

Cutting 11

03/07/60. Begun in 1960, across the E. side of Enclosure C, to obtain dating evidence from the bank and, subsequently, from the two ditches which ran either side of the bank. These formed the south and east sides of the triangular feature, believed to be an enclosure. Initially this cutting was called Cutting 1, Enclosure C. It was laid out to the south-east of Cutting 10 (see Fig. XXX Archive), with dimensions: 11' long (EW) by 4' wide (NS). Originally this cutting sectioned the E. ditch only, which was found to be c.1'3" in depth, although excavation seems to have gone to 1'10" at least. The ditch was filled with humus and flints, apart from a small area of chalky humus ('primary silt') at the bottom. A flinty humus was also uncovered beneath and around the E. ditch, possibly disturbed when the area was part of the 'Celtic' field system. It is apparent that the bank was built up from the material dug out during the creation of the ditch. Thus the flints and brown soil of the lowest bank layer were from the flint layer mixed with the OGS, and the red-brown clay with flint which form the bank centre, was mainly a mixture of the OGS with clay and flints subsoil.

The ditch to the east of the bank, c.1'3" in depth and filled with humus and flints, contained a small area of slightly chalky humus ('primary silt') at the bottom. This 'silt' is from weathering during the first few years after the ditch had been dug. A flinty humus was also uncovered beneath and around the ditch. This is possibly an OGS, disturbed when the area was part of the 'Celtic' field system. A smaller round-bottomed trench, filled with brown soil in contrast to the flinty make-up of the bank, was uncovered on the west side. A hole, observable on both sides on the top of the bank suggests that a hedge or fence once stood there, although whether it was contemporaneous with the bank when built, is uncertain. It is apparent that the bank was built up from the material dug out during the creation of the eastern ditch; the western one is less clear.

Three sherds, considered medieval at the time of excavation, latterly mislaid and thus not analysed by R. Thomson, were uncovered in the eastern ditch. One possible Romano-British or Iron Age sherd (analysed on site) came from the clayey humus and flint subsoil; the subsoil being delineated by a slight change in soil texture and a line of tilted flints. If on-site analyses are to be accepted, then the ditch was cut some time in the medieval period, although not through the earlier (possibly Romano-British or prehistoric) layer beneath. This latter sherd may have been situated where it was due to ground disturbance during the ploughing of the 'Celtic' field in which it once lay. Clearly, without definite pottery evidence, interpretation of the eastern ditch is restricted, although its nature and form clearly show the material unearthed during its making went to form the bank to its west.

Other finds included two sarsen stones lying in the ditch fill. These stones could be clearance stones which, although initially lying on the side of the bank or helping to form the hedge or stabilise the fence at the top of the bank, tumbled down the slope. Being at the bottom of the ditch but above the 'primary silt', they would have reached this position during years following this initial erosion of the bank. However, no additional sarsens were noted on the bank sides nor top, thus suggesting a random placing.

Three bones; 1'4", 1'7" & 1'10" in depth, teeth at 1'2" and a snail shell, 1'3" in depth.

Discussion

Pottery evidence from the bank (**GF730**, **GF733** & **GF743**) points to a 13th Century date. As the bank and ditch are evidently contemporary and ?homogenous in origin the length of the south and east sides of the triangle, this can be taken as the date for the construction of these two sides of Enclosure C (see Cutting 10, p. XX).

GFs730 & 743 are cross-fits of a micaceous coarseware, probably with origins to the west (TWA, 19). No other sherds of this type on site.

Is Enclosure C a penning or even the documented *bercaria* for sheep??

GFs & sequence

Although no GFs are recorded for the 1960 excavation, the site book notes that 3 medieval sherds, one from the chalky humus, were found. One probable RB sherd and bones came from the clayey humus and flint subsoil, delineated by a slight change in soil texture and a line of tilted flints. Section drawing and site book show the position of these finds (see Fig. XXX ?Archive):

Sherd 1, in flinty layer. Depth; 9".

Sherd 2, on top of flinty layer in topsoil. Depth; 8".

Sherd 3, in dark humus flecked with chalk ('primary silt'). Depth; 1'2".

Sherd 4, in clayey humus with flints of the bank. Depth; 1'3".

Other finds included two stones, presumably sarsens, 4½" and 3" thick, lying in the ditch fill (dark humus with flints and chalk lumps) at c. 9" in depth, three bones; 1'4", 1'7" & 1'10" in depth, teeth at 1'2" and a snail shell, 1'3" in depth.

The W. end of this cutting was opened in 1962 in order to investigate the bank.

The GF numbers and sequence are as follows;

GF733, Sherds. Flints. Turf layer. Depth; 6".

GF730, Flints. 2 iron nail shanks. Bones. C13th sherds. From topsoil to 1'.

Xfit 20; sherds from GFs above formed a C13th coarse-sandy ware bowl

GF743, C13th sherd. At bottom of or beneath bank at E. end.

The bank, c. 12" from the red-brown clay with flint subsoil at maximum, consisted of flinty soil over a layer (c. 3" deep) of flints with brown soil. A hole was observable, on both sides, on the top of the bank, suggesting that a hedge or fence had once stood there. A smaller round-bottomed trench filled with brown soil was uncovered on the E. side of the bank containing brown soil, in contrast to the flinty make-up of the bank.