

ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY

REPORT

1884

SERIES/No

ENVIRONMENTAL

11/75

AUTHOR

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TITLE

BARTON COURT FARM,
Abingdon

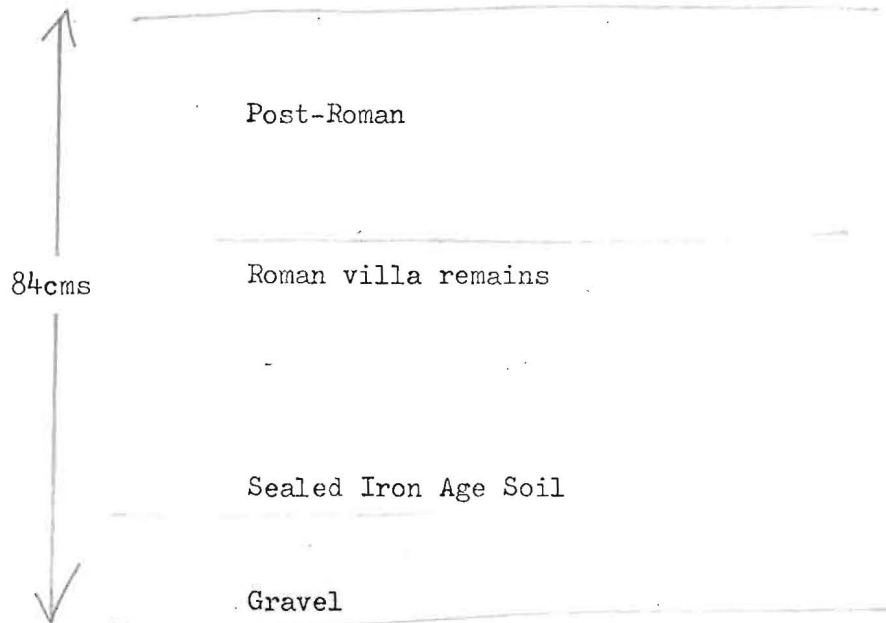
Soils

Barton Court Farm near Abingdon, Berks.

Soil Report by Helen C M Keeley.

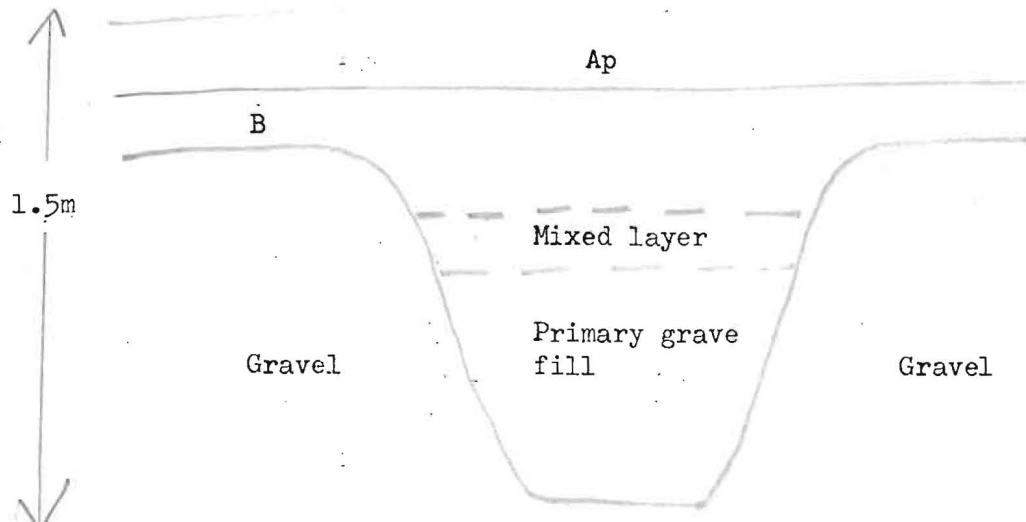
PO4 pH

Site 1. Trench 1 - Section through the south-east part of the Roman Villa.



- Strong 7.2 0-25 cms. Ap horizon. Colour (wet) very dark greyish brown (10 YR 3/2). Sandy loam texture. Pebbles 5% gravel to small.
- Strong 7.2 25-47 cms. Above remains of the Roman villa. Colour (wet) dark brown (10 YR 4/3). Loamy sand texture. Pebbles 20% gravel to small.
- Positive 7.8 47-74 cms. Colour (wet) dark reddish-brown (5 YR 3/4). Sandy loam texture. Pebbles 30% gravel to medium. Possibly influenced by leaching of carbonates from building material above.
- Positive 7.2 74-84 cms. Colour (wet) yellowish-brown (10 YR 5/6). Calcareous gravel - coarse sandy to medium sized pebbles. Iron staining.

Site 2. East Section Trench V. 602



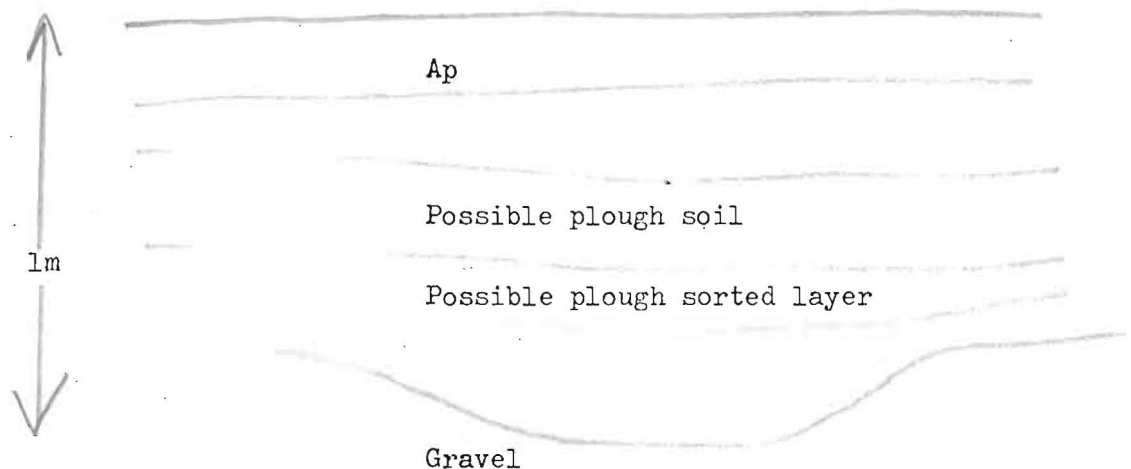
0-30 cms. Ap horizon. Colour (wet) dark brown (10 YR 3/3). Sandy loam texture.

30-70 cms. Colour (wet) dark brown (10 YR 4/3). Sandy loam texture. Pebbles 30% gravel to medium.

70-90 cms. Colour (wet) dark brown (7.5 YR 4/4). Mixture of gravel and sandy loam.

90-150 cms. Primary grave fill. Colour (wet) yellowish-brown (10 YR 5/4). Gravel and coarse sand with a very small proportion of silt. This fill was very similar to the surrounding gravel, which suggest rapid infilling occurred.

Site 3. NW Section Trench V. 612.



0-10 cms. Ap horizon. Colour (wet) dark brown (10 YR 3/3). Sandy brown loam texture. Pebbles 10% gravel to small. This layer contained a lot of debris including bricks and charcoal fragments from the trackway.

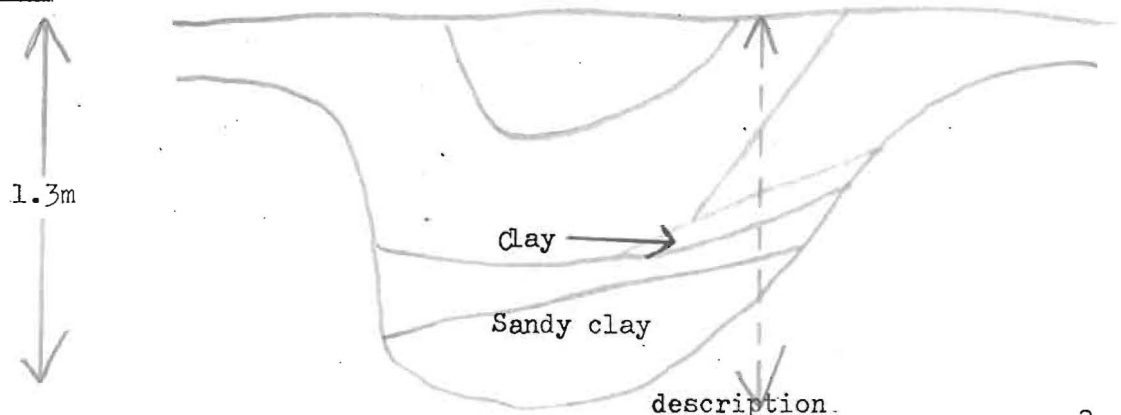
10-40 cms. Colour (wet) dark brown (10 YR 4/3). Sandy loam texture. Pebbles 20% gravel to small.

40-65 cms. Possible plough soil. Colour (wet) dark brown (10 YR 3/3). Sandy loam texture. Pebbles 10% gravel to small.

65-70 cms. Sorted pebbles, probably the result of ploughing the layer above.

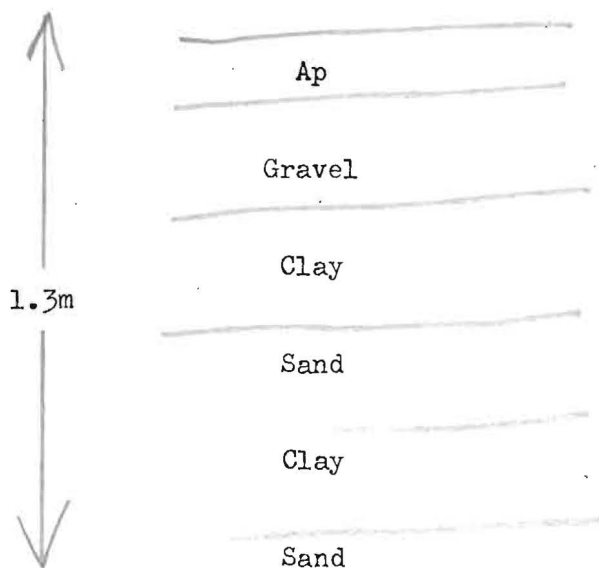
70-100 cms. Colour (wet) dark brown (10 YR 4/3). Sandy loam texture. Pebbles 50% gravel to small.

Site 4. 609 A to C



Site 5. Section through clay.

Stylised section described.



Site 4.

0-18 cms. Colour (wet) yellowish-brown (10 YR 5/4). Sandy loam texture. Pebbles 15% gravel to medium.

18-48 cms. Colour (wet) brownish-yellow (10 YR 6/6). Sandy Clay texture. Pebbles 40% gravel to medium. Manganese staining on pebbles.

48-93 cms. Colour (wet) strong brown (7.5 YR 5/6). Gravel in sandy loam matrix. Pebbles gravel to medium. Manganese staining on pebbles.

93-97 cms. Colour (wet) light yellowish-brown (2.5 YR 6/4), mottles yellowish-brown (10 YR 5/6). Clay with manganese staining.

97-115 cms. Colour (wet) of matrix yellowish-brown (10 YR 5/6). Sandy clay texture. Many manganese concretions. Pebbles 70% gravel to small.

115-130 cms. Colour (wet) yellowish-brown (10 YR 5/4). Sandy clay texture. Few mottles. Gravel 50%.

Below 130 cms. Damp sand. Colour yellowish-brown (10 YR 5/6) with strong brown (7.5 YR 5/8) mottles. Mottles 10%.

Site 5.

0-30 cms. Gravel. Some manganese staining on pebbles.

30-70 cms. Colour (wet) yellowish-brown (10 YR 5/6), mottles strong brown (7.5 YR 5/8) 20%. Clay with some small pebbles in some holes.

70-90 cms. Colour (wet) yellowish-brown (10 YR 5/6). Sand with 20% mottles - strong brown (7.5 YR 5/8).

90-120 cms. Colour (wet) light grey (10 YR 7/2). Clay with few mottles - yellowish - brown (10 YR 5/8)

Below 120 cms. Yellowish-brown (10 YR 5/6) damp sand with 10% strong brown (7.5 YR 5/8) mottles.

Site 6. Soil profile typical of the site - top soil over south area of Trench V.

0-22 cms. Ap horizon. Colour (wet) dark brown (10 YR 3/3) sand loam. Pebbles 30 to 50% gravel to medium.

Below 22 cms. C horizon. Gravel.

Site 7. 608 Prehistoric feature.

0-40 cms. Colour (wet) strong brown (7.5 YR 5/6). Loamy sand texture. Few pebbles gravel to medium. PO_4 - trace. It is suggested that this is a slot for a building. No macroscopic timber remains occurred (eg posts etc) but this could be due to advanced decay of any wood present.

Site 8. Iron Age ditch fill. 604

0-40 cms. Iron age ditch fill. Colour (wet) dark reddish brown (5 YR 3/4) Loamy sand texture. Pebbles 50 to 60% gravel to medium.

Site 9. Roman ditch fill, 602

Top level of Romano-British pallisade enclosure.

0-20 cms. Colour (wet) dark brown (10 YR 4/3). Clay loam texture. Pebbles 10 to 15% gravel to medium.

The Roman ditch fill differed from the Iron Age ditch fill in colour texture and pebble content, the latter being considerably coarser in texture and containing many more pebbles than the former. The fine texture of the Roman ditch fill and the lack of pebbles compared to the Iron Age fill suggest that silting occurred at a much slower rate in the Roman ditch.