

WC Cutting 8

31/07/62. A shallow depression, outside Enclosure B, to the N. of Cutting 4, was excavated as it was considered the possible site of another building. The area, called Cutting 8, was marked out into four quadrants; NW, NE, SE & SW, each 30' by 25', including 2' by 25' and 2' by 30' baulks. Of these, approximately half of the NE sector was excavated, with areas NW & SW experiencing only limited excavation, and the SE experiencing none (for the exact area excavated see Fig. XXX, Archive). Interpretation of this depression is limited, therefore, to the analysis of the excavations carried out in the NE sector. One section drawing from Sector NE exists. The maximum depth of the hollow from datum to hollow bottom, as sectioned, was c. 6'6". From top of turf to hollow bottom the depth was c. 2'.

The familiar dark brown humic topsoil.

Layers 1 & 2, from which all the General Finds seem to hail, consisted of a red-brown soil with few flints (1) over a red-brown soil with more flints (2). This attained a maximum width, from the bottom of the topsoil and turf layer to the top of the clay and chalk below, of c. 1'9".

Layer 3 was of clay with chalk nodules, c. 3" - 7" in width. Sarsens were evident in this layer.

Layer 4, at the bottom of the hollow, covered by layer 3, was of smooth red clay with flint fragments. Sarsens were evident in this layer.

Of note are the area of smooth red silt built up over the large sarsen at 12' from centre and the area of large flints with clay and chalk nodules below the aforementioned silt, in between the two large sarsens (Fig. XXX). At least three of these sarsens, the site notes claim, were 'apparently placed [in the depression]'.

The red-brown soil could be from plough action in the medieval period ('Raddun' may be derived from 'Red Down') and the sarsens, being at the bottom of the depression as with Cutting 1a, could well be from field clearance prior to ploughing. The sarsens did not, however, continue into the NE sector and in fact petered out in the east of NE.

No structural feature was uncovered, although the clay with chalk nodules layer appeared worn and weathered and was therefore considered to be a possible laid layer. This redeposited chalk and clay layer dipped down to the centre of the depression. The arrowhead (**GF688**) and iron knife (**GF712**) came from a layer

of earth with chalk flecks (layer 2?) between the topsoil and redeposited chalk. Of note are the great number of bones from Cutting 8.

The proximity of this depression to a 'Celtic' field lynchet, and a possible 'Celtic' field lynchet corner, may indicate where a tree has been, where stones have been quarried (to build the buildings to the S.?) or where a track has been driven through the lynchet. Conclusions are easy to put forward but difficult to prove, the holes may be all due to rabbits.

General Finds and Sequence

GF643, 'Iron'. In NE, clay with flints. 8" in depth.

GF645, 'Bone. Sherd'. In SW, clay with flints. 13" in depth.

GF646, 'Iron. Bone'. In SW, clay with flints. 13" in depth.

GF652, 'Bone'. In SW corner of NE, in clayey soil amongst stones. 12-13th C hazelnut (TWA, Table 28).

GF660, 'Bone. Iron misc. fittings (bit?)'. In NW, below topsoil and chalk(?), in soil with flint. see TWA report, nail type 11.

GF677, 'Sherd. Bone'. In NW, south trial cutting. Below topsoil in flinty layer at west end.

GF679, 'Bones. Sherd'. In NW, east cutting above chalk floor. 12-13th C hazelnut (TWA, Table 28).

GF683, '?Leather. Sherd'. In NE, light brown clay soil & flints, beneath topsoil, N. of large sarsens on E. of cutting.

GF686, 'Bones. Glass'. In NW, light brown clayey soil above depression and deposited chalk at S. end. c. 12" in depth.

GF687, 'Bones. Sherd'. In NE, dark brown 'stiff' soil above deposited chalk in SW area of cutting. Sherd later C13th?

GF688, 'Arrowhead'. In NE, soil as above, 12" north, 12" east. 11" below topsoil. Hunting arrowhead, mid-13th C (TWA, 10).

GF711, '2 bags of bones'. In NE, earth with chalk flecks, above deposited chalk. 1'6" to 2'6" in depth.

GF712, 'Iron knife'. Soil as above, 8'6" from centre peg N. along baulk, 5' against baulk. 20" from turf. (TWA, 4).