

WC Cutting 2; Building I/ House I

For GF numbers & sequence, refer to analysis and matrix undertaken by South Shields. The Building I (also called House 1) matrix is under Archive XXX.

10.05.59 onwards. Thirteen 8' square quadrants and nine 6' X 8' quadrants were opened in total, with 2' dividing baulks (later removed - see Fig. XXX), with one, 2h, 4' square quadrant and one, 2t, 12' X 8'.

A brown clayey humus (topsoil), some 10"-12" in thickness, was removed to reveal an 'occupation' layer of chalk and flints. In some quads a chalk 'floor' seemed apparent, either deliberately laid or puddled on top of the clay with flints or on top of the natural chalk where the clay with flints had been cut through, probably to make a levelled platform. In others, it seemed the floor was of small flint nodules.

Stone footings were also apparent, which were shown to be walls, with their straight sides exposed where possible on the inside of the building, some 2' thick and approximately 12" high on the north and west. These walls were covered by an agglomeration of sarsens, stretching several feet either side of the 'wall' proper. At the E. and S. there was no walling at all, only a spread of sarsens on the E. and a single course sarsen kerb. The S. lacked even a kerb, although large sarsens lay in the SW and SE corners and thus hints at a 'removable' wall for mucking out. Very few finds came from the actually in the 'floor', which may imply regular and comprehensive sweepings out.

, although some of these probably represent footings for uprights supporting a ridge-pole.

Double Pit in 2f & 2n

A double pit was evinced in quads. 2f and 2n in House 1.

Pit 1

Pit 1 was cut by Pit 2. Pit 1 was predominantly excavated in quad 2n. The E. lip of this pit is covered by Pit 2 and it may thus also be under the E. wall of Building I. Three large sarsens were uncovered on the NE corner of this ovaloid pit. A bone came from the bottom (**GF99**). It had a clayey fill with flints, which was brownish rather than reddish. There was much charcoal.

GFs 56, 66, 68 & 82, topsoil to 13".

GF81, on top of packed flint floor.

GF86, the removal of the flint layer.

GFs 99, GF187 & GF190 were presumably from this pit, although GF190 could be from Pit 2. **GF190** is an iron sheet fragment.

Pit 2

Pit 2 was clearly situated under the E. wall of the S. ½ of Cutting 2 in quad. 2f (see Fig. XXX Archive). It produced **GFs 194, 195, 196, 202-211**. All are noted as being 'under wall'. The stones noted in FR are stones from the pit. The wall stones are shown in the humic, presumably occupation, layer 1 and they clearly lie on the humus and small flint layer 2. This is pre-occupation of the S. half of House I, and if S. half is later than N. half, may be contemporary with Phase 1 occupation of House I. Layer 2 lay on clay with flints subsoil.

The site book describes the intersection of the two pits, although it is not clear which is which, I am more or less sure it is referring to Pit 2. I shall quote verbatim. 'Pit to S. excavated; went under wall, which tying? on soil over pit and later than it. Probably pit inside house (the inside, W. edge of Pit 2) cut into another one which lower than it (Pit 1 - see Fig. XXX Archive). 2nd one (Pit 2?) cut down into chalk, the fill falling off the almost vertical sides. Many sherds, some large in pit, loosely packed and lying at angles, as if dumped in when filling had reached certain stage. Filling damper towards bottom, so much so that wood preserved in it. Fill of humus & charcoal frags - at top, becoming dark round stones, & light-coloured towards bottom. Many finds including waster? & glazed sherds. Obviously deliberately & carefully cut, but why uncertain. Storage, of food or water. Seems unconnected with house & unlikely to have been a sump as thought at first. No trace of pit lining.'

Sequence:

GF194?, **GF195**. Top 12".

GF196. Lower 2'.

GF204. To 2'.

GF208. Above pit edge, but under wall. Lock mechanism frags.?

GF206. Centre of pit filling. Immediately above stones. Below 2'. Chain fittings.

GF202. 2'3" deep. Later C13th? sherd.

GF203. 2'8" deep.

GF209. 4'2" in pit filling. Amongst stones. Iron lumps, unidentified.

GF210. 1" from pit bottom. Figure-of-eight hasp. Iron Axe.

GF205. Bottom. An iron 'bloom'?

GF207. Bottom. Under stones.

GF211. Pit bottom.