

CH75

4pp in all ✓
CONTEXT F 1956...

CUTTING k99..... CO-ORDINATES: East..... North.....

DATE EXPOSED DATE COMPLETED

DESCRIPTION Ditch 1d

See overleaf

MAX. WIDTH AND DIRECTION

MAX. LENGTH AND DIRECTION

MAX. DEPTH/HEIGHT THICKNESS

OVERLIES

OVERLAIN BY layer ②.....

CUTS

CUT BY F1961.....

ABUTS OR CONTIGUOUS WITH

PLANS No..... SECTIONS No. see following pages.

PHOTO: B/W COL. NEG. NOS.

SAMPLE Type: Charcoal (C14)..... Nos.

EXCAVATOR

RECORDER

ASSOCIATED FEATURES

ASSOCIATED FINDS A considerable amount of pottery and daub along whole length of layer ①. 2 pieces of charcoal from ②. c. 5 leaf-shaped arrowheads on bedrock. A large amount of charcoal ~~enough~~ (enough for C14 det) from ⑤ci

Bone deposits, animal skull, many fragments (finds no. 187) Probably North end of ④ - just below ③. SW 5-25, SE 6-77. Vertical extent c. 13cm and lateral spread of almost 50cm diameter.

More bone fragments and one tooth (finds nos 195, 196, 197) near West edge of the red material.

PHASING

4 drawings Inc.

These layers did not continue through to North end. System had to be modified about half way along. See below and plan.

- ① topsoil

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- ② a, b, as above (③ missing)
- ④ loose red
- ⑤c white, small stones on top; very compact, larger below, quite loose
- ⑤d white, mainly larger stones, very loose indeed.

⑥ primary silting - Intermediate between (H) and (Sc)

Layer ①. Not distinguished from layer ① over bank or rest of cutting. A considerable amount of pottery and daub along whole length, concentrated mainly in bottom of dip. Topsoil was looser and dustier under trees at North end, and full of roots. Several suspected post holes did not materialise.

Layer (2a) 4"-5" thick. Small to medium stones in medium coloured earth many finds, greatest concentration being at South end. (N.B. high density of finds in adjacent part of ditch at same level last year in K1) Scatter of burnt stones, but areas where these had been concentrated in layer ① did not continue downwards.
2 large, flat worn slabs, shown on plan of ①, still in place after removal of (2a).

North end layer (2a) similar here to rest of ditch, though fewer
●ones; rather more earthy - dark and powdery.

Layer (2b) Top of this planned as removal of layer (2a) had revealed an area (6 on plan) of flat, worn stones that possibly represented paving. Included among these, and with their tops on approximately the same level, were the two large stones mentioned above. Very few finds from this layer.

North end From this layer on north end of the site, a few finds were recovered.

North end From this layer on, markedly different from rest of ditch in k99. Large area over West part of North end of (2b) consisted of small stones and chipples in white matrix, (3) on plan.)

An intermediate area ④ between the white ③ to the North and the brown earth and stones ② to the South lay west of the "paved" area. Several attempts were made to locate a pair

of postholes to match Features F1953 and F1821 (K1, 1974), both by measuring their ideal positions, and by excavating promising looking patches. But no postholes were found. ✓ T

Composition of layer (2b). As expected from surface indication South end thicker, with medium-brown earth and small stones as layer (2a); central section with "paving" contained more stones and less earth, "paving" stones proved to be only a single layer; white area on West side of North end already more compact than other parts, and brown earth and stones to its East thinner than elsewhere.

layer (2c) Thickest at South end, where similar to (2a) & (b) in that area. Quite large stones and much less earth in central section. This layer absent altogether at North end. Only 2 finds (both charcoal) from this layer. Scattered burnt stones in both layers (2b) and (2c) especially at South end, and to lesser extent in central section. A possible post-hole (F1961) suspected at South end and removal of next layer delayed ^{here} whilst this was excavated, drawn etc. (it almost certainly wasn't a posthole).

Interpretation of layers.

Examination of section at South end, and comparison of this (after 2 brushings and rain) with last seasons drawing of this section suggested a reinterpretation of layers, necessitating partial re-numbering. layer ① unchanged. Layer ② almost the same, but base modified; subdivided somewhat arbitrarily except between (a) and (b) in central area, where "paving" stones marked change of layer.

Four further types of fill distinguished; numbered and interpreted as follows:

- ⑥ Primary silt - very fine, wedged into nooks and crannies of bedrock.
- ⑤ Tumble from bank. In 2 layers, larger stones first, followed by smaller. This is greyish (especially when dry) with considerable leaching and compact. Sufficient stones slanting in right direction to suggest a process of natural tumbling.
- ④ Seems to cut ⑤ and consists of a jumble of variously sized rocks, none very large, some worn and some burnt, with no predominant direction of tilt. This is loosely packed

③ and is quite different in both form and colour from the normal fill of these ditches. colour is orange-brown to West and reddish to East in strip abutting East side of ditch (NB this loose red fill extended into K1 part of ditch and was removed last year; the bedrock on East wall of ditch is still stained with same red)

③ Blue-grey layer which appears to overlie both ⑤ and ④. More compact at West side of section, and looser to East, where overlies ④.

Layer ③ Very leached stones, very compact and hard indeed at north end*, particularly West side, with no soil, and progressively looser, and with more soil, towards South; particularly loose on East side of South end, where overlies ④. No finds.

Edges of ditch emerging after removal of this layer and subsequent tidying up, though on East side some of layer ④ also removed in this process.

* NB: later re-assessment of layers; there seems to be no layer ③ at North end of cutting, layers ④ and ⑤ both being sealed directly by layer ②b. Layer ③ must peter out somewhere in middle, at the divide between ⑤a and ⑤c, and also ⑤b and ⑤d. See plan and reassessment of layers.

Red layer ④

Above mentioned process showed that layer ④ does not extend to North end of cutting but thins out to nothing in centre. Does layer ④ thus represent the deliberate backfilling of a short ditch cut into the part filled (up to the top of layer ⑤) 1d ditch and extending for a short distance both North and South of the K99/K1 section - the whole subsequently overlain by layers ③, ② and ①.

b.8.75

Began removal of ④. Good West edge where butts up against ⑤a (the upper small-stone compact part of ⑤) until 1.8m to North of South section, where ⑤a seems to fade out. The remains of ③, overlying ④ from here Northwards is very thin here. Possibly ⑤a is missing here, and ④ may be directly on ⑤b, also very loose, largish stones, the only difference being the colour.

8.8.75 ✓ 231-7 187 H3

(Page 4)

Attempt begun to find Northern termination of ④, assumed to tail off c 28 from South section, but halted by discovery of animal skull (? small cow). Many bone fragments, centred on S-W. S-25, SE 6-77. lateral spread of almost 50cm diameter. Vertical extent c 13 cm. Some quite large fragments including side of face, eye socket and cheek bone, lying h side up, nose to South West. Only one tooth - a molar - found that day. Few fragments of jaw. Deposit ^{is} at (?) North end ④, just below ③. (~~see above~~, finds number 187)

9.8.75

Work able to proceed again. Heavy night rain revealed clear colour distinctions previously not seen. Southern third of East side of ditch fill very red. Middle third far less red, more gold - but with no marked division. Northern third showed, for first time, a bright pink-red clayey deposit clinging to bedrock. East wall of ditch. Whether this continues below ③ remaining at this end remains to be seen.

The red material on the East side of the North end was removed. white layer

Then the compact mixed stones (small on top at least) in hard white matrix at North end West side were removed. This layer had hitherto been assumed to be either the lower part of ③, or ⑤a. (For decision on layer numbering see end of description). It occupies a triangular area in North West corner of ditch, and is increasingly deep, up to c 30cm, at North end (Now think this continuous with original "blue" layer c 20cm deep directly above). Look as for its West edge.

10.8.75

Its East edge is ill defined, as it seems to run neither over or under the red material, but to intermingle with it, producing a pinky-grey result. A number of bone fragments and one tooth found near the West edge of the red material. (finds number 195, 196, 197.)

Base of white layer (1st white layer ⑤c) defined by difference in compactness rather than stone size, for below compact material a distinct change to much looser material (2nd white layer ⑤ci) consisting of unworn white slabs of varying size up to 25cm largest dimension in loose powdery white matrix, with many air-holes. Predominant tilt of stones is downwards into ditch - looks ^{natural}

Page
(5)

On East side of North end for $cl\frac{1}{2}m$ some reddish material still remaining, so this presumably goes deeper than first white layer, though not apparently underlying it. Thus only theory of red material representing back fill of smaller ditch cut in 1d ditch, still O.K. but first white layer cannot be (3) (is (5c))

If re-cut ditch theory right, it may be rather of segments than a continuous ditch, as both ends of East side are red, central part golden. No noticeable difference, however in consistency.

Comment

Question Does a 1b segmented ditch intersect K99 1d stretch at North end of cutting? 2 reasons for thinking this might be so:-

- 1/ Clives latest segment (in K1 and L1) is converging on 1d ditch and if this line continues, they would meet in K99 (They are thought to have reversed positions in C V)
- 2/ An explanation might thus be provided for the completely different fill (white and very loose) on the West side of the North end.

Answer

A 1m wide trench cut was started along North section, to examine West ditch edge. Bedrock reached very soon, so ditches do not intersect here.

Description Continued

Layer (5a) (in South half only)

Had earlier been removed. Smallish stones in compact grey matrix. As seen in section at South end, but tailed off over medium ~~medium~~ compact orange-brown layer (part of (5b)) in centre of West slope of fill.

White layer

"White" layer eventually subdivided into 3, on basis of stone size and compactness - see also drawing of North section (with large plans). Complexity in

To be
typed
after
Description
Cont.

identifying and labelling layers caused by the fill being completely different at each end of ditch, with area of intermingling between.

Definition of (4) No true dividing line found between (5ci) and (4), even in section; (4) seems to have had a recognisable West edge only at Southern third of its length; its differentiation in the Northern part of the cutting may thus be artificial (5b) The lower parts of (5ci) and (4) and (5d) were removed with pick and shovel. Their colours and consistency can be seen on plan.

(Burning and charcoal) Lower (5ci) and (5d) included many burnt stones in area near North section and also much charcoal; enough of which was collected for a Carbon 14 det.

Layer (6) arrowheads In Nooks and crannies of bedrock produced c5 leaf-shaped arrowheads only 1; 1 think broken.