

WATCHING BRIEF ON LAND OFF  
BAUGHTON LANE,  
LOWER STRENSHAM,  
WORCESTERSHIRE

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Project 2071  
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## **Watching brief on land off Baughton Lane, Lower Strensham, Worcestershire**

**Tom Vaughan**

### **Part 1 Project summary**

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on land of Baughton Lane, Lower Strensham (SO 9013 4082). It was undertaken on behalf of Severn Trent Water Ltd., during the development of the site with the construction of a water treatment works and ancillary works. The project aimed to determine if any significant archaeological site was present and if so to indicate its location, date and nature.

All groundworks associated with the development were to be observed. In the event c 87% of the areas of soil stripping, excavation and trenching were archaeologically monitored. In none of the nine areas were archaeological features or horizons identified. Generally across the site the topsoil lay over a very thin subsoil horizon, which, in turn, lay directly over the natural matrix. The lack of a well-defined subsoil within the field indicates that it has been incorporated into the topsoil, most probably as a result of deep ploughing.

All datable finds were of post-medieval and modern origin. Brick and tile fragments predominated and they were generally in an abraded state, indicating that they were not recovered from their primary context of deposition. They are probably the result of manuring of the field in the post medieval period and later intensive ploughing. A single post-medieval pit was identified, containing the articulated skeleton of a cow. It had not been butchered, although the skull was not recovered. It probably represents a diseased animal that had been slaughtered and buried by the farmer.

There was no indication of medieval cultivation (ridge and furrow), either in the form of earthworks visible at the surface, or as undulations in the depth of the topsoil within the sections of the areas of excavation. While the area of the development archaeologically monitored was less than originally anticipated, the lack of finds predating the post-medieval period indicate that this area has in all probability never been occupied for settlement, or otherwise utilised other than for agriculture.

## Part 2 Detailed report

### 1. Background

#### 1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on land off Baughton Lane, Lower Strensham, Worcestershire (NGR: SO 9013 4082), on behalf of Severn Trent Water Ltd during the construction of a new sewage treatment works with associated access and service pipes (planning application ref. 407505; W/00/1272). Worcestershire County Council required the watching brief, as it was considered that a site of archaeological interest could be affected (WSM 07707).

#### 1.2 Project parameters

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IFA 1999). The project also conforms to a brief prepared by Worcestershire County Council (AS 2000) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (AS 2001).

#### 1.3 Aims

The aims of the watching brief were to locate archaeological deposits and determine, if present, their extent, state of preservation, date, type, vulnerability and documentation.

### 2. Methods

#### 2.1 Documentary search

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). In addition the following sources were also consulted:

##### *Cartographic sources*

- 1815 Inclosure Map (WCRO BA 307/50; S 143/50)
- Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> edition: 1887/8 6" sheets XLVIII NW & SW
- Ordnance Survey 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 1903/5 6" sheets XLVIII NW & SW
- Ordnance Survey 3<sup>rd</sup> edition 1924 1:10,000 sheets XLVIII NW & SW

##### *Documentary sources*

- Place-names (Mawer and Stenton 1927).
- County histories (VCH IV).
- Domesday (Thorn and Thorn 1983).
- Site archives (from earlier excavations, evaluations etc).

#### 2.2 Fieldwork

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### 2.2.1 **Fieldwork strategy**

A detailed specification has been prepared by the Service (AS 2001) in response to a Brief (AS 2000), and the fieldwork was undertaken between 12<sup>th</sup> July and 5<sup>th</sup> August 2002. Soil stripping and trenching amounting to just under 2500m<sup>2</sup>, were monitored over the site area of 2840m<sup>2</sup>, representing *c* 87% of the development area.

The location of the soil strip and trenching is indicated in Fig. 2, and these works were undertaken by Droicon with Pick Everard being responsible for site management and engineering. Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a 360° tracked excavator and a 180° wheeled excavator, employing a toothless bucket, but with a toothed bucket on the road strip (in contravention of the brief). Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected anomalies were excavated to retrieve artefactual material, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Service practice (CAS 1995).

The following techniques were considered for use but were not considered to be appropriate for this project; geophysical survey, fieldwalking and topographic/earthwork survey.

### 2.2.2 **Structural analysis**

All fieldwork records were checked and cross-referenced. Analysis was effected through a combination of structural, artefactual and ecofactual evidence, allied to the information derived from other sources.

## 2.3 **Artefacts**

### 2.3.1 **Artefact recovery policy**

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995; appendix 2). This in principal determines that all finds, of whatever date, must be collected. However, in this case only a sample of later material was collected from the spoil during machining. These comprised the majority of the finds recovered from the site. All other artefacts were recovered from stratified deposits.

### 2.3.2 **Method of analysis**

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. Artefacts were identified, quantified, dated and recorded on a Microsoft Access 1997 database. Stratified contexts were assigned a *terminus post quem* where possible. Pottery was examined and recorded by fabric type according to the fabric reference series maintained by the Service (Hurst and Rees 1992).

## 2.4 **Environment**

### 2.4.1 **Sampling policy**

No waterlogged or organic rich deposits were identified which were considered suitable for environmental sampling.

## 2.5 **The methods in retrospect**

Having undertaken the project the following comments may be made with regard to the methods adopted. It was not possible to archaeologically monitor the majority of the road strip, as this was opened and gravelled without notice. In addition mechanical excavation was often undertaken with a toothed bucket, which did not provide a clean enough surface to enable accurate identification of archaeological features. Thus, the degree of confidence, with which the aims of the brief can be said to have been carried out, has been compromised.

## 3. **Topographical and archaeological context**

The site comprises the eastern end of a large triangular field on the northeast side of Baughton Road, Lower Strensham. It is a flat area of grassed pasture at a height of approximately 23.50m above sea level, and bounded by hedges and ditches. The village of Strensham lies within the Saxon Hundred of Pershore. It is on the west bank of the River Avon, and 4km east of the River Severn. Tewkesbury is the nearest town, 7km to the south, although Pershore is to the northeast and Upton-on-Severn is close by to the west.

The settlement is first documented in a charter of 972 as *Strengeslo*, which is thought to derive from an Old English nickname *streng*, 'strong' with the suffix *ham*, meaning 'Strong's homestead' (Mawer and Stenton 1927, 229; VCH IV, 203). It was not recorded in the Domesday Survey, probably as it came under Pershore (Thorn and Thorn 1983). By the 12<sup>th</sup> century the parish had been divided into two manors. The manor of Lower Strensham was centred on the castle (WSM 00287; SAM 31947), which survives as earthworks behind Moat Farm (Darlington 1989, 3).

The development area is situated adjacent to the deserted medieval village of Strensham (WSM 07707), which survives in the form of earthworks to the southeast (WSM 29612). Extant ridge and furrow earthworks lie to the east (WSM 09762).

The first small-scale map of Strensham is the Inclosure Map of 1815. This indicates the development area to have been part of a field known as 'Allotment on the Great Common' (Fig. 6). All Ordnance Survey maps from 1887 to the present day reveal this field to have maintained its triangular form and agricultural function (Figs. 3-5).

Soils of the area belong to the Evesham 2 soil group (411b), comprising slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils, and some slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged non-calcareous clayey and fine loamy or fine silty over clayey soils. It overlies Jurassic and Cretaceous clay geology. It is ideally suited for winter cereals and short-term grassland with stock rearing in drier lowlands, and much dairying on permanent grassland in moist lowlands (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

## 4. **Description**

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Fig. 2.

### 4.1 **Phase 1 Natural deposits**

The natural matrix comprised a variably light greyish fawn or blue-grey clay with orange brown flecks and frequent sub-rounded small-medium sized pebble gravel.



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#### 4.2 **Phase 2 Post-medieval/modern deposits**

There were no archaeological deposits or horizons identified. Within Areas 1-6 and 8 the natural matrix lay directly beneath the topsoil and subsoil which comprised compact slightly silty clays with occasional post-medieval debris. Within Areas 7 and 9 the natural matrix lay directly beneath compacted post-medieval deposits of hardcore. The latter comprised grey gravel with patches of red clay and brick debris below tarmac in Area 7 and gravel with pebbles, building debris, cinders and ash in Area 9.

A single feature was identified within Area 2. It was an ill-defined pit [204] containing the articulated skeleton of an un-butchered, cow. A single fragment of tile was found in association, indicating a post-medieval origin.

#### 4.3 **Artefact Analysis**

All dateable artefacts were either post-medieval or modern. The largest group of material was bone, most of which came from context 203 and represented most of an articulated cow (Liz Pearson, pers. comm.). The next largest group of material was post-medieval building material in the form of brick and tile. There was a small number of miscellaneous post-medieval and modern finds including clay pipe, ceramic drain and metal objects like nails. There was also 240 grams of fired clay, most of which was probably highly abraded post-medieval to modern brick and tile. Only ten sherds of pottery were recovered, one of which was unidentified. The fabrics were modern stone china (fabric 85), post-medieval red ware (78) and post-medieval orange ware (90).

### 5. **Discussion**

No archaeological features, deposits or horizons were identified during the monitoring and recording of the groundworks. The isolated post-medieval pit feature recorded in Area 2 containing the articulated skeleton of a cow is considered to represent simply a diseased animal that had been slaughtered and buried by the farmer. The fact of its missing skull is considered more likely to be due to disturbance during ploughing than any ritual cause.

The lack of defined topsoil and subsoil indicates that the field has been intensively ploughed. However the lack of ridge and furrow indicates that this probably took place in the later post-medieval period. Prior to this the field was probably under pasture as part of the common recorded in 1815 (see above). Within the road all deposits had clearly been scoured off during its construction.

There was no significant differentiation of material type between the different areas (except for the cow bones from context 203), and no evidence for activity before the post-medieval period. The assemblage is too small to draw any conclusions about the activities represented by the material, but it can be surmised from their frequently abraded condition that they are. A small number of undated burnt stones, and a flint, may indicate that earlier activities took place on or adjacent to the development area, however the absence of other finds predating the post-medieval period militates against this. It is, therefore, considered that in all probability the site has never been occupied for any settlement, or managed in any way other than for agriculture.

## 6. **Publication summary**

The Service has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, the Service intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

*A watching brief was undertaken on behalf of Severn Trench Water Ltd. on land off Baughton Lane, Lower Strensham, Worcestershire (NGR: SO 9013 4082; WSM 31921). Within the field the topsoil lay over a very thin subsoil horizon which in turn lay directly over the natural matrix. The lack of a well-defined subsoil within the field indicates that deep ploughing had probably taken place. Within the modern road the underlying hardcore was observed to lie directly over the natural clay, and no archaeological remains were observed here.*

*All the datable finds were of post-medieval and modern origin. Brick and tile fragments predominated and they were generally in an abraded state, indicating that they were not recovered from their primary context of deposition. They are probably the result of manuring and intensive ploughing of the field in the post-medieval period. There was no indication of ridge and furrow. A single post-medieval pit was identified, containing the articulated skeleton of a cow. Although the skull was not recovered, it had no signs of having been butchered. In conclusion, the absence of finds predating the post-medieval period indicate that this area has, in all probability, never been occupied for settlement purposes, or otherwise utilised, except for agriculture.*

## 7. **The archive**

The archive consists of:

- 11 Fieldwork progress records AS2
- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 1 Colour transparency film
- 1 Black and white photographic films
- 3 Paper drawings
- 1 Context number catalogue AS5
- 1 Abbreviated context records AS40
- 9 Trench record sheets AS41
- 2 Box of finds
- 1 Computer disk

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Worcestershire County Museum, Hartlebury Castle, Hartlebury, Near Kidderminster,  
Worcestershire DY11 7XZ

Tel Hartlebury (01299) 250416

## 8. **Acknowledgements**

The Service would like to thank the following for their assistance in the conclusion of this project: Messrs A Wakefield and R J Webber (Severn Trent Water Ltd), Dr I Ferris (Consultant to Severn Trent Water); Brian Whipp and Richard Turner (Pick Everard

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Consulting Engineers, Leicester), and Mike Glyde (Worcestershire County Council Planning Archaeologist).

## 9. Personnel

The fieldwork and report preparation was led by Tom Vaughan. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Derek Hurst. Fieldwork was undertaken by Tom Vaughan, finds analysis by Erica B. Darch, and illustration by Carolyn Hunt.

## 10. Bibliography

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## 11. Abbreviations

NMR	National Monuments Record.
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record.
WCRO	Worcestershire County Records Office.
WSM	Numbers prefixed with 'WSM' are the primary reference numbers used by the Worcestershire County Sites and Monuments Record.

## Appendix 1: Area descriptions

### Area 1 - soil strip for compound and car park

Maximum dimensions: Length: 32m Width: 21m Depth: 0.30-0.40m

Orientation: NW/SE

#### Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
100	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey turfed very slightly silty clay. Diffuse boundary with [101] below. Compact and cohesive. Occasional small-medium sub-rounded pebbles. Occasional post-medieval tile and china fragments.	0.00-0.25m
101	Subsoil	Light fawn grey very slightly silty clay. Diffuse boundary with [100] above and [101] below. Compact and cohesive. Frequent medium sub-rounded pebbles.	0.25-0.40m
102	Natural	Light grey fawn clay with orange brown flecks. Frequent small-medium sub-rounded pebbles. Diffuse boundary with [101] above. Compact and cohesive.	0.40m +

#### Deposit description:

The subsoil was found to be a very shallow and undeveloped layer. All finds were recovered from the topsoil, and were of 19<sup>th</sup> century and later date, comprising primarily very abraded fragments of tile. They are probably the result of manuring and indicate that this field has been intensively and deeply ploughed.

There were no defined archaeological features or deposits although it should be stressed that only a very small proportion of this area (on the west side) was stripped down to the level of the natural matrix.

**Area 2 - soil strip for spoil storage**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 43.50m Width: 22m Depth: 0.30m

Orientation: NW/SE

## Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
200	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey turfed very slightly silty clay. Diffuse boundary with [201] below. Compact and cohesive. Occasional small-medium sub-rounded pebbles. Occasional post-medieval debris.	0.00-0.25m
201	Subsoil	Light fawn grey very slightly silty clay. Diffuse boundary with [200] above and [202] below. Compact and cohesive. Frequent medium sub-rounded pebbles.	0.25-0.40m
202	Natural	Light grey fawn clay with orange brown flecks. Frequent patches of fragmentary grey limestone. Diffuse boundary with [201] above. Compact and cohesive.	0.40m +
203	Fill	Redeposited clay identical to [202]. Compact and cohesive. Contained a cow skeleton. Fill of pit [204].	0.30-0.80m
204	Cut	Pit cut of indeterminate size and shape (length >1.70m, width >0.86m). Aligned approximately north south. Contains [203].	0.30-0.80m

**Deposit description:**

As in Area 1 the subsoil was found to be a very shallow and undeveloped layer. All finds were recovered from the topsoil, and were of 19<sup>th</sup> century and later date, comprising primarily very abraded fragments of tile. They are probably the result of manuring and (with the subsoil) indicate that this field has been intensively and deeply ploughed.

A single feature was identified on the south side of this area. It was a pit [204] of indeterminate size and shape, containing redeposited clay [203] and the skeleton of a cow. There were no indications of butchery, although the skull was not present. A single fragment of tile was found in association indicating that it is of post-medieval origin.

There were no defined archaeological features or deposits although only two-thirds of this area was stripped down to the level of the natural matrix. Residual finds comprised primarily abraded post-medieval tile, brick, china and tobacco pipes although bone, slag and a burnt flint were also recovered.

**Area 3 - sewage pipe trench**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 45m Width: 0.60m Depth: 2.05m

Orientation: NW/SE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
300	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey turfed very slightly silty clay. Diffuse boundary with [301] below. Compact and cohesive. Occasional small-medium sub-rounded pebbles. Occasional post-medieval and modern debris.	0.00-0.20m
301	Subsoil	Light fawn grey very slightly silty clay. Very thin layer. Diffuse boundary with [300] above and [302] below. Compact and cohesive. Frequent medium sub-rounded pebbles.	0.20-0.25m
302	Natural	Light grey fawn clay with orange brown flecks. Diffuse boundary with [301] above. Compact and cohesive. Cut by land drains at c 1.20m depth.	0.25m +

**Deposit description:**

As in Areas 1 and 2 the subsoil was found to be a very shallow and undeveloped layer. A few finds were recovered from the topsoil. They were of 19<sup>th</sup> century and later date, comprising primarily small, abraded tile fragments. They are probably the result of manuring and indicate that this field has been intensively and deeply ploughed.

It was not possible to observe the soil strip for the road in this area as this was undertaken and the gravel hardcore laid without notice. Therefore, although no archaeological features or horizons were identified or finds recovered, the certainty that such material was actually truly absent was compromised.

**Area 4 - sewage pipe trench and road strip**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 65m Width: 0.60m Depth: 2.10m

Orientation: NE/SW

## Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
400	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey turfed very slightly silty clay. Diffuse boundary with [401] below. Compact and cohesive. Occasional small-medium sub-rounded pebbles. Occasional post-medieval and modern debris.	0.00-0.20m
401	Subsoil	Light fawn grey very slightly silty clay. Very thin layer. Diffuse boundary with [400] above and [402] below. Compact and cohesive. Frequent medium sub-rounded pebbles.	0.20-0.25m
402	Natural	Light grey fawn clay with orange brown flecks. Diffuse boundary with [401] above. Compact and cohesive. Cut by land drains at c 1.20m depth.	0.25m +

**Deposit description:**

As elsewhere the subsoil was found to be a very shallow and undeveloped layer. A few finds were recovered from the topsoil. They were of 19<sup>th</sup> century and later date, comprising primarily tile and brick fragments. They are probably the result of manuring and indicate that this field has been intensively and deeply ploughed.

It was not possible to monitor the majority of the soil strip for the road in this area as it was excavated and the gravel hardcore laid without notice. Only the short section adjacent to Baughton Lane was observed (length 9m, width 3-6m). The topsoil was found to be substantially deeper, >0.50m, and richly organic, where a hedgerow was removed to allow access. There was also no indication here of distinct earlier horizons within the soil. Within this area the strip was undertaken with a toothed bucket and less than 50% of the surface of the natural clay was exposed.

No archaeological features or horizons were identified or finds earlier than post-medieval date recovered. However, the circumstances described above, where the development works were carried out without prior notice, prevented any certainty that some archaeological evidence was not missed.

**Area 5 - sewage pipe trench and road strip**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 105m Width: 0.60m/3.05m Depth: >0.90m/0.40m

Orientation: NW/SE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
600	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey turfed very slightly silty clay. Diffuse boundary with [601] below. Compact and cohesive. Occasional small-medium sub-rounded pebbles. Occasional post-medieval and modern debris.	0.00-0.40m
601	Subsoil	Light fawn grey very slightly silty clay. Very thin layer. Diffuse boundary with [600] above and [602] below. Compact and cohesive. Occasional medium sub-rounded pebbles. Occasional post-medieval debris.	0.40-0.45m
602	Natural	Light grey fawn clay with orange brown flecks. Diffuse boundary with [601] above. Compact and cohesive.	0.45m +

**Deposit description:**

As elsewhere the subsoil was found to be a very shallow and undeveloped layer. A few finds were recovered from the soils. They were of 19<sup>th</sup> century and later date, comprising primarily tile and brick fragments. They are probably the result of manuring and indicate that this field has been intensively and deeply ploughed.

It was not possible to monitor the southern half of the soil strip for the road in this area as it was excavated and the gravel hardcore laid without notice. Only the northern half was open and visible to be monitored. Within this area the strip was undertaken with a toothed bucket and less than 25% of the surface of the natural clay was exposed.

No archaeological features or horizons were identified or finds earlier than post-medieval date recovered. However, the circumstances described above, where the development works were carried out without prior notice, prevented any certainty that some archaeological evidence was not missed.



**Area 6 - reed bed excavation**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 28.20m Width: 8.20m Depth: 0.45-1.50m

Orientation: NW/SE

## Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
600	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey turfed very slightly silty clay. Diffuse boundary with [501] below. Compact and cohesive. Occasional small-medium sub-rounded pebbles. Occasional post-medieval debris.	0.00-0.40m
601	Subsoil	Light fawn grey very slightly silty clay. Very thin layer. Diffuse boundary with [500] above and [502] below. Compact and cohesive. Occasional medium sub-rounded pebbles.	0.40-0.45m
602	Natural	Light fawn brown clay. Compact and cohesive. Sterile. At 0.80m depth a 0.20m thick band of black manganese, iron pan, brown sand, occasional red sandstones and medium sub-rounded pebbles, with blue clay beneath. Diffuse boundary with [501] above. Cut by land drains at c 1.35m depth.	0.45m +

**Deposit description:**

As elsewhere the subsoil was found to be a very shallow and undeveloped layer. A few finds were recovered from the soils. They were of 19<sup>th</sup> century and later date, comprising primarily tile and brick fragments. They are probably the result of manuring and indicate that this field has been intensively and deeply ploughed. The sections were exceptionally clean within this long excavation, and revealed the soils to be of uniform depth, indicating that medieval strip farming, which produces ridge and furrow earthworks, has probably never been practised in this field.

The horizon of manganese, iron pan, brown sand, occasional red sandstones and medium sub-rounded pebbles within the natural clay was analysed to ensure that it was of natural geological and not human origin. No archaeological features or horizons were identified or finds earlier than of post-medieval date recovered.

**Area 7 - manhole and sewage pipe trench within Baughton Lane**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 10m Width: 0.60-2.30m Depth: 2.30m

Orientation: NW/SE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
700	Road surface	Tarmac to 0.18m over compacted large grey sub-angular gravel with gravel dust. Occasional patches of brick rubble and red clay. Well-defined boundary with [701] below. No finds.	0.00-0.45m
701	Natural	Blue fawn clay. Compact and cohesive. Sterile. Well-defined boundary with [701] above: frequent gravel impressed into surface.	0.45m +

**Deposit description:**

The sections were exceptionally clean within this excavation, and revealed the natural clay to lie directly below the hardcore road foundation layer. It is clear that all earlier deposits had been removed down to the level of the natural matrix prior to the construction of the road.

No archaeological features or horizons were identified or finds earlier than of post-medieval date recovered.

**Area 8 - out-fall pipe trench and strip**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 75m Width: 0.60m/3.40m Depth: 1.80m/0.40m

Orientation: WNW/ESE

## Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
800	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey turfed very slightly silty clay. Diffuse boundary with [801] below. Compact and cohesive. Occasional small-medium sub-rounded pebbles. Occasional post-medieval debris.	0.00-0.35m
801	Subsoil	Light fawn grey very slightly silty clay. Very thin layer. Diffuse boundary with [800] above and [802] below. Compact and cohesive. Occasional medium sub-rounded pebbles. Occasional post-medieval debris plus a burnt pebble. Shallower toward western end.	0.35-0.60m
802	Natural	Light fawn brown clay. Compact and cohesive. Sterile. A band of iron pan and medium sub-rounded pebbles, with blue clay beneath. Includes manganese to the east. Diffuse boundary with [801] above. Cut by land drains at 0.60m depth.	0.50m +

**Deposit description:**

The subsoil was noted to be thicker within this area, although it was shallower out toward the west end as was noted elsewhere. A small number of finds were recovered from the soils. They were of 19<sup>th</sup> century and later date, comprising primarily tile and brick fragments. They are probably the result of manuring and indicate that this field has been intensively and deeply ploughed. In addition a single residual burnt and cracked pebble was recovered from the subsoil. This is by its nature undated, although may indicate that prehistoric activity was undertaken within the vicinity. The pebble gravel horizon recorded in Area 6 to the southeast was noted to continue through this area, although the manganese was only identified toward the eastern end.

No archaeological features or horizons were identified.

**Area 9 - manhole within The Lane**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 2.10m Width: 1.90m Depth: 1.60m

Orientation: NE/SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
900	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey turfed very slightly silty clay. Diffuse boundary with [801] below. Compact and cohesive. Occasional small-medium sub-rounded pebbles. Occasional post-medieval debris.	0.00-0.30m
901	Natural	Fawn/grey/blue clay. Compact and cohesive. Sterile. Well-defined boundary with [901] above.	0.30m +

**Deposit description:**

It was only possible to observe a short stretch of this trench, the manhole at the southwest end of the area. The sections revealed the natural clay to lie directly below the hardcore road foundation layer. It is clear that all earlier deposits had been removed down to the level of the natural matrix prior to the construction of the road.

No archaeological features or horizons were identified or finds earlier than post-medieval date recovered.