

CASTLE RISING, NORFOLK - SOIL REPORT BY H KEELEY

The site of Castle Rising was visited by the author during August, 1975, while excavations were in progress under the direction of B Morley (IAM). A section through the bank was examined.

<u>Layer number</u>		<u>pH</u>
	Root zone	
	sandy rubble	
	sandy material	
③	rubbly layer	7.5
②	deep plough soil	7.8
①	"Natural" yellow sand with some dark clay mottles	6.2

It was not possible to record depths at the time. Layer ① was coarse yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sand with some dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) mottles. The latter consisted of fine textured material and organic matter but did not alter the overall texture. Structure was medium subangular blocky; firm with occasional large angular flint pebbles. Roots were absent; drainage free.

Layer ② was dark yellowish brown (10YR4/4) loamy sand with weak medium subangular blocky structure; less firm than Layer 1. There were occasional large angular flints and charcoal fragments. Roots were absent; drainage free.

Layer ③ was yellowish brown (10YR5/4) loamy sand with medium subangular blocky structure; firm and containing occasional medium to large rounded and angular flints. There were large lumps of weathering limestone and sandstone; bone and fired clay were present. Roots were absent; drainage free.

Comment.

The pH of the dark soil below the bank was too high for pollen to have survived, particularly in this free-draining situation. The dark soil (layer 2) appeared to represent a deep plough soil, overlying the sandy subsoil (layer 1), which was cultivated and, presumably, manured prior to the building of the bank. The sandy soil appeared to have been protected from leaching (which would tend to lower the pH) by the building of the bank and the pH may have been maintained or raised by leaching of calcium carbonate from the upper rubble layers, including that immediately above which contained weathering limestone lumps and well-preserved bone.