

6.9 Test Pit 8 'Mill Cottage'

6.9.1 The test pit was located in an area of lawn 3.3m south of the stream, 5.4m west of Mill Lane and 2.9m north-east of the front of the cottage. The test pit was dug in spits (numbered 1-3 from top to base) to a depth of 30cm. The spit descriptions in Table 8, below are taken from the record booklet.

Spit no.	Depth (cm from surface)	Description
1	0 - 15	Dark brown clayey silt with small-medium stone inclusions.
2	15 - 30	Dark brown clayey silt with small-medium stone inclusions.
3	30	Mid yellow clay.

Table 8: Test Pit 8 spit descriptions.

6.9.2 The records for Test Pit 8 show that spits 1-2 spanned a topsoil deposit that was approximately 30cm thick. The third spit was not excavated as natural had been reached at the recorded depth of 30cm.

6.9.3 Finds were recovered from all three layers (Appendix B). These could be described as modern and commensurate with the domestic occupation of this area.

6.10 Test Pit 09 'The Old Orchard'

6.10.1 The test pit was located in an area of flat grass, 4.3m to the east of the stables in the paddock at the rear of the property. The test pit was dug in spits (numbered 1-7 from top to base) to a depth of 60cm. The spit descriptions in Table 9, below are taken from the record booklet.

Spit no.	Depth (cm from surface)	Description
1	0 - 10	Dark brown clayey sand with small stone inclusions.
2	10 - 20	Dark brown clayey sand with small stone inclusions.
3	20 - 30	Dark brown clayey sand with small stone inclusions.
4	30 - 40	Dark brown clayey sand.
5	40 - 50	Mid yellow orange clay with small stone inclusions.
6	50 - 60	Mid yellow orange clay.
7	60	Mid yellow orange clay.

Table 9: Test Pit 9 spit descriptions.

6.10.2 The records for Test Pit 9 show that spits 1-3 spanned a singular topsoil deposit that was approximately 30cm thick. Beneath this was a 10cm thick clay layer. The spits beyond a depth of 40cm were dug into the underlying geological deposits.

6.10.3 Numerous modern refuse-type finds were recovered from this test pit (Appendix B). Although the depth of the topsoil suggests this land had been farmed in the past, the finds were probably largely incorporated the soil in the time since modern houses have occupied this area.



Plate 9 – Test pit 9 under excavation.

6.11 Test Pit 10 'Hill Cottage East'

6.11.1 The test pit was located in the garden of Hill Cottage East, which is located approximately 4km north-east of the centre of Burley and well beyond the arable farmland surrounding the settlement. The test pit was dug in spits (numbered 1-4 from top to base) to a depth of 40cm. The spit descriptions in Table 10, below are taken from the record booklet.

Spit no.	Depth (cm from surface)	Description
1	0 - 10	Dark brown sandy silt with small stone inclusions.
2	10 - 20	Dark brown sandy silt with small stone inclusions.
3	20 - 30	Dark brown sandy silt with small stone inclusions.
4	30 - 40	Mid brown orange clayey sand with small-medium stone inclusions.

Table 20: Test Pit 10 spit descriptions.

6.11.2 The records for Test Pit 10 suggest that spits 1-3 spanned a singular topsoil deposit, with an approximate depth of 30cm. There was a 10cm thick clayey sand layer beneath the topsoil and natural underlying geology occurred at a depth of 40cm.

6.11.3 In addition to a few modern finds (Appendix B), a significant prehistoric artefact, a probable Late Mesolithic blade (See flint assessment in Section 7) was found in this test pit. In this period of prehistory, communities were largely transient, occupying temporary campsites rather than fixed settlements. A single blade on its own cannot attest to the presence of a campsite but it does represent Mesolithic activity of some description in this area.



Plate 10 – Test pit 10 under excavation.

6.12 Test Pit 11 'Sycamore House'

6.12.1 The test pit was located in an area of flat grass lawn in a field south-west of the Berry Knoll property, west of the tennis court. The archive for Test Pit 11 is limited to a single photograph with no accompanying records and no further information can be presented, beyond Plate 11, below.



Plate 11 – Testpit 11 under excavation.

6.13 Test Pit 13 'Red Oaks'

6.13.1 The test pit was located in an area of flat grass lawn 19m south-west of Red Oaks house, the north-east corner of the test pit was 13.1m south of the west gate post. The test pit was dug in spits (numbered 1-6 from top to base) to a depth of 55-64cm. The spit descriptions in Table 11, below are taken from the record booklet.

Spit no.	Depth (cm from surface)	Description
1	0 – 10	Evenly dark silty sand.
2	10-11 – 16-18	Dark brown silty sand with pea shingle inclusions.
3	16-18 – 30-33	Dark brown, more gravel beginning to appear.
4	30-33 – 40-45	Dark grey brown clay and dark soil with small-medium stones present.
5	40-45 – 52-57	Dark clay with small stone inclusions.
6	52-57 – 55-64	Dark orange and grey clay.

Table 13: Test Pit 13 spit descriptions.

6.13.2 The records for Test Pit 13 suggest that spits 1-3 spanned a singular topsoil deposit that was approximately 30-33cm thick in this area. Beneath topsoil there was a 10cm thick clay layer. The natural underlying geology occurred at a depth of 52-57cm below ground surface.

6.13.3 The finds from this test pit (Appendix B) fall into two categories and are either associated with modern occupation of the site or a phase of much older activity that occurred, during the Mesolithic period. Four Mesolithic tools were recovered from the small test pit (See Flint Assessment in Section 7 & Plate 39) implying that the test pit was positioned upon a Mesolithic encampment site and possibly in the vicinity of an area used to manufacture tools.



Plate 12 – Testpit 13 under excavation.

6.14 Test Pit 15 'Burley Cottage'

6.14.1 Two test pits, recorded as 15 and 37 were excavated at Burley Cottage. Test Pit 15 was the first to be dug and it was located in an area of flat grass lawn 24m south-east of Burley Cottage and 9m north-east of the fence that separates the property from Ringwood Road. The test pit was dug in spits (numbered 1-3 from top to base) to a depth of 20cm. The spit descriptions in Table 12, below are taken from the record booklet.

Spit no.	Depth (cm from surface)	Description
1	0 - 10	Dark brown medium sand with small-medium stones present.
2	10 – 20	Dark brown medium sand with small stone inclusions.
3	20	Mid orange yellow silty sand.

Table 42: Test Pit 15 spit descriptions.

6.14.2 The records for Test Pit 15 describe a topsoil deposit that was immediately on top of the underlying natural geology at an approximate depth of 20cm.

6.14.3 The finds from this test pit (Appendix B) are all attributable to the occupation of the cottage. The dark blue (probable fireplace) tile may have been removed from the cottage during a phase of refurbishment.



Plate 13 – Test pit 15 under excavation.

6.15 Test Pit 16 'Burbush House'

6.15.1 The test pit was located in a wooded area south-west of Burbush House and is 20m north-west of the location of Test Pit 17. This test pit was dug in spits (numbered 1-5 from top to base) to a depth of 40cm. The spit descriptions in Table 13, below are taken from the record booklet.

Spit no.	Depth (cm from surface)	Description
1	0 - 10	Turf.
2	10 – 15-20	Mid brown coarse sand with small-medium stone inclusions.
3	15-20 – 30-35	Mid brown with pale grey clay, with small-medium stone inclusions.
4	30-35 – 40	Mid brown coarse sand with small-medium stone inclusions.
5	40	Pale yellow grey sand with small-medium stone inclusions.

Table 53: Test Pit 16 spit descriptions.

6.15.2 The records for Test Pit 16 show that spits 1-4 spanned a single topsoil deposit that was approximately 40cm thick and heavily rooted in this area. The natural geology occurred at a depth of 40cm from the ground surface.

6.15.3 The finds were a selection of modern artefacts (Appendix B) commensurate with the occupation of Burbush House. A 4cm diameter ferrous sphere found previously by the land owner and incorporated into the archive might be a post medieval cannon ball (Plate 41). It is a mystery as to how this might have ended up being buried in this location, so far from a known battlefield site.



Plate 14 – Testpit 16 under excavation.

6.16 Test Pit 17 'Burbush House'

6.16.1 Test pit 17 was a second test pit excavated at the Burbush House site in addition to Test Pit 16. This test pit was located in a wooded area south of the house. The test pit was dug in spits (numbered 1-3 from top to base) to a depth of >23cm. The spit descriptions in Table 14, below are taken from the record booklet.

Spit no.	Depth (cm from surface)	Description
1	0 – 9-13	Turf.
2	9-13 – 19-23	Dark brown grey clayey silt with medium stone inclusions and charcoal flecks.
3	19-23–	Dark brown grey clayey silt with medium stone inclusions and charcoal flecks.

Table 64: Test Pit 17 spit descriptions.

6.16.2 The limited records for Test Pit 17 suggest that spits 1-3 are a single soil deposit, representing topsoil. It can be assumed that the bottom of the deposit was not reached as there are no photographs or any further descriptions, measurements or natural geology recorded.

6.16.3 A few finds were submitted to the collective archive (Appendix B) and they were similar to those from Test pit 16, being largely modern and commensurate with domestic occupation of the site.

6.17 Test Pit 18 'Burley Lodge'

6.17.1 The test pit was located south of Southmead Cottage. The test pit was dug in spits (numbered 1-5 from top to base) to a depth of >40cm. The spit descriptions in Table 15, below are taken from the record booklet.

Spit no.	Depth (cm from surface)	Description
1	0 - 10	Turf.
2	10 – 20	Medium sand with small-medium stone inclusions.
3	20 – 30	Sandy silt with small-medium stone inclusions.
4	30 – 40	Sandy silt with small-medium stone inclusions.
5	40	Sandy silt with small-medium stone inclusions.

Table 75: Test Pit 18 spit descriptions.

6.17.2 The records for Test Pit 18 are limited. There are no colour descriptions, section drawings or photographs; therefore it is difficult to provide an accurate interpretation of the stratigraphy. It can be assumed that spits 1-2 represent the topsoil, with an approximate depth of 20cm. Below the topsoil, the sandy silt layer that spans spits 3-5 would have been a subsoil, although the full depth of this deposit and what was beneath it was not confirmed in the records.

6.17.3 One sherd of 17th/18th century Verwood Ware bowl came from the test pit. Produced locally this pottery is a common feature of finds assemblage from domestic sites. As popular forms were in production for such a long period of time, this pottery is quite difficult to date better than a range of 100-200 years. It is almost certain this pottery belonged to former occupant of Burley Lodge.

6.18 Test Pit 19 'Lucy Cottage'

6.18.1 This test pit was located on the north side of Burley Street, within an area of lawn at the front of the property. The test pit was dug in spits (numbered 1-6 from top to base) to a depth of 64-68cm. The spit descriptions in Table 16, below are taken from the record booklet.

Spit no.	Depth (cm from surface)	Description
1	0 - 10	Dark brown topsoil.
2	10 - 20-22	No description.
3	20-22 - 32	Dark brown medium sand loose topsoil with small-medium stone inclusions.
4	32 - 41-44	Dark brown sand with small-medium stone inclusions.
5	41-44 - 56-58	Dark brown sand loose topsoil.
6	56-58 - 64-68	No description.

Table 86: Test Pit 19 spit descriptions.

6.18.2 Although the soil descriptions are similar across all of the spits, the photographs show a subtle change approximately half way down the depth of the test pit which is a transition between topsoil and a leached subsoil. The test pit base appears to be at the top of underlying geology.

6.18.3 Finds (Appendix B) are consistent with modern occupation of the area certainly from the 19th century, but perhaps considerably earlier as suggested by the prehistoric utilised flint flake that was found.



Plate 15 – Test pit 19 under excavation.

6.19 Test Pit 20 'Oakapple Cottage'

6.19.1 The test pit was located in an area of flat grass lawn, 5.5m east of Garden Road, at the front of the property. The test pit was dug in spits (numbered 1-4 from top to base) to a depth of >28cm. The spit descriptions in Table 17, below are taken from the record booklet.

Spit no.	Depth (cm from surface)	Description
1	0 - 10	Turf.
2	10 – 17-20	Brown clayey silt.
3	17-20 – 26-28	Brown yellow sand-soil with small stone and charcoal inclusions.
4	26-28 –	Brown yellow silty sand with small-medium stone inclusions and charcoal flecks.

Table 97: Test Pit 20 spit descriptions.

6.19.2 The records for Test Pit 20 are limited. It can be assumed that topsoil is represented in spits 1 and 2, which is 17-20cm deep in this area. It appears that spits 3 and 4 span the same silty sand deposit. The depth of this deposit is recorded as >11cm. The records state that no more spits were excavated as natural was reached, however, the depth natural was encountered was not recorded.

6.20 Test Pit 21 'Foxglove Cottage'

6.20.1 The test pit was located within an area of lawn, next to a path that leads to the front of the cottage. The test pit was dug in spits (numbered 1-5 from top to base) to a depth of >40cm. The spit descriptions in Table 18, below are taken from the record booklet.

Spit no.	Depth (cm from surface)	Description
1	0 - 10	Turf
2	10 - 20	Dark brown sand.
3	20 - 30	Sandy soil with flecks of charcoal.
4	30 - 40	Pale brownish orange sandy clay with small stone inclusions.
5	40 -	Brownish orange clayey sand with medium sized stone inclusions

Table 108: Test Pit 21 spit descriptions.

6.20.2 The records for Test pit 21 suggest that spits 1-3 spanned a singular topsoil deposit, with an approximate depth of 30cm. The topsoil covered a sandy clay layer that spans spits 4-5, which was most likely a subsoil layer. The records do not indicate whether the base of this deposit was reached.



Plate 16 – Testpit 21 under excavation.

6.21 Test Pit 22 'Rosebay Cottage'

6.21.1 The test pit was located in the Cottage's front lawn. The test pit was dug in spits (numbered 1-3 from top to base) to a depth of 30-38cm. The spit descriptions in Table 19, below are taken from the record booklet.

Spit no.	Depth (cm from surface)	Description
1	0 – 12-14	Mid brown clayey silt.
2	12-14 – 21-26	Mid brown clayey silt.
3	21-26 – 30-38	Mid brown clayey silt.

Table 119: Test Pit 21 spit descriptions.

6.21.2 The records for Test pit 22 shows that spits 1-3 spanned a topsoil deposit that was 30-38cm thick and lay directly on top of natural clay.

6.21.3 Numerous 19th century and 20th century finds were recovered. Rosebay Cottage dates from the early 20th century although historic maps show older houses existed in the immediate vicinity. The Rosebay Cottage plot was probably part of another garden, or even arable land, which is implied by the deep and humic nature of the topsoil here.



Plate 17 – Testpit 22 under excavation.

6.22 Test Pit 23 'Arnwood'

6.22.1 The test pit was located towards the rear of the Arnwood property, 2.1m north-west of the garage. The test pit was dug in spits (numbered 1-6 from top to base) to a depth of 62-82cm. The spit descriptions in Table 20, below are taken from the record booklet.

Spit no.	Depth (cm from surface)	Description
1	0 - 10	Mid grey coarse sand with small-medium stone inclusions.
2	10 - 20	Mid grey and yellow coarse sand with small-medium stone inclusions.
3	20 - 30	Clay/gravel hoggin (floor 1) appears halfway through this spit, layer over east half of the pit only.
4	30 - 40	Floor 2 is clay/gravel hoggin.
5	40 - 50	Dirt cleared down to floor 3 and clay.
6	50 - 80	Floor 3

Table 20: Test Pit 1 spit descriptions.

6.22.2 This test pit had quite complex stratigraphy and the records describe multiple layers including a sequence of probable surfaces. Spits 1-2 span topsoil which was 24cm deep. Below topsoil there was a gravel courtyard surface (Floor 1), the level of which matched that of the adjacent building which is an old stable block. Floor 1 is shown in all sections of the test pit and was approximately 6cm deep. Floor 2 was found immediately below Floor 1. It covers the eastern area of the test pit with a clear defined straight edge running NW-SE, part of the edge was marked by a piece of wood, probably part of a sill-beam implying this layer was within a structure.

6.22.3 Beneath Floor 2 there was a soil deposit that ranged in depth from 16-38cm. Floor 3 is located underneath this deposit within the north-east side of the test pit. It was much coarser than Floors 1 and 2. The excavation continued to the top of a clay layer which occurred at a depth of 62-82cm below ground surface. It was unspecified whether this was natural but it may have been.

6.22.4 Finds were numerous and varied and generally increase with age in correlation with depth from surface (Appendix B). Some finds, specifically a bag hook and buckles directly relate to Arnwood's former use as a Post Office.



Plate 18 – Test pit 23 under excavation, showing possible sill-beam remnant adjacent to floor layer.

6.23 Test Pit 24 'Durmast House'

- 6.23.1 The test pit was located in a wooded area east north-east of the house, south of Bisterne Close. The archive for Test Pit 24 consists of a small selection of photographs showing the finds recovered from the excavation. However, these are the only record provided, there are no soil descriptions, drawings or photographs of the test pit. The depth at which these finds were uncovered was noted. This suggests that the test pit was excavated to a depth of at least 30 cm.
- 6.23.2 The finds themselves are exclusively modern (Appendix B) and their nature implies this area might have been used to dispose of domestic waste in the past.

6.24 Test Pit 25 'Halves'

6.24.1 The test pit was located on an area of flat grass, near the hedge line at the rear of the property. The test pit was dug in spits (numbered 1-5 from top to base) to a depth of >50cm. The spit descriptions in Table 21, below are taken from the record booklet.

Spit no.	Depth (cm from surface)	Description
1	0 - 10	Mid brown silt with small-medium stone inclusions.
2	10 - 20	Mid-dark brown silt with small-medium stone inclusions.
3	20 - 30	Mid-dark brown silt with small-medium stone inclusions. Area of sandy gravel different from the rest.
4	30 - 40	Dark brown sandy silt with small stone inclusions.
5	40 - 50	Dark brown sandy silt with small-medium stone inclusions.

Table 21: Test Pit 25 spit descriptions.

6.24.2 Although the soil descriptions are similar across all of the spits, it can be assumed that there are two different soil deposits. The records suggest that spits 1-3 spanned a topsoil deposit, which was approximately 30cm thick in this area. Plate 20 shows the small deposit of gravel in section that was in the corner of the bottom of spit 3 that separates the soil deposits. It was noted that this gravel deposit did not extend across the whole of the excavated area. Beneath this was a sandy silt layer that was >20cm thick. It is not known whether the bottom of this deposit was reached and the base of the test pit was at the level of the top of underlying geology.

6.24.3 No finds were recorded in the finds database although the records and photographs purport to the recovery of modern-looking pottery and at least one large iron nail, the origin of which could have been a Smithy that was on a neighbouring property in the early 20th century.



Plate 19 – Test pit 25 under excavation.

6.25 Test Pit 26 'The Cottage'

6.25.1 The test pit was located in an area of lawn, 4.3m south and 3.7m east of the south-east corner of the barn. The test pit was dug in spits (numbered 1-10 from top to base) to a depth of 1m. The spit descriptions in Table 22, below are taken from the record booklet.

Spit no.	Depth (cm from surface)	Description
1	0 - 10	Dark brown sandy silt with small-medium stone inclusions and charcoal flecks.
2	10 - 20	Dark brown sandy silt with small stone inclusions and charcoal flecks.
3	20 - 30	Dark brown sandy silt with small stone inclusions.
4	30 - 40	Mid brown silt with small stone inclusions.
5	40 - 50	Mid brown silt with small stone inclusions.
6	50 - 60	Mid orange brown, more sand than silt, with small stone inclusions.
7	60 - 70	Mid orange brown sand.
8	70 - 80	Mid orange brown sand.
9	80 - 90	Mid orange brown sand.
10	90 - 100	Pale orange yellow medium sand.

Table 22: Test Pit 26 spit descriptions.

6.25.2 The records for Test pit 26 suggest that spits 1-3 spanned a singular topsoil deposit, which was approximately 30cm thick in this area. Beneath this was a 20cm thick silt layer. From a depth of 50cm, spits 6-10 were dug into sterile natural geology.

6.25.3 A few finds were recovered (Appendix B), including a clay pipe bowl. These either made their way into gardens with other domestic waste being disposed of or were broken and discarded on the spot.



Plate 20 – Testpit 26 under excavation.

6.26 Test Pit 27 'Tanner Farm'

6.26.1 The test pit was located towards the south-east corner of Burley Park not far from the Manor House. The test pit was dug in spits (numbered 1-6 from top to base) to a depth of 60cm. The spit descriptions in Table 23, below are taken from the record booklet.

Spit no.	Depth (cm from surface)	Description
1	0 - 10	Light brown clayey silt. Stone flecks present.
2	10 - 20	Light brown clayey silt. Flecks of charcoal and stone present.
3	20 - 30	Light brown clay silt. Charcoal flecks present.
4	30 - 40	Orange/light brown clay silt. Flecks of charcoal and small fragments of stone present.
5	40 - 50	'Orangey'. Charcoal flecks and small fragments of stone present
6	50 - 60	Orange brown sandy silt. Small fragments of charcoal and medium sized fragments of stone present.

Table 23: Test Pit 26 spit descriptions.

6.26.2 The Test Pit 27 records suggest that spits 1-5 spanned three soil deposits. The topsoil surface deposit was approximately 22cm thick in this area. Topsoil covered an approximately 10cm thick clay layer and beneath this was a sandy clay layer with an approximate thickness of 28cm. Spit 6 was dug into sterile natural geology. The natural underlying geology occurred at a depth of approximately 50cm below the ground surface.

6.26.3 Various finds were recovered from this piece of ancient agricultural land (Appendix B), including a piece of Medieval jug that may provide a link to the use of the manor in the 13th century.



Plate 21 – General shot of Test Pit 27, taken at an early stage of the excavation.

6.27 Test Pit 28 'Sandhills'

6.27.1 This was the second test pit that was excavated at the Sandhills address in addition to the pilot test pit (1). The test pit was located in an area of flat grass, 24m south of the fence gate and 37m west of the paddock boundary fence, in a field south-west of Sandhills house. The test pit was dug in spits (numbered 1-7 from top to base) to a depth of 60cm. The spit descriptions in Table 24, below are taken from the record booklet.

Spit no.	Depth (cm from surface)	Description
1	0 - 10	Mid brown medium sand with small stone inclusions.
2	10 - 20	Mid grey silty sand with stone and charcoal inclusions.
3	20 - 30	Mid grey medium sand with stone inclusions.
4	30 - 40	Mid grey medium sand with small stone inclusions.
5	40 - 50	Mid grey medium sand with stone and charcoal inclusions.
6	50 - 60	Mid grey medium sand with medium stone inclusions.
7	60	100 % Coarse gravel

Table 24: Test Pit 28 spit descriptions.

6.27.2 Although the soil descriptions are very similar across all of the spits, it can be assumed from the photographs that there are two different soil deposits. The records suggest that spits 1-2 span a topsoil deposit, which was approximately 20cm thick in this area. Beneath this was a grey sand deposit that was approximately 40cm thick. The natural geology occurred at a depth of 60cm below the ground surface.

6.27.3 The finds complement those from test pit 1, although the presence of bunt flint suggests a degree of prehistoric activity in the area that wasn't detected in test pit 1. Throughout prehistory stones, usually of flint, if they were to hand, were heated in fire and then used to increase the temperature of water. Burnt flint is quite characteristic of this process, but the activity is difficult to date without other evidence, like pottery or flint tools.



Plate 22 – Testpit 28 representative section.

6.28 Test Pit 29 'Beeches'

6.28.1 The test pit was located in the southern area of a field to the rear of Beeches property. The test pit was dug in spits (numbered 1-5 from top to base) to a depth of >38cm. The spit descriptions in Table 25, below are taken from the record booklet.

Spit no.	Depth (cm from surface)	Description
1	0 – 12-15	Mid brown silty clay with small stone inclusions.
2	12-15 – 22-24	Mid brown silty clay with small-medium stone inclusions.
3	22-24 – 33-38	Mid brown silty clay with small-medium stone inclusions.
4	33-38 –	Mid brown silty clay with small-medium stone inclusions.
5		Pale brown clay

Table 25: Test Pit 29 spit descriptions.

6.28.2 The records for Test Pit 29 are limited. It can be assumed that spits 1-4 spanned a single soil deposit, representing topsoil. The depth of this deposit is recorded as >38cm. Finds were noted as being excavated from spit 4, therefore this deposit must have continued deeper than the measurement recorded at the beginning of the spit. A fifth spit was not excavated as natural clay had been reached, however, the depth at which this was encountered was not recorded.

6.28.3 The finds assemblage (Appendix B) includes three pieces of Medieval pottery, and their presence here is likely attributable to the process of manuring as a method of both waste disposal and fertilisation of land. This pottery shows this land had been reclaimed from the heath and was under agriculture by the 13th century. The flint flake shows that this area had perhaps been selected for agricultural use or settlement at least a couple of millennia before the medieval period.

6.29 Test Pit 30 'Garden Road'

6.29.1 The test pit was located in a lawn at the front of the property. The test pit was dug in spits (numbered 1-3 from top to base) to a depth of >30cm. The spit descriptions in Table 26, below are taken from the record booklet.

Spit no.	Depth (cm from surface)	Description
1	0 - 20	Turf and topsoil.
2	20 - 30	Mid red/ brown silty sand with small stone inclusions.
3	30 -	No description

Table 26: Test Pit 30 spit descriptions.

6.29.2 The records for Test Pit 30 describe a topsoil of around 20cm depth. Beneath this was a silty sand subsoil deposit, which is recorded as >10cm thick. The photographs of this test pit show that natural was reached but a depth isn't provided.

6.29.3 The only recorded find was a Late Neolithic – Early Bronze Age scraper/piercer combination tool (See Flint assessment, Section 7), which would have been lost here over four thousand years ago.



Plate 23 – Test pit 30 under excavation.

6.30 Test Pit 31 'Corner Cottage'

6.30.1 The test pit was located in an area of lawn to the rear of Corner Cottage. The test pit was dug in spits (numbered 1-5 from top to base) to a depth of 50cm. The spit descriptions in Table 27, below are taken from the record booklet.

Spit no.	Depth (cm from surface)	Description
1	0 - 10	Dark grey black silt with stone inclusions.
2	10 – 20	Dark grey black silt with medium stone inclusions.
3	20 – 30	Dark grey black silt with small-medium stone inclusions.
4	30 – 40	Black and yellow clayey silt with small-medium stone inclusions.
5	40 – 50	Pale yellow clayey silt with medium stone inclusions.

Table 27: Test Pit 31 spit descriptions.

6.30.2 The records for Test pit 31 suggest that spits 1-3 spanned a singular topsoil deposit, which was approximately 30cm thick in this area. Beneath this was a 10cm thick clayey silt layer. Spit 5 was dug into sterile natural geology. The natural occurred at a depth of 40cm below the ground surface.

6.31 Test Pit 33 'Blackmoor House'

- 6.31.1 The test pit was located in a field south of Blackmoor House. The archive does not contain a record booklet for this test pit but photographs from the Dig Burley event show at least some excavation was undertaken (Plate 24).



Plate 24 – Testpit 33 under excavation.

6.32 Test Pit 34 'Warnes Lane'

6.32.1 Test Pits 34 and 43 were both excavated at the Warnes Lane address. Test Pit 34 was located in an area of flat lawn, 2.4m north of the street pavement, 4m south of the front of the house. The test pit was dug in spits (numbered 1-5 from top to base) to a depth of 65cm. The spit descriptions in Table 28, below are taken from the record booklet.

Spit no.	Depth (cm from surface)	Description
Spit	Depth (cm from surface)	Description
1	0 - 10	Turf
2	10 - 20	Dark sandy silt with small stone inclusions.
3	20 - 30	Dark sandy silt with small stone inclusions.
4	30 - 45	Mid sandy silt with small stone inclusions.
5	45 - 65	Mid sandy silt with small stone inclusions, becoming more of a clayey gravel mixture at 65cm.

Table 28: Test Pit 34 spit descriptions.

6.32.2 The records for Test Pit 34 suggest that spits 1-3 spanned a topsoil deposit, which was approximately 30cm thick in this area. Beneath this was a lighter sandy silt deposit that spanned spits 4-5, most likely representing subsoil. A small test slot was dug in the north-east corner of this test pit to investigate the depth of this deposit. There is a slight change in composition noted at the bottom of this test pit, possibly indicating another deposit or the interface with the natural geology. However, due to the wet soil conditions, there was no further excavation and this could not be confirmed.

6.32.3 This test pit was actually located close or possibly upon a former field boundary, which ran through this area on an east – west orientation between the early 20th century and before the Warnes Lane cul-de-sac was built in the 1960s. The damp clay/gravel mix encountered in the base of the test pit may have been a backfill of the ditch

6.32.4 The finds (Appendix B) reveal little about the previous use of the land, other than it being farmed in recent times.



Plate 25 – Test pit 34 under excavation.

6.33 Test Pit 35 'Fallowfields'

6.33.1 The test pit was located in an area of grass adjacent to a vegetable patch to the rear of the property. The test pit was dug in spits (numbered 1-6 from top to base) to a depth of 60cm. The spit descriptions in Table 29, below are taken from the record booklet.

Spit no.	Depth (cm from surface)	Description
1	0 - 10	Turf
2	10 - 20	Brown soil and gravel.
3	20 - 30	Brown soil.
4	30 - 40	Brown sand with grey clay and small stone and charcoal inclusions.
5	40 - 50	Brown blue-grey sand soil
6	50 - 60	Mid-light brown clay and sand.

Table 29: Test Pit 35 spit descriptions.

6.33.2 The records for Test Pit 35 suggest that spits 1-3 spans a topsoil deposit, which was approximately 30cm thick in this area. Beneath this was a lighter sandy deposit that spanned spits 4-5, most likely representing subsoil. Spit 6 was dug into the natural geology which occurred at a depth of 50cm below the ground surface.

6.33.3 No finds were reported in the finds database, which might be due to the property being relatively new and quite a long way from the historic core of the village.



Plate 26 – Testpit 35 under excavation.

6.34 Test Pit 36 'Hollybank'

6.34.1 The test pit was located in the front lawn of the property, next to the north side of the garden path and 4.5m SE of the house. The test pit was dug in spits (numbered 1-4 from top to base) to a depth of 40cm. The spit descriptions in Table 30, below are taken from the record booklet.

Spit no.	Depth (cm from surface)	Description
1	0 - 10	Mid brown sandy silt
2	10 - 20	Mid brown clayey silt with small stone and charcoal inclusions.
3	20 - 30	Mid brown clayey silt with small stone inclusions and charcoal flecks present.
4	30 - 40	Mid brown clayey silt with small stone and charcoal inclusions.

Table 30: Test Pit 36 spit descriptions.

6.34.2 The records for Test Pit 36 show that spits 1-4 spanned a topsoil deposit that was 40cm thick in this area. During the excavation of spit 3 a modern drainage pipe was uncovered in the SW end of the test pit. The natural geology occurred at a depth of 40cm below ground surface.

6.34.3 No finds were recorded in the finds database and this conforms to the location of the test pit, being located on former agricultural land on the periphery of the settlement.



Plate 27 – Testpit 36 under excavation.

6.35 Test Pit 37 'Burley Cottage'

6.35.1 Test Pit 37 was the second test pit dug at Burley Cottage in addition to 15 and it was located in an area of flat grass lawn 3.3m west south-west of a stable block and 5.5m south south-east of a garage. The test pit was dug in spits (numbered 1-5 from top to base) to a depth of 80cm. The spit descriptions in Table 31, below are taken from the record booklet.

Spit no.	Depth (cm from surface)	Description
1	0 - 20	Dark brown medium sand with small-medium stone inclusions.
2	20 - 40	Dark brown medium sand with small-medium stone inclusions.
3	40 - 60	Dark brown medium sand with small stone inclusions.
4	60 - 80	Mid yellow silty sand.
5	80 -	Mid orange yellow clayey sand.

Table 31: Test Pit 37 spit descriptions.

6.35.2 Plate 28 shows concrete in the upper north corner of the test pit covered only by the turf layer. There are also alternating dark soils and a lighter more stony material, this is not a normal agricultural/natural soil profile and represents made ground layers. However, beneath these, there appears to be dark brown sand that is most likely the original topsoil deposit, overlying possible mottled yellow brown silty sand subsoil. The natural geology occurred at a depth of 80cm below ground surface.

6.35.3 Burley Cottage is one of the oldest buildings in this area and the dark and humic nature of the soil in this test pit represents many decades, if not centuries of enrichment from ash and organic waste being disposed of into the garden.

6.35.4 The five sherds of medieval pottery strongly recovered from spit 3 (Plate 38) suggest this site has been inhabited for a long period of time, and the current house, although old itself, might be the most recent of a sequence of dwellings that occupied this site from Medieval times.



Plate 28 – Testpit 37 under excavation.

6.36 Test Pit 38 'Abbots Field'

- 6.36.1 The test pit was located at the front of the property, close to the northern boundary. There is no record booklet for this test pit or in the archive but there are a small selection of photographs that show a depression in clean natural gravel (Plate 29). This could be a post-hole or animal burrow but it is not possible to interpret the feature with any degree of confidence from the photographs alone.



Plate 29 – View of base of test pit 38 showing depression.

6.37 Test Pit 39 'Goats Pen Cottage'

6.37.1 The test pit was located in an area of flat grass lawn, 2.2m north-west of the fence line and 4m south-east of the garage at the rear of the property. The test pit was dug in spits (numbered 1-5 from top to base) to a depth of 60cm. The spit descriptions in Table 32, below are taken from the record booklet.

Spit no.	Depth (cm from surface)	Description
1	0 - 10	Dark grey-brown near black loam.
2	10 - 20	Dark grey-brown near black loam with small stone inclusions.
3	20 - 30	Dark grey-brown near black loam with small stone inclusions.
4	30 - 40	Dark grey-brown friable loam with small stone inclusions.
5	40 - 45-60	Dark grey-brown loam with small stone inclusions. Some patches of natural sand/gravel.

Table 32: Test Pit 39 spit descriptions.

6.37.2 The records for Test Pit 39 suggest that spits 1-5 spanned a singular topsoil deposit, which was approximately 45-60+cm deep in this area. The bottom of spit 5 shows the interface between the topsoil and the natural geology.

6.37.3 The records describe a potential linear archaeological feature on the eastern side of the test pit. It is always difficult to interpret partially exposed features in test pits but being perpendicular to the road, this might have been an old boundary, or something to do with the Shappen Nursery, which this area was part of in the 1960s.



Plate 30 – Test pit 39 under excavation.

6.38 Test Pit 40 'Ladywell'

6.38.1 This test pit was excavated at the same address and very close to Test Pit 2 (in a paddock to the rear of the house, 21m south-west of the garage). The test pit was dug in spits (numbered 1-6 from top to base) to a depth of 60cm. The spit descriptions in Table 33, below are taken from the record booklet.

Spit no.	Depth (cm from surface)	Description
1	0 - 10	Turf
2	10 - 20	Dark brown/ black silt with stone and charcoal inclusions.
3	20 - 30	Dark blackish brown silty loam.
4	30 - 50	Blackish yellow/brown silty loam.
5	50 - 60	Darkish yellow brown sandy silt with small stone inclusions and charcoal flecks.
6	60 -	Pale yellowish grey sandy clay with small stone inclusions.

Table 33: Test Pit 40 spit descriptions.

6.38.2 The records for Test Pit 40 suggest that there are three soil deposits. The topsoil surface deposit is represented in spits 1-3, which is 30cm deep in this area. The topsoil covers a silt layer that spans spits 4-5, most likely representing subsoil. Beneath this was a sandy clay layer.

6.38.3 Finds from this test pit complement those taken from Test Pit 2 and pertain to general occupation of the area and agricultural use of this land during the past couple of centuries at least.



Plate 31 – Testpit 40 under excavation.