

ST PETER'S CAR PARK - WATCHING BRIEF. JULY 5th-9th 1993. (Dee Brennan).

Extension works to St. Peter's car park:

Proposed work:

The removal of the two grass verges along the length of the hedge bank to extend the existing car park.

Verge (1): Trench (1).

The verge measured 67m N-S and between 1.90m (N end) and 2.10m (S.end) wide from the crest of the hedge bank to the edge of the tarmac.

A trench 67.30m long, 1.90-2.10m wide and 0.30m deep was machine dug along the length of the verge. A mains cable ran down the middle of the trench at a depth of 30cms. The width of the cable trench was between 50 & 60cms. The fill was a fine grey sandy gravel.

The only possible Roman material was located at the southern end of the trench at a depth of 0.30m. The first 22m of this end of the trench were occupied by yellow-brown (?) road gravels, both sides of the cable trench. To the east of the cable they were seen to overlie black soil but it is proposed that the gravels represent dump material derived from a Roman road in the near vicinity. However, it was impossible due to the shallowness of the trench - to prove conclusively that the gravel to the west of the cable was not in situ.

The yellow-brown gravels ran out 22m from the south end of the trench. The rest of the trench was occupied by loose black garden soil containing much modern brick and stone. A street light was located 28m from the north end of the trench. The lamp cables ran north and south into the trench 0.30m from the edge of the tarmac. The lamp post was subsequently moved and placed in against the hedge bank.

Verge (2): Trench (2).

The verge measured 17.40m N-S, and between 1.60m (N end) and 3.80m (S.end) wide from the fence line to the edge of the tarmac. A Telecom service box was located at the northern end of the verge.

A trench 17.40m long, 0.30m (W. side), 0.60 (E side) deep was machine dug along the length of the verge right up to the garden wall at the southern end (boundary wall for the houses that front Priory Street). The trench measured 2.50m across at this end. The northern end was 1.60m wide. Black garden soil, modern brick and rubble were removed. No archaeological features were observed.

A new boundary fence (on the east side of the trench) was put up by the District Council on request from the owner of the property whose garden adjoins the hedge bank/verge. The erection of the fence did not involve any further disturbance to the soils below. The posts are supported by the hardcore that was used as backfill, not sunk into the ground.

11. PETERS CAR PARK. (EXTENSION). LATCHING BRIEF

July 1993.

