

FWP14

IWB 1/5/95

ODXI Gullies 6 & 8

Following pottery analysis from TG.

Two plans of the G6/G8 intersection in area ODXI/A/East 3 exist, along with a section drawing (XY) and a note in the site book.

G8 has GFs 362 (SF16), GF414, GF426 & GF452.

G6 has GF455.

Of interest to us here are:

GF452, 'Prehistoric. Flint. Bone'. Area East 2 ('2' erased and replaced with East 3). Fill of Gully 8, dark brown earth and chalk lumps.

GF455, 'IA sherds. Bone. Burnt sarsen. Flint.' from Gully 6, Area E3, dark brown earth & chalk lumps.

NB - filling is the same '**dark** brown earth & chalk lumps'

From the section drawing (XY) one Gully (called Gully 6) is clearly shown cutting into the other. This later one has a filling of:

Layer 2; dark brown soil with chalk lumps

Layer 3; chalk lumps & decomposed natural chalk (packing)

Layer 4; fine grey material (replacement material?)

These layers cut through layer 2a of the earlier Gully (labelled Gully 8) which is described as being of '**mid**-brown soil with chalk lumps'.

Above this section drawing is a drawing of how the gullies intersect. This is drawn correctly but LABELLED WRONGLY !!. Gully 6, on this drawing, is labelled Gully 8, and Gully 8 is called Gully 6. Thus Gully 6 cuts Gully 8, instead of *vice-versa*. Layers 2, 3 & 4, described above, therefore refer to Gully 8 (and not 6), and Layer 2a is Gully 6 (not 8).

On the other hand, how they actually intersect each other does not appear to be wrong; that is to say the gully in East 3 definitely cuts the one coming in from East 2. **Gully 8 cuts Gully 6**. As the site note book clearly states; 'the fill of Gully 8 cut the fill of Gully 6 ...i.e. Gully 8 later than Gully 6' (SS, p. 12).

Returning to the GF numbers, however, one notes a discrepancy. Gully 8 has a layer 2 of 'dark brown soil with chalk lumps' (where presumably **GF452** came from), but Gully 6 does not. It has layer 2a; 'mid-brown soil with chalk lumps'. The difference in colour is clearly stated and was obviously one of the things which helped differentiate the two hut gullies. However, if **GF455** is from Gully 6, as

noted, how come it is from the dark brown layer with chalk and not the mid-brown soil with chalk lumps? Gully 6 does not have a dark brown layer with chalk, but a mid-brown one with chalk lumps. Furthermore, as far as the note book and site plans show, there were no burnt sarsens nor flints in Layer 2a of Gully 6. These were only in Layer 2 of Gully 8.

My conclusion would be that whoever was working on the site that day believed Gully 6 was Gully 8 and *vice-versa*, because of the incorrectly labelled plan showing the intersection. This confusion led them to register **GF455** as coming from G6, whereas, because the plan is wrongly labelled, **GF455** in fact comes from Gully 8. The description of the layer in which it was found indicates it comes from Layer 2 of Gully 8 and not Layer 2a of Gully 6.

If this is the case then there are, unfortunately, no GFs for Gully 6. Moreover, it does not change the sequence in any way. **Gully 6 is cut by Gully 8, Gully 8 is cut by Pit 20**. Clearly another reappraisal of the features is needed. It may be useful to look at PHs **7(GF456)**, **12a**, **12b(GF505)**, **20 & 51** (and possibly **PH23**, **GF511**, **SF64**) which are associated with Gully 6 and are most likely contemporaneous.