

Pegging Out of Proposed Village Hall - 1st June 2018

Report by Alan Peake, B.Sc.(Hons) C.Eng

Richard Casey and I set out the perimeter outside lines and courtyard based on the present architect's plans.

After the initial positioning it became apparent that the proposed access road hammerhead arrangement for turning of vehicles pushed the building too far south and left a large unused area at the north end. We had the idea of using the existing gateway at the north west corner of the site to form an east/west hammerhead rather than a north/south one. This gateway becomes redundant if the site is developed. This enabled the building to be moved approx. 8m to the north giving far less visual impact and a more efficient use of the site.

The building has been set out 4.55m off the existing hedge line to the west side. This was judged to allow sufficient room for hedge trimming and a 3m access track. The outside wall of the building plus the courtyard are easily visible as bunting tape has been used to indicate wall lines.

Preliminary Soil Conditions

A number of probes using a 1.27m metal rod were put down on the site as follows:

1. Midpoint of the south gable – small barn. Pin driven to 'refusal' at a depth of 400mm. Soil deposits on pin indicate fine black silt above 400mm. Soil damp
2. Midpoint of north gable – small barn. Pin refusal at 500mm depth. Soil deposits fine black silt above 500mm. Point of pin – dry, no water
3. Midpoint of south gable – large barn. Pin refusal at 730mm depth. Soil deposits fine black silt – damp.
4. Midpoint of north gable – large barn. First test pin refusal at 270mm. Second test pin approx. 1m away – pin refusal at 500m. Soil deposits fine black silt – damp.
5. Midpoint east wall – large barn. Pin driven to 1m without refusal but driving became harder. Test stopped to enable pin to be extracted. Soil deposits uniform black silt – damp.

Conclusion

It is reasonable to conclude from these preliminary tests that in general the site has a good foundation bearing layer at shallow depth. The one area without a solid founding layer being found has the same black silt over layer present and it is probably that foundations in this area will have to be deeper than elsewhere. However in all cases it is probably that building control will require depths of at least 1m.

It is worth noting that in no instances did we find any peat or vegetable matter deposits which is very positive.

Before structural design is undertaken it will of course be necessary to dig trial holes to see exactly what the founding layer consists of.