

# STRATIGRAPHY

Material was removed from the excavation, bagged and described in 19 different contexts (Appendix 3). On detailed examination it was found that most of these had no stratigraphical meaning and that the stratigraphy could be described in eight units (Table 1), with additional contexts to describe specific features.

There were two different successions: the southern half of the excavation was dominated by a road bed; the northern half reflected the succession that existed before the road was laid out. It seems that the road bed was laid in an excavation along the length of the track .

Table 1

<b>Southern part of excavation</b>	<b>Northern part of excavation</b>
Topsoil	Topsoil
Burnt shale	Subsoil
Road	Demolition layer
Lower subsoil (Sub-road sequence)	Lower subsoil
Stone floor	Stone floor
Sub-floor	

Table 2

<b>Contexts used in field and database</b>	<b>Simplified contexts used for stratigraphical analysis</b>	<b>Categories used for finds description</b>
Topsoil	Topsoil	Topsoil
Stony A+B Stony A+B 7 Subsoil C Subsoil Subsoil 7	Upper Subsoil	Subsoil
North Rubble	Demolition layer	Subsoil
S8 S8 Thursday S8Friday S8 Stony S8 South S8 South Thursday	Lower Subsoil	Subsoil
Floor	Stone floor	Floor
Sub-floor (Friday) Lake sub-floor	Sub-floor	Sub-floor
South Dog North Dog NE feature NE Feature Friday Post hole	North Dog NE Feature	Dog burials  NE Feature

In Table 2 is shown the correlation between the contexts used in the database, the stratigraphical analysis and the description of finds.

### **TOPSOIL (40-60 cm thick)**

The topsoil (context A and Ca in Fig 4) is a dark brown-black sandy loam. Just below it in the western wall only is a layer containing gravel (context B in Fig 4), which seems to be the feather edge of a gravel bed laid down for a new sewerage pipe immediately to the west of the excavation. There is no record of when this was done, but it might have been contemporaneous with the school building. Gravel from this feature was seen in the west wall and the north west corner in the north wall. Included in it was a fragment of a yellow plastic garment. Beneath the layer of gravel is dark brown sandy loam (Cb in Fig 4) similar to the topsoil above, which appears to be the lower part of the topsoil. In the north wall this lower layer is seen to abut the fill to an excavation dug for the flagpole, suggesting that it may be the original topsoil that existed at the time the school was being built. Determining the boundary between the two layers of topsoil is difficult elsewhere. The demolition layer with burnt shale on the surface and forming the road bed lies beneath Ca. There is some disturbance at the boundary between the topsoil and the burnt shale layer (see Figs 4, 5 and 7) where it coincides with the edge of the subsidence zone.

### **SOUTHERN PART OF EXCAVATION**

#### **Burnt shale (5-15 cm thick)**

Red-brown burnt shale (context D in Fig 4) forms a patchy layer over the surface of the access road. Fragments range from a few centimetres to pieces 20 cm long with an unburned core of black shale. The northern edge of the burnt shale appears to have undergone a reverse fault (see Fig 5)

#### **Road (35 cm thick)**

The material for the road (context E in Fig 4) is mostly building rubble. It consists of brick, mortar, stones and roofing tiles. Most bricks measure  $2\frac{3}{8}$  inches thick, a few are  $2\frac{7}{8}$  inches thick, while there are rare  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inch bricks. The faulted northern margin seen in the burnt shale marks the edge of the demolition layer, but at this same level a stony layer continues to the north. Whether this layer is contemporaneous with the road is not clear.

#### **Lower subsoil (Sub-road sequence) (5-10 cm thick)**

In the southern third of the excavation, there is a variable sequence immediately below the road. In the far south western corner a layer of sand rests on the stone floor feature with a thin layer of subsoil above it. About 2 metres to the north, a layer of crushed Mercia Mudstone, 15 cm thick and 2 metres in diameter contains a whole clay pipe bowl marked TC for Thomas Crew Snr. who made pipes in Nottingham in the late 17<sup>th</sup> C. A thin layer of subsoil lies beneath this and on top of the stone floor (context Ea in Fig 4). It appears that this layer is equivalent to the upper subsoil levels in the north of the excavation, but the disturbance at the edge of the roadbed introduces some doubt in this interpretation.

### **NORTHERN PART OF EXCAVATION**

#### **Subsoil (30-40 cm thick)**

The subsoil (context F in Fig 4 and 6) includes all the material lying above the demolition layer in the northern part of the excavation. It varies a lot in composition, containing layers of stones (the stony extension of the road bed section) and clay in a grey-brown loam or gritty loam containing bits of brick, stones, mortar, plaster, charcoal, pottery and other materials. Worm tubes and roots are fairly common. A prominent layer of charcoal appears at about 60 cm depth. The subsoil changes downwards to brown sandy loam with grit at 66 cm depth in the north.

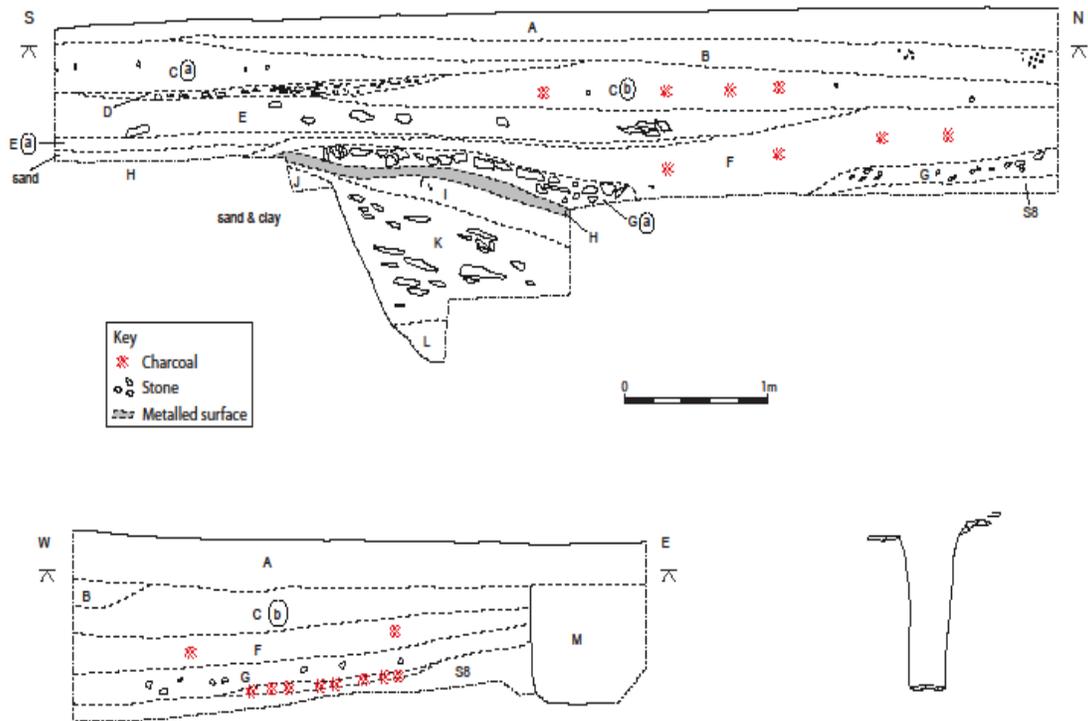


Fig 4 Drawing of the western (top) wall and the northern (bottom) wall of the excavation showing all the contexts recorded. Full descriptions of these are in the text. The bottom right is a section through the downward extension dug along the western wall.



Fig 5 Photograph of the western wall showing the sharp boundary in the topsoil with the edge of the road track.



Fig 6 Photograph of the north wall showing a down-step in the layer of rubble. The topsoil thickens to the left.

Along the northern edge of the excavation at c40 cm depth is a rectilinear feature, 4 cm thick of orange clayey sandy. (see Fig 6). It was removed without giving any clue as to



*Fig 7 View of the part of the western wall above the subsidence. The topsoil thins to the left and becomes disrupted where it meets the edge of the road track.*

what it was.

**Demolition layer (20 cm thick max. in north wall)**

The top of the demolition layer measured in the north wall appears from 53 to 73 cm depth (context G in Fig 4). It spreads like a fan towards the south in the pit, but the edge is very irregular laterally and with depth. It is thought to thicken to the north, beyond the limits of the pit, where it was not dug. Maximum reach to the south is about 1.5 metres. However, patches of builder's rubble occur directly on the stone floor in the southern part of the pit. It is composed mostly of red roof tiles with some limestone roofing tile (with holes and attached mortar), pieces of brick, possible red ceramic floor tiles, mortar and sandstone. Most bricks were small fragments and could not be measured. Among those that could be measured were some 2 inches in thickness, fewer 2 ¼ inch, 2 ⅜ and 2 ½ inch.

In the middle section of the excavation a layer of skerry containing some stones 15 to 20 cm long appears to be at a stratigraphically equivalent level to the demolition layer, though it may not be exactly contemporaneous (context Ga in Fig 4).

**Lower subsoil (c 15 cm thick)**

Beneath the demolition layer (context S8 in Fig 4) is a layer of grey-brown gritty sandy loam about 10 cm thick. Southwards beyond the limit of the demolition layer in places it is indistinguishable from the subsoil above the demolition layer where it is not defined by the skerry layer.

## STONE FLOOR

A stone floor (context H in Fig 4) underlies the whole of the excavation (Figure 8). The stones are



*Fig 8a The stone floor in the complete excavation, looking south. Two dog skeletons can be seen.*



*Fig 8b The whole of the stone floor showing the extra trench dug along the western wall and the area on the upper left where the upper layer of stones had been*

a mostly hard, grey, tabular, subangular fine quartz sandstone (skerry) with a dolomitic cement. They range in length from 3 to 16 cm with a few up to 29 cm. Small 1 to 2 cm stones fill interstices. With the stones are some red sandy roof tiles, 2.2 cm thick, mortar, sparse, well-rounded black chert pebbles up to 5 cm diameter and medium-grained sandstone. There are a few small pieces of soft, sandy brick and some bone. Two rusted iron pegs were located embedded in the floor. Locally there is a lot of charcoal just above the floor. A piece of coal was recovered from within it as well as small pieces of pottery include slip-trailed ware, yellow coarse earthenware and red-bodied pancheon ware

The floor is about 10 cm thick, but part of it in the eastern side of the excavation is laid on another similar surface; that is there is a double floor here. Stones in the lower surface are 3 to 11 cm long here (Figure 9).

The upper layer has been set in red-brown sand spread over the lower floor. Where there is only one level of stone it is laid directly on a natural sand deposit.

The floor surface is uneven and in the western part of the excavation there is an area of subsidence locally reaching 30 cm depth. In the north wall the edge of the subsidence is marked by a geological fault in the demolition layer with

a downthrow in the direction of the subsidence. This suggests that the subsidence occurred after the demolition layer was laid down. In the western wall the stratigraphy sags into the area of subsidence. The topsoil varies in thickness across the excavation, being thicker over the area of subsidence. This suggests that there was a slight hollow in the contemporary land surface and this was filled and levelled off when the topsoil was laid. It is likely that this took place before the school was built.



*Fig 9 Close up of the lower layer of the floor showing the range in size of stone.*



*Fig 10 Showing the pit dug along the western wall facing south. The back wall is sand with some stones still embedded in it.*

stone cobbles, maximum 13 cm diameter. Sandy loam with some pot fragments filled the interstices between the large stones.

## **OTHER FEATURES**

Two skeletons of dogs, a backfilled pit and a post hole were revealed.

**South dog.** The burial site of the south dog appeared as a distorted circle of darker soil varying from 75 to 82 cm in diameter at 55cm depth. Excavation revealed the skeleton below. The skeleton was on a layer of subsoil above the stone floor.

**North dog.** The north dog burial site rests directly on the demolition layer.

### **Post hole.**

The post hole that was discovered in the test pit was uncovered and re-measured. The hole extends to a depth of 90 cm below the surface of the stone floor. It was nearly rectangular and measured 27 x 23 cm. The long axis of the hole was orientated 23° E and the angle of inclination of the hole is c10° to the east. The whole of the depth of the post hole is in lay-

## **SUB-FLOOR**

Over most of the excavation the floor is laid on sand. Measurements in the post hole and the slot dug along the western wall dug along the western wall suggest that the sand layer is at least 1 metre thick.

A small pit was dug along part of the western wall crossing the edge of the subsidence (see Fig 10). In this part of the excavation there is a jumbled layer of stones resting on the stone floor. Beneath the floor is thin layer of subsoil on a layer of lime-mortar with some brick in a sandy loam (context I in Fig 4). This was not seen elsewhere.

Beneath this lime-mortar layer is about 1 metre of stones (context K in Fig 4) resting on sand and backing up to the south against a near-vertical wall of sand (contexts J and L in fig 4). The southern edge of the subsidence feature coincides with this wall of sand. The lime-mortar layer overlies the stone fill and may have been put down as a bed for the stones when the floor was laid. The sand wall consists of medium-grained sand. Near the top it was red-brown with green-grey mottles. Beneath this it was mostly red-brown with weak bedding.

The fill consists of 15-20 cm skerry stones, some with ripple marks. Most were no more than 5-6 cm thick. The largest measured stone was 36 cm long. There were some rusty grey and green medium-grained sand-



*Fig 11 Rectangular area in the north eastern corner of the excavation when dug out was found to be where a flagpole had been planted.*



*Fig 12 The rectangular area dug out.*

ered grey and yellow-rust sand.

#### **NE Feature.**

This is the term given to a rectangular feature in the north east corner of the excavation beneath the topsoil (context M in Fig 4). The top is 26 cm below the surface (Fig 11). The feature is revealed in the north wall of the excavation as fill with a vertical boundary abutting the upper subsoil, demolition layer and lower subsoil. It also passes through the stone floor. The feature measures 84 cm E-W by 60 cm N-S. The pit extends to a depth of 64 cm. At the bottom (See Fig 12) is a smaller pit dug to a further 22 cm.