

had been already dug by the SEPA engineers. This feature consisted of layers of very dark soil, the upper one containing a large number of stones, sloping downwards into the southwest side of the pit, and looking like a ditch or shallow pit cut into the natural (Fig. 5 and Plate 4). It is just possible that it may indeed have been a ditch or pit, with the rest of it lying under the ground to the east of the trench and septic tank pit, or having lain within the hole which the SEPA engineers dug. On the other hand, the ground did slope down in this direction anyway (which was one of the reasons why the contractors decided not to route the soakaway in this direction as originally planned), and the digger driver, an elderly man with much local knowledge, was of the opinion that the slope was entirely natural.

The most likely interpretation seems to me to be that the layers of black soil (Fig. 5, layers 2 and 3) represent an old ground surface, on which domestic rubbish has been dumped. This would accord well with the generally irregular surface of the site and the information that it had been used for dumping rubbish.