

3453

Soil Report for the Bancroft Site (MK343) Milton Keynes

By Helen C M Keeley

A series of samples were taken from a water-logged deposit at Bancroft (MK343), adjacent to a Roman Site. A number of finds had occurred in the deposit, as shown in Figure 1. Section 1 is described below:-

1. Very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) moderately friable organic silt loam with few, coarse distinct dark reddish brown (5YR 3/3) mottles and moderate, medium subangular blocky structure. Roots were abundant, coarse to fine fibrous and stones few (gravel). Many remains of plants and molluscs were present.
2. Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) moderately friable organic silt loam with many coarse distinct yellowish red (5YR 4/6) mottles (about 20%) and moderate medium blocky structure. Stones were absent; roots abundant, coarse to fine fibrous. There were many molluscs and plant remains.
3. Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) firm, plastic silty clay loam with some coarse sand and about 10% reddish brown (5YR 4/4) coarse distinct mottles. Structure was weak medium prismatic, roots were many, coarse to fine fibrous, and stones few (gravel). There were many plant remains and molluscs.
4. Very dark grey (10YR 3/1) slightly friable organic silt loam with common medium to fine distinct dark reddish brown (5YR 3/3) mottles in root channels and moderate medium prismatic structure. Stones were absent, roots common, coarse to fine fibrous, and there were many plant remains but few molluscs.
5. Black (10YR 2.5/1) moderately friable organic silt loam with some coarse sand and few fine distinct dark reddish brown (5YR 3/3) mottles in root channels. Patches of light grey (10YR 7/1) coarse sandy clay (about 20%) were also present. Structure was moderate, medium angular blocky, stones were absent and roots few, medium to fine fibrous. There were many plant remains but no molluscs were seen.
6. Very dark brown (10YR 2/2) friable organic silty loam with patches of greyish brown (10YR 5/2) coarse loamy sand. This layer was quite peaty and appeared to have the highest organic matter content of those examined. Structure was moderate medium angular blocky, stones were few (gravel) and roots few, fine fibrous. Abundant molluscs and plant remains occurred.

7. Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) moderately friable coarse sandy loam with weak medium subangular blocky structure. Roots and stones were absent. This lens contained many molluscs but few plant remains.

8. Very dark brown (10YR 2/2) moderately friable organic silt loam with moderate medium subangular blocky structure. Roots and stones were absent; there were many molluscs and plant remains.

9. At the base of the section, presumably representing the original stream bed, was grey (10YR 5/1) slightly friable coarse loamy sand with common medium distinct strong brown (7.5YR 5/8) mottles and weak subangular blocky structure. Stones were abundant (about 80%), gravel to medium, rounded pebbles and roots absent. Few molluscs and plant remains occurred.

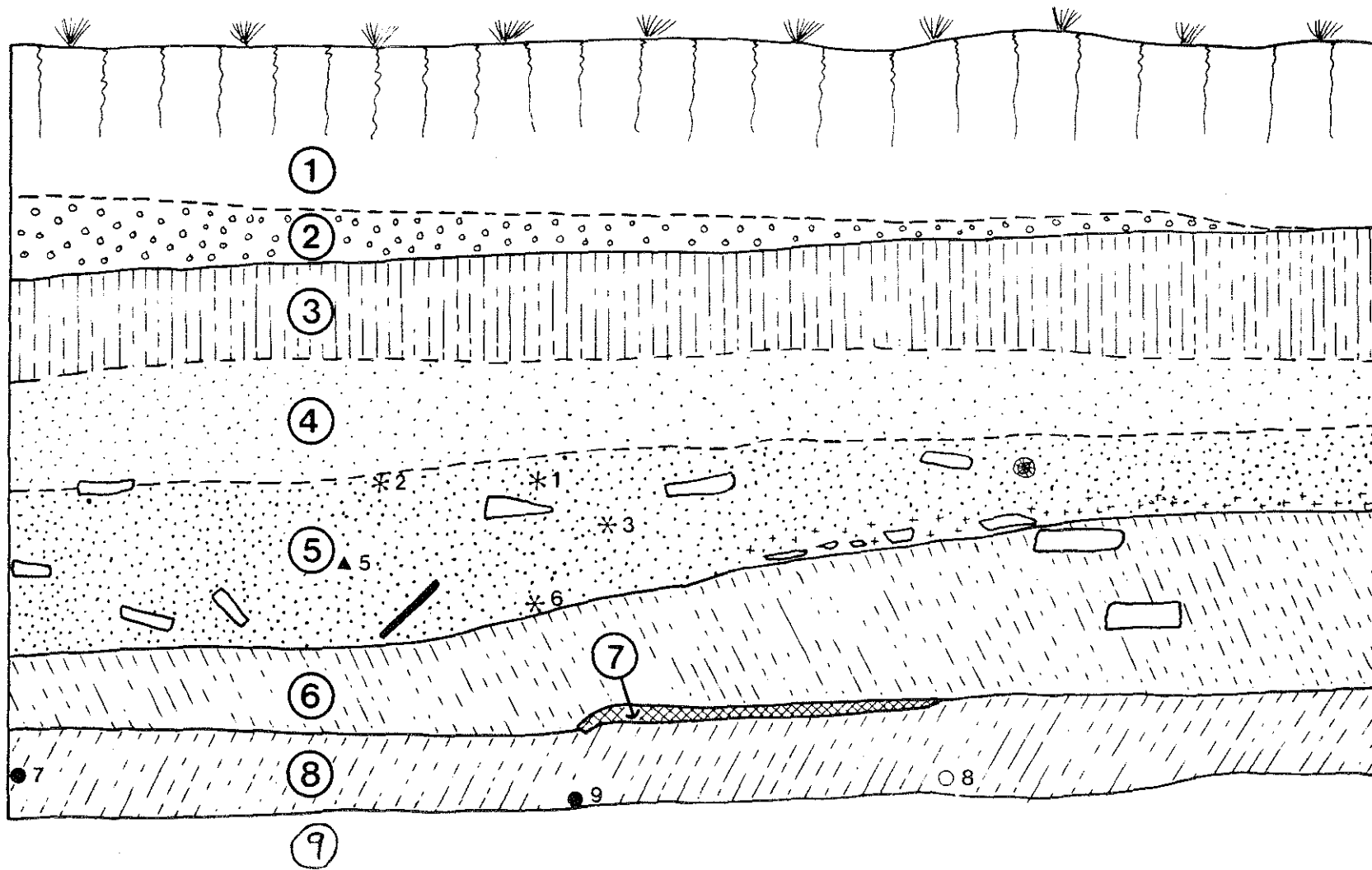
These sediments were consistent with a marsh deposit, as indicated by the molluscan evidence (Spencer, 1982).

Reference

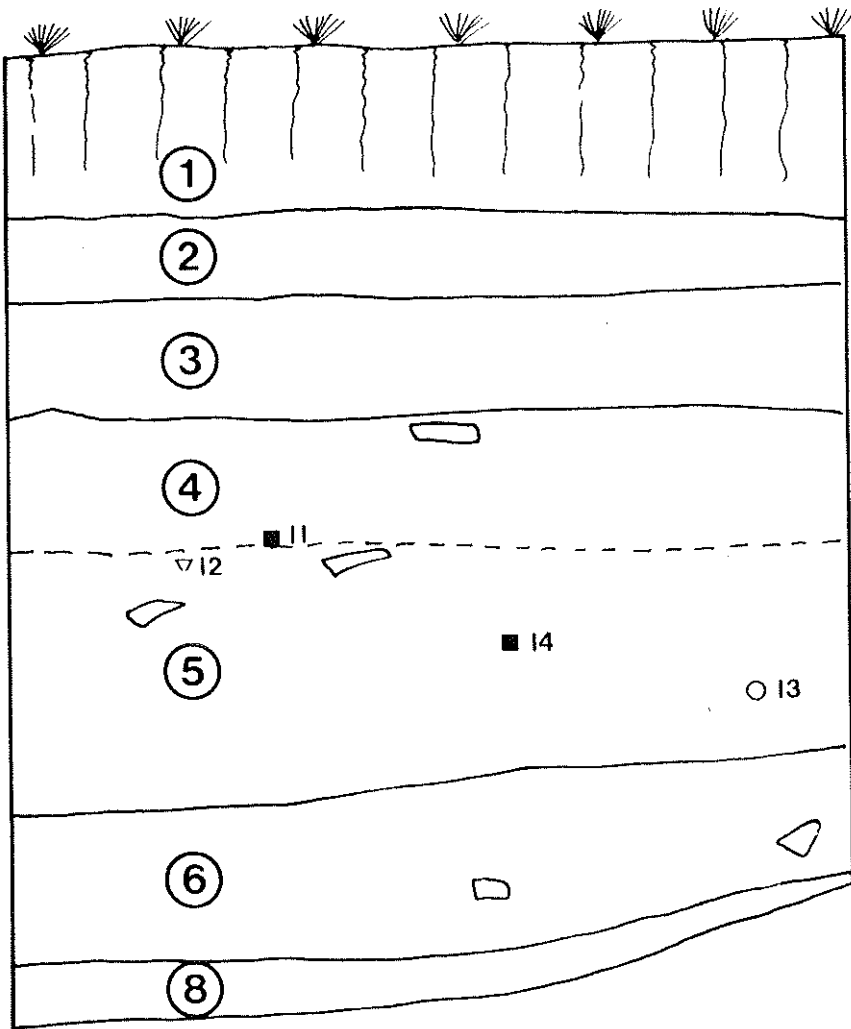
Spencer, P J (1982) Bancroft: MK 343, Molluscan analysis.

Ancient Monuments Laboratory Report No 3649.

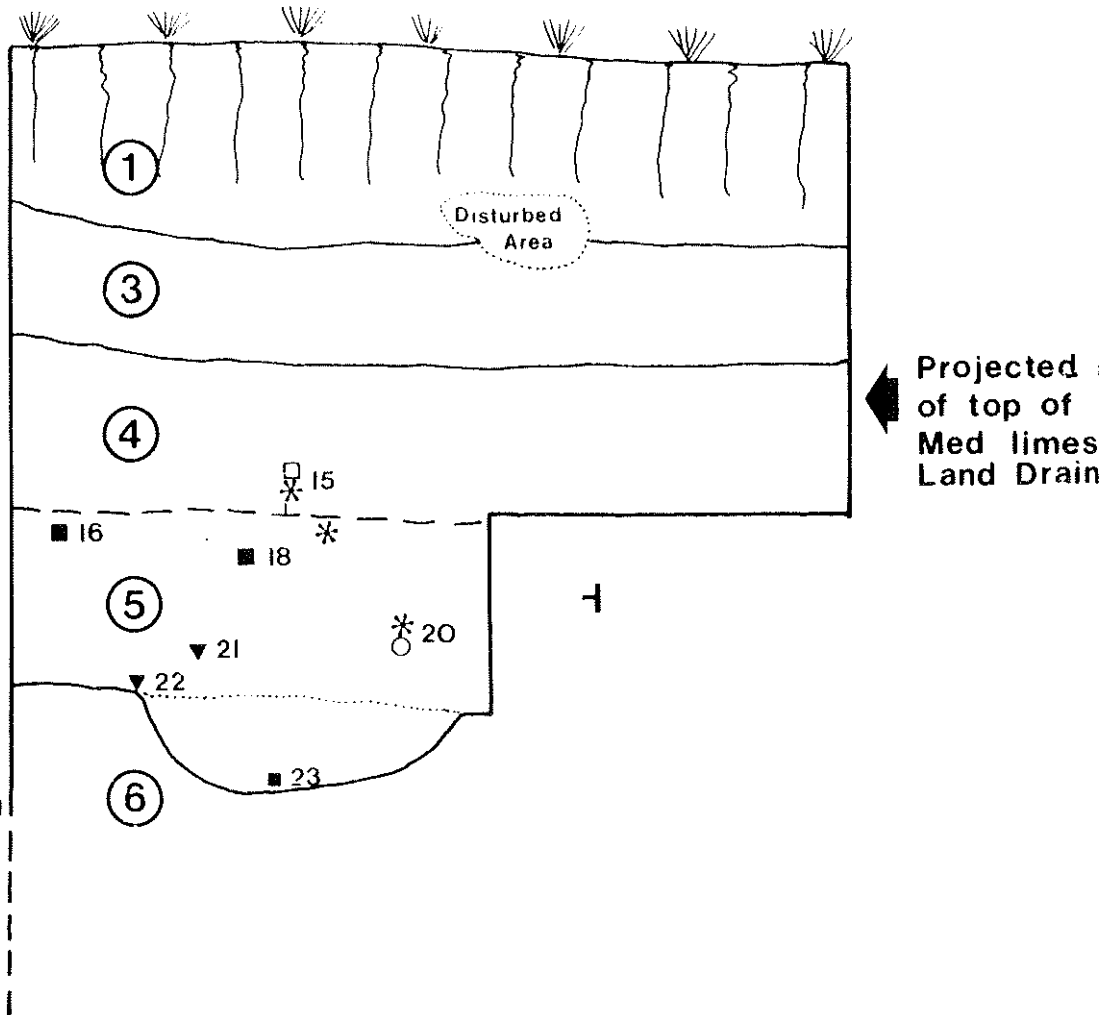
SECTION 1



SECTION 2



SECTION 3



KEY

Soils

-  Limestone
-  Charcoal
- ①  Grey/Brown humic peat
- ②  Grey/Brown mottled silty peat
- ③  Grey gleyed clay
- ④  Dark grey silty clay
- ⑤  Grey/Black silty clay
- ⑥  Dark brown silty peat
- ⑦  Grey shelly sand
- ⑧  Grey/Brown sandy silty peat

Sherds etc;

- Saxon
- * 2nd - 4th cent.
- 4th cent.
- ▽ 2nd - 3rd cent.
- ▼ 2nd cent.
- 1st - 2nd cent
- 1st cent.
- / Leather sandal ?
- ⊗ Wood

Figure 1.

BANCROFT - MK343

WATERLOGGED DEPOSIT

SECTIONS

0  1 m