	Firm mid orange-grey silty clay with rare Mg and organic flecks	From 0.90m	Alluvial layer affected by seasonal water-logging

Trench 5

Context number	Description	Depth	Interpretation
501	Loose light brown silty clay loam with common fine roots	0.00-0.15m	Topsoil
502	Soft light grey-brown silty clay with common fine roots	0.15-0.30m	Subsoil
503	Firm light blueish-grey silty clay with light reddish brown patches of silty clay and common well-sorted roots	0.30-0.50m	Alluvial deposit
504	Hard light brownish-red silty clay with fairly sorted Mg flecks and frequent well-sorted roots	0.50-0.75m	Alluvial deposit
505	Firm mid greyish-blue silty clay with well-sorted frequent roots. A light orange-brown mottling with Mg flecks occurs at the base of this deposit	0.75-0.95m	Alluvial deposit
506	Firm fine mid blueish-grey silty clay with frequent well-sorted roots and very rare Mg flecks	0.95-1.05m	Alluvial deposit
507	Firm mid orange-brown silty clay with abundant well-sorted roots	1.05-1.25m	Alluvial deposit
508	Firm mid yellowish-blue mottled silty clay with frequent Mg flecks	1.25-1.30m	Alluvial deposit
509	Hard mid greyish-brown mottled silty clay with rare Mg flecks and rare roots	1.30-1.35m	Alluvial deposit
510	Hard mid orange-brown mottled silty clay with frequent roots and Mg chunks	1.35-1.50m	Alluvial deposit
511	Hard light greyish-brown mottled silty clay with frequent roots and occasional Mg flecks	0.50-0.60m	Alluvial deposit
512	Hard light reddish-brown silty clay with frequent small roots and rare Mg flecks	0.60-0.75m	Alluvial deposit
513	Hard mid brownish-grey silty clay with frequent small roots and occasional Mg flecks	0.75-2.00m	Alluvial deposit
514	Firm mid brownish-red silty clay with occasional small roots, rare Mg flecks and rare rounded gravel	2.00-+2.10m	Alluvial deposit

Context number	Description	Depth	Interpretation
515	Firm light greenish-blue mottled silty clay with rare small twig or branch remains and very rare fine roots. Mottled in the lower half of the deposit. Truncated on the southern side by 540	1.35-1.71m	Alluvial fill of small, shallow pit 516
516	Even concave north side leading to a shallow concave base. South edge truncated by 540	1.35-1.71m	Small shallow pit possibly part of an east-west alignment
517	Hard mid blueish-brown fine silty clay	1.35-1.50m	Fill of small pit 518
518	Shallow oval pit with concave sides (70-80°) and a flat base	1.35-1.50m	Small pit, possibly part of an east-west alignment
519	Firm light grey-blue silty clay with occasional roots	1.35-1.55m	Alluvial fill of pit 520
520	Oval feature with shallow concave sides and base	1.35-1.55m	Shallow pit, possibly part of an east-west alignment
521-536	Void		
537	Firm light brownish-grey silty clay with a few small vertical twigs/branches	1.35-1.45m	Fill of pit 538
538	Small sub-oval feature breaking gradually from the surface with variable degrees of slope	1.35-1.45m	Small, shallow pit
539-545	Void		
546	Feature number. Firm dark grey alluvial clay with abundant roots, rare sand and occasional gravels. Irregular sides and a concave, rounded base	1.35-1.95m	Tree throw
547	Sheet missing		
548	Feature number. Irregular shape.	c1.35-1.95m	Probable tree throw. Not excavated
549	Firm light greenish blue silty clay with rare Mg flecks or wood remains concentrated on the eastern edge	c1.35-1.95m	Probable tree throw. Not excavated
550	Void		
551	Firm light greyish-blue silty clay with occasional Mg flecks and wood remains	c1.35-1.95m	Probable tree throw. Not excavated
552	Void		

Context number	Description	Depth	Interpretation
553	Compact dark greyish-brown silty clay with frequent roots	c1.35-2.10m	Fill of unexcavated probable tree throw
554	Unexcavated feature	c1.35-2.10m	Probable tree throw
555	Feature number. Firm dark greyish-brown silty clay with frequent medium roots and Mg flecks	c1.35-2.10m	Unexcavated probable tree throw

Trench 6

Context number	Description	Depth	Interpretation
600	Loose dark brown silty loam	0.00-0.30m	Topsoil
601	Firm mid brownish-grey silty clay	0.30-1.25m	Subsoil
602	Compact light blueish-grey silty clay	0.50-1.15m	Alluvial deposit
603	Compact light brown silty clay with frequent Mg flecks, charcoal and organic silts. Mottled	0.35-0.45m	Alluvial deposit as a stable buried land surface on the banked area 608
604	Compact light to mid brown silty clay	0.30-1.85m	Alluvium washed out from a channel to form a bank
605	Compact dark brown silty clay with abundant charcoal and evidence of past root activity	0.62-0.76m	Similar to 603. Represents a buried land surface and therefore a period of relative stability of sediment
606	Firm light brown silty clay with occasional Mg flecks and occasional charcoal	0.65-1.30m	Banked alluvial layer representing a period of stability
607	Superseded by 623		
608	North-east – south-west alignment. Convex section with a flat top	0.30-1.84m	A group number containing structural layers 603, 604, 605, 606, 622, 615 and 616. The structure number for a causeway or naturally banked material
609	Compact reddish-grey silty clay with abundant organic remains	1.3-1.33	Organic alluvial layer within a shallow depression showing settling of organic material in waterlogged conditions
610	Compact dark greyish-blue alluvial clay	1.25-1.46m	Anaerobic alluvial deposit settled into a small depression
611	Compact light brown alluvial and organic silts	1.15-1.48m	Mixed deposit. Material that has either washed out from a channel or eroded from an old surface and mixed with alluvial clay

Context number	Description	Depth	Interpretation
612	Firm light blueish-grey alluvial clay	1.30-1.46m	Alluvial layer settled into a shallow depression
613	Firm reddish grey silty clay with evidence of past root activity	1.45-1.55m	Possibly representing an old top or subsoil. Similar to 609
614	Firm mid yellowish-brown silty clay with rare Mg flecks and evidence of past root activity	1.52-1.83m	Primary deposit filling shallow depression north of banked materials 608
615	Compact dark grey silty clay	1.66-1.84m	Thin deposit of alluvium north of the shallow depression
616	Soft mid reddish-brown silty alluvium with small poorly sorted gravel and moderate flecks of degraded gravel	1.80-+1.89m	Banked alluvial material at the northern end of group 608. This deposit lies at the base of Trench 6 and may be thicker than recorded here
617	Compact dark purplish-grey silty clay with evidence of past root activity and abundant organic remains	1.80-2.15m	Fill of tree throw 618
618	Irregular sides and base with gentle breaks of slope	1.80-2.15m	Tree throw
619	Compact dark purplish-grey silty clay with frequent small to medium roots	1.77-2.05m	Fill of small tree throw 620
620	Sharp, irregular sloping sides with an irregular base	1.77-2.05m	Tree throw. Possibly contemporary with 618
621	Imperceptible break of slope with shallow straight sides. Imperceptible break of slope to a concave base	1.15-2.30m	East-west linear. Original cut of a boundary ditch associated with a trackway linking nearby Towbury Hillfort with the River Severn
622	Compact mid brown silty clay with frequent Mg and charcoal flecks	1.05-+1.99m	Organic alluvial material visible along most of Trench 6. It has built up over ditch 621 and filled re-cut 629. Extends below the limit of excavation. Equivalent to 644
623	Compact reddish brown sandy clay with frequent small angular gravel	1.39-1.80m	Layer of embanked material cut by the latest re-cut of 621. It is possible this has banked up against a low external bank

Context number	Description	Depth	Interpretation
624	Compact dark brownish grey alluvial clay	1.50-1.83m	Material embanked against the north side of 626. Deposited during flooding
625	Compact red sandy clay	1.20-2.30m	Primary fill of ditch 621 apparently slumped from bank 630. Truncated by 628 when the ditch was re-cut.
626	Firm dark grey silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal and Mg. Clearly defined	1.43-2.22m	Alluvial deposit which overlies 643 and fills re-cut 628
627	Loose reddish-brown sandy clay with abundant gravel and sand	2.03-2.26m	Primary fill of first re-cut of ditch 621, consisting of eroded 625
628	Gentle break of slope to concave edges with a gentle concave base. Filled by 626 and 627	1.15-2.30m	East-west linear ditch cut, re-cut through 625. A re-working of original ditch 621
629	Break of slope from surface initially gentle with moderate (35°) slightly concave sides. The south side is steeper and deeper. Filled by 622	1.43-1.99m	Interface between fill 626 and deposit 622 (originally thought to be a secondary re-cut of ditch 621)
630	Loose red silty clay with abundant gravel	1.15-1.79m	A bank of natural gravel, upcast from the initial excavation of ditch 621. Aligned east-west. A southern (internal?) bank for this ditch? Note: no associated buried land surfaces
631	Firm dark grey silty clay with rare charcoal and Mg flecks. Clearly defined edges. Banks up to 630 and overlies deposits associated with ditch 632	1.26-1.79m	
632	East-west V-shaped linear. Steep, straight sides and a sharp break of slope to the base. Truncated by 635 to the north	1.52-2.16m	Linear east-west ditch, possibly contemporary with 621. See 621
633	Firm reddish-brown sandy clay with rare fine sand and gravel	1.41-1.99m	Alluvial layer associated with ditch 632 and equivalent to 645
634	Firm reddish-brown sandy clay with occasional gravels and a gritty texture	1.41-2.16m	Single fill of 632 truncated by re-cut 635. An alluvial infilling rather than a deliberate backfill

Context number	Description	Depth	Interpretation
635	East-west linear feature with moderate (45°) sides which are convex at the top and concave at the base. The base itself is U-shaped. Truncates 634 and 633	1.41-1.98m	Re-cut of ditch 632, possibly contemporary with 629 as both cut a similar layer (631 and 626)
636	Loose reddish-brown silty clay with abundant sand and gravel	1.52-2.07m	Upcast from ditch 632 forming a low, wide bank immediately to the south
637	Firm mid brown silty clay with occasional Mg and charcoal flecks	1.31-1.98m	Alluvial fill of re-cut 635
638	Loose 20-30mm sub-rounded gravel layer in a mid grey silty clay matrix with occasional sand. A long thin layer, similar to 640	1.53-1.65m	May relate to re-cut event 625 or indicate levelling of surface 645
639	Firm dark greenish-red alluvial clay with occasional Mg and charcoal flecks. Forms a conical bank on the north side of ditch 635	1.20-1.54m	Bank or dump of upcast material from ditch 635
640	Loose 20-30mm sub-rounded gravel layer in a mid grey silty clay matrix with occasional sand. A long thin layer, similar to 638	1.46-1.54m	See 638
641	Firm light blueish grey silty clay lying at the very base of Trench 6, part of the alluvial layers dipping northwards	1.89-+1.99m	Alluvial layer obscured by rising water levels and the disturbance of deposits at the base of the trench
642	Loose reddish-brown silty clay with abundant small sub-rounded river gravel and large patches of coarse sand	From 1.39m	Natural gravel
643	Compact mid reddish-brown sandy clay with occasional gravel truncated by 628	1.70-1.99m	Alluvial layer
644	See 622. Overlies southern ditch sequence 621 and 632	1.15-1.45m	Alluvial layer
645	See 633. Lies south of ditch 632	1.64-+1.75m	Alluvial layer
646	See 631. Lies south of ditch 632	1.24-1.62m	Alluvial layer

Appendix 2 The radiocarbon date

The University of Waikato Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory



Private Bag 3105
Hamilton,
New Zealand.
Fax +64 7 838 4192
Ph +64 7 838 4278
email c14@waikato.ac.nz
Head: Dr Alan Hogg

Report on Radiocarbon Age Determination for Wk- 14296

Submitter	E Pearson
Submitter's Code	WSM33396/609
Site & Location	Ripple, Worcestershire,, United Kingdom
Sample Material	Wood
Submitter's Code	WSM33396/609
Site & Location	Ripple, Worcestershire,, United Kingdom
Sample Material	Wood
Physical Pretreatment	Surfaces scraped clean. The wood was chopped up into small splinters and washed in ultrasonic bath.
Chemical Pretreatment	Sample was washed in hot 10% HCl, rinsed and treated with hot 1% NaOH. The NaOH insoluble fraction was treated with hot 10% HCl, filtered, rinsed and dried.

$\delta^{14}\text{C}$	-378.3 ± 3.0	‰
$\delta^{13}\text{C}$	-25.5 ± 0.2	‰
D^{14}C	-377.6 ± 3.0	‰
% Modern	62.2 ± 0.3	%
Result	3809 ± 39	BP

Comments

Alan Hogg

17/2/04

- Result is *Conventional Age or % Modern* as per Stuiver and Polach, 1977, Radiocarbon 19, 355-363. This is based on the Libby half-life of 5568 yr with correction for isotopic fractionation applied. This age is normally quoted in publications and must include the appropriate error term and Wk number.
- Quoted errors are 1 standard deviation due to counting statistics multiplied by an experimentally determined Laboratory Error Multiplier of 1.
- The isotopic fractionation, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$, is expressed as ‰ wrt PDB.
- Results are reported as % *Modern* when the conventional age is younger than 200 yr BP.

