

WC Cutting 10

Excavations were undertaken to investigate the bank which formed the north-western side of Enclosure C, the platform running along this side and the line of sarsens which bounded it (see Fig. XXX). As a direct result of these investigations, several major observations can be made.

Firstly, the bank comprised of a medieval bank on an earlier, deeper 'Celtic' field lynchet, which in turn overlay the original ground surface. The lynchet would appear to have had a sarsen revetement on the downhill (south-east facing) side, which was buried by the medieval bank (which also had a sarsen revetement, but on both up and downhill sides). The whole was later buried by natural weathering. The material to heighten the lynchet was clearly obtained by digging a ditch on the upward (north-western) side of the lynchet, which meant digging through the 'Celtic' field lynchet and into the clay with flints subsoil (see Cuttings 1, 3, 3a, 6m etc). An area of gingery loam with flints cut into the brown loam with flints at the top of the bank could indicate where a hedge or tree once stood (see Cutting 11, p. XX).

Secondly, the stones, many of which were large, between the south-eastern edge of the platform and the bank, were probably tumble from the medieval and earlier bank. Furthermore, they appeared to have been there before the laying of the flinty terrace 'floor', as the terrace had sunk around them. These, along with those stones in the bank itself, could be the lower courses of a revetement which had subsequently been covered by spill from the bank and/or material thrown up from later activities on and around the platform. This would suggest that the bank, if indeed this was where the buried stones herald, pre-dates the flint terrace as tumble had taken place prior to its laying.

Thirdly, the stones marking the edge of the terrace appeared to have had the terrace laid after and at the back of them and it was clear at the time they reveted in some way the southern side of the platform. Such a linear stone feature could have consisted of cleared stones from the inside of the structure and/or surrounding cultivated areas, which would explain why they accumulated along the front edge. The finds register refers to 'walls' and 'wall foundation' in, and perhaps significantly (see below), only in MN2 and MN3, whereas the platform is described as having a revetement. Moreover, the more obvious concentrations of stones are 16 feet apart, the maximum distance allowed by the laws of physics for a timber upright to take a cross-beam without necessitating the use of aisles. These fairly regular patches of stone could thus be footings for timber uprights, and although no obvious structure was apparent, the nature of the finds (nails, large ?door studs, horse-shoes and general farming equipment) point to the site having been the platform on which a barn and/or livestock shelter once stood, probably with the bank acting as the back 'wall' and possibly with the Copse, on the windward side, as further protection.

Furthermore, two ditches, one smaller cutting the larger other, were uncovered on the north-eastern side of Cutting 10. The earlier (larger and deeper) ditch was filled before the the other was partially cut into it. Although the exact relationship between these ditches and the platform is uncertain, it is clear that the lower ditch reached from where the medieval bank addition to the earlier lynchet ended and continued

down to the eastern side of the triangular bank excavated in Cutting 11 (see Fig XXX & p. XX). A definite turn was noted, which, although the ditch was not pursued, took it south and parallel to the side of the triangular bank. The ditch could here be acting as a 'stop-gap', blocking off the north-eastern corner of Enclosure C, possibly with a fence (stakehole? in cutting O3) on the outer side. If there was a fence on the outer side, this would indicate the enclosure was to keep animals in rather than out. The ditch depth would point to sheep rather than cattle. Although why a ditch and not a continuation of the bank, or was the bank already there??? or were they using the line of a earlier ditch still visible as a depression. Where did ditch soil go? to build platform?

Finally, the area MN2 & MN3, towards the east of the cutting (where an increase in the number of finds was noted) may be the site of a building. Walls are specifically mentioned in the finds note-book and J2 could have picked up the southern end of the wall, with MN3 clearly picking up a wall continuing south (downhill). The structure could have had its other wall to the north (possibly picked up in J1), or to the south. In fact the line of stones in J1 is 14 feet from the one in J2, the width of the longhouses House I & House IV. Of further note is that about 14 feet to the south of the apparent corner of the structure in MN2, the ditch curves round at 90° to seemingly run along the eastern side of Enclosure C. Whether the ditch was dug to go around a building or whether a building was constructed to respect the line of the ditch, or neither, is unclear. In addition, to continue the measuring game, it may be worth noting the lines of stones in H1 & H2 are 14 feet apart.

Discussion

This may have been an open-fronted shelter for animals built upon a man-made platform, with timber uprights on the southern side 16 feet apart which supported a sloping thatch roof, and the back of the shelter being a heightened 'Celtic' field lynchet on which a low stone wall was laid either under or up against the roof to secure it more firmly. The east and west sides, although not picked up in excavation, may have been assured by stone footed hurdles, temporary wooden fences or bales which, being removable, would have made access to and from the shelter easier.

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.). Could the platform therefore have been such a road leading up to a building in MN2&3 (?and J1&J2), which was not on the platform. The possibility arises here that the platform was originally constructed as a road??? CHECK?? to get to structure in MN2/3 and then later (C14/15th) the platform was used to take a barn.

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

Of interest are three crossfits of vessels;

Xfit 1; GF512 from Cutting 10 with **GFs 293, 318 & 376** from Cutting 4. A 13th century bowl; **GF293** (inside B2 in SEf, humus, 10", with a Norman horseshoe nail pre-mid 14th), **GF318** (humus, outside wall in B2SEf, 10"), **GF376** (in filling of chalk cut trench along inside of wall in B2SEf, 9"-18") and **GF512** (flinty soil over top of ditch in Cutting 10/O5, 16"). Ditch in Cutting 10 is therefore filled in by mid-14th C and it seems this was before and during the occupation of B2. **GF512**, a 13th

century coarseware bowl sherd, was from over the top of the ditch uncovered in cutting O5, down to 16". This indicates that the digging of the ditch in O5 was earlier than the building and occupation of the B2/3 complex. This is shown by **GF376** from the filling of the trench in B2 on which the east wall of B2 was built. Naturally, the filling of the trench may have occurred at the same time as, or slightly earlier than, the building of B2, but clearly the ditch found in O5 was already partially filled in when B2 was built (unless sherd is from disturbance). The Norman horseshoe fragment (**GF299**) in O3 lends credence to the ditch being earlier than B2. **GF299** also produced a tapering spike (TWA, 11, similar to **GF61**, Cutting 3), possibly used in structure.

Xfit 5; 13th century jug; **GF332**, from Cutting 4 NWd, among stones outside wall, to 13", above floor level; with **GF314** in wall foundation of MN3, 6"-9". **GF314** also contains Nail type 11, 2 nails type 20 and nail shank. Does this indicate B3 was robbed to make MN3? CHECK nail types.

Xfit 16; 13th C cooking pot; **GF242** J1 bottom of topsoil above clay with flints (CHECK nail type 24, nail type 11); with **GF734** from B4 floor level.

Could this area be the barn/sheepcote pertaining to the occupation site, with a workshop in MN2 & 3?

Similar sherds to these (**GF730** & **GF743**) were noted in Cutting 11 in the topsoil over the bank and, more interestingly, at the bottom of, or beneath the bank in the east. As bank and eastern ditch (and possibly western one as well) of Enclosure C, were possibly contemporary, at least along the eastern side (see p. XX), this evidence may indicate that the ditch picked up in O of Cutting 10 acted as a sort of barrier, either a ditch or ditch and fence, which joined the northern bank (Cutting 10) with the eastern one of Enclosure C (Cutting 11). Considering this close relationship between the ditch in 10/O and the bank of Enclosure C, both may have been in use around the same time. Furthermore, as the humic layer in B3 is considered occupation material, ditch, Enclosure C and B2 could have been contemporary.

GF314 is from the wall foundation of the feature uncovered in Cutting 10 MN3, with **GF332** again from the occupation/humic layer in B2. If, as postulated, the stones in MN2/3 were part of a wall for a longhouse, then this was therefore done in or after the 13th century, as the jug from which these sherds came was made at this time. **GF333**, also from the wall, points to a 13th century date for whatever MN2/3 was.

Sherds **GF242** from above the flinty terrace and **GF734**, from the floor of B4, are from a 13th century cooking pot. Is this indicating that a structure in Enclosure C was in existence at the same time as B4 or do we have here in Cutting 10 the stones taken from the delapidated B4, which inevitably meant earth, and therefore detritus from B4, being taken over to the build the ?barn to the north-east. The latter would explain why such a sherd was found amongst later ones. If terrace is a road used over many centuries, then this would explain diversity of finds & sherds.

Overall, therefore, the evidence points to a relationship between the remains of B4 & the flinty platform in Cutting 10, possibly the robbing of 4 and BII (and ?therefore B3 & B1) being earlier than (possibly contemporary with) at least one of the ditches.

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, the latter having been filled in before the former 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 a contaminant, it is certainly a *terminus ante quem* for the second ditch. What is the date of the earlier one then? Norman = 11th - mid 13thC, so deeper one is pre-1250, later one is beginning to fill in by the mid-C13th.

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 mid-C14th-16th. A sherd from **GF358** could be later C13th. **GF255**, knife blade fragment, 2 horseshoe nails; type 3, 1 stud type 13. Late medieval, mid-14th onwards.

Pottery evidence

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

Metal evidence

Later medieval/ post-medieval

Platform was C15- 17th, barn/stable?

Ditch and bank formed C13th sheep cote?

GF Numbers and Sequence

Topsoil

GF456, Bone. PMS sherd. Nail type 5. In **N1**, topsoil.

Bottom of humus/topsoil on 'flinty layer', 'flint terrace', 'clay with flints' or 'flint surface'

GF216, Later medieval horseshoe fragment; mid-C14 to 16th. (TWA, 8). In **G2**, on clay with flints. 7" in depth.

GF217, Large nail type 29. In **G2**, in humus immediately on top of clay with flints. 7" in depth. c. 1180-1280 AD (TWA, 5).

GF218, Nail, type 28. In **G2**, in humus immediately on top of clay with flints. 7" in depth. c. 1180-1280 AD (TWA, 5).

GF219, Nail, type 28. In **G2**, in humus immediately on top of clay with flints. 7" in depth.

GF220, Bones. Iron heckle teeth (TWA, 4). Nail, type 11. In **G2**, in humus immediately on top of clay with flints. 7" in depth.

GF225, C13th sherd. Iron bar fragment. In **G1**, bottom of humus over clay with flints. 6"-8" in depth.

GF226, Nail. Rectangular iron staple, possibly used as a bolt keeper (TWA, 5) In **H1**, bottom of humus over clay with flints. 6"-8" in depth.

GF227, Iron nails, type 11. Nail shank. In **G2**, bottom of humus over clay with flints. To 8" in depth.

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

GF229, Rowel spur, ?late C15th/ post-medieval (TWA, 9-10). C13th sherd. In **H2**, on clay with flints. 6'10½" from H, 5'3" from I. Depth: 6".

GF230, Iron strap hinge fragment, possibly for supporting doors or windows (TWA, 6). Nail shank. Horseshoe nail type 3, later medieval/ mid-C14th onwards. 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, 2 horseshoe nails type 3, 2 nails type 11, 4 nail shanks. Normandy French late C15th jar sherd. Nut shells. Shells. Charcoal. Bones. Whetstone. In **J2**, bottom of topsoil, above clay with flints. 6"-8" in depth.

GF242, Nails, type 24 & 11. C13th sherd. ?Roof tile. In **J1**, bottom of topsoil, above clay with flints.

GF253, Group of PMS bowl sherds, C17/18th. 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. C13th, mostly PMS sherds. Glass. Tile fragments. Iron knife blade fragment. 2 horseshoe nails, type 3, 1 stud type 13. In **MN2**, bottom of topsoil and on top of clay with flints. 6" in depth. **Xfits 17 & 18**, both with **GF285**, **GF255** also with **GF358**. C17/18th.

GF266, Bone. 3 nail shanks. In **J1**, bottom of topsoil, on flinty layer.

GF277, PMED Sherds. Bones. Later medieval horseshoe fragment. 3 horseshoe nails type 3. Snail shells. In **MN3**, topsoil around stones & on flint surface.

GF279, C13th sherd, 1 RB. Bones. Horseshoe nail type 3, nail type 20. Topsoil on top of flints of terrace. **MN3**.

GF285, Bones. Nail. C13th sherds; TDGR sherd late C15/16th; PMS sherds. An unidentified iron object. In **MN3**, south end. Bottom of topsoil on flints of terrace.

GF297, Iron knife or shear blade, post-medieval (TWA, 5). 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, EMOD & PMED sherds. Shell. 4 nail shanks. In **O3**, bottom of topsoil on chalk & flint surface over all cutting. 6"-8" in depth.

GF308, Nail type 18, nail type 19, 2 nail shanks. Bone. In **I3**, bottom of topsoil. 6" in depth.

GF315, C13th sherds. Bones. Nails. Oyster shell. Charcoal. In **MN3**, south end. Bottom of topsoil down to flinty layer. 6"-9" in depth.

GF330, Bone. Horseshoe fragment. Charcoal. Nail type 11, nail type 14. 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, C13th, 1 MG; latter C13th sherd & PMS sherds. Bones. Nail type 11, nail type 17. 2 Horseshoe fragments. In **O2**, bottom of topsoil down to flinty layer. 7"-9" in depth.

GF379, Later medieval horseshoe fragment. Horseshoe nail type 3. PMED sherds. Bone. In **O4**, on flint at 6".

GF490, Bones. Whittle tang knife with bolster, end C17th/ post-medieval. Sherds. Iron bar object. Horseshoe nail type 3, nail type 6. 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, C13th sherds. Bones. Nail type 11, 2 nails type 20, nail shank. In **MN3**, in wall foundation. 6"-9" in depth.

GF333, C13th sherd. Bones. In **MN3**, in possible wall foundation trench. 9"-12" in depth.

Top of chalk silt

GF370, Nail, type 9. 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, Norman horseshoe fragment. Skull. Iron spike. Pre-medieval, possibly prehistoric hazelnut (TWA, Table 27). Hazel charcoal. 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 shank. Bone. In **O4**, ditch filling of chalk & clay. 1'2"-1'11" in depth.

GF512, C13th sherd. Bone. Charcoal. In **O5**, flinty soil over top of ditch. 16" in depth.

GF432, Sherd. Iron strip object, traces of cu alloy (TWA, 6). 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, C13th 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. Perforated strap frag.

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.