

WC Cutting 10

27/07/61. A double line of 13' squares, separated by 2' baulks, stretching 165' along the W. side of Enclosure C immediately within the bank, was laid out. In practice only 6 of these squares (G1, G2, H1, H2, J1, J2) were excavated, with additional cuttings made at G1 Ext. West (4' wide NS, 24' long EW), MN2, MN3, O1, O2, O3, O4 & O5 (see Fig. XXX and Archive Plan XXX for exact positions). Areas not marked on the site plan are cutting NI (**GFs 456 & 489**) and cutting I3 (**GF308**), which can be placed.

The excavations were undertaken to investigate a platform running along the N (downhill) side of Enclosure C and the line of sarsens which bounded it. No obvious structure was apparent. Several stones along the E. edge of the platform were not definitely shown to be part of a wall. Stones, many of them large, between this line and the bank seemed to be spill from the top of the bank. Other tumbled stones on the clay with flint platform (or 'terrace') within the bank may have once reveted it. It was discovered whilst drawing the stones, however, that most were not embedded in the flint terrace.

It is reasonable therefore to conclude that those stones in the bank ought to be the lower courses of a revetement which has since been covered by spill from the bank. Those in the centre of the flinty terrace appeared to have been there before the laying of this terrace, as it had sunk around them. These could be spill from the bank. The stones, seemingly marking the edge of the terrace in G2, H2 & J2, appeared to have had the terrace laid after and at the back of them, yet few were considered to be *in situ*, although the excavation drawings do seem to point to a linear stone feature, possibly a wall (Fig. XXX). If not a wall built as a wall, they could be clearance stones from the inside of the barn which accumulated along the front edge. The stones appear to be 16' apart, hence could be stone footings of timber uprights. Barn set against bank, with sloping roof. Sides built with hay bales.

It was suggested at the time of excavation that the area under investigation was, throughout, outside the floor area of a building or succession of buildings and that the flinty terrace was a sort of access road. The number of objects increased towards the E. side of the cuttings (in fact SE.).

Many nails came from on the clay with flints layer, and seemingly more in J2 than in H, G or MN.

West extension to G1.

Across bank which forms the W. edge of Cutting 10. Quite probably a 'Celtic' field lynchet, lying on the OGS of clay with flints with ditch to the W., built up in the medieval/post-medieval period (as a land boundary/ field bank, also used as W (back) wall of a barn and onto which the barn roof would have been laid?)
CHECK

The Ditch

A ditch, c. 2' deep, was uncovered in O3 which, after further excavation, was found to run from the 'Celtic' field lynchet in the E. for 40' to the baulk between cuttings O4 & O5, where it turned S. One interpretation of this ditch at the time was that it was the foundation trench for the wall of a timber building (a possible stake-hole was uncovered, to the N. of the ditch, in cutting O3). A second, slightly narrower ditch was discovered cutting into the earlier, larger one, which seemed to have been filled in before the second was dug into it. This situation with one ditch cutting another was not apparent in the other cuttings (O1, O2 & O5). The ditch was perfectly straight, according to note-book, between O3 & O1 and in N1.

This ditch would appear to join the 'Celtic' field lynchet/end of medieval bank (see Fig. XXX Archive) with the triangular Enclosure C to the S (see Cutting 11). If this is the case, then it could be contemporaneous with the construction of Enclosure C/Cutting 11 (as a farm area,) & Cutting 10 (as a farm building). Of interest is GF299, from the loamy filling of ditch to 8", which produced a Norman horseshoe. This loamy layer seals the (later) ditch filling, and although this could be from ploughing of nearby fields, it may be a *terminus ante quem* for the second ditch. What is the date of the earlier one then?

GF216, in G2 (7") on the clay with flint terrace, produced a later medieval horseshoe, as did **GF277** (MN3, 6"-8") & **GF379** (O4, 6"). **GF330** (O3, 6"-8") & **GF358** (O2, two items; 7"-9") horseshoes are undatable/undiagnostic. This evidence would indicate a date for Cutting 10 building of C14th-15th. However, a sherd from GF358 could be later C13th.

GF Numbers and Sequence

Topsoil

GF456, 'Bone. Sherd'. In **N1**, topsoil.

Bottom of humus/topsoil on clay with flints

GF216, 'Ox?Horseshoe fragment'. In **G2**, on clay with flints. 7" in depth.

GF217, 'Nail'. In **G2**, in humus immediately on top of clay with flints. 7" in depth.

GF218, 'Nail'. In **G2**, in humus immediately on top of clay with flints. 7" in depth.

GF219, 'Nail'. In **G2**, in humus immediately on top of clay with flints. 7" in depth.

GF220, 'Bones. Iron heckle teeth. Nail'. In **G2**, in humus immediately on top of clay with flints. 7" in depth.

GF225, 'Iron bar fragment'. In **G1**, bottom of humus over clay with flints. 6"-8" in depth.

GF226, 'Nail. Rectangular iron staple'. In **H1**, bottom of humus over clay with flints. 6"-8" in depth.

GF227, 'Iron nails. Sherd'. In **G2**, bottom of humus over clay with flints. To 8" in depth.

GF229, 'Rowel spur'. In **H2**, on clay with flints. 6'10½" from H, 5'3" from I. Depth: 6".

GF230, 'iron strap hinge fragment. Nails. Bone. Sherd'. In **H2**, bottom of humus, top of clay with flints. 6" in depth.

GF231, 'Iron buckle'. In **J2**, bottom of turf, top of clay with flints. 8'11" from J, 15'7" from K. 8" in depth.

GF238, 'Teeth. Nail. Iron strap fragment'. In **H1**, bottom of topsoil, above clay with flints. 6"-8" in depth.

GF239, 'Nail. Roof tile. Nut shells. Shells. Charcoal. Bones. Whetstone'. In **J2**, bottom of topsoil, above clay with flints. 6"-8" in depth. Singlee brown, unglazed sandy ware from N. France.

GF242, 'Nails. Rooftile'. In **J1**, bottom of topsoil, above clay with flints.

GF253, 'Group of sherds'. In **MN2**, bottom of topsoil and on top of clay with flints. 17'1" from M, 12'6" from N. 3" in depth.

GF255, 'Nails. Bones. Sherds. Glass. Tile fragments. Iron knife'. In **MN2**, bottom of topsoil and on top of clay with flints. 6" in depth.

GF308, 'Nails. Bone'. In **I3**, bottom of topsoil. 6" in depth.

Clay with flints

GF228, 'Iron bar fragment'. In **G2**, clay with flints. Below 8".

Flinty layer, flint terrace or flint surface

GF266, 'Bone. Nails'. In **J1**, bottom of topsoil, on flinty layer.

GF277, 'Sherds. Nails. Bones. Horseshoe fragment. Snail shells'. In **MN3**, topsoil around stones & on flint surface.

GF285, 'Bones. Nail. Sherds. An unidentified iron object'. In **MN3**, south end. Bottom of topsoil on flints of terrace. Green-glazed fine ware sherd; prelim. identification (3.5.95) is in Tudor Green tradition.

GF297, 'Iron knife or shear blade'. In **MN3**, south end. Bottom of topsoil on flints. 24'3" from M, 16'3" from N. 7" in depth.

GF302, 'Sherds. Nails'. In **G2**, bottom of topsoil on flinty terrace. 6" in depth.

GF307, 'Sherds. Shell. Iron etc.'. In **O3**, bottom of topsoil on chalk & flint surface over all cutting. 6"-8" in depth. Sherds from GF307 analysed as post-industrial refined earthenware and/or stoneware.

GF315, 'Sherds. Bones. Nails. Oyster shell. Charcoal'. In **MN3**, south end. Bottom of topsoil down to flinty layer. 6"-9" in depth.

GF330, 'Bone. Ox?Horseshoe fragment. Charcoal. Nails'. In **O3**, topsoil down to flint. 6"-8" in depth.

GF334, 'Sherd'. In **O3**, north end. Flinty layer below topsoil. 6"-12" in depth.

GF358, 'Sherds. Bones. Nail. 2 Ox?Horseshoe fragments'. In **O2**, bottom of topsoil down to flinty layer. 7"-9" in depth. Possible later C13th sherd.

GF379, 'Ox?Horseshoe fragment. Sherds. Nails. Bone'. In **O4**, on flint at 6".

GF490, 'Bones. Sherds. Iron bar fragment. Iron knife'. In **O5**, topsoil on flints.

Wall, wall foundation & wall foundation trench

GF249, 'Iron object'. In **MN2**, in brown humus & flints, between two stones of wall on clay with flints. 21'9" from M, 15'6" from N. 10" in depth.

GF314, 'Sherds. Bones. Nails'. In **MN3**, in wall foundation. 6"-9" in depth. Sherd possibly later C13th.

GF333, 'Sherds. Bones'. In **MN3**, in possible wall foundation trench. 9"-12" in depth.

Top of chalk silt

GF370, 'Nail, 10" deep'. In **MN/O3** baulk. Top of chalk silt. Layer at baulk 10" by 19".

Ditch

GF489, 'Bones'. In **N1**, ditch filling.

GF539, 'Bones'. In **O5**, ditch filling.

GF299, 'Horseshoe fragment. Nail. Skull. Iron spike'. In **O3**, loamy filling of ditch running E-W through cutting. To 8".

GF399, 'Sherd. Bone'. In **O4**, soil ditch filling. 7"-14".

GF402, 'Bones'. In **O4**, ditch filling, chalk and clay. 14" in depth.

GF431, 'Nail. Bone'. In **O4**, ditch filling of chalk & clay. 1'2"-1'11" in depth.

GF512, 'Sherds. Bone. Charcoal'. In **O5**, flinty soil over top of ditch. 16" in depth.

GF432, 'Sherd. Iron strap fragment'. In **O4**, ditch filling of chalk & clay. 4' N f south end of cutting, 1'4" W of east side. 2'3" in depth.

GF437, 'Sherd'. In **O4**, ditch filling. 2'10" in depth.

GF331, 'Sherd. Bone. Charcoal'. In **O3**, filling of ditch. 8"-33" in depth.

GF340, 'Bones'. In **O3**, south of ditch. Flint, chalk & clay layer. 17" to bottom not yet reached.

GF567, 'Whetstone/strike-a-light'. In **O3**, see section.

Pit? (Probably ditch)

GF435, 'Skeleton'. In **O4**, top of pit filling. Possibly a dog.

W ext. to G1 - this cutting is across the bank

GF262, 'Sherd'. W. ext. to **G1**. 12'9" from west end of cutting. 2'2" in depth.

Pottery evidence

GFs 253, 255, 277, 285, 307, 358, 379, 456 & 490 are post-medieval, mainly red earthenwares, some may originate from Hampshire.

GFs 253, 255, 277, 285, 379 & 456 are thought to be from same vessel.