

FWP3b

10/5/95 iwb

ODXI/A/South 2

Silver Series note-book ODXI 1967-68 & 'Director's Notebook OD/X & XIA' - typed notes by PJF August 1968.

On 17/8/68 two new trenches were opened to test for the occurrence of the settlement ditch:

X6 was dug SW of ODXI/ A/ East 4, and was 20' in length by 3' in width. Nothing was revealed.

South 2 was dug 3' south-east of the SW corner of ODXI/A/South 1 (point H). This trench went 25' directly SE (down towards the RB trackway) and went 3' SW towards point I. It was 9" deep.

Although at first dug 3' from point H, it was later joined to the main excavation when this 3' by 3' baulk was removed. In this cutting a post-hole with an upright sarsen was revealed (No GF). There is, however, the faint outline of a PH on the site plan for South 1/2 which could be this one. It is 9" deep and has a flint on top. (Could this be in the line of a fence coming from area B/N&M? - TO CHECK)

'This evidence from **South 2** makes the idea of the intrusion in the south-west corner of **South 1** being a ditch improbable. Interpretation now would favour a **working hollow**'.

On 18/8/68 the **South 2** of the previous day was extended another 25' (making it 50' by 3' in total) but the ditch being sought was not discovered. However, at 35'6" S of H and 9" from the baulk, a pit was uncovered. Its southern side was 38'8" from H, thus making it 3'3" in diameter. What is its context/relationship with site?, if any is discernible. There are no General Finds from this area, from either day.

On 18/8/68 another extension cutting was made in the southern part of ODX/A/South 1, and, confusingly, this is also referred to as South 2. This South 2 was 17' from point H and so is 14' from the western edge of the previous day's South 2. The baulk between these two South 2s was not excavated and in effect they remain separate cuttings. As the previous day's South 2 receives no further mention, I am therefore referring to the South 2 of 18/8/68 from now on. This South

2 juts out from the bottom of ODXI/A/South 1 in search of features indicating a porch/entrance to the South 1 structure.

South 2 forms a rectangle 15' along the I-H axis and 10' in depth. It is 17' from point H and thus 18'(?) from point I.

GF445, 'Prehistoric sherds. Some R-B. Bone.' from the topsoil - the topsoil here, as in many other areas, is **layers** ① and ②, with **layer** ② being the more flinty layer.

This 150' square area, although producing only this one GF, has six features roughly drawn in the note-book in black biro, presumably when site staff were in a rush at the end of the season. These features are postholes (**PH**) **16**, **17**, **18** & **19**, with **PH29** showing in South 2 on the main site plan, but noted under South 1 in the Register.

PH16. No GF. Lies just to the E of this Gully 2 extension, about a 1/3 of the way along; *i.e.* in the ENE area of South 2.

PH17. No GF. Situated in the SE corner of cutting South 2.

PH18. No GF. Situated in the SW corner of cutting South 2.

PH19. No GF. Lies just E of the centre of cutting South 2.

PH29. **GF509**, 'Bone' from layer ③, dark brown loam with charcoal flecks, c. 10" below the turf and covered by large sarsen with very chalky fill, post-hole socket.

Plough marks are also drawn on the site plan for South 2.

As mentioned, the post-holes appear to have been marked hurriedly because they are simply crosses on the rough site plan and lack GF nos. and/or descriptions. This may well be due to site staff deciding to excavate South 2 further, in the hope of discovering features which would indicate a porch, right at the end of the season when time was pressing. When these four additional post-holes were uncovered in South 2 there was only time, I presume, to make a quick sketch of their positions and little else - especially as several other features were being uncovered inside the hut circle simultaneously and the weather was appalling.

Of interest is something not indicated on the rough plan but noted later on in the note-book; the 'bulbous end' of the **Gully 1** (page 17 of note-book). This western end of **Gully 1**, again no GF, appeared in the section baulk of the South 2 cutting on or around 25/8/68 and '...may have held a post. Beside it to the south and just cutting it was **PH29** which held a large burnt post socket. This may be the first post of a porch, possibly inserted at a later date to the original hut circle. The other porch

post-holes probably lie in a south-easterly orientation and our south orientated cutting has thus missed them' (ibid.).

The other feature in the note-book shows **Gully 2** extending from where it terminates on the South 1 plan (see ??) and continuing diagonally across the South 2 cutting to a centre point along the southern edge of South 2. In addition, the NW corner of South 2 shows the extension of the South 1 **working hollow** (see ??) in the note-book. **Gully 2**'s extension into South 2 is not on the site plan, but the area of the **working hollow** is shown.

GF530, 'Charcoal. Bone. IA sherds?. Sarsen?' is from a **Pit 1** in South 2, but no further details. There is a section drawing of a **Pit 1** from ODXII/South 2, which must be this pit (unless it is **Pit 1** in South 1 - to check). Unfortunately there is no information available at the moment to find its position. The section drawing shows layer ① of topsoil, layer ② the flinty layer, layer ②a is rotten chalk, probably spill from plough, layer ③ is a silty layer filled with burnt sarsens and the odd small flint. Layer ④ is chalk weathering filling sides of pit, layer ⑤ is a very silty layer with odd flints in evidence but main feature is the large amount of soot spread evenly in the silt. No scale.

The final days' work in South 2 which uncovered the extended arm of **Gully 1**, three PHs in the south-eastern section of South 2 and one other; **PH18**, in the south-western corner, as well as a '**Pit 1**', may point to a structure, possibly a porch/entrance, associated with the hut circle. Without other material from this area, however, it is difficult at the moment to take our enquiries further, unless **GF445** turns up anything. Comparisons with the other structures in areas East(1), East 2 and East 3 are, nonetheless, useful and show various similarities in the positions of these features. Of note is the gully (**Gully 2**) which seems to indicate a drain leading out from the structure of Building East 1 and is thus similar to **Gully 2** of South 1/2.

The two GF nos. from the **working hollow**, along with one other, referred to in the register as coming from an area 'B', do not, I believe, come from South 2, *i.e.* area B is not synonymous with South 2, but is simply due to a misunderstanding. These GFs are in fact from South 1/A. One, **GF448**, referred to as coming from area B, may well, on the other hand, come from South 2*.

*For 18/8/68 there are two entries in the register from an area 'B', both in a different hand from usual. One is for an area 'ODXI/B, South 1 (extn) east' (**GF448**) which questions whether the 'topsoil and flints' the person has found are from a 'Porch?'. The second, (**GF449**) is again for an area **B** in South 1, and refers to the 'area near door'. These references to an area ODXI/B have been crossed out at a later date and replaced by ODXI/A.

Clearly, the person(s) working in this section believed they were not in the normal area South 1/A, and believed that their area, seeing as an area 'A' already existed, should logically be referred to as 'B'. The references to 'porch?' and 'door area' led me, initially, to believe that the work was being carried out in South 2, called area 'B' by those working there, not South 1. It is possible that, not realising the area had already been given a name ('South 2'), the person recording his or her finds called the area 'B'. If this is the case, then all mentions of an area B should be viewed as area South 2. GFs labelled 'area B' are discussed in the following section.

GF449, 'Prehistoric. Charcoal. Bone'. From **layer ④**, a layer with 'brown loam & chalk lumps of flint', 12" in depth, from the elusive 'area B'. The finds come from 'east end of hollow to section at 32' along H-I' and thus more or less match the description of **SF56** from this find; a sling stone discovered at 12" 'inside work hollow' in 'clay silt', 27'4" from H towards I (*i.e.* eastwards) and 1' from H towards G (*i.e.* northwards). These positions clearly put the finds in the working hollow within the area South 1 and just E of the centre of the southern edge (line H-I) of South 1 because South 2 lies **south** of the line H-I. **GF449** and **SF56** appear to be from South 1 and not South 2.

The register also notes that the sling stone was uncovered 'in or by door'. As we have already seen, the western end of the entrance (door) to the **Gully 1** building is to be found in area South 2 but it was not uncovered until several days later, so the Small Find cannot come from South 2. In fact, the 'door' area is on the edge of the South 1/ South 2 area and so the description, it can be supposed, is therefore correct.

There are two other entries by the 'area B fiend'; **GF467** & **GF468**. These, uncovered on 21/8/68, refer to **Pits 6** & **7**. They note that **Pit 7** is cut by **Pit 6**, **Pit 14** & **PH28** and that **Pit 6** cuts **Pit 7**. These features, however, are clearly noted on the site plans as being in the eastern section of South 1/A. One must therefore assume that the 'area B fiend' believed that either the southern section of South 1/A was to be referred to as South 1/B (**GF449**) as well as the eastern section (**GFs 467** & **468**) or that the whole area South 1/A was in fact area B. The latter would explain why he or she believed the working hollow was in area B, along with Pits 6, 7 & 14 and PH28.

The simplest conclusion is that they were misinformed, mistaken or mixed-up (probably all three), however the misunderstanding is not confined to this person alone as the first few entries of the SF register from 10-14/8/68 show 'B' has been replaced by the letter 'A'. Obviously there was some initial confusion over the definite name for the site. If this is the case, the corrections changing area B into area A for **GFs 449**, **467** & **468** are justified and have no bearing on our study of South 2.

Still unresolved, however, is **GF448**. **GF448**, 'RB course (*sic*). PH snails. Burnt sarsen. Bone, one with knife cuts. Charcoal. Slag'. is of **layers ①/②** 'Topsoil and flints', at a depth of 10" to 12". (It may be worth noting that these finds were obviously checked, *i.e.* the addition of 'slag' - yet the claim that they came from an area B was not corrected at the time but at a later date by yet someone else).

This find, has the puzzling description 'South 1 (extn) east ...Porch?'. As noted in **GF467** & **GF468**, the 'area B fiend' may have thought that the eastern section of South 1/A was called area B (or even that the whole of area A was in fact called B). Whatever the case, they clearly made a distinction between two areas and this has to be regarded as a mistake on someone's part. A mistake that **no one** on the site could (should) have made, however, is to place the porch/entrance in any extension **east**. The entrance is clearly in the south/ south-east and therefore the reference to a porch in 'South 1 /B/extn east' must refer to an area other than South 1.

If the person believed area South 2, indeed **all** the site, was in fact called area B, then this reference makes sense. The extension east does not therefore refer to an extension east in area South 1/A (which could never conceivably be seen to have a 'porch'), but relates to the extension east undertaken in South 2 which does indeed contain the porch area. **GF448**, I believe, is therefore from South 2 and should therefore be similar in character to **GF445**, which is definitely from South 2. Of interest, therefore, is **SF615**, a bone with knife cuts.

It must be stated at this point, however, that **GF449**, which immediately follows **GF448**, supposedly comes from 'area B', yet this is not South 2, as shown above. One can but conclude that our friend believed that the whole area was called 'South 1/B' and was only told otherwise on 22/8/68 of his/her mistake. From this date on, every GF & SF in the 'fiend's' hand refers to area South 1/A, with no further mention of 'area B'.