

CM264:  
Norton sub Hamdon  
Yeovil  
Somerset

Archaeological Monitoring  
and Recording

**REPORT**

October 2019





**CM264: Norton sub Hamdon  
Yeovil  
Somerset**

for

**C1 project code: C1/AMR/19/NYS**

**Wessex Water plc**

**REPORT**

Prepared by Richard McConnell and Tara Fairclough  
Date 23/10/19

Approved by Dr Cheryl Green

Signed

Date 24/10/19

Issue 01

**PROJECT DETAILS**

Wessex Water Scheme ref.	CM264
Planning Application ref.	N/A
Local Planning Authority	N/A
Scheduled Monument Consent ref.	N/A
Historic Environment Record ref.	41607
Collecting Museum	South West Heritage Trust
Museum accession code	TTNCM 107/2019
OASIS reference	contexto1-353511

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## Summary

*Context One Heritage & Archaeology (C1) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording relating to the construction of a new rising main at Norton sub Hamdon, Yeovil, Somerset. The project was commissioned by Wessex Water plc (WW) under a Term Agreement with C1.*

*There are no records of any previous archaeological activity along the route of the pipeline although the Somerset Historic Environment Record lists a number of heritage assets in the environs with the Roman Fosse Way and Hamdon Hill Iron Age hillfort being particularly significant.*

*Despite this potential, no archaeological features or deposits were observed, and no finds were collected during groundwork excavations. However, the absence of activity must be weighed against the very limited nature of development works.*

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Context One Heritage & Archaeology (C1) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks for a replacement rising main at Norton sub Hamdon, Yeovil, Somerset (the 'Site') (**Figure 1**). The project was commissioned by Wessex Water plc (WW) under a Term Agreement with C1.
- 1.2 The monitoring and recording was requested by the county Historic Environment Service (HES), South West Heritage Trust (SWHT). In a reply to an email consultation request from Ms Emma Pickard, Senior Environment and Planning Advisor, WW (undated), Ms Tanya James, Historic Environment Officer, SWHT stated:

*“With respect to the additional working area at Bridge Wood, it’s very close to the Fosse Way, a Roman Road. Rural sections of former Roman roads are often the focus for burials and temples/shrines. So I think it would be worthwhile monitoring where, and if practical. The drill pit areas look fairly large, so even the topsoil strip should be enough to determine whether any further monitoring is necessary. But this will be dependent upon the depth of initial soil strip. The same goes for the site compound, if there is to be soil strip, I think it should be monitored.*

*As for the open cut and drill pit sections on the main scheme. Do these all fall within areas which will be monitored as part of the initial topsoil strip? If so, then then I think this could be a decision made in the field by the archaeological contactor based on the results of the monitoring. This can be easily be covered in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by your appointed archaeologist (i.e. scope of additional works). If not, then it may be necessary to monitor some of the pits and open cut sections, depending upon their dimensions and locations. Again this could be agreed by your appointed contractor with me and the locations included in the WSI.”*

- 1.3 The programme of archaeological works comprised four elements: the production of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which set out the project strategy (McConnell and Fairclough 2019); archaeological monitoring and recording; post-excavation and report production (this document); and archive preparation and deposition.

## 2. The Site

- 2.1 The replacement rising main (NGRs west end, 345027 115866; east end, 346796 115504) covers a linear distance of c. 1.95km and mostly comprised inserting the pipe through the ground using directional drilling. This was completed in sections and required the excavation of entry and exit drill pits positioned at regularly spaced intervals along the pipeline route. A temporary compound was set up on the west side of the A356 c. 300m to the west of Norton sub Hamdon. A short open cut section of pipe replacement works was planned at Bridge Wood c. 500m north west of Drayton to connect the pipe to the existing mains. Monitoring and recording was required during the excavation of the drill pits, temporary compound and open cut pipe trench section (**Figure 1**).
- 2.2 The western end of the new pipe started at the existing rising main west of Drayton and travelled south-south-east for c. 30m, before turning south-east and running for c. 1.75km towards the south of Norton sub Hamdon. The final c. 170m ran north-east and terminated at Norton sub Hamdon pumping station. All three components of groundworks were located within pasture and meadow but also required crossing three roads and the River Parrett.
- 2.3 The pipeline is situated on land that is c. 36m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the west, dropping to 20m on the River Parrett valley floor before gradually ascending to 28m aOD in the east. The recorded geology in the west is Bridport Sand Formation – Sandstone before the new pipe descends into an area characterised by Dyrham Formation – Sandstone in the River Parrett valley with superficial deposits of Alluvium – clay, silt, sand and gravel. A finger of Beacon Limestone Formation – Limestone is encountered rising up out of the river valley before giving way to a further deposit of Bridport Sand Formation – Sandstone at the eastern end of the pipe route (BGS 2019). The compound is located on Dyrham Formation – Sandstone while the Bridge Wood pipe replacement overlies the Bridport Sand Formation – Sandstone. The replacement main crosses

soils that are characterised as Freely draining slightly acid loamy soils in west with freely draining slightly acid but base-rich soils in the River Parrett valley. Slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage are noted at the eastern end of the pipe route; the Bridge Wood groundworks; and the compound (CSAIS 2019).

- 2.4 The groundworks identified for archaeological monitoring and recording are spread across a multi-period landscape. Dominating the topography and located to the east of the Site is a large multivallate hillfort known as Hamdon Hill camp, and designated as a Scheduled Monument (**Historic England (HE) ref. 1003679**). Despite its prominence as an Iron Age monument, archaeological activity spanning the prehistoric and Post-medieval periods has also been recorded. The county Historic Environment Record (HER) lists several other prehistoric heritage assets elsewhere including possible cropmark enclosures to the north (**HER refs. 55865 and 55392**) and south of the Site (**HER refs. 15913 and 53446**). Roman occupation of the environs include a Roman settlement (**HER ref. 54363**) noted at the east end of the scheme and the Fosse Way Roman road (**HER ref. 55101**) and Roman villa site (**HER ref. 53421**) both located near the western end. The medieval period is represented by the Hamlet of Bridge (**HER ref. 53435**), the Deserted Hamlet of Little Lopen (**HER ref. 53433**) and ridge and furrow (**HER ref. 37618**) situated north, south-west and south respectively, while a Post-medieval and modern agricultural/pastoral landscape is clearly visible through extant buildings, a sheep wash, a mill and turnpike roads.
- 2.5 A rapid assessment of historic maps indicates a reorganisation of the landscape through field boundary loss especially between the Tithe Maps of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey Maps of 1887 and all three components of the scheme will coincide with former field boundaries.

### 3. Archaeological aims and research objectives

3.1 The principal aims of the archaeological monitoring were to:

- identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during groundworks;
- determine the character of the archaeological remains, where present;
- recover environmental information, which may provide further information relating to the local historic environment of the area;
- provide sufficient information to enable further mitigation strategies to be determined, where appropriate

3.2 The research objectives were to:

- determine whether there is any evidence specifically relating to Roman activity associated with the Fosse Way, and later agricultural field divisions and practices

3.3 The broader research objectives accorded with several research aims of the South West Archaeological Research Framework 2008 & 2012 (SWARF). These included:

- Research Aim 21b: Medieval and Post-Medieval agriculture
- Research Aim 29: Improve understanding of non-villa Roman rural settlement
- Research Aim 42: Improve our understanding of Medieval farming
- Research Aim 58 (55): Widen our understanding of Roman burial traditions.

### 4. Methodology

4.1 All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) (December 2014) and in accordance with the *Somerset Archaeological Handbook* (2018). C1 adhered to the *Code of Conduct* of the CIfA (1985, rev. 2000, 2014), and *Regulations for Professional Conduct* (CIfA, 2014, rev. 2015) at all times. The fieldwork methodology is summarised below.

- 4.2 C1 gave notification of the commencement of the works to the HES but it was not deemed necessary for a representative to visit the Site and monitor archaeological fieldwork. Monitoring will continue until the deposition of the Site archive.
- 4.3 Prior to the commencement of Site works, the excavation methodology was agreed between those responsible for carrying out the groundworks and C1 to ensure that all parties were aware of the monitoring requirements.
- 4.4 Construction groundworks comprised the machine excavation of the following:
- Topsoil removal in the location of a temporary compound to provide a firm base for both site welfare and material storage
  - Machine excavation of trial pits to locate the existing rising main
  - Machine excavation of directional drill pits at entry and exit locations where new pipe sections were bored underground.

#### **Temporary compound**

The machine excavation of c. 0.25m of topsoil across the compound area was monitored prior to being covered with permeable membrane and aggregate to form a temporary metalled surface. In the event the compound was relocated to a field just south of the original position.

#### **Trial pits**

A number of trial pits were machine excavated to locate the existing rising main at sporadic locations along the pipeline route so that this was not accidentally disturbed during directional drilling.

#### **Directional drill pits**

Drill pit groundworks along the route of the new rising main comprised the excavation of twenty pits including four that were not originally planned. The drill pits generally measured between 2.10m and 3.60m long, 2.10m and 3.10m wide and were up to 1.60m deep. A decision was taken to exclude the monitoring of a short length of open cut pipeline c. 25m long at the west end of the scheme as an adjacent drill pit was recorded as archaeologically sterile. An extra trial pit towards the west end of the route to locate the existing main also proved to be archaeologically sterile, consequently a drill pit (DP14) in close proximity was eliminated from the monitoring programme. A further two trial pits were excavated at Wood Bridge to trace the existing main and measured up to 5.30m long, 1.65m wide and 1.20m deep. These also proved to be archaeologically sterile so the drill pits here (DP16 & DP17) were not monitored.

- 4.5 By default, core details of the deposit sequence across the Site where interventions occurred were recorded using C1 *pro-forma* profile forms in digital format using iPad mini tablets. Soil colours were logged using a Munsell soil colour chart. Spoil was examined for the retrieval of artefacts. A photographic record of the monitoring and recording was carried out and involved the sole use of digital images. The photographic record included working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

## **5. Results**

- 5.1 In accordance with standard archaeological practice, each deposit recorded during the investigation was given a unique context number and is shown in standard brackets, e.g. (100). Deposit colours were matched on Site against a Munsell soil colour chart and described against the relevant hue and reference, e.g. brownish yellow (10YR 3/1). Full details of all the recorded deposits have been tabulated in **Appendix 1** and are only briefly summarised below.
- 5.2 Twenty-two profiles were logged during the monitoring of groundworks and all showed a similar deposit sequence across the Site. This comprised topsoil, 0.20m to 0.40m deep, above a sandy clay loam subsoil, 0.30m to 0.60m deep, overlying natural sandy clay deposits up to a recorded thickness of 0.90m. A natural layer of stones was observed towards the base of drill pit 6a. The compound was soil stripped to a depth of

0.25m (**Figure 2**) while the drill pits were excavated to a maximum depth of 1.60m (**Figure 3**). No archaeological features or deposits were observed.

## 6. The finds

6.1 No finds were observed or recovered during archaeological monitoring.

## 7. Discussion and Conclusion

7.1 Despite the archaeological potential relating to the Roman Fosse Way, Hamdon Hill Iron Age hill fort and medieval activity recorded in the vicinity of the Site, no physical evidence was observed during monitoring of groundwork excavations. Instead, development works revealed a simple sequence of topsoil/subsoil overlying a series of natural alluvial and colluvial deposits. However, the absence of archaeological activity should be weighed against the very limited nature of development works.

## 8. Archive

8.1 The NPPF requires that an archaeological archive arising from development works is made publicly accessible (para. 199). The archive comprises two parts: the paper/digital archive including site records and images; and the artefact/ecofact assemblage.

### Paper/digital archive

8.2 Where archaeological features/deposits are recorded, the archive generated from this usually comprises site records, drawings and photographs either in paper format or born-digital data. Within three months of the conclusion of a project this is normally transferred into the care of a Trusted Digital Repository such as the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) as scanned paper records or native born-digital data. The digital archive will be compiled in accordance with the standards and requirements of the ADS, as set out on their website.

8.3 As no archaeological evidence was encountered, all relevant data has been incorporated into this assessment report and the paper/digital archive will be stored on the C1 cloud storage server or discarded.

### Physical archive

8.4 The artefact/ecofact assemblage is the legal property of the landowner (excluding any items that fall under The Treasure Act 1996). However, it is usual practice for the landowner to transfer ownership of this assemblage to a receiving institution (usually a museum) once it has been fully assessed and/or analysed. Receiving institutions store the assemblage and make it publicly accessible. Alternatively, the landowner can choose to keep the assemblage but arrangements must be made to ensure its long-term curation and public accessibility in accordance with NPPF.

8.5 On this occasion, there is no physical archive to deposit.

### Dissemination: report

8.6 Copies of the report will be submitted to the following:

- Wessex Water plc
- the HES so that it can be included as part of the county Historic Environment Record (HER)
- the ADS, via OASIS (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations – <http://oasis.ac.uk/england/>)

### Dissemination: publication

8.7 By default, a short entry will be prepared for publication in the summary section of the next county archaeological journal or equivalent periodical.

## 9. Bibliography

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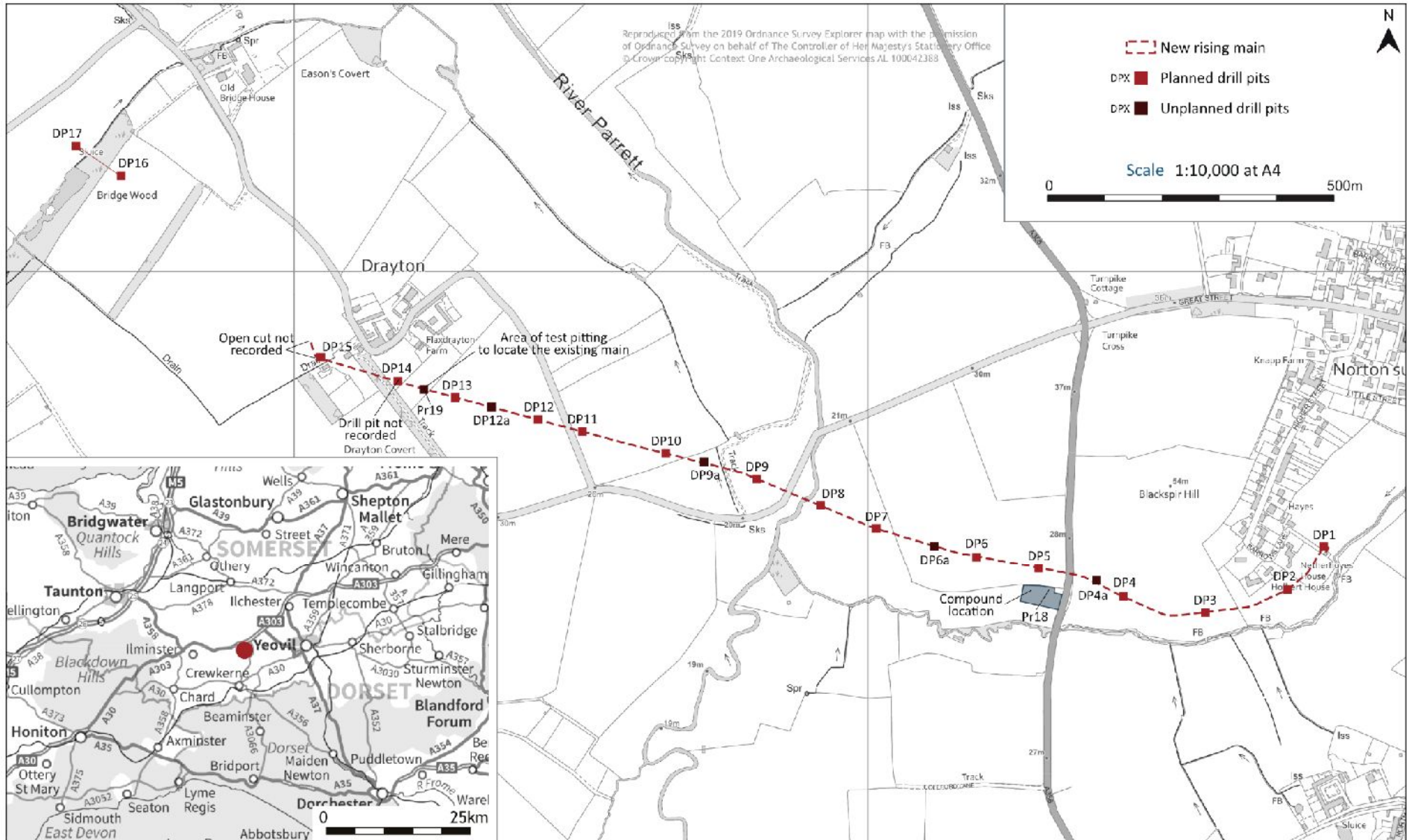


Figure 1. Site setting showing route of new rising main and location of directional drill pits



Figure 2. View showing topsoil stripping across the compound from the east



Figure 3. Directional drill pit 6 from the west showing typical intervention

## Appendix 1: Context summary

CONTEXT NO.	PERIOD	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	EARLIER THAN	LATER THAN	LENGTH (m)	WIDTH (m)	THICKNESS (m)
<b>Drill pit 1</b>								
100	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Dark grey (10YR 4/1) sandy silt loam with occasional small stone fragments		101	2.60	2.20	0.20
101	Undated	Layer	Subsoil. Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) sandy clay loam with occasional small stone fragments	100	102	2.60	2.20	0.45
102	Natural	Layer	Natural deposits. Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy clay	101		2.60	2.20	>0.60
<b>Drill pit 2</b>								
200	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Dark grey (10YR 4/1) sandy silt loam with occasional small stone fragments		201	2.10	2.10	0.20
201	Undated	Layer	Subsoil. Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) sandy silt loam with occasional small stone fragments	200	202	2.10	2.10	0.30
202	Natural	Layer	Natural deposits. Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy clay	201		2.10	2.10	>0.50
<b>Drill pit 3</b>								
300	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Brown (10YR 5/3) sandy silt loam with occasional small stone fragments		301	2.60	1.70	0.25
301	Undated	Layer	Subsoil. Yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) sandy clay loam with occasional small stone fragments	300	302	2.60	1.70	0.50
302	Natural	Layer	Natural deposits. Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy clay	301		2.60	1.70	>0.50
<b>Drill pit 4</b>								
400	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Brown (10YR 5/3) sandy silt loam with occasional small stone fragments		401	2.80	2.20	0.20
401	Undated	Layer	Subsoil. Yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) sandy clay loam with occasional small stone fragments	400	402	2.80	2.20	0.50
402	Natural	Layer	Natural deposits. Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy clay	401	403	2.80	2.20	0.40
403	Natural	Layer	Natural deposits. Dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) sandy clay	402		2.80	2.20	>0.50
<b>Drill pit 4a</b>								
404	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Brown (10YR 5/3) sandy silt loam with occasional small stone fragments		405	3.60	1.90	0.20
405	Undated	Layer	Subsoil. Yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) sandy clay loam with occasional small stone fragments	404	406	3.60	1.90	0.40
406	Natural	Layer	Natural deposits. Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy clay	405	407	3.60	1.90	0.40
407	Natural	Layer	Natural deposits. Dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) sandy clay	406		3.60	1.90	>0.30
<b>Drill pit 5</b>								
500	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Brown (10YR 5/3) sandy silt loam with occasional small stone fragments		501	3.30	1.80	0.20

501	Undated	Layer	Subsoil. Yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) sandy clay loam with occasional small stone fragments	500	502	3.30	1.80	0.40
502	Natural	Layer	Natural deposits. Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy clay	501	503	3.30	1.80	0.40
503	Natural	Layer	Natural deposits. Dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) sandy clay	502		3.30	1.80	>0.30
<b>Drill pit 6</b>								
600	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Brown (10YR 5/3) sandy silt loam with occasional small stone fragments		601	3.00	2.00	0.25
601	Undated	Layer	Subsoil. Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy clay loam with occasional small stone fragments	600	602	3.00	2.00	0.40
602	Natural	Layer	Natural deposits. Brown (10YR 4/3) sandy clay	601		3.00	2.00	>0.40
<b>Drill pit 6a</b>								
603	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Brown (10YR 5/3) sandy silt loam with occasional small stone fragments		604	3.60	1.90	0.30
604	Undated	Layer	Subsoil. Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy clay loam with occasional small stone fragments	603	605	3.60	1.90	0.40
605	Natural	Layer	Natural deposits. Brown (10YR 4/3) sandy clay with frequent sub-angular stones >0.20m	604		3.60	1.90	>0.60
<b>Drill pit 7</b>								
700	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Brown (10YR 5/3) sandy silt loam with rare small stone fragments		701	2.70	1.80	0.20
701	Undated	Layer	Subsoil. Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy clay loam with rare small stone fragments	700	702	2.70	1.80	0.50
702	Natural	Layer	Natural deposits. Brown (10YR 4/3) sandy clay	701		2.70	1.80	>0.40
<b>Drill pit 8</b>								
800	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Brown (10YR 5/3) sandy silt loam with rare small stones		801	3.50	3.10	0.30
801	Undated	Layer	Subsoil. Brownish yellow (10YR 6/6) sandy clay loam with rare small stones	800	802	3.50	3.10	0.50
802	Natural	Layer	Natural deposits. Yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) sandy clay	801		3.50	3.10	>0.40
<b>Drill pit 9</b>								
900	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Brown (10YR 5/3) sandy silt loam with rare small stones		901	2.80	2.20	0.40
901	Undated	Layer	Subsoil. Brownish yellow (10YR 6/6) sandy clay loam with rare small stones	900	902	2.80	2.20	0.50
902	Natural	Layer	Natural deposits. Yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) sandy clay	901		2.80	2.20	>0.30
<b>Drill pit 9a</b>								
903	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Brown (10YR 5/3) sandy silt loam with rare small stones		904	2.00	2.00	0.40
904	Undated	Layer	Subsoil. Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy clay loam with rare small stone fragments	903	905	2.00	2.00	0.50
905	Natural	Layer	Natural deposits. Yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) sandy clay	904		2.00	2.00	>0.30

Drill pit 10								
1000	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Brown (10YR 5/3) sandy silt loam with rare small stone fragments		1001	3.20	2.10	0.30
1001	Undated	Layer	Subsoil. Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy clay loam with rare small stone fragments	1000	1002	3.20	2.10	0.60
1002	Natural	Layer	Natural deposits. Yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) sandy clay	1001		3.20	2.10	>0.40
Drill pit 11								
1100	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Brown (10YR 5/3) sandy silt loam with rare small stone fragments		1101	3.10	2.00	0.30
1101	Undated	Layer	Subsoil. Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy clay loam with rare small stone fragments	1100	1102	3.10	2.00	0.60
1102	Natural	Layer	Natural deposits. Yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) sandy clay	1101		3.10	2.00	>0.50
Drill pit 12								
1200	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Brown (10YR 4/3) sandy silt loam with rare small stone fragments		1201	2.80	2.00	0.30
1201	Undated	Layer	Subsoil. Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy clay loam with rare small stone fragments	1200	1202	2.80	2.00	0.60
1202	Natural	Layer	Natural deposits. Brownish yellow (10YR 6/6) sandy clay	1201		2.80	2.00	>0.40
Drill pit 12a								
1203	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Brown (10YR 4/3) sandy silt loam with rare small stone fragments		1204	3.10	2.10	0.40
1204	Undated	Layer	Subsoil. Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy clay loam with rare small stone fragments	1203	1205	3.10	2.10	0.50
1205	Natural	Layer	Natural deposits. Brownish yellow (10YR 6/6) sandy clay	1204		3.10	2.10	>0.50
Drill pit 13								
1300	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Brown (10YR 4/3) sandy silt loam with rare small stone fragments		1301	3.50	2.20	0.40
1301	Undated	Layer	Subsoil. Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy clay loam with rare small stone fragments	1300	1302	3.50	2.20	0.50
1302	Natural	Layer	Natural deposits. Brownish yellow (10YR 6/6) sandy clay	1301		3.50	2.20	>0.50
Drill pit 15								
1500	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Brown (10YR 4/3) sandy silt loam with very rare small stone fragments		1501	3.00	1.70	0.30
1501	Undated	Layer	Subsoil. Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy clay loam	1500		3.00	1.70	>0.70
Drill pit 16								
1600	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Brown (10YR 4/3) sandy silt loam with very rare small stone fragments		1601	5.30	1.65	0.30
1601	Undated	Layer	Subsoil. Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy clay loam	1600		5.30	1.65	>0.90
Drill pit 17								
1700	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Brown (10YR 4/3) sandy silt loam with very rare small stone fragments		1701	5.20	1.20	0.30



1701	Undated	Layer	Subsoil. Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy clay loam	1700		5.20	1.20	>0.80
<b>Compound</b>								
1800	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Dark grey (10YR 4/1) sandy silt loam with occasional small stone fragments		1801	-	-	0.20
1801	Natural	Layer	Subsoil. Brownish yellow (10YR 6/6) sandy clay loam	1800		-	-	>0.05
<b>Area of trial pitting</b>								
1900	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Brown (10YR 4/3) sandy silt loam with rare small stone fragments		1901	3.00	0.40	
1901	Undated	Layer	Subsoil. Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy clay loam with rare small stone fragments	1900	1902	3.00	0.40	
1902	Natural	Layer	Natural deposits. Brownish yellow (10YR 6/6) sandy clay	1901		3.00	0.40	



*Looking after the past, today...*