

Test Pit Descriptions

TP1

1/1

Friable, dark brownish grey loam 20cm thick becoming slightly more clayey with depth. Sporadic, sub-angular limestone inclusions <1cm-20cm size. Transition to context 1/2 indistinct and gradual.

Interpretation: Topsoil or ploughsoil with stone inclusions probably plough shattered bedrock from upslope.

1/2

Soft friable dark grey-occasionally blue-grey (suggesting waterlogging) silty loam with sub-angular limestone gravel and small lumps up to 5cm. Water table reached at 42cm and deposit not fully excavated.

Interpretation: A probable mixed alluvial/colluvial deposit with worm-sorted horizon at the top.

TP2

2/1

Loose, coarse-grained dark brown silty clay with small, poorly sorted stones. Sloping to the south where the water table was reached at 32cm and context not fully excavated.

Interpretation: Topsoil.

2/2

Coarse-grained dark grey/yellow brown (mottled) silty clay in southwest corner of test pit. Moderate number of small stones included patinated flint and bulk finds of Roman-modern dated. Water table reached at 32.3-39.9cm.

Interpretation: Disturbed layer, probably ploughsoil.

TP3

3/1

Friable, dark greyish-black organic loam c. 10cm thick.

Interpretation: Topsoil.

3/2

Compact dark brownish-black silty loam 9-14cm thick. A disturbed layer with medieval-modern artefacts.

Interpretation: Subsoil.

3/3

Very compacted dark greyish-black sandy loam with 10-25 percent stone inclusions from 3x2cm – 7x8cm in size and increasing in quantity with depth. Dug to a depth of 12cm and appeared to be coming down on to bedrock.

Interpretation: Subsoil

TP4

4/1

Friable, bioturbated dark brownish-black sandy silt 10-11 cm thick with <1 percent stony inclusions including some unworked flint and one flint flake, possibly debitage, and animal bone. The number of limestone inclusions increased at a depth of c. 7.5cm.

Interpretation: Topsoil

4/2

Moderately compacted medium brownish-grey silty clay 12cm thick with <5% stone inclusions.

Interpretation: Subsoil.

4/3

Compact but friable mid greyish-brown gritty sandy clay dug to a depth of c.3cm across the test pit. Bottom of context not reached. Mixed stone inclusions including rounded quartzite pebbles and possible worked flint. Sherds of medieval pottery were also recovered.

Interpretation: Subsoil, less disturbed than upper contexts.

TP5**5/1**

A firm to compact greyish black clayey sand 20cm thick with c.1 percent small limestone inclusions.

Interpretation: Topsoil

5/2

Loose light greyish-brown clayey sand c.30cm thick with c.10 percent limestone inclusions 5-10cm in size and large amounts of pot fragments.

Interpretation: Ploughsoil

5/3

Loose greyish-black clayey sand with c.12 percent large stones and large amounts of pot and bone and small flecks of charcoal. Dimensions 30cm deep x 80cm wide, forming the single fill of ditch 5/4.

Interpretation: Ditch fill

5/4

Cut of ditch 30cm deep and 80cm wide. U-shaped irregular cut into bedrock with gradual sloping sides at 45°. It was filled by 5/3.

Interpretation: Small medieval ditch, probably truncated through ploughing.

TP6**6/1**

A firm to compact greyish black clayey sand 20cm thick with small limestone inclusions and small amounts of iron, probably deriving from a former nearby blacksmith.

Interpretation: Topsoil.

6/2

Stoney layer covering entire area of test pit. Stones ranged in size from 14cm x 8cm, 12cm x 9cm, 11cm x 7cm. Stones appeared worn on one side and formed a fairly regular layer.

Interpretation: Possible cobbled floor surface or tumble from a wall.

TP7; 1m x 1.5m**7/1**

Soft, mid-brownish brown, very dry sandy silt 12cm thick with 10 percent well-sorted, small-medium sized limestone inclusions, 5 percent coarse-medium.

Interpretation: Topsoil.

7/2

Soft mid-brownish brown sandy silt in northeast of testpit. Coarse-medium limestone cobbles 4cm x 6cm, to 6m x 10cm. Not fully excavated.

7/3

Circular cut with vertical sides and concave base 8cm in diameter and >10cm deep.
Interpretation: Stakehole.

7/4

Soft, mid-brownish brown sandy silt without inclusions.
Interpretation: Fill of stakehole.

7/5

Possible fill of posthole 10cm x 6cm within 7/6. Not excavated.

7/6

Compacted light yellowish white sandy limestone mortar with compacted limestone cobbles 5cm x 7cm, extending 40cm x 60cm across the testpit. Edges not clearly defined.

Interpretation: Possible floor surface.

TP8

8/1

Compacted but friable dark brown sandy clay with <1percent poorly sorted rounded quartzite pebbles and limestone rubble. Dug to depth of 9cm.

Interpretation: Topsoil

TP9

9/1

Friable dark greyish-brown sandy silt 40cm deep with sparse sub-angular limestone pieces, typically <5cm in size. Overlies bedrock 9/2 in places.

Interpretation: Topsoil.

9/2

Fissile yellowish limestone which disintegrated easily under trowelling.

Interpretation: Bedrock.

9/3

Cut represented by a curving cut edge through bedrock. South-west edge unclear, but dimensions in excess of 1m x 1.25m in plan. Not excavated and further dimensions unknown.

Interpretation: Probable pit that cuts, or is cut by 9/5 or by cut of possible third pit.

9/4

Friable mid-grey brown sandy silt with c.1 percent small limestone inclusions observed in top of fill. Not excavated.

Interpretation: Fill of probable pit 9/3.

9/5

Cut with fairly straight edges with angular corners in excess of 0.7 x 1.1m.

Intersection with 9/3 not defined. Not excavated and further dimensions unknown.

Interpretation: Probable pit.

9/6

Soft mid-dark grey-brown sandy silt with c. 1 percent small limestone inclusions <3cm in size. Indistinguishable from 9/1 and 9/4 and transitions hard to define. Not excavated.

Interpretation. Fill of probable pit 9/5.