

WC Cutting 8

A shallow depression, *c.* 30m to the N of Enclosure C, was partially excavated in July 1962 as it was considered the possible site of a building (AWC257 & 258). The hollow measured *c.* 14.5m in diameter and was excavated to a depth of 60cm. The centre of the depression contained several large sarsens sitting in a red silt or red clay with redeposited chalk. As such the hollow may have been a pond later filled in, like the pit N of B4, during field clearance. Also like the pit N of B4, this hollow accumulated a fair amount of rubbish, especially bones. The evidence recovered from between the topsoil and clay with redeposited chalk, which included an arrowhead used for hunting (GF688), hazelnuts (GFs 652 & 679) and an iron knife (GF712), date the rubbish deposition to the mid 13th century. The sarsen dumping was earlier, probably the late 12th or early 13th centuries.

WC Cutting 9

A circular depression some 9m in diameter situated *c.* 9m E of the SE corner of the fence around Wroughton Copse was excavated in early August 1962 (AWC260 & 261). Below the topsoil, the fill of the depression consisted of a layer of 'clean clay' over a layer of silty clay with flint chips which sloped gradually towards the centre of the hollow. Into this silty layer were embedded numerous sarsens stones of considerable weight, lying in a rough line NE-SW. When the few sarsens forming this dense packing were finally removed with mechanical aid, a layer of knapped flints were revealed at the bottom of the hollow. The sides of the hollow had been cut in steps.

This feature was probably a reservoir, constructed with a clay lining to help retain water. A layer of silt built up, as expected, during its use, although at a later date it was filled with sarsens from field clearance, as had been observed in Cutting 8 and the pit N of B4. Unfortunately analysis of the metal objects has not been possible, but the ceramic evidence shows the reservoir was open during a similar period to the main occupation phases of the site; that is to say the 13th century. The date of its construction is however unknown, although the reference to the layer of knapped flints hints at a prehistoric date.

Metal, leather items and bones point to it also being used as a dump, probably by the occupants of B1/2/3. Clearly, however, the pond may have been used as a sarsen dump simply because another, less leaky pond had been dug elsewhere on the site. The remains of an unfortunate creature, possibly a lamb, were found in the reservoir from as the position of the remains did not point to a ritual deposition. A further possibility is that this animal contaminated the water, thus making it undrinkable and the reservoir unusable.

The deliberate filling of the reservoirs in Wroughton Mead reflects an important change; the need to maintain a water supply on the site is replaced by the need to clear land, no doubt for cultivation.

WC Cutting 12

In mid-August 1962 a cutting 10' in length (WE) by 4' in width (NS) was placed across the centre of a depression edged with sarsens (AWC270). This depression lay up against the outer bank and ditch of Enclosure D, E of Enclosure C. 13th century sherds, several bones and a nail were found after deturfing, as well as a sarsen on the inner (W) edge of the bank.