

HANCETTER

AREA 13 (W69 13): P94(ii) 65g 8ft diameter pit suggested by Oxford Lab

Abortive Well.

chron. order

contexts. context nos.

- | | | |
|-----|----|---|
| 15. | 1. | Topsoil |
| 11. | 2. | Trowel-cleaning below topsoil to define the edge of the black-filled pit. Most, if not all of this layer = 4. Inlaid, enamelled, crescent-shaped brooch found. |
| 14. | 3. | Trowelling over the west end of the area; 'modern' pipe-trench defined, running west-north-west of the 'Pit'; very fine, dark brown sand and earth. |
| 10. | 4. | Dense, black filling in top 18 inches of large 'Pit'. This filling later defined as silting after the initial filling of the 'well?' but I did wonder at the time if it could be stokehole material. Perfectly homogeneous. |
| 13. | 5. | Filling of modern pipe-trench at west end. Fine, dark brown, sand. Clay-pipe stem and fragment of 'manganese' glazed ware found. |
| 9. | 6. | Below 4, starting c. 18" below top of pit. There was a thin clayey layer between layers 4 and 6 but no other marked difference. Earlier than layer 4 but still black. Presumed to be real filling of |

well-pit. Pottery is better preserved and in larger pieces. 2 fragments of Amphora; thrown away.

CHECK IF ANY OBVIOUS DIFFERENCE BETWEEN POT IN THIS LAYER AND LAYER 4.i.e. if 4. is more weathered; pieces smaller; pots more mixed. (See below)

3. 7. Wedge of soft, pink clay right at the ?east side of the filling of the pit at the same level as layer 6/8.
7. 8. Beneath layer 6, above 13; clay and grey sand. Black at the top but becoming gradually greyer and sandier; more mixed with clay in lower part.
6. 9. Above 13 and below layer 8. Black layer dipping west to east beneath a partial layer of clay; layer 13 dipped in exactly the same way. Very wet.
1. 10. Clayey, sandy, grey-brown soil dipping along edge of 'Pit' on west side, at the edge and right at the bottom. Stuffed with pot. This is the earliest layer. Piece of tile.
8. 11. Mixed filling, probably from a fall in the section. Probably from well down in the filling.
12. 12. A post-trench, immediately adjacent to the well-pit. Very light-coloured, sandy filling at

top; darker below; perhaps post-Roman.

CHECK POTTERY IN 12 CAREFULLY i.e. can I look at it!

- 5. 13. Grey, earthy layer beneath 9; above 15 and wedging
 upto 10. Browner than 10. Very little pot.
- 2. 14. Grey, very clayey and sticky. Probably equals
 layer 15.
- 4. 15. Very, very sticky, dark grey filling with lumps of
 clay in it. This is the filling at the bottom of
 the 'Pit' except where it is underlaid by layer 10
 at the very western side of the pit.

The 'pit' was approximately 9 feet by 10 feet in diameter and approximately 7'6" deep (a further 1'1" to ground level). Cone-shaped. It was dug into sand and nothing remained in the bottom. It was assumed to have been an abortive attempt at digging a well. It was wet and sticky but not wet enough to employ a pump; part of the section collapsed overnight. Approximately 3/4 of the 'well-filling' was removed before it was abandoned.

Layer 10 is clearly the earliest layer and layers 10, 14 and 7 probably form the first tip-line, down the east side of the pit and close to the edge. The other tip-lines appeared to be from the opposite side. The tip layers and filling suggested that the pit did not stay open long and there was no obvious silting between layers but Layer 13 was earthy and contained little pot; it might just be a silting layer - so, is there any difference in this layer compared to 7, 14, 10 and 15 on the one hand and layers 8 and 9. Layer 13 might be

discernibly different from both groups if it was a silting layer. Its a matter of seeing if anything strikes you as different; because of the wetness, it was not possible to be over scrupulous about how it was dug and it was emptied by a workman; the quantity of finds made it necessary to use wheelbarrows as finds' trays and some layers had to be tipped out into heaps because there was no space to accommodate the pottery indoors.

Layer 11 is the collapsed section and is certainly mixed. When we were digging we thought there was no difference in the pot once we were below the silting layer (probably only 4 but 4 merges into 6; it looked the same though there were thin patches of clay which mark the rather arbitrary division; layer 4 certainly had more fragmented pottery so the difference may be quite clear in the pottery; it is worth noticing.)

<u>Tying-in measurements for corners of area</u>	- 094	44'5"	094	69'11"
		42'5"		85'4"
		64'4"		84'6"
		65'7"		68'7.5"