

## WC Cuttings 1a & 1b

### Cutting 1a

19/08/63 Cutting 1a; 10' in length (NS), later 15', by 4' in width. Situated c. 15' to the SW of the line a-d of Cutting 1 of 1959. It cut across a bank which runs at c. 90° to the bank sectioned in Cutting 1 and is thus separate from Cutting 1 of 1959. Cutting 1a cut the N. bank of a roughly triangular depression (see Plan XXX). The southernmost angle is formed where a 'Celtic' field lynchet, which is coming up from the SW, appears to turn c. 130°. The northern side of the triangle is formed by a low bank, cut by cutting 1a. The W. side is a slightly higher bank, which is at 45° to the N. side. It does not continue, visibly, to join up with the 'Celtic' field lynchet. Two sides of the near triangle are c. 48' in length, the W. side is c. 21' in length.

Layer 1, the topsoil, was cleared to 9"-12", and into the flinty soil of layer 2 (3"-5" in depth). Many medieval sherds and iron fragments were found, along with the bronze tweezers (**GF804**), mostly towards the S. end of the cutting. Two pieces of soft pottery associated elsewhere with post-holes and the hearth were uncovered. The soil also was more disturbed in the S. The cutting was then extended S. (5') to the centre of the depression.

Although no structure was apparent in the cutting, a great number of sherds were found towards the centre of the depression (S end of cutting). The cutting was subsequently trowelled down to the natural clay with flints, which produced more sherds, but nothing else.

Interpretation of Cutting 1a, although tentative, would indicate that the northern bank of the depression was formed when the settlement area, to the N., was levelled off to provide a level surface onto which House 1 & Buildings 2 & 3 were built. This bank would therefore show the southern edge of that levelling off process. This conclusion is forwarded because the bank contained only medieval material similar to the material found in and around House 1 & Buildings 2&3 (see also Cutting 1b) and is in parallel to the bank to the N. of Buildings 2&3.; that is the northern edge of this level ground. It is possible that the E. side of the triangle is the earlier bank of a 'Celtic' field, on its way north (see Cutting 1). As such, it became the 'natural' side of the depression. The W. side is difficult to interpret, although it may, pending further detailed examination of the records, have been constructed to divide the yard (Enclosure B) of the House 1 complex. One could therefore conclude that this depression was formed by the construction of the sides and therefore somewhat 'accidentally'. It then became an obvious dumping area for waste from the farm and kiln??

### GF Numbers

**GF804**, 'Bones. Iron. Sherds. Bronze tweezers'. Topsoil to 1'.

**GF809**, 'Sherds. Bone'. Flinty soil directly above clay with flints subsoil, to 1'3".  
**GF814**, 'Sherds. Bone. Nail'. Flinty soil immediately above natural, to c. 15".  
**GF820**, 'Sherd'. Cleaned section.

### **Sequence:**

Topsoil - to 12" - **GF804**

Flinty soil above clay with flints - 1'3" - **GF809 & GF814**

Cleaned section - **GF820**

### **Cutting 1b**

New cutting, 25/08/63, 8' in length by 4' in width, in centre of enclosure to take in visible sarsen shown at centre of Enclosure B (see Plan XXX). Later extended by 8' X 2' beyond baulk in W, and by 3' X 3' without a baulk to the N. Much medieval pottery came from this northern extension, again possibly pointing to a dumping area from House I. The iron objects may have been lost and/or show an area where horses were kept. They may be rubbish from the farmyard. No obvious structure was uncovered and the cutting was therefore filled in.

### **GF Numbers**

**GF835**, 'Sherds. Iron chain fittings & iron ?spur buckle/ fitting'. Topsoil, to flints at base, to 12".

**GF844**, 'Sherds. Nail'. Topsoil to 12".