

this second part of former file 5edfyf2A now becomes 3A 30/3/96 pjf

EXCAVATION of ODXI: the interior of the settlement

This description is by area excavated, using a selection of evidence that is judged to be significant. The primary evidence, used or not here, including an inventory of features for each area, is in the Archive.

Introduction

Interim reports on the excavation of parts of this Area have already been published. A (partial) plan of House 1 (OD XI/A Gully 1 in the records) to demonstrate that there was a settlement here in the middle of, and earlier than, 'Celtic' fields and to indicate the nature of the evidence, appeared in Fowler 1967 (fig. 2) while a plan of a larger area was made available primarily to demonstrate the, at the time first, discovery of ard-marks on Chalk (Fowler 1967, fig. 1; Fowler and Evans 1967, fig. 2).

This Area was the one place on the whole of ODXI where there was a depth of vertical stratigraphy **over** at least part of the extensive remains of occupation. A NW-SE lynchet ran across the site, burying pits, post-holes and part of Building 1 in a strip along the western edge of the Area. A complete catalogue of all features excavated beneath this lynchet is in the Archive (FWP 2a).

Otherwise, much of the occupation was crossed by ard-marks, mainly also aligned NW-SE but with a few roughly at right angles. Although a few will be argued to be of pre-settlement date, they were in general undoubtedly later than the occupation, affording a good horizontal stratigraphy across most of the area excavated.

Ard-marks have already been noted in cutting TD 7? (*above* p. 00) and two? of the OD X cuttings (X/? and KK??, *above* pp. 00 and 00). Their widespread occurrence over much of OD XI too, notably over XI/A but also in both the small excavations identified as OD XI/B and XI/C (fig. 00), gives them a significance in their own right, over and above their place in the local stratigraphic succession. Rather than treat them area by area as excavated, they will then be considered thematically for the whole of OD X and XI *below*, p. 00.

AREA XIA:

The excavation of the interior of the EIA settlement will be described in three blocks: East, East 2 and 3, and South. This is in general the sequence of excavation, though there was some overlap in time: what is now Area East was excavated 1963-67, East 2 and 3 1967-68, and South in 1968.

The area incorporated by Area North involves not just excavations over five successive seasons, 1963-7, but different styles and objectives of serial excavations. First a small cutting was made across the central lynchet in 1963: its main objective was envisaged as stratigraphical, that is to demonstrate that the lynchet overlay a settlement. It was also hoped to acquire dating evidence, for both the origin and accumulation of the lynchet and for the hypothesised settlement. All the objectives were met: a small ditch

cut into the Chalk subsoil underlay the lynchet, with both the ditch and the 'OGS' underlying the lynchet producing Early Iron Age (EIA) pottery, complemented by a few sherds of Romano-British (RB) pottery high in the accumulated ploughsoil (fig. 00). In landscape terms, the key-hole cutting had thrown a flood of light on Overton Down, and excavation could well have rested there.

However, a similar trench was cut immediately to its S in 1964 to check whether the ditch curved, as the short arc of it seen in 1963 suggested, or whether it went straight on under the lynchet. It was rather hoped this latter would be the case since a little marker ditch or footing for a continuous fence would make a convincing addition to the then limited repertoire of 'Celtic' field boundaries. It was rather suspected, however, that the very first cutting on Overton Down had chanced to section the chosen lynchet at the point where it overlay a completely unrelated and earlier feature. Such proved to be the case. So a quadrant system was laid out for further excavation, based on the assumed central point of a possible circular structure.

Clearly, at this point the mode of excavation changed from trenches for sections to stripping primarily for evidence in plan. What we are now calling Area North thereafter came to include a small part of the NW quadrant as, in 1965, a 750 ft. length of lynchet was removed primarily to look for post-holes evidencing a fenced boundary to the 'Celtic' field. A useful sequence of pits (nos 1, 2 and 3, *see below* p. 00) preceding the circular building was also found. In 1966, the whole of the theoretical NE quadrant (!! ft. x !! ft.) was removed, originally to investigate the rest of the building which had by now become apparent but then also to expose as big an area as possible of ard-marks.

That NE quadrant was completed in 1967 when a small part of the SE quadrant was also excavated to complete the apparent building plan and some pits. **(Make sure there is a list all its components as labelled in the original records; and make sure this x-ref. occurs in Archive)**. A figure in the Archive demonstrates the components, year by year and cutting by cutting, of the Area, so that there is an exact correlation between original written and graphic records.

The earliest features: a Beaker Burial and two unaccompanied inhumations (figs. 00 and 00)

The earliest datable feature on OD XI was a flexed child inhumation accompanied by a Beaker (BURIAL IA) underlying a simple but carefully-arranged grave containing a complete, flexed inhumation burial (BURIAL 1B). Remains of another unaccompanied (as found), probably flexed inhumation may represent another burial of similar date (Burial II cut by Pit 5). The burials were in oval graves cut into the Chalk.

Beaker Burials IA & IB

Two of the six pit-like features emergent at the crumbly surface of the Chalk in the areas excavated in 1966 (East, N1 & N2: check ascriptions) contained crouched inhumations. One of them, Burial IA (Pit 4), accompanied by a Beaker, was partly overlain by the other (IB) which was unaccompanied but carefully buried. Pit 4 may in fact have been dug first as a grave to take both Burials 1A and 1B, or Burial 1B alone. It certainly seemed to take the flints arranged around the latter.

The third burial, cut by Pit 5, lay 6 m. to the N and was also unaccompanied (fig. 00; Fowler 1967, figs. 1, 5; Fowler and Evans 1967, fig. 2). A few other Beaker sherds (*below* p. 00) and human bones (GF %%%%) were found in EIA contexts but whether they came from Burial II when disturbed in EIA

times or other undiscovered Beaker graves is uncertain. A suspicion exists that Burial 1A at least may be but one of two or more hinted at by Pit 6B, another apparently small oval-ended hole earlier, like Pit 4 and Burial II, than EIA pits. There is, however, no other evidence to substantiate the thought. The most likely location for any other graves would be SE of Burials I, since adjacent areas in other directions were excavated without finding any. Nor were any found throughout the rest of the excavation of OD X/XI (except probably Pit 23, *below* p. 00). The sherds may, of course, be non-funereal, indicating settlement and/or manuring in the vicinity *cf. above*, Site OD I

At face value the evidence indicates a small flat cemetery but the possibly exists that the graves were underneath a broad, low mound or two small mounds. No evidence for such existed, however, and a ditch or ditches around the burials were not present. Had there been one or more low mounds without substructure over the burials, however, it is extremely doubtful whether any trace of them would have survived on a spot which has been sporadically but intensively scoured by cultivation over the four thousand years since the burials were made (*below* p. 00). Cultivation, after all, has been sufficient to flatten an EIA bank and ditch, so what chance would a little Beaker barrow have had?

The context in which Burials 1A and 1B occurred is provided in the stratigraphical sequence immediately around and above them:

Latest features	Layers 1 & 2	}	Med/RB
	Ard-marks	}	RB/EIA
	Pit 7 & Pit 6a	}	EIA, but these
	↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓	}	are not necessarily
	Pits 7a, 6 & 6b	}	contemporary
	↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓		
	GF357		
	↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓		
	Burial IB	}	
	↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓		
Earliest	Burial IA	}	With Beaker

Some pits were of EIA date, belonging to one or more of the settlement phases of that period (though 6b is undated by any contained material). They are discussed in that context, *below* p.00, and detailed in the Archive. The locational co-incidence of Beaker burials and settlement features was almost certainly accidental. Here, enough evidence is merely mentioned to establish that the pits indeed provide a *terminus ante quem* for the burials, in the light of the sequence outlined above.

Pits 4-7A are all shown on fig. 00 since all were focussed around the Beaker burials. What were called Pits 4 and 5 on discovery (when no thought of Beaker burials was in mind) proved to be Beaker graves (*above* p. 00). Pit 6B may well also be of Beaker date or earlier; Pits 5 (*sensu* the later pit cutting

Burial II), 6A and 7 were 'typical' EIA pits, each of a different type; Pits 6 and 7A contained EIA material.

Pit 4 may have been dug first as a grave to take both Burials 1A and 1B, or Burial 1B alone. It certainly seemed to take the flints arranged around the latter.

Pit 5 had removed everything above the knees of Burial 1 including, probably, a beaker (above p. 0). It was filled with sarsen stones.

Pit 6, cut by Pit 7, contained EIA material (GF237) and a foetal pig (GF 403).

Pit 6A was a 'typical' EIA bell-shaped pit, cutting Pit 6B

Pit 6B contained only clean chalk rubble, was cut by Pits 6A and 7, and might possibly have been an early oval-ended grave like Pit 4

Pit 7 was a large EIA pit of which the W side literally appeared to scalp, without actually disturbing, the skull of Burial 1B. It cut Pits 6, 6A, 6B, and 7A.

Pit 7A, containing EIA potsherds and frog bones (GF 342), was cut by Pit 7.

Two adjacent post-holes, one NE of **Pit 7**, the other S of **Pit 6a** (fig. 00 but not fig. 00), were unlikely to be associated with Burials 1.

Description of Burials

Burial IA (Pit 4), a child in a flexed position, was lying with its head to the SE and was facing NE, with a Beaker lying on its chest (figs. 00, 00)

Burial IB was of a large adult male, knees flexed and facing south. Its knees and ankles rested on sarsen stones, like cushions` and 11 flints were carefully placed from the crown of the skull down both sides of the body to a point level with the feet. The shape formed by the flints in plan was `cloak-like` or reminiscent of a shroud. The `topmost` flint had been slightly displaced by the cutting of the side of Pit 7.

Burial II was almost totally removed by the cutting of Pit 5, so that only the feet and lower legs up to the knees remained. The posture of the remains was sufficient, however, to leave little doubt that burial had been in a flexed or crouched position, a supposition reinforced by the fact that the S end of the grave had been completely cut away by Pit 5 i.e. the grave could not have extended more than 1 m southwards. The body would have been facing NE, like Burial 1A. No artefacts or other relevant material came from the grave; and no certain parts of the missing skeletal material were recognised here or elsewhere, though a Beaker sherd came from the filling of Pit 5.

Sequence:



The Beaker Skeletons by Drs. Juliet Rogers and (the late) R.F.Everton

This is a slightly edited version of a full report, available in the Archive, first submitted in the early 1970s and checked and approved by JR in 1995.

Skeletons from three individuals consisted of a child (Burial 1A) and two adults (Burials 1B, a male, and 2, probably a female). 1A and 1B were nearly complete but the skeleton of the other adult (B2) was represented by the lower legs and feet only. The child was about 7 years old, the male between

22-30. The small number of skeletons makes comparison with other groups of a similar date unreliable. The OD XI/A examples do not, however, differ in any respect from the groups at Cassington or Eynsham (Leeds 1934 and 1938) or previously excavated skeletons from Overton (Smith and Simpson 1966).

Burial 1A comprised a skeleton in which the majority of bones were represented although many, including the skull, were broken and too distorted by earth pressure for reconstruction. The face, five cervical vertebrae and five thoracic vertebrae were missing. The state of epiphyseal fusion, the lengths of the long bones and the eruption of teeth all suggest an age of about seven years (Brothwell 1981, Genoves 1969). There were no abnormalities or evidence of disease.

Burial 1B was a complete male skeleton aged between 22 and 30. Many of the bones were fragmented but maximum lengths of the femora and tibiae could be measured, allowing a stature estimation of 1679 mm (Trotter and Gleser 1958).

The lamboid suture contained multiple ossicles. The third and seventh to eleventh thoracic vertebrae exhibited a slight degree of osteophytic lipping on their upper and lower margins.

The only other abnormalities apparent were dental. There were two maxillary diastemas, one of them 6 mm, between the right first molar and second molar; and one of 4 mm between the left premolars. On the left side of the mandible was an especially large mental foramen measuring 6 x 4 mm, although no underlying abnormality was seen in an x-ray of the area.

Burial 2 was only represented by the lower legs and feet of an adult skeleton which was probably female. Assuming that the skeleton was correctly sexed, the stature was estimated as 1568 mm using the maximum length of the fibula. There were no abnormalities or pathological conditions.

The Beaker accompanying Burial 1A (fig. 5. 00)

The vessel was illustrated, described and discussed by Smith (1967) who related it to Abercromby's (1912) Type A, Piggott's (1963) Long-necked class, and Clarke's (1962) Group 3. She drew attention to 'a smaller though otherwise almost identical beaker from....(Wilsford G.51)....Both vessels can be attributed to the closing phase of the Beaker culture in southern England c 1600 B.C.' A date in the first half of the 2nd millennium has always been in mind in extrapolating from Burial 1A and its beaker into landscape interpretation. A somewhat earlier horizon now seems, by inference, to be preferred by Case (1995). His survey of the Avebury region survey does not, however, mention this Overton Down beaker, though it appears from it that no close parallel exists locally.

The following Note is kindly supplied by Dr. J Pollard:

'The vessel, the sole intact Beaker from the site, was associated with the flexed burial of a child of c 7years. It is of angular form, long-necked, with a sharply defined shoulder. It is decorated by two zones of thumb- and fingernail pinched columns, with reserved zones over the carination and at the base (Smith 1967).

Formal typological analysis would place the vessel within Clarke's Southern British Group (Clarke 1970). Traditionally, this would be placed late in the Beaker 'sequence', with a date tending towards the middle of the 2nd millennium BC. However, both the idea of a strict formal typology, and the notion that such can be linked within a sequential (evolutionary or stepped) development have recently come under question. The results of a radio-carbon dating programme initiated by the British Museum suggest both an overlap of, and the absence of any restricted chronological currency to, particular styles (Kinnes *et al.* 1991). Furthermore, the realisation that traditional classificatory schemes have been constructed around the identification of intuitively defined archetypes, which ignore enormous variability in shape, decoration and finish, calls into question the validity of formal classificatory schemes for Beakers (Boast 1995). Without a radiocarbon determination specific to Burial 1A, the Beaker's

date can only be defined within the general currency of British Beakers, between c 2500-1500 cal BC.

Although the implications of the recent dating programme and deconstruction of existing schemes of classification may seem cause for pessimism, an understanding of the pot and its relationship to the detail of the funerary ritual surrounding the burial can be approached through contextual analysis. It has recently been argued that Beakers from burial contexts were produced specifically for grave deposition (Boast 1995, 72); and furthermore, that the form and decoration of such vessels were explicitly linked to the status of the deceased, in terms of their age, (occasionally) gender and/or their position within a burial sequence (Mizoguchi 1995). In particular, it has been observed that a significant number of interments of infants/juveniles are associated with vessels either with all-over decoration, or with a limited number of decorative 'zones'; and that such vessels are also characterised by coarseness of decoration and/or fabric (Mizoguchi 1995). This vessel from Burial 1A, in its decoration, fabric and association, accords with such observations. It is not without interest, therefore, that the closest regional parallels are to be found with very similar vessels from Wilsford cum Lake barrows G51 and G52, both of which accompanied children (Smith 1991).'

Other Beaker pottery from the area of Burial 1A

Smith (1967) also commented on five Beaker sherds from at least two other beakers found near the three Beaker graves. She examined them at the same time as the beaker from Burial 1A. All were judged to be 'probably of the Long-necked class and broadly contemporary with Beaker 1.' The sherds as published were ascribed to Beakers numbered 2-3, their contexts being:

Beaker 2: 3 sherds, a base from Layer 2 E of Gully 2 and another from the filling of Pit 5 (which cut Burial II), and a body sherd from Pit 6. The last might be from a separate Beaker in or disturbed by P6; the others, with or without it, probably came from a Beaker with Burial II, broken by the digging of P5.

Beaker 3: 2 sherds, both from the Chalk surface E of Gully 2, hinted that at least one other grave existed nearby.

A sixth beaker sherd, a rim and also probably from a long-necked vessel (*Beaker 4*), was found c 30 m SE of the graves at the bottom of the topsoil in area XI/B (*below p. 00*).

The Settlement in OD XI/A (fig. 00)

The Beaker burials were found by accident in excavating an EIA settlement which was found to exist, as expected, within an enclosing ditch (*above p.00*) and, in part at least, beneath a straight lynchet crossing part of the enclosure. The EIA settlement as excavated was focussed around three building complexes, defined by what at the time were called 'gullies' i.e. the ring-grooves cut mainly into Chalk which were, and still are, envisaged as the foundation trenches for timber walls. The excavation will be described briefly in terms of those three structural complexes, though in each case the EIA structures were sandwiched between earlier and later material. Only the evidence judged to be crucial to understanding the settlement, its antecedents and ending in as far as they illuminate the landscape is brought out here. Far more data are in the Archive than are overtly used in this text.

We will deal first with the area (East 1) in which Gullies 1 and 2 formed the first structural complex to be examined. Secondly, Areas East 2 and 3 containing Gullies 4, 5, 6 and 8 will be dealt with as one; and then thirdly, another Gully 1, but this time in Area South 1, will be described. The earliest structural complex was a fourth one, just to the south again, and that will be described in its turn under Area X1/B (*below p. 00*)

One of the major features of the settlement excavation was the pits. A total of forty features were recorded as pits, distributed across the site as follows (fig. 5.00):

Area A	NW quadrant	3 pp. 00-00
	East 1	8 pp. 00-00
	North 1	2 pp. 00-00
	East 2	3 pp. 00-00
	East 3	4 pp. 00-00
	South 1	19 pp. 00-00
	South 2	1 pp. 00-00

Each group of pits is briefly described in the text dealing with each area of excavation, as per the pages indicated above. The dimensions, stratigraphy and finds from these pits are summarised in tabular form *below* p. 00, following which they are discussed thematically, p 00. Further analysis of the contents of the pits is available in the Archive , FWP YY, which also contains the primary record.

ODX/A East 1

The site was divided into four areas: NE, NW, SE & SW, but later simply called East or East 1. East 1 is the name used throughout this document, although more precise locations will be given where available.

This Area developed from an initial section cut through the straight lynchet running across the presumed EIA settlement (fig. 00). The occupation features lay partly under that lynchet. We begin with the Pits as a type of feature in this Area because in two cases pit complexes were stratigraphically earlier than structural elements and individual pits within the groups were likely to have belonged respectively to a Beaker or earlier phase of activity and to an early phase of EIA occupation.

Pits (see above). All are catalogued and details are in the Archive; they are tabulated and discussed *below* p. 00. Their prime interest here is in what their contents and inferred functions can suggest about landscape development and its chronology. The pits, unless otherwise indicated, were all EIA and likely to be within the time bracket c. 800-600 (?700-500?) BC, but not all were assignable to any particular Phase in the settlement's history.

Pits 4-7A are all shown on fig. 00 since all were focussed around the Beaker burials. 'Pit' 4 was a grave and Pit 6B might be (*above* p. 00). Pit 5 cut Burial II.

Pit 6a, relatively shallow at 75 cms. deep, was otherwise a 'typical' EIA bell-shaped pit, cutting Pit 6B. It lay at N margin of **Pit 7** with a dark humic filling with flints, burnt sarsen, bone frags. and some charcoal - typical fill of 'EIA occupation' (see *passim below*; **GF 337, 360, 394**, all inc. EIA sherds).

Pit 7 was a large EIA pit of which the W side literally appeared to scalp, without actually disturbing, the skull of Burial 1B. It cut Pits 6, 6A, 6B, and 7A. It contained 7 layers with a considerable amount of typical EIA material (GF 325, 328, 331, 332, 334, 336, 338, 344, 366, 424; SF 11) which had apparently accumulated after it had lain open and empty long enough for small mammals to fall into its bottom (GF 336,338).

Pit 7a, a small pit close to the N side of, and cut by, Pit 7, contained EIA potsherds and frog bones (GF 342).

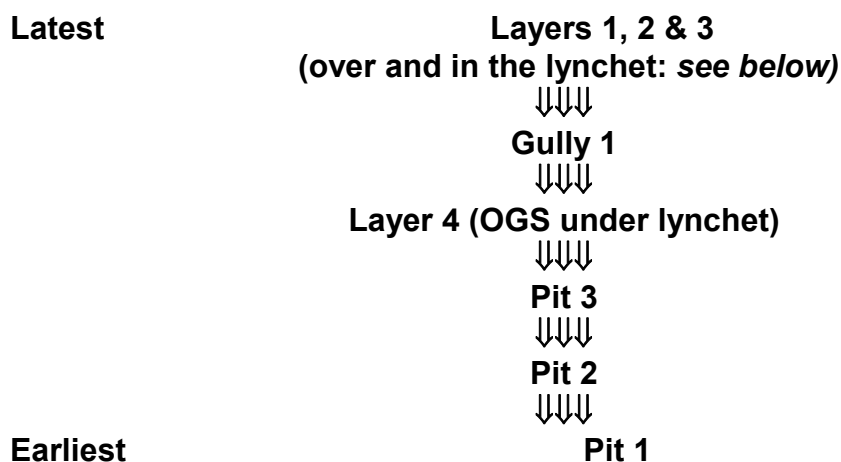
Two adjacent post-holes, one NE of **Pit 7** (?GF 333), the other S of **Pit 6a**, were marked in characteristic EIA fashion by sarsen stones in their top and are unlikely to be associated with Burials 1.

Stratigraphically, as distinct from by association with datable material in a horizontal stratigraphy as in the case of Beaker burials 1A and 1B, the earliest

features in the Area (and perhaps on the site) were Pits 1, 2 and 3. Pits 1 and 3 were cut by Gully 1, and all lay underneath a lynchet.

Pits 1, 2 & 3

The local sequence here is the important fact:



Area A East NW quadrant PITS 1, 2 & 3:

These three pits, excavated and recorded in 1965, have proved difficult to interpret because of inadequate and contradictory data. PIT 1 was, however, 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 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 (Pl. 00). Sherds were of 'standard EIA' pottery (Phase 3b).

PIT 3 was the deepest in this complex (145 cm). 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.

House I

Exterior

Gully I

A small section cut through the northern arc of Gully 1 showed it to be only c 5 cms deep. It was filled with chalky soil, probably silt. Another section (NWa) found the Gully was filled with flints and sarsens. In cutting NWc, the Gully was emptied to reveal large flints and rabbit disturbance in its bottom, which here changed from a shallow channel to a 60 cms deep V-shaped ditch. In area NE the Gully was c 30 cms wide, with a shallow straight-sided groove and soil-filled with large flints along it. A sharp angle existed between the arcs of Gully 1 and Gully 2.

No finds came from the Gully in NW but it contained considerable material in the southern part of NE, especially at its SE end. The end of Gully 1 picked up in SW, 1966, was filled with sarsens, flint and chalk lumps. At least two possible post-holes were indicated in SW, which seem to have been removed and the gully deliberately filled in.

GF180 Iron pennanular ring (bracelet?) was in the top filling of Gully 1

Gully 2

Similar in character to Gully 1, but contained a relatively large amount of debris. Top layer consisted of small flints & chalk in brown soil, over a brown soil layer. A section in 1965 at the NE edge of the cutting showed the bottom of Gully 2 to be 60 cms below ground level and 25 cms deep into the Chalk, at the surface of which it is c 60 wide. Two 1966 sections in the NE area showed Gully 2 to have a c 12 cms flinty plough soil layer over the Gully and under the topsoil. The Gully 2 filling was a c 15 cms dark soil layer with small chalk lumps and, at the bottom, a c 15 cms layer of soil with daub and burnt clay. A 1966 section of the W face of Gully 2 showed a filling of dark soil with flints and chalk lumps, with another possible gully or pit, dark soil with small flints, cut into it. Two contexts (GF405,408) contained burnt daub and other evidence of burning.

Porch (fig. 00)

A pattern of PHs (all catalogued in Archive) interpreted as a porch appeared in the SE corner of ODXI/East 1 area SE. Layer 3 did not exist in a recognisable form here. A patch of burnt wood was found in remarkably well-preserved condition just in the entrance.

Drain and Sump

Along the W of area SE was a **drain** running towards the house entrance, and out through it into a sump (fig. 00). This arrangement may have contributed to the wet SW area of South 1 (*below* p. 00).

Although apparently irregular, a narrow cut channel was c 15 cms deep at most and filled with small flints in places. Many were set on edge and filled the channel to the surface of the chalk. Inside was an upper layer of a brown/greyish soil with small flints. Markedly yellow rotting chalk below and around the sides was presumably caused by water seepage up to the present.

This presumably explains the depression outside and SW of the entrance through Gully 1. It had a layer of 'cheesy' chalk around packed flints, with an area of small flints on its E end (GF 217 ?**inc. 1 decor. sherd? if so, why no TWA note on t?**). It was wider and deeper than Gully 1. This was probably a **sump** towards which the drain was heading down a slight S slope. Although its position outside and across the entrance would seem inconvenient, a covering could mask the worst effects. Presumably not a great deal of liquid actually seaped through the system while the house was in use, unless the 'house' was unroofed. The results, chemical and otherwise, of the drain and sump working efficiently are post-depositional, with the system handling greater quantities of liquid collected from surface drainage over two and a half thousand years since the house's demise.

The Interior

Hearth

The single hearth was probably of an earlier and later phase. An upper area of sarsen blocks had been disturbed, though not westwards under the lynchet. Individual sarsens which had been moved lay N, E and S of the hearth's centre *i.e.* into the 'Celtic' field and the area of ard-marks. This evidence is interpreted as indicating that the disturbance was caused by cultivation using an ard, and is probably to be correlated with either layer ££ or \$\$ in the stratigraphy of the enclosure ditch (*above* p. 00 and *below* p. 00).

The hearth was sunk in a 15 cms deep pit filled with flints beneath the sarsens, separated from them by a thin layer of dark soil with burnt chalk. A large pot (GF ???) lay on the N side, but only a few sherds occurred around the stones, most of them burnt red. A shallow linear feature, perhaps PHs, ran across the N edge of the hearth. A PH lay to the SE.

Post holes associated with House 1

Numerous other post-holes and a few other features were inside or otherwise related to the building represented by Gullies 1 and 2. They are all detailed in the Archive. Those that are thought to be part of the structure are depicted on its plan (fig. 00). They form no obvious pattern, though various interpretations can be proposed. The most obvious is that the pair of 'figure of eight' post-holes roughly symmetrically disposed inside the entrance supported some sort of arrangement to do with a door or at least a screen e.g. forcing entrants to turn right rather than walk over the drain. At any event, they appeared to be load-bearing and were clearly important since their posts were replaced (perhaps hinting at a life of the building of about 30 years but no more?). The small post-holes outside the entrance might hint at some form of porch or screen, but they are not convincing. Inside, eight post-holes were close to the ring-gully of what is interpreted as the wall, though no certain post-holes were found in the gully itself.

Pits immediately outside House 1 (fig. 5. 00)

Area A East 1 and North 1 (EAST 1): PITS 4-10

PIT 4 contained Burials 1a, with its beaker, and 1b (*above* p. 00). A scatter of IA sherds occurred in the bottom of the topsoil above these burials.

PIT 5, one of a pair with Pit 8, cut (assumed) Beaker Burial 2 (*above* p. 00). It contained six large sarsen stones, possibly packing, charcoal from Oak and Apple or Hawthorn, and a fragment of a lower quern stone.

PIT 6 was a small pit in close association with P4. It contained a decorated BA upright rim sherd with finger-tipping just below the rim; unspecified bone, stone and snail shells were also recovered from this context.

PIT 6A was located to the south of the complex containing PITS 4/ 6/ 6B/7 & 7A. It contained dark soil with flint and charcoal and some burnt sarsen. A fragment of LBA/EIA short-necked furrowed bowl, and a rib bone with incisions (probably butchery marks *cf.* PIT 20) were recovered. Patches of charcoal lay on the bottom of the pit, above which the last 10cm of clean chalk lumps and powder contained the skeletal remains of a pig/small mammal foetus. The base of a pot in fabric M31 associated with thin-walled vessels, some unidentified pottery, stone, & bone and a fragment of Coombe rock were also recovered from this context. The pit may be the site of a votive deposit early in the occupation (Phase 3a or 2b?).

PIT 6B was a small pit which contained a fill of clean chalk rubble and no finds.

PIT 7 was a large pit c 2 m deep. A fragment of decorated IA rim/ shoulder sherd was recovered from layer 3. Layer 5 contained two unidentified base fragments and one large rim fragment, in soil with small chalk lumps. A large fragment of an EIA ovoid jar with internally thickened rim was recovered from an area of chalky fill with a horse jaw. Another rim sherd from an ovoid jar with a plain square rim was to the S in the pit which contained a large sarsen

c 144 cm deep. Various unidentified bones, sherds, and charcoal are recorded throughout this pit, together with frog and ?rodent bones.

PIT 7A, a small pit adjacent to the N side of P7, contained (unspecified) EIA rim sherds and bone, and frog bones.

PIT 8, seemingly one of an EIA pair with P5 on the NE side of House 1, contained an EIA body sherd decorated with an impressed leaf shape, recovered from the topfill. Of two bone awls made from horse bones, one exhibited wear marks at one end (cf Maiden Castle, Laws 1991, no 25), which have been interpreted as an area possibly used for tying-off threads. Also recovered from this feature was an antler tine point with faintly incised decoration along one side. The rib, articulated leg bones and vertebrae of an ox lay at the bottom of this pit, along with pig phalanges and ribs and some unidentified sherds.

North 1

PIT 9 contained earth fill, with two large sarsens protruding above chalk level, above a compact chalky layer. A decorated IA sherd was recovered from the earth fill. Interpreted as in use as a PH in an 8-post structure (*below*).

PIT 10 appears to be either a post-hole or a small pit re-dug as a post-hole. It may have been part of an 8-post structure with Pit 9 (*below*). The topfill contained a sherd from a furrowed bowl of All Cannings Cross style; a fragment of 'bronze' was also recorded but not otherwise recognised. Charcoal, flint and two quern fragments were recovered from the chalky packing around the post-hole.

Other post-and stake holes on OD XI/A

All are now catalogued and the inventory is in the Archive (FWP **). From them, the following is selected as a probable structure lying underneath the 'inner' slope of the lynchet (fig. 00):

Pits 9 and 10 with PHs 6, 7, and intermediate PHs 5a, 5, ? and 9a: a potential rectangular structure was represented by this group of PHs immediately NW of Gully 2. Their pattern suggested a rectangle, an interpretation strengthened by the fact that PHs 6, 7, 9 and 10 at the four corners were all relatively broad and deep, not only here but on the site as a whole (fig. 00, nos. ><><><).