

Investigation of the lynchet across the settlement area (cuttings OD X/2, XI/A/East 1, XI/B Areas N, M and West, and XI/C)

Eventually, 00 sq. m. of both the lynchet and the area underneath it were excavated on OD XI/A, B and C (fig. 5.00). In addition to Pits 1-3, PHs 5-10 and Gullies 1 and 2 on Area XI/A, many other features, mainly PHs and with few exceptions cut into the Chalk, were recorded in plan. These have all been catalogued and the data are available in the Archive. The catalogue contains the data of all features recorded in **FWP 2, Beneath the Lynchet**, including those from XI/B and C, *below* p. 00 and 00).

On XI/A, the most significant feature apparently associated with and underlying the lynchet was a line of post-holes (fig. 5.00). A similar phenomenon appeared in OD XI/B but not, significantly, so it is argued, in XI/C. On XI/A, the PHs picked out for interpretation as a line of posts are highlighted on fig. 5. 00: obviously the process is selective and, in the absence of conclusive evidence contained within them, any one PH could belong to any phase of activity on the site. Furthermore, while a convincing line can be perceived, its members are not exclusive: other post-holes immediately to either side could well represent replacements or adjustments in what is envisaged as a structural field boundary i.e. some form of fence. This lay across the former settlement area as it was reclaimed for arable farming, perhaps some time after its abandonment (*cf.* Pl. 00, fig. 5.00). The evidence for the fence interpretation was primarily that PHs 43 and 31, arguably part of the line, were cut respectively into Pit 2 and Gully 1 (fig. 5.00,). The line was also persuasively taken up again in the cutting immediately S of Gully 1 where PHs 1, 3, 4 and 5, all cut into Chalk, seemed to represent the continuation of the `fence` after its intersection with the settlement features.

The Stratigraphy in Area East 1 (fig. 5.00)

For GFs not mentioned below, see ARCHIVE FWP2

Layer 1/2

Layer 1 and 2 were essentially the same layer in origin, sorted since medieval or earlier times by worms. The result is an upper structureless dark brown rendzina topsoil above a thin layer of debris from it consisting mainly of flints and man-made objects.

The RB date of the topsoil's cultivation was again indicated by iron nails (**SF1, GF 201, GF216**).

Layer 2

Contained imitation samian, Savernake ware, EIA sherds (**GF211**, which also records a brooch otherwise unmentioned) and some metal objects .

SF3 (fig. 00) was an iron ploughshare fragment of Iron Age type, presumably used here and possibly broken (and discarded?) in use. It may, like the nails and some of the pottery, also be of RB date/use but, like the bulk of the artefacts in layer 2, it could equally well, and more probably, be of EIA date and use. Either way, it seems likely that it may have scored some of the ardmarks later recorded over the site.

GF233, and probably **GF234**, included an RB nail

SF4 was an unidentified (Roman) coin.

SF5 was an oval iron ring

Layer 3

Layer was a fine light grey soil with fewer flints and small fragments of chalk

GF375 included an RB nail amongst EIA potsherds, flint flakes, animal bones and snail shells.

Layer 3a was the soil below flints over the forward face of the lynchet.

Layer 4

Layer ??

GF256 included an RB nail

Small quantities of Romano-British material occurred ubiquitously over the whole site in layers 1 and 2. It was interpreted as resulting from deposition from domestic midden(s) of manure on arable, here represented by layers 1 and 2. The presence of RB nails in all four layers in this small area strongly suggested subsequent disturbance resulting in movement from layers 1 and 2 to layers 3 and 4 which, on other evidence, were of EIA date. In this area, however, where rabbits had been active here, they were only a few centimetres lower than layers 1 and 2.

Miscellaneous: two parallel shallow grooves c 1 m apart and hollowed into the surface of the Chalk lay across the area N of Gully 2 and were recorded on the area plan. After `disappearing` in a disturbed area, they re-appeared and overlaid Gully 1. They seemed the latest `structure` on the site, everywhere cutting all settlement features and ard-marks; but re-examination of the record shows the more westerly being cut by a PH and the more easterly overlaid by an ard-mark. Photographic evidence suggests too that they may be artificial and not dissimilar from other EIA 'gullies' or 'drains'; though the suspicion remains that they could well be modern and perhaps something to do with the military activity here in the 1940s. Their ambiguity is judged sufficient to justify their omission from the published plans.

Excavations through the lynchet (fig. 5.00):

Introduction

We begin with a small cutting excavated across a 'Celtic' field lynchet **outside** the settlement enclosure (cutting ODX/3, fig. 5.00). This was made at the time for comparative purposes with the 'settlement lynchet' excavations.

We then briefly describe the various excavations of the lynchet across the settlement from north to south. The first cutting is **X/2**. Then comes **XI/A**, essentially four different contiguous excavations conducted of and underneath the lynchet in the same area (fig. 5.00):

- i) **ODXI/SW 1963**, the original cutting across the lynchet, later part of Area A East.*
- ii) **ODXI/SW 1964**, a trench across the lynchet 90 cms S of the above cutting, later part of Area A East.*
- iii) **ODXI/A/NW** an area conceptualised as the NW quadrant of a `quadrant excavation`, identified in **1965** and based on an assumed centre of a circular building extrapolated from the two cuttings enumerated *above*
- iv) **XI/A/West 1**, dug in **1967** along the lynchet northwards from A/NW *

All four areas, whatever their labelling at the time of excavation, were eventually consolidated into the broader concept of **XI/A/East** when in 1967-8 two 50 ft. squares were opened up to their east as East 2 and East 3 (see **FWP 15 ODXI/A/East 1**).

XI/B was a small complex of cuttings (**N, M and West**) south along the lynchet from XI/A at a point where three lynchets meet.

XI/C was a single cutting into the front of the lynchet running S from **B**

The aim of all these cuttings was originally to investigate the structure and date of the lynchet(s) running NW-SE across the settlement area. The general objective was to acquire a *terminus post quem* for these particular 'Celtic' fields by establishing the existence of, and then dating, the underlying settlement. Once it was apparent that settlement features did indeed underlie the lynchet and that there was probably also structural and chronological evidence specific to the lynchet/field edge itself, it became a tactical objective to establish the extent, function, date and direction of what appeared to be a line of post-holes (**PH**) under the lynchet.

Cutting X/3 (fig. 5.00) was excavated across the lower part of the lynchet forming the further, northern side of the field butting up against the N side of the settlement enclosure. Its purpose was simply to see if any structure existed in the lynchet and to acquire, if possible, some dating evidence.

Essentially the stratification showed three main layers:

layer 1: a topsoil of brown humus

layer 2: the characteristic 'layer 2' over most of the site and downland, largely of flints with humus

layer 3: a light brown humus with finely comminuted chalk grains, a characteristic ploughsoil mostly directly on to Chalk

layer 3a: across the southern, lower half of the cutting a layer of brown humus with small chalk fragments interposed between the 'ploughsoil' of layer 3 and the subsoil surface.

layer 4: Chalk, here somewhat decayed

Incised into layer 4 were six grooves consistently c 25 cms apart. The longest was 2.02 m. Five were roughly parallel, SW-NE along the general line of the lynchet and incised 2-3 cms deep into the 'rotten' bedrock surface; the sixth, the most southerly and the shortest at 34 cms long, was oriented more S-N. Overall, these grooves seem best interpreted as ard-marks, providing a glimpse of perhaps no more than one or two 'ploughings', or perhaps the very last 'ploughing', within a 'Celtic' field. They were probably created because here, at the upper end of a 'Celtic' field, an ard accidentally or otherwise bit into the negative lynchet. Their preservation was probably because loose materials building up into the lynchet above - here layer 3, - spilled over and covered them. No evidence at all was found of built structure in the lynchet.

Earlier activity was indicated by two, perhaps three, pits cut into the Chalk subsoil of the negative lynchet. The pits were sealed by a brown soil with small chalk lumps (layer 3a), probably also a ploughsoil but also an 'old ground surface' in relation to layer 3. The pits were not apparently cut through layer 3a and indeed may well have been truncated during an early phase, - pre-layer 3, - of the development of the negative lynchet.

The earliest pit, **Pit w**, perhaps originally c 75 cms. wide across its top, had been cut on its western edge. It was filled with light brown soil with patches of chalk, and could well have been a tree-hole cf. discussion of tree-holes, above p. 00.

Pit x seemed to have been at least 1 m in diameter and some 60 cms. deep, even though it too had been top-sliced, perhaps by cultivation represented by layer 3a. Its infill was basically of a light brown soil with clumps of broken chalk. It may have been natural but was more likely to have been man-made with an anthropogenic filling, probably cutting Pit w. **Pit y** was not convincing but, if it was man-made, it appeared later than x.

In sum, then, at least two, perhaps three, small and sequential pits (**w >x>y**) were all earlier than the lynchet and probably earlier than any cultivation of the site. In view of other evidence subsequently obtained from the surrounding area (*below* p.00), they should therefore be Late Bronze Age or earlier. They may, for example, hint that the Beaker burials (*below* p. 00) were not alone.

Cutting X/2 (fig. 00) was a small incision into the tail of the curved lynchet and on to the top of the straight N-S lynchet across the hypothesised settlement (fig. 5.00). Its purposes were to see if excavation could reveal a stratigraphical relationship between the two lynchets; and to show, if indeed the enclosure ditch existed, that the straight lynchet overlay the ditch infilling. The latter objective was achieved but otherwise the cutting was misconceived. It was far too small to do justice to the likely complexity at such a key, three-dimensional junction of disparate features, probably widely spaced in time. In retrospect its main achievement was probably to destroy vital evidence at a sensitive point in the site's development. Nevertheless, it located the outer lip of the enclosure ditch and showed the top of its outer side to drop 78 cms in its top 1.20 m.

At the southern end of the N-S section along the cutting's western side, the stratigraphy was:

layer1: topsoil

layer 2: humus and flints

layer 5: brown humus with small chalk pieces, possibly ploughsoil (equating to layer 3 in cutting X/15, identified as a ?RB? ploughsoil by analysis, *below* p. 00).

layer 6: light brown soil with medium chalk lumps, probably representing a phase of relative stability and gradual infilling. Both these layers in the ditch top were clearly some way above the ditch bottom *cf* the adjacent cutting X/4 (*below* p. 00).

The northern two-thirds of the cutting showed the familiar layering of topsoil (1), flints (2) and old ground surface (3), perhaps a 'ploughsoil' here piling up into the lynchet proper. The 'thick' layer 3, a ploughsoil accumulation, ended and rested on the 'thin' layer 3, the old land surface. This then leaves a 1.20 m-wide berm between the foot of the lynchet and the outer lip of the ditch.

Layer 3 was cut by the settlement ditch, confirming that the enclosed settlement was indeed inserted into a pattern of existing fields. They themselves would then have to be of LBA date or earlier (*see below* p. 00 for dating of the settlement). Since a lynchet ('thick' layer 3) subsequently accumulated on layer 3 1.20 m. and more back from the ditch's outer lip, cultivation must have continued or restarted after the ditch was cut. No direct dating evidence indicated whether that was during or after the life of the settlement enclosed by the ditch. It seems most likely that the curved lynchet reflecting that ditch came into being, to become a permanent feature of the landscape, during the settlement's occupation (Phase 3b/3c, *below* p. 00).

A cluster of nine sarsen stones in the SE quarter of the cutting lay in front of the lynchet and indeed in part on the berm on layer 3. The southern edge of the cluster oversailed the outer lip of the ditch and could only have arrived at its present position after the ditch had infilled to the top of layer 5. The cluster lay exactly at the northern end of the straight lynchet N-S across the Iron Age settlement and, given its `late` arrival in the sequence anyway, the stones may have been deliberately placed, perhaps as a marker, to fix where this new field boundary should end.

Sarsens of similar size elsewhere along the lynchet were always in layer 2, characteristically containing C1/2 potsherds. The stones as a made feature in cutting X/2 should therefore belong to the early Roman phase of landscape re-organisation witnessed elsewhere on this site and in the study area (*above* p. 00, *below* pp. 00, 00, 00); and they should take with them a second phase of lynchet accumulation since the position of the stones shows that considerable cultivation had occurred before their placement in the later C1 AD (and in this particular case, after the EIA settlement, *below* p.00).

The Finds

Am leaving this in for the moment to REMIND me to CHECK, but unless any of these items can be identified in TWA reports, this data will be excised completely

GF242 ditch fill @ 2'2" depth [layer not given but must be field record layer 5/new 6] `pot [pottery fabric 2],stone, bone`

GF249: layer 2 from 5" downwards: `pot, teeth` SF7 [within GF249] is a potsherd marked on the field plan as coming from below one of the sarsen stones in the cluster: can we identify it? - it should be a bead-rim or Savernake ware!

GF250: layer 3 `ploughsoil` [but now reinterpreted as OLS], `bone, pot`)

ODXI/A/East (1963) (fig. 5.00)

The original cutting, excavated primarily to acquire dating evidence, inadvertently sectioned **Gully 1** (Pl. 5.00).

Layer 2 contained all the finds from the material over the top of the lynchet, including some sherds of Romano-British pottery. No RB pottery occurred any lower than Layer 2. A sarsen stone lay on and partly in layer 2, as if it had been placed on an already existing lynchet *cf.* cutting X/2 *above*.

Layer 3 was a distinctively ploughsoil material forming the bulk of the lynchet and containing EIA sherds.

Layer 4 was flinty soil and crumbly chalk, probably the remains of an old land surface lying directly on the Chalk. It contained alot of charcoal, EIA potsherds and animal bones, almost certainly occupation material more or less *in situ*.

First showing at the level of layer 4, and initially thought to be a wall or foundations thereof, was a concentration of larger flints and sarsen stones in the top of a `ditch`, later shown to be a gully (1) and indeed a small arc of a circular wall-trench for a timber structure. Flints and chalk rubble filled this `ditch` which proved to be c 60 cms. deep, containing charcoal, burnt flint and EIA pottery.

Check: were any phs found in this first cutting through the lynchet??

Finds

Layers 1-2: GF 2-14, 18, 39, 40, 49

3: GF 42, 48 & 52 (but might be top of Gully1)

Gully 1: GF 21-38, ?48 & 52 see above, 50, 51

Two possible PHs were recorded: one c 55 cms. W of Gully 1 surrounded to N, W & E by stones and cut 17 cms into chalk; the other in the Gully, containing grey fill and an IA sherd but no flints.

ODXI/A/East (1964)

Undertaken to expand upon the previous year's discoveries of the gully and post-holes under the lynchet, this cutting's evidence, in all its essential features, including its stratigraphy, was the same as in the 1963 cutting. It is not further described here except for certain features (see *section*, fig. 5.00).

The top of the continuation of Gully 1 appeared at the N end of the trench filled with flints and dark soil and containing pottery (**GF 181**) and a penannular iron loop or (?)bracelet (**GF 180**; fig. 5.00). Five post-holes were recorded, all (CHECK THAT) cut into Chalk

Area ODXI/A/NW (1965) (Pls. 5. 00 and 5.00)

Area NW of 1965 contained two post-holes inside **Gully 1**, at first thought to be of the line of 'fence' post-holes here in a palisade trench (CHECK whether they were in the gully and therefore of the house or whether they were of a later fence and only in the gully by accident). Some other possible PHs in the bottom of **Gully 1** in section c 'could be a continuation of the CF fence'.

Some redeposited stones lay N, E & S of the centre of the area excavated, but not to the W *i.e.* not towards the 'fence' or under the positive lynchet but into the field. This suggested that ploughing had been carried out at right angles to the lynchet and not right up to it, an interpretation which independently reflected the pattern of ard-marks (*below* p. 00).

Pits 1, 2 & 3 lay under, or in the case of **Pit 3** partially under, the central lynchet at a point where the western arc of **Gully 1** also lay under the same lynchet. These three pits, excavated and recorded in 1965, underlay Gully 1, thereby pushing the structure represented by that gully into a relatively late stage of the occupation (Phase 3c?). PIT 1 was the earliest in the complex, as it was cut by PIT 2, which was in turn cut by PIT 3, which was cut by Gully 1. The gully was then covered by an occupation layer (4) which also lay over the top of PIT 2. Gully 1 also cut PIT 1. EIA sherds from GF255 (Pit 1),

GF257 and GF232 all derive from the same vessel. Deposits in both Pits 2 and 3 appear to be votive.

PIT 1, 59 cms. deep with a filling of clean chalk, contained unspecified bones and one sherd of EIA pottery (?GF255) on the fresh, flat bottom.

PIT 2 (PI. 5.00) was c 69cm deep with PH43 cut into its top filling of dirty soil (*cf* below p. 00). In its bottom layer were a horse-skull in association with three complete and two fragmented ox skulls; all were broken off at the base of the skull and subsequently damaged by stones in the pit. There was also a fragment of pelvis (PI. 00). Sherds were of 'standard EIA' pottery (Phase 3b).

PIT 3 was the deepest in this complex (145 cm) (PI. 500). A thin 'sandwich' layer of ash/burnt chalk/ ash rested on top of a layer of flints & sarsens in brown soil with chalk flecks & charcoal. Two small joining sherds of EIA pottery were recovered from below the sarsen/flint layer along with other fragments of unspecified bone & pottery. A sherd of decorated BA pottery (GF232, 1965) was also recovered from this context; a horse-skull is, however, difficult to locate accurately, though it was probably at the bottom of the pit with large sarsens, flints and an animal shoulder blade. EIA sherds from GF255, GF257 and GF232 were identified as from the same vessel.

Area ODXI/A/West 1 1967

This area was opened up to the north-west of the 'quadrant' NW of 1965 and west of area North 1 of 1966. It expanded the area under investigation through the lynchet, showing it to consist of three layers to a depth of 20 cms. and to cover 15 stake- or post-holes ranging from 3-20 cms. deep. Several were in line and could be part of a fence (fig. 5.00).

The E edge of the lynchet covered the western tip of **Gully 2**.

PH18, 38 cms. deep, contained a bone needle (**SF622**) just above its base.

ODXI/B N&M - 1965

About 30 m south of **ODXI/A East** a cutting, **B/N&M**, 4.20 m by 2.40 m, was laid along the forward slope of the lynchet immediately north of its junction with one coming in from the west. It was designed to pick up a continuation of the 'fence' post-holes found the previous year without sectioning the whole lynchet; which it did (fig. 5.00; PI. 00).

The cutting was cleaned down to bedrock chalk through the familiar three layers. EIA pottery occurred below the flint layer (2). Most of the pottery in **layer ②** was also EIA, but in both cuttings a few RB sherds occurred in that layer and that layer alone. Two sarsens were on top of layer 2 flints and clearly belong to a later phase of ploughing, presumably that of the later C1 noted elsewhere. They probably mark the corner of the fields then, just as the same corner, but slightly to the E, could well have been marked 600 years earlier by a complete jar set in a hole (PH50) in the Chalk (PI. 00).

The majority of the pottery fabrics were tempered with flint, mica, sand, quartz or shell, a standard EIA assemblage including a small body sherd 5mm thick decorated with two impressed circles (*below* p. 00, no 24). GF 246 contained 27 sherds of a sandy ware containing probable glauconite, suggesting local production. Sixteen sherds of RB pottery included 8 sherds of Savernake ware.

This evidence suggests a main phase of cultivation, depositing occupation material from the settlement into the lynchet after the settlement's desertion or so soon after that event that there is no distinction between its 'manure pottery' and that from the occupation. It also clearly indicates that there was a second, RB phase of cultivation of the area, beginning in the later C1 with Savernake ware as elsewhere on the site and in the area.

Layer ③ was subdivided into **3a** and **3b**, since its top half (**3a**) was a dry grey soil with flints, while the lower half (**3b**) was darker with no flints. It overlies large PHs as well as stake-holes cut into Chalk. A PH at the junction of lines of PHs proved to contain a near-complete pot (see below; **PH50**), perhaps actually marking the corner of three contiguous fields. The majority of the pottery fabrics formed a standard EIA assemblage as above, with sandy ware again the commonest fabric
pjf/iwb below

ODXI/B/ N & M Post-Hole Record

Most of the stake and post-holes were roughly along the presumed line of the 'fence', but some lay to the west and east. Only scraps of pottery occur in the holes and most did not have obvious packing stones. The remainder merely showed at this level as patches of soil against the white of the chalk. It was found that some of the PHs sectioned had grey soil filling, others had a more brownish soil filling. Clearly there is a general line running towards the pot-hole (**PH50**). All the PHs were emptied. A detailed record exists in the Archive: here a few data are selected for what is believed to be their significance.

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Cutting N

PH 1. GF233, 'Sherds. Bones'. On top of this PH were two flint packing stones, each 4" by 2", and a small sherd. Filling; brown soil, chalk flecks and small flints. Sherd at 3½"; pieces of bone and sherd at 4½"; large flint from 5"-7"; sherd at 8" with bone. Below 7", the flints in the packing were

slightly larger than above. Burnt flint at 10½". On the PH bottom, at 11½", was a piece of burnt bone.

PH2. GF235, 'Bone'. Brown soil with hardly any small flints and no chalk.

PH3. GF236, 'Bone'. A large flint was found in the top-soil along with smaller flint and sarsen chips. Below were many smaller flints. At 15"-18" a jawbone was uncovered, under this depth the filling was a mixture of soil, chalk and smaller flecks of charcoal. At 21" there was a slight layer of burnt flints and at 22½" a small sherd. The total depth was 2ft.

PH4. No GF. Section drawing shows a filling of fine dark grey soil to the bottom (approx. 12") with two largish flints.

PH6. GF237, 'Bone'. The filling was one of fine grey soil with chalk lumps and a few small flints which produced only bones: 3 pieces at 4½", one of which was burnt; one at 5½", two at 6½"; another at 8½". Total depth; 11½".

PH13. No GF. Section drawing shows a PH of approx. 8"-9" in depth with a fine light grey soil with chalk lump filling. No other material appears present.

PH14. No GF. This PH had a flint packing stone 4" by 3" covering it. The filling below this was ploughsoil. Flints were found in section 5½" and 8½" and between 5" and 6" in depth. Charcoal flakes were present between 8" and 12". A piece of burnt flint was uncovered at 11", another at 12". The filling contained more chalk lumps between 1ft. and 1'4", with flint across the bottom.

PH16. No GF. The filling was of soil with some chalk and small flints. At 1" piece of burnt flint. Total depth was 7".

PH17. No GF. Two packing stones covered the top of this PH; one was a sarsen 3½" by 3", which was kept at the time but is currently missing, the other was a flint 3" by 4". The filling was of brown soil. At 1½"-3½" a sarsen 5" by 3" was uncovered. At 7½" the soil changed from brown to chalky. Several sarsen chips were at the bottom of the PH. Total depth, going by section drawing, is about 8".

PH24. No GF. Only 2½" deep. Filling of grey soil and rotten? flakes of chalk.

PH27. No GF. The section drawing shows one sarsen stone on top of the PH and another protruding out of the PH. The filling is of light brown soil with small chalk grains (ploughsoil). A small block sarsen was found at 1". The PH had two chalk bottoms with one slightly higher than the other. The sarsen was found on the lip between the two. The lowest was at 6½".

PH29. No GF. Noted on section drawing but does not have a drawing attached. Could be the lower bottom of PH27 (*i.e.* **PH27** is a double PH).

PH30. GF238, 'Sherds. Burnt bone'. The filling was of brown soil with small pieces of chalk. A sherd was found at 3" and several small flints c. 2" by 1" at 4". Total depth; 4½".

Cutting M

PH45. No GF. A sherd was found at ½". The top layer was brown soil, with the filling being ploughsoil. Under the top layer was a layer containing fragments of pottery in chalk lumps. This was followed by a layer of brown soil again and then burnt clay at 4". Below 4" were lumps of compacted chalk lumps. At 5" burnt flint and fragments of pottry were found. From 7" to 15" the fill was of small fine chalk grains with some flint. A packing stone was uncovered at 8½" and burnt clay at 11". The section drawing shows chalk lumps in the bottom half of PH45.

PH46. No GF. The filling was of grey soil with grains of chalk (ploughsoil?), with charcoal from 4" to 7".

PH48. GF258, 'Flints'. The top filling of PH48 was of grey soil with chalk grains (ploughsoil?) and some small flints. The bottom half, according to the section drawing, was of light brown soil and chalk lumps. Burnt bone was found at 5", a small piece of sarsen at 4½", two flints at 5½" and a flint 2" by 2" at 7". A sarsen, found to be sloping across the section, was found at a depth of 6½"-7½" and a flint flake was uncovered at 9½" amongst flints. Total depth; 1' 1".

PH49. GF259, 'Sherd'. The filling was of ploughsoil with flecks of charcoal and fragments of pottery- the section drawing describes **PH48** as having

a filling of grey soil with chalk grains and charcoal flakes. On top were two flint packing stones, each 4" by 2". Burnt flint was found at 2", a sherd and bone at 2½" and a third flint packing stone at 1". At 7" a broken bone was uncovered, at 8" a sarsen chip, at 11" a piece of burnt clay and a fourth flint packing stone at 11½". Packing flints were seen around the side of the PH from 4" down to 9". Total depth; 16½".

PH50. GF250, 'Black pot', in top of PH50, at junction of two CF lynchets - see photo. The pot was sitting in the top of the hole, its top projecting just above the surface of the chalk. The absence of the rim shows it was once standing even prouder. It had been bent to the south by soil creep in the lynchet above. Its base was resting on three flints and a sarsen c. 2" deep in the hole. The pot was badly crushed and the base was left *in situ* when the rest was lifted.

The fabric proved to be very soft and much cracked. Fine root hairs were matted inside the base and around the outside. The pot appeared to be filled with the same light brown chalky soil with small chalk roundels as the hole. Almost certainly it was empty or only contained liquid when buried *i.e.* it did not contain the soil then in it. Its base on the flints was in the north-east part of the hole. Burnt bone was found 4½" above the next layer of flints.

The bottom of the PH is described as being 'definitely dished' and it seems that the original PH had had its post removed, the packing had then collapsed and then the pot had been placed on top of the collapsed packing of the earlier post-hole. (No section drawing). There was nothing else in the hole except chalky soil, whereas most of the other PHs contained other material such as flints, burnt clay, charcoal, brown or grey soil. Does this indicate further that this pot, at the corner of the CF, was indeed placed there for some ritual purpose.

PH51. GF260, 'Flint. Sherds. Charcoal'. One sarsen and two flint packing stones were found on top of this PH. The filling was of ploughsoil with much charcoal and fragments of pottery. Below the packing stones burnt flint and pottery fragments were found. At 3" a piece of burnt bone was found, there was a layer of small flints at 6" and a sherd at 8". From 6" down to the bottom the filling was of fine small chalk grains, although the section drawing says chalk lumps with soil. Two flints, each 3" by 2", were uncovered from 10" to 12".

PH52. No GF. A small flint, c. 3" by 1", was found on the surface. The filling was of ploughsoil, described as 'same as **PH51**'. A packing flint, 4"

by 2" was seen at 6" and another flint, 3" by 2", was found from 7"-9". Total depth; 13".

PH53. GF268, 'Sherd. Bone. Whole mouse'. Flint was found on the surface of this PH, with the bones of a small animal, possibly a mouse, immediately beneath it. A sherd and burnt clay were also under the flint layer. At 2" a piece of bone and burnt flint were found. Flint was present from 2½" to 5". The filling was of ploughsoil with small flints. At 10" burnt flint and burnt chalk were present, at 11" a flint packing stone 3" by 2" was found and at 16" burnt flints were uncovered. Below 9" the filling changed to fine small chalk grains which were dirtier than the material above. Total depth; 20".

(21 post-holes)

JW file 505:ODXI/C, 1966 (Fig.00?)

FEATURES

A semi-circular depression 1.07m (3'6") in diameter and 7cm (3") deep (probably natural?), abutted on to the E edge of the cutting at the N end.

Seven PHs were recorded but there is no information as to their depth or stratigraphy. The larger PH (approx 25cm, 10" in diameter) to the N does not appear to be associated with the group of 6 PH's at the S edge of the cutting. This PH is roughly in line with and may represent a continuation of the fence line from Area B/N&M, (it is also approx the same diameter as some of the PH's in this area) but there is no evidence for this. If it is a continuation it may represent the end of the line as there are no PH's to the S of it for at least 12'.

The PH's to the S of the cutting may represent a four post structure for which there are a number of interpretations. Parallels can be found at Bozodown, Martinsell, Walbury, Bathampton Down, and Brindon Hill, where Cunliffe (1984, 14) suggests they may have been used as above ground grain stores or fodder ricks.

It would appear that Areas B & C are contemporary as the same standard EIA pottery fabrics were recovered from both areas. PH69 Area B/ west contained several decorated sherds which can be directly paralleled with examples from All Cannings Cross (Fig. Finds/4, 0-0). It would be interesting to see if these sherds are similar to that from GF246.

Three sarsens were located on the S edge of the cutting in layer 2. Probably placed here at the end of phase 2 Roman ploughing.

end of file 505

August 1966 - Area ODXI/B/West.

Area **ODXI/B** was extended westwards in 1966 along the lynchet from cuttings **N** and **M**. Area **B/West** thus ran west from the junction of the two CFs ('**PH50 pot**'). Area **N** and **M**, being excavated and then filled in the previous year, experienced no more cuttings. As with **B/N&M**, this cutting was undertaken to find the post-holes under the lynchet which probably show the line of pre-lynchet fence.

Layer ②

GF215, 'Pottery. Bones'. From flinty soil. **GF241**, 'Pottery. Bones. Flints'. **GF215**, 'Pottery. Bones.' Bottom of lynchet. This layer may well be contemporary with the **Layer ②** of 1965 which contained **GFs 207, 214 & 217**.

Layer ③

GF219, 'Pottery'. From the ploughsoil at bottom of lynchet. **GF245**, 'Pottery. Bones. Stones'. From ploughsoil in negative lynchet. **SF6**, 'Bronze strip with holes'. A copper alloy perforated plate (decorative attachment). A roughly rectangular sheet with six holes punched through it, four of the holes are at the corners, the other two are on one edge towards the middle of one side. Length 33mm, width 29mm, from ploughsoil, layer 3. This may have parallels with **GFs 208, 215 & 218** of 1965.

Layer ④

GF220, 'Pottery. Bone'. From the rotten natural chalk. There was no mention of a **Layer ④** in 1965.

Post-holes under lynchet B/West.

PH63. GF225, 'Pottery. Bone. Daub. Charcoal'. Dark soil filling.

PH66. GF221, 'Pottery. Tooth. Daub. Flint'.

PH67. GF224, 'Pottery. Charcoal (disintegrated)'. Filling of grey soil & chalk rubble. Also a Manning Type 1b nail, bent & fractured halfway down shaft. Length 52mm, width 17mm.

PH69. GF229, 'Pottery. Bone. Daub. Flint'.

PH70. GF227, 'Pottery. Bone. Charcoal'. Uniform filling of grey soil with chalk flecks & small flints.

PH71. GF223, 'Pottery. Bone. Charcoal'. Grey soil & chalk rubble.

PH72. GF228, 'Pottery. Bone. Charcoal'. Soil with chalk & flint rubble.

PH73. GF222, 'Pottery. Daub'. Cut into rotten chalk. No filling description.

(29 post-holes under lynchets mentioned to date - 25/8/66).

a note for ard-marks discussion from ODXIA/NW 1965: If ploughing had continued right up to the field edge, then stones disturbed from the settlement area would have been redeposited towards the field boundary and therefore occurred under and in the lynchets as it accumulated. This had not happened.