

WC Cutting 5

A low mound, c. 6.3m in diameter, E of B2 was excavated in August 1961. Under the topsoil a hard packed layer of flints and brown loam was uncovered, which in turn covered a core of chalk lumps. This disturbed chalk layer lay over redeposited Clay-with-Flints on top of a black humic layer which in turn was lying on a light brown clayey soil. The Chalk lumps were found to continue away from the centre of the cutting in a NW direction.

Discussion

This 'inverted' stratigraphy of Chalk over Clay-with-Flints over a black layer leads to the following hypothesis: the decision was taken to construct B2 (Phase 1: timber) and a level surface on which to build was required (see Cutting 4, p.XX). A site was chosen and the OGS to the N of Enclosure B was, naturally, the first to be dug up. This soil (the brown/black, 'charcoally' layer) was then dumped some 13.5m to the E onto the OGS there (layer 5 of light brown clayey soil). Thus one ground surface was placed on another, and clearly the two OGSs were different; the OGS under the mound contained no charcoal, whilst the one dumped onto it, from the E [? from the W!?!?], did. This suggests the area to the N of Enclosure B prior to B2 experienced some burning process, unlike the area 13.5m to the E. As B2 lay on this levelled area, this black, 'charcoally' layer therefore represents a pre-mound, pre-B2 (and pre-B1/2/3) layer. As such, it is therefore likely to be from activity from the occupants of B4 or activity associated with Enclosure B. **Could it be from the destruction layer of B2 timber phase, previous to the stone construction?**

Layer 4, the charcoal layer, thus gives us a *terminus ante quem* for the mound and, therefore, for B2 (and the B1/2/3) complex. Layer 4 contained pieces of charcoal from hazel, cherry/blackthorn, apple/hawthorn and elm (GF282 and GF311), which may be the remains of a hurdle penning which burnt down or from scrub clearance. The coarseware pottery, **'Norman' horseshoe nail = 9th-mid 14th C!!(GF526), medieval iron buckle (GF283, TWA, 8) >>and the EG sherd from Layer 5 (GF550) NO this is layer 5<< date the construction of this mound to before the mid 13th century**, with suggestions of a date towards the beginning of the 13th century.

As levelling continued to the W, so the Clay-with-Flints was reached, and this in turn was carted off and dumped on the burgeoning mound. This formed a red clay with flint layer (Layer 3) of the mound. As it was originally below the ground surface, any finds this layer contained are likely to have been lost during the levelling process. As two EG sherds (GF511) are found it is tempting to suggest the mound construction as late 12th / early 13th century. **However, C13th century sherds are found also (GF494), but through confusion it is possible that they are from the top of the black soil in layer 4.**

Below the Clay-with-Flints subsoil in the area to the W, the Chalk was cleared down to form a level platform for the buildings. Thus this Chalk was the final layer to be dug out, and therefore the final layer to be deposited on the mound. This explains why it is situated below the later topsoil, yet above Clay-with-Flints and the two ground surfaces - original and transported. Finds from this chalky core were ones which inevitably became mixed in as the various other layers were cut into. Similarly, this post-deposition disturbance would explain why a Romano-British sherd was uncovered in the later occupation material (GF373 - layer 1) above 13th century ones in the old ground surface (layer 5). **There are parallels at B4 were disturbed strat are attributed to plough disruption and field clearance (page XX).** The core of Chalk lumps was found to continue well away from the centre of the mound in a NW direction because the mound was gradually becoming elongated towards the area which was being levelled.

The majority of the pottery from the mound has been classified as 38CW, yet Early Glazed sherds are found in nearly all the layers, including the top (GF224 [2] and GF328), layer 3 (GF268 and GF511), and bottom ones (GF550) [**X-FIT?? i.e. is this a one-off jug?**]. Other finds uncovered from the upper layers of this mound, indicate it was constructed in the late 12th (GFs????) or early 13th century. However, with so much soil disturbance having taken place, dating cannot be precise.

Although the level area had been made and the soil clearance complete, the mound continued to increase in size as it accumulated rubbish from the area to the W. This is reflected in the amount of material from the upper layer of the mound, which included several broken iron fragments (GF235) and horseshoe and structural nails. Also, for example, a heckle tooth & nail shank (GF237), iron rectangular staple (GF460), and a chain link (GF328). GF339, gave an iron perforated strap and sheet fragments, an iron strip object, a horseshoe nail type 4 and nails type 11. GF404 a perforated strap object; (TWA, 7) and a white metal plated perforated fitting (TWA, 11). Layer 1 also included a bronze finger ring (GF232), which can be compared with a 13th century example from Salisbury (TWA, 1), and a copper alloy annular brooch, dating from between the 12th and 14th centuries (GF275). The accumulation of this layer continued into the later part of the 13th century (GF259; MG sherds) and even after the mid-14th century (GF259; horseshoe nails, type 3). **Slight confusion arises from a lock bolt dated from between the 10th and 12th century (GF411; TWA, 7) that is from layer 1 or 2. Possibly from an earlier feature in B1/2/3?**

This may propose continued occupation nearby with this area for a dump/midden, else, it may be from field clearance ?

Conclusions: (compare with IWB's archive)

Layer 5 = pre / contemp. with building complex

Layer 4 =

a) occupation / activity e.g. scrub clearance contemp. with B1/2/3

b) removal of occupation layer from: B2 timber phase if laid before levelling for more perm. stone features; OR B1 if first phase of building in B1/2/3 area.

Layer 3 = cut into subsoil for levelling to W (elsewhere?)

Layer 2 = cut into bedrock for levelling to W (elsewhere?)

Layer 1 = Flint from stone working in construction of buildings?? Humus equals stable long term soil formation and slow accumulation of refuse?