

WC Cutting 1 (Fig. 14?)

After removing the turf over the bank, a stone (sarsen) feature became apparent 5' from the eastern edge of the cutting, that is down the slope eastwards from the bank, with a pit-like feature c. 5' below the modern turf at the eastern end. The pit, cut into chalk and filled with a glutinous clay with no finds (**GF87**) is believed to be a natural. The stones, as uncovered, appeared to be revetting the bank, with several sarsens deemed to be tumble from this rough wall. The smaller sarsens, and possibly the larger flints of layer 3, evident to the W. of the 'wall', could well be stones cleared from adjoining fields to act as wall material. Furthermore, as they are positioned only on the westward side of the 'wall' and appear to be tumble from that 'wall', they may have been dragged from it by a later ploughing over the bank when it had become earthed and possibly grassed over. It would seem, therefore, that the bank and stones had the dual purpose of stock control barrier and croft boundary during the 13th century.

The topsoil and layer 1 over the bank and stone revetment contained many 13th century sherds and the remains of two iron knives. The Romano-British sherd (**GF14**) in layer 1 is residual and was there probably due to ground disturbance. Layer ?3, the flinty bank soil which formed the core of the bank material, contained similar pottery (**GF35**). No evidence, ceramic or otherwise, has been obtained from the OGS, layer 4, under the bank. A prehistoric and a Romano-British sherd (**GF58**) from underneath the stone tumble on the outside (eastern) side of the bank, evinces some form of activity in this area. Coming from the east side of the bank, this may point to cultivation in that area when a 'Celtic' field in the prehistoric and/or Roman period (see Fig. XXX, p. XX). The evidence does not prove this, however, and interpretation at the moment is therefore highly cautionary. (see Cuttings 3, 3a, 6Ai, 6h etc)

Layering needs changing! 29/6 Section A-B (Fig. XXX)

Layer 0, the topsoil, consisted of a dark humic soil, which covered almost all of the sarsens on the slope and would appear to have built up (naturally?) around and over the sarsens. Only the two largest sarsens protruded through layer 1, one of which was visible through the turf. Layer 1 was consistently c. 8" in depth throughout. This brown humus between the stones of the bank revetment in the E. was removed down to the flinty soil of the bank core below (layer 1).

Layer 1 was a dark brown humic layer with flints. This layer became gradually thinner in depth, from c. 10" in the W. as it approached the bank, to c. 4" in depth on top of the bank. The majority of the sarsens on the slope appeared to lie directly on the bottom of layer 2 (*i.e.* on top of layer 3), with two slightly sitting in the layer below.

In section A-B, a layer 3 of dark brown soil with fewer flints is sandwiched between the flintier layer 2 above it and layer 4 below it. This layer is not evident in section D-C. Most of the sarsens, as mentioned above, lie on top of this layer, although there are two medium-sized ones in layer 3. Layer 3 is c. 15' in length along its bottom and c. 12" in depth at its maximum where the bank slopes down eastwards. Layer 4 is sealed by layer 3, which in turn is sealed by layer 2. The flint layers, sloping westwards down from the bank, met the natural flint and clay strata at c. 10' from the centre of the bank.

Layer 4 was a clayey soil with few flints, c. 11'6" in length along its bottom and c. 10" in depth at its maximum at the centre of the bank.

Layer 5, a thin band of clayey soil, was uncovered under layer 4 alone. It was c. 8' in length and consistently c. 2" thick.

Layer 6 was the natural clay with flints. Layer 7 was the natural chalk.

A trial pit, shown in section A-B, was dug at the E. end of Cutting 1, adjoining edge b-c. When taken down c. 3' it showed the humus and flint layer 2 over the natural clay with flints (Layer 6). Under layer 6 was a feature, possibly a ditch, c. 12" deep, with a filling of glutinous clay with no flints or charcoal, cut into the natural Chalk. This feature's relationship to the bank is difficult to ascertain, although some of the chalk nodules around the edge appeared to have been cut. If this is a ditch on the E. side of the wall, and if contemporary with the wall, one interpretation would be that both wall and ditch were constructed to prevent livestock in fields to the E. from moving W. If medieval in origin, or increased in size during that period, and contemporary with House I, buildings II & III, then the bank could have been used (and ditch possibly redug?) to prevent livestock from getting into the small enclosure around the farm.

Interpretation of section A-B would point to a 'Celtic' lynchet (layers 3 & 4), set upon the old ground surface (OGS), represented by layer 5. Unlike section D-C, however, no obviously manmade stone feature (*i.e.* low stone wall under lynchet) is apparent. The sarsens, it seems, lie on layer 3 in a random way, which may indicate that they were dumped there during field clearance to the east during the medieval period(?). Layer 2 built up over the original bank and the deposited stones through ploughing and soil erosion. In turn, the topsoil, layer 1, covered the area.

Section D-C (Fig. XXX)

Layer 1 was a clay and humus layer which, like layer 1 of A-B, is the topsoil directly under the turf. During removal of the last 4" of this layer in the W., a number of sherds was found, most of them 2' from the W. edge (a-d) of the cutting. The removal of this layer around the stones revealed the two stones in the southern section (D-C) resting one on top of the other, *i.e. in situ*. The remaining stones to the N. of these were considered to be tumble, as evidenced by a pocket of air in the northern section (A-B). Presumably the

larger stones to the E, lying on layer 3, were this be tumble. The section plan indicates with a cross those stones believed to lie *in situ*; here it is the smaller stones to the W. As the cutting was made in a WNW-ESE direction, the section drawings may be a little deceiving. What appears on plan to be stones lying in a NW-SE direction, are, because of the direction of the cutting, in fact stones in a N-S line under the bank. The wall thus lies directly under the bank and lies in a N-S direction. However, if this is so, then some stones ought to have been uncovered in layers 3 or 4 in section A-B, which is not the case according to the plans.

Layer 2 consisted of clay with small flints. From being c. 3"-5" thick in the W. of the cutting, it became thicker (c. 9") some 9' from the wall, approximately where it began its gradual incline towards the top of the bank. It was also noted amongst the sarsen wall stones on the E. side (towards line b-c). Here it was only a few inches thick, as it was nearer the W. edge of Cutting 1 (line a-d). The western side of the cutting contained many sherds and a few iron objects. There were only a few sherds from the top of the stone bank.

Layer 3, a clay soil with larger flints, was also found to slope up to the bank at c. 9' from the wall. Where layer 3 met the wall, it attained a depth of c. 12". Layer 3 is also clearly apparent below the sarsen wall stones which remain *in situ*. Layer 4 would thus appear to be part of the bank core, with layer 3 the contemporary and/or later ploughsoil which became embedded amongst the sarsens or into which one wall stone seemed to have tumbled. Layer 3, which is clearly found amongst and *under* the stones, unlike layer 2, could then be the original core. Containing larger flints would also make it better wall building material. As mentioned, section D-C shows what is most probably a purpose built wall, up against which material has accumulated. Lying on the westernmost of the three wall stones, a pile of smaller sarsens and large flints was uncovered. The top of this pile is where layers 2 and 3 meet. The western edge of this pile coincides with the western edge of the large sarsen below and would therefore indicate that the pile was part of the wall revetement.

To be consistent here with section A-B, the next layer is called layer 5 as it is the same as layer 5 in A-B. It was a thin (max. 2"), dark band of clayey soil stretching westwards some 8' from the large *in situ* western sarsen at the bottom of the wall. Layer 5 was evinced under layer 3 alone. This band ends/begins where layers 2 and 3 above it become thicker and start to slope towards the top of the bank. Layer 4 does not appear to continue under the wall, but stops where the layer and wall meet. In fact, the western sarsen of the wall cut into this layer and thus lay, along with the others, on the natural clay with flints. This layer is most probably the old ground surface (OGS), onto and into which the wall was built. Layer 3, it would seem, was then used as core.

Layer 6 was the natural clay with flints and layer 7 was the natural chalk.

PHOTOS!!

General Finds

GF1, 'Small metal object. Sherds'. Humus topsoil to 9". Depth; 6". Object is an iron knife.

GF2, 'Sherds'. Plus arrowhead.

GF3, 'Sherds & Misc.'.

GF4, 'Sherds etc.'. Knife (according to TWA analysis, but cd be from GF14).

GF14, 'Knife. Two sherds'.

GF15, 'Sherds'.

GF23, 'Sherds'.

GF35, 'Sherds'.

GF58, 'Sherds'.

GF72, 'Sherd'.

GF87, 'Clay sample' from trial pit at E. end of cutting, against edge b-c.

Sequence:

Topsoil - 6"-9" humus/ light brown soil with flints - **GF1, GF3, GF4 & GF15**

Topsoil/Layer 2 - 12"-1'3" - clayey humus with flints - **GF2, GF14 & GF23**

Layer 2 flinty layer/ bank material above natural - 1'2" - **GF35**

Underneath tumble (layer 4?) on outside of bank - **GF58**

'OGS' (Old Ground Surface) beneath bank - **GF72**

Very bottom of 'Pit' at E. end of cutting (clay sample) - **GF87**

(Layer 5, the OGS, is evident because a baulk would have been left between the cultivated area to the W. and the wall. This baulk of unploughed earth would have allowed enough room for the plough, if that is what it was, to turn. Over time, the ploughed earth from the small western field, which is represented by layers 2, 3 and 4, gradually built up over the unploughed baulk and up against the wall, due to the fact that the land itself slopes downwards. This build up of earth meant the unploughed OGS remained undisturbed below the baulk. If the 8' of OGS represents the width of the original baulk, this certainly does not leave enough room to allow a plough-team of oxen to turn. Moreover, the size of the W. enclosure (around the farm), is clearly too small to have necessitated a ploughing by animals. One may therefore conclude that this enclosure was a small-holding of sorts, ploughed manually, possibly using a ??? ard. Indeed, such an ard would in fact, allowing for the length of ploughman and plough, need around 7'-8' to turn. The bank and wall are possibly therefore to keep livestock out of the veg plot!) = rubbish