23/5/95 iwb

WC Cutting 3 & 3a

Cutting 3

Cutting 3, 09/05/59, 28' in length (NS), by 4' in width (EW). Across northern bank and shallow ditch of Enclosure A. See 6m for comparison.

Bank

Excavation revealed a bank of clayey soil with flints, with a stone revetement to the south. It was *c.* 2' in height from crest to the clay with flints natural layer and from ditch bottom to foot of bank, some 14' in length. At *c.* 8' from line d-c on section C-B, on the south slope of the bank (*i.e.* the slope towards the centre of Enclosure A), a large sarsen revetement boulder was revealed *in situ*. Smaller sarsens, possibly tumble, were noted towards the foot of the bank.

The brown humic topsoil overlying both bank and ditch was taken down, at both ends, to the clayey brown soil with flints. Several sherds were found in this layer. Trowelling of the remaining brown humic layer overlying the flinty bank in the N. section revealed two sherds and an iron spur (**GF44**). The S. end of Cutting 3 was cleared down to the natural clay with flints layer, thus removing the flint and soil layer 1. After section drawings of the ditch with bank *in situ* had been completed, the bank was removed completely down to the natural clay with flints. The bank makeup consisted of humus and small flints (with possibly more humus than Cutting 1), a few sherds and at least three iron objects (**GFs62** & **64**).

Of interest is **GF13**, from the topsoil inside the wall (to 9") over the S. end of the Cutting; a Norman horseshoe. This may point to a late 11th century/early 12th for field clearance or entrance to Enclosure A. At least some activity here, if dating is correct.

Ditch

The external ditch, when trowelled, contained a filling of an evidently different composition from the flint material of the bank and the flinty soil to the N. of the bank. It contained a greater proprtion of soil to flints and was slightly more loosely packed and sticky. (Could this be due to heavy rain?) There were also fewer small flints. Sherds (glazed) and two iron objects came from this fill. The bottom, at a depth of *c.* 2'7", contained charcoal and one glazed sherd (**GF45**).

The profile (Fig. XXX) shows the original width and angle of the ditch, as well as the flat base and sides of the ditch bottom, *c.* 6" across. The bottom contains a layer 6 of clay with many small flints. This would indicate that the weathering process (possibly heavy rain) after the ditch was dug meant many of the smaller, lighter flints, originally from the ditch bottom and thrown up to form the bank,

were washed down from both the side of the bank and the land surface to the N., into the ditch bottom. That layer 5 is from both sides of the ditch is apparent by the fact that a sarsen appears to have rolled down the N. side of the ditch (from an adjacent field?) and caused a slight build up of layer 5, coming down from the bank, on the lip of the flat ditch bottom (section C-B). The sarsen would have been visible in layer 5 until layer 4 built up around and over it.

Layer 4, deposited during the year(s) following the deposition of layer 5, was noted in section C-B as a layer of clay with very few flints. The parallel layer in section D-A seems to be the one described as clay with flints and a little humus. Although there is a contradiction here relating to the amount of flint apparent, it would nevertheless indicate that this clayey soil with flints would, as with layer 5, represents further weathering of the bank and land to the N., in addition to depsosition from the natural clay with flints layer into which the ditch bottom was cut. The clayey nature of this layer may be due to erosion from the upper section of the bank of the clayey soil which, after being dug up to form the lower section of the ditch, would have been thrown up to form the bank. Flints may be less apparent because grass had begun to cover the bank and lip of the ditch to the N., thus preventing fewer flints from washing down into the ditch than the previous years. The small amount of humus may be from the soil with flint layer and also from the bank.

Layer 3, a humic layer with clay and small flints, slopes down from the N. lip of the ditch and from *c.* half way down the bank, to cover layer 4. This layer, as it contains humus and flints, may indicate the first stages of cultivation of the field to the N. However, it may well represent a layer built up gradually over several years through the erosion of bank and field; two areas where a humic layer was forming naturally? It could represent a period of grassing over; an old grass surface, which, when ploughed up, formed topsoil/layer 2.

Layer 2, only noted in section C-B, is a pocket of large flints. Interpretation could point to field clearance from an adjacent field.

Layer 1, a brown humus with flints, cuts across the S. edges of layers 2, 3 & 4 where they have built up against the bank. The position and composition of this layer in section C-B could represent a period when the ditch, which is partially filled in yet remains a visible depression, is ploughed over. In section D-A, layer 1 did not cut underlying layers, although it is evident that at least some ploughed? soil from the adjacent field and/or from the bank sides is deposited in the ditch at this time. **GF22**, from this layer I believe, is possibly C15th/16th in date. **GF21**, on the other hand, although from the same layer, has been preliminarily dated at early C13th (3.5.95).

The ditch clearly appears to have been dug to provide extra protection from incursions, no doubt by livestock, from the surrounding fields. It was dug through the overlying soil with flints layer and into the natural clay with flints to a depth of

around 2'7". The soil seems to have been piled up to the S. to form the bank. Ater several years of weathering, which sees the ditch being partailly filled by eroded bank, ditch sides and field material, grass begins to grow and stabilise the bank and ditch. Following clearance of the field to the N. (layer 3 flints), the field and ditch, which is now only a fairly shallow depression, are ploughed. The bank remains unploughed.

GF Numbers & Sequence:

GF11, 'Sherds'. Topsoil, to 9".
GF13, 'Misc. Horseshoe fragments'. Topsoil inside **wall**, to 9".
GF41, 'Sherds'. Centre, on S. slope of bank, soil immediately under turf. Depth of *c.* 4".

GF21, 'Sherds. Nail'. Brown soil between topsoil & flinty soil. S. end. Sherd; early C13th?.
GF22, 'Sherds. Copper alloy strip fragments'. N. end. Brown soil between topsoil & flinty soil. Sherd, hard-fired greyware ware, possibly C15th/16th.
GF44, 'Sherds. Iron spur. Bone'. N. slope of bank, brown soil above bank/flints. Depth of 9".

GF12, 'Sherds, etc.'**.** Brown soil with flints, to 9".
GF40, 'Sherds. Iron'. Flinty soil below brown humus, 9"-1'3".

Ditch
GF45, 'Sherds, one glazed from ditch bottom. Two Iron hook-like objects'. Ditch fill, sticky brown soil. To 2'7".

Bank
GF62, 'Sherds. Nail'. In bank makeup.
GF64, '1 baked object. 2 iron objects'. In bank makeup, N. end.

Cutting 3a

Laid out 2' to the East of Cutting 3. Cutting 15' in length (WE), by 4' in width (NS). SW corner of 3a (point d) is 8' north of point c; the SE corner of Cutting 3. It was aligned E-W, along the end of the bank cut by Cutting 3. The aim was to ascertain the composition and nature of the semi-circualr end of the bank and whether the end of the bank (and ditch) indicated the western side of an entrance to Enclosure A. The cutting's northern edge began *c.* 1' north of the crest of the bank, with its southern edge about half way down the southern slope of the bank. The cutting thus took in the gradual E. slope of the bank and the area to the East where the entrance could have been.

Cutting 3a was sectioned (Fig. XXX); section D-A along the W. edge, section D-C along the southern edge and section A-B along the northern one.

Section D-C showed a humic layer (topsoil), *c.* 9" in depth, over a humus with flints layer, *c.* 6"-7" in depth. Below was the natural clay with flints.

Section D-A shows three large sarsens on the slope, one of which lay in the humus with flints, with the others laying on this layer (according to section A-B) with the humic topsoil over and around them. These stone may be tumble from a wall built on top of the bank or could be stones placed on the bank during land clearance. That they were placed or came to be placed where they were during or soon after the construction of the bank, is possible due to the fact that they lay in or directly on the humus and flint layer of bank material. Interpretation would point to a revetement to the bank, probably made from sarsens cleared from surrounding fields.

Section A-B, as detailed if Fig. XXX, shows a sequence of layers not evidenced in section D-C. The layers in the E. of the section are similar in description to the layers noted in section C-B of Cutting 3. One could postulate that these layers were formed as the ditch of Cutting 3 was being dug. The clayey humus with flints could have been a result of digging into the soil with flints, and clay with flints (layer 1 of Cutting 3) to form the ditch and bank. The soil and small flints seem to relate to layer 3, the flinty heavy humus to layer 4, and the clayey humus with flints to layer 5 (from Cutting 3).

This material may, however, also(?) have its origin in the area to the N. of Cutting 6, which may have been levelled to make a platform on which the House IV was built. (See Cuttings 6M, 6L & 6K).

GF Numbers & Sequence:

GF61, 'Sherd base. Iron spike'. Humus with small flints.
GF67, 'Sherds. Metal; perforated strap fittings'. S-N topsoil, 7", 5", 3" (? position of finds ?)

GF80, 'Sherds'. E. end, bottom of flinty soil layer. Depth; 1'3"-1'6".