

UNDERNEATH THE SEWAGE WORKS

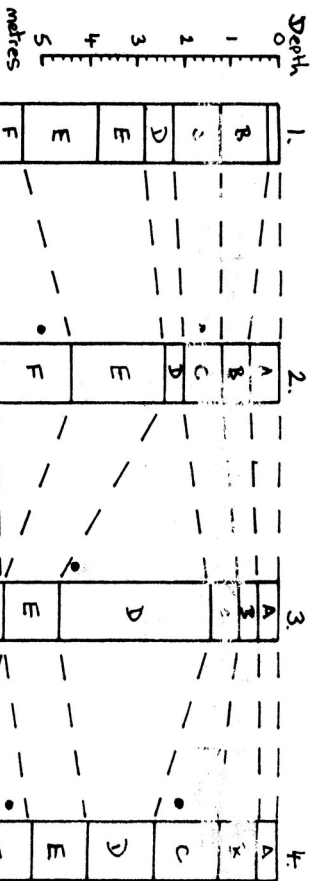
In June 1991 Severn-Trent Water commissioned four testing borings on the site of the new sewage works. Mr J A Firth and Mr G W Shaw of Severn-Trent have very kindly given copies of the borehole logs to the Parish Council, and the information opposite has been taken from them. Information on the local geology can be found in:

'Geology of England & Wales' (ISBN 0-903317-71-0);
 'British Regional Geology-Central England' (ISBN 0-11-880088-4);
 & 'Geology of the County around Coalville' (ISBN 0-11-884398-2).

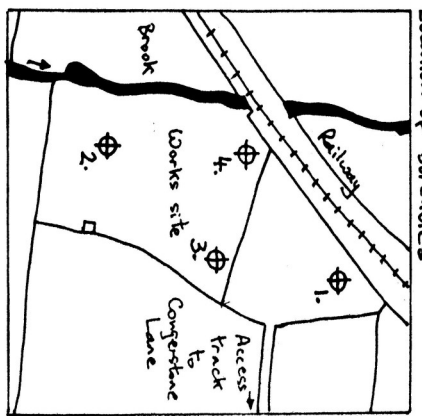
The rocks which outcrop around Carlton are part of the Mercia Mudstone Group, formerly known as the Keuper Marl. These sediments are of middle to late Triassic age and were probably deposited on a large desert plain with playa lakes. Some of the lakes were hypersaline and may have been big enough to be called inland seas. Similar sediments were deposited from North East Ireland across England and into the North Sea, through the Midlands and Irish Sea into the Channel. In the centre of the local basin, near Fenny Drayton, up to 300 metres of Mercia Mudstone are preserved today. It is thought that the Group was originally 600 m thick and covered the Precambrian Rocks of Charnwood Forest. Within Mercia Mudstone Group are bands of harder rock-shales, siltstones, and sandstones, including Carlton stone-known as 'Skerries'. The Skerries were more resistant to erosion during the ice ages and cap the ridges on which many local villages, including Market Bosworth, Carlton and Barton in the Beans were founded.

In the ice ages, Carlton was last covered with ice during the Wolstonian glaciation when ice blocked the Trent and Soar Valleys and ponded water formed a huge lake (called Lake Harrison) between Coventry and the Cotswold escarpment. Water from Carlton would have drained southwards into this lake before the overflowing into the Thames Valley. At that time the Hinckley Valley would have been a cold and barren area of glacial lakes, tills and braided meltwater streams. As the glacier retreated northwards, the drainage pattern would have reversed with water flowing to the north and west as at present. Although there were later glacial episodes, Carlton was not covered by ice again, and a combination of uplift, erosion and climatic warming, produced the landscape we see today. As I look out of my window on this cold, wet, January day Lake Harrison doesn't seem so very far away.

Chris Peat.



• = water met during drilling
 Holes were drilled in June 1991.



- Horizons
- A. Turf above brown topsoil.
 - B. Alluvium. Brown & grey mottled clays. A few traces of moats.
 - C. River gravel. Clayey, sandy gravel with cobbles.
 - D. River terrace deposits. Clays & sands with occasional gravels.
 - E. Weathered Mercia Mudstone. Stiff layered clays with siltstone clasts & layers of weak siltstone. Black root markings common.
 - F. Mercia Mudstone. Very stiff silty clays with weak green siltstone layers.
 - G. Mercia Mudstone. Very stiff to hard, friable red-brown thin sometimes green spotted silty clays with occasional thin layers of weak red mudstone.

esp.