NOTE ON SOIL PROFILE AT CHEW DOWN, SOMERSET

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During the spring of 1985 the Central Excavation Unit were excavating prehistoric and Roman Field boundaries in the area of Chew Down, Somerset. At the ridge at Chew Down a shallow rendzina (Crwbin series ?) occurred over probable Permian Limestone, and field boundary walls used the underlying limestone "pavement" as a foundation. 150 metres downslope calcareous colluvium buried a Perm-Triassic mudstone substrate. Approximately at the junction occurred an archaeological feature - evidence of burning with much charcoal and a flint axe. This had been buried by 1 metre of colluvium which subsequently developed as a stagnoglegic brown calcareous earth (Hodnet Association; Findlay etal 1983) as described (see Soil Profile Description, Plate I).

ref:
Findlay, D.C., Colborne, S.J.N., Cope, D.W., Harrod, T.R., Hogan, D.V., and Staines, S.J, 1983 Soils of England and Wales, Sheet 5, S.W England Ordnance Survey.

SOIL PROFILE DESCRIPTION: CHEW DOWN

Soil type: (Colluvial) stagnogleyic earth.

Slope: 5° North. Relief: valley floor, c. 150 metres downslope of Permian Limestone ridge with brown rendzina cover. Parent Material Hill wash (Hodnet Association) over Permo-Trassic mudstones. Horizon, depth cms. (flint axe and feature site) 30cms of Ap horizon removed.

B1 30-80	Dark yellowish brown (10YR4/4) moderately weak loamy clay; stone free; moderately well developed medium prisms; low organic matter; rare fine roots; clear, wavy boundary.
Bg1 80-110	Dark greyish brown (2.5Y4/2) moderately weak loamy clay with common clear fine mottles; few large stones; moderately well developed coarse prisms; common manganese staining; gradual, smooth boundary.
Bg2 110-130 "feature"	Greyish brown (2.5Y5/2) moderately weak clay with very many clear to sharp medium mottles; many medium to large stones; very coarse prisms; many (20%) charcoal; clear, smooth boundary.
b Bg 130+	Light brownish grey (2.5Y6/2) moderately weak clay with common sharp coarse mottles; stoneless; very coarse prisms.