

Pond 1787 M25020.11

Pond 1787 was excavated in a total of 3 phases, covering areas to both the east and west of the M25, between chainages 178250 and 178750. The first site to be excavated was to the east of the motorway and was dug during May 2011. This covered 0.94ha and was located on a flat area of land, c 8m a OD. Prior to excavation the site had been used for animal grazing. The underlying geology was recorded as London clays with a superficial overlying deposit of Head clay, sand and gravel. The site was excavated using the SMS methodology, this involved the removal of 0.3m of overburden to the underlying gravel.

Once the area had been cleared of overburden a total of 6 features were excavated. Four of these were ditches on an ENE-WSW alignment, the same as the present hedgerow and ditch. Due to the shallow nature and low energy fills of the ditches, they are most likely part of a small, strip field system. Two post holes were also excavated, one to either side of the most northern ditch, their use was indeterminate but they probably relate to the field boundary. No dating was recovered from the features but it seems most likely that they are medieval or post medieval in date and are contemporary with each other.

Immediately following the completion of the pond area a strip was excavated along the eastern side of the motorway between chainages 178250 and 178660. Again an overburden of c 0.3m was removed to the natural deposit of Head clay, sand and gravel. No archaeological deposits or features were recorded in this area.

The final area excavated was to the western side of the motorway between chainages 178280 and 179340. The area showed a high level of truncation even before excavation began, with the current M25 drainage ditch running parallel to the motorway and earthworks relating to the current M25. 0.3m of overburden was removed across the site using the SMS methodology to the natural Head clay, sand and gravel. No archaeology was found, this is possibly due in part to previous truncation.