

### Phase VII: Post-Roman feature

The most enigmatic feature of the excavation was the Site E concentric structure, set on the top of the levelled rampart, which consisted of a drystone wall (E5) (thickness 1.0-1.2m) which formed a circular structure (external diameter c. 6.60-7.00m) enclosing a central drystone walled pit (E23) (diameter c. 1.40m; depth c. 0.80m) (figs. 23 and 28). No datable artefactual material was recovered from the fills (E28) associated with this structure and its date and function are unknown although it is not considered to be Roman in date.

Various late episodes in the history of this area of the defences were also observed. A terminus post quem for the robbing of the interval turret was provided by a number of eighteenth century glass fragments recovered from the backfill of the robber trench (D2). The excavations of Bosanquet and King in 1909 could easily be recognised from the backfilled trenches (A8, A14, E6, E7 and E24). The final episode before the 1982 excavations took place, occurred in about 1940 when a Second World War fortification was built on the defences<sup>1</sup>. This was a brick-fronted open entrenchment. Apart from the side walls, one of which protected the entrance down into the emplacement, the entrenchment had four faces, three of which had two loopholes in each face. Mr John R. Kenyon contributes the following comment. ‘The whole position was somewhat crude, but the structure may have been built in this way, as opposed to having a regular pillbox, to give the impression that it was part of the older defences, and thus not an obvious threat. However unless the new brick was originally rendered, this ‘disguise’ is unlikely to have worked’



Fig. 28: Site E.  
The circular structure  
on the top of the rampart  
looking south.

<sup>1</sup> This emplacement was recorded by Howard Mason as part of a watching brief during its demolition and details are preserved in the archive.