

W70 8 was a section across the water channel, taken close enough to the 1964 8 square to have some back-filling from it. It was done to find out what the feature was, which was not at all clear in 1964. It has layers 1-14.

W71 8 was a larger area of the water channel. We probably re-used context 1 for topsoil but apart from that it has contexts running from 15 to 34 to avoid overlap with 1970. I was trying to use 8 to signify Water Channel. The long length of water channel shown on drawings for 22, should include 1964 8 and 1970 and 71 8.

See Magnetometer Points with excavation numbers etc. and Water Channel.

1964 AREA 8 (W (8) 1-8) Magnetometer point M2/(i). 20g. 5' diameter - small pit suggested.

The initial magnetometer survey gave no indication of any ditches anywhere in the field (Broadclose). A nine foot square was opened over this point by two self-styled 'experienced' diggers from St Albans; due to the fact they were in fact piece-rate grave-diggers it was dug more rapidly than was anticipated. Fortunately when they reached the sterile clayey layer (which has no number), between layers 5 and 6, they were convinced that it was natural. This sterile layer was probably the sealing layer of the original filling of the water channel.

At the end of the excavations I went through this layer and found the real bottom; we still only knew that it was either a pit or a ditch but the latter seemed unlikely because the magnetometer had not indicated it. Everyone else had gone and it was impossible to extend to get the real dimensions of the feature. I drew the two relevant sides of the square, which give quite a reasonable impression, though obviously at an oblique angle and decided to reopen and extend the area if it was ever possible. Natural consisted of red-brown clay.

Despite all this the layers appear to be O.K.

W (8) 1 Topsoil

W (8) 2 The top few inches of the filling of the feature. Fine earthy filling with some stone.

W (8) 3 Black earthy filling with much charcoal underneath Layer 2. Layer 3 equals layer 5, 3 being the upper part and 5 the lower part but the filling did not differ.

W (8) 4 Rough stone packing specially noticeable in the eastern part of the square. (Layer 4 is wrongly marked on the drawing which you have; it should be the layer you can see between numbers 5' and 9' at the east end - 'much stone and pottery'.) I was not clear about what this layer was but I am sure it would be part of the latest stone and pebble sealing of the ditch. The oblique angle made it difficult and at that time I did not know that the filling was pebbled over for so much of its length.

There is an unnumbered layer between layers 5 and 6. A sterile brown clayey layer without pottery, looking very like natural.

W ⑧ 5 In fact the lower half of Layer 3.

W ⑧ 6 Layer beneath the sterile clayey layer, thickest near to the northern corner of the square. Black sticky filling with much pottery; apparently the same as layer 8.

W ⑧ 7 A pocket of brown silt at the western edge of the ditch, wedging down beneath the sterile layer and layer 6.

W ⑧ 8 Sticky black filling exactly as 6. PB@ - ? meaning.

(July, 1992 - writing up of contexts discontinued at this point.)