

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.

iwb 23/5/95, 23/3/96, 5/9/96

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.

GF numbers & sequence

GF612, C13th sherds. Area 9N, eastern half of cutting in hard clay. Depth; 9".

GF647, 'Leather?'. Pieces of metal. Sherd'. Area 9N, second half of cutting in clay. Depth; 14". Finds 55" from centre. Leather found under sarsen; metal under sarsen chips; sherd from surface of small chips under subsoil.

GF673, 'Sherds. Metal'. Area 9NE, hard, dark clay soil, 10" from NE side. Finds at 15" in depth.
GF623, C13th sherds. Area 9N, eastern half of cutting in silty clay at south end of cutting. 18" in depth.
GF626, C13th sherds; '3 rim pieces'. Area 9S, at 3'10" from centre in clay. 20" in depth.
GF627, '2 wall pieces'. Area 9S, at 3'10" from centre in clay. 20" in depth.
GF634, C13th sherd. Area 9S, in silty clay (as GF626) 40" from centre. 23" in depth.
GF624, C13th sherds. Area 9S, in silty clay 15" from centre of pond, at 25" in depth.
GF635, '5 sherds'. Area 9S, in silty clay 33" from centre. 25 " in depth.
GF674, 'Rim sherd. 2 sherds'. Area 9S, dark, hard clay soil, 64" from centre. Finds at 25" in depth.
GF625, 'Sherd'. Area 9S, in silty clay 15" from centre of pond, at 26" in depth.
GF659, 'Sherds'. Area 9S, in darkish silty clay, one sherd 12" from centre, other 20". 29" in depth.
GF676, 'Metal'. Area 9E, clayey soil beneath sarsens.
GF658, 'Metal'. Area 9N, under sarsen rocks beneath thick dark clay.

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.