

Section 3.4.14 Trench 14 physical description by context

Trench 14, excavated in 2000, was the northernmost of the five southeast-northwest trenches in the centre of the hillfort. The trench was placed so as to reveal more of the northern wall of the villa, which was first partially exposed in trench 2. The trench was 50m long; the south eastern 30m of the trench was 1m wide with the remaining 20m being 2m in width. This trench was not excavated down to bedrock so no context number was assigned to the natural layer beneath this trench. Although trench 14 intersected trench 16, unlike trench 13, it did not intersect with trench 2.

Context Number	Type	Description	Fill of	Phase
14000	layer	topsoil		MODERN
14001	layer	subsoil		UN
14002	cut	pit		?MIA
14003	fill		14002	?MIA
14004	cut	pit		?MIA
14005	fill		14004	?MIA
14006	layer	destruction layer		L3-4
14007	cut	pit		?EARLY MEDIEVAL
14008	fill		14007	?EARLY MEDIEVAL
14009	cut	other natural feature		MODERN
14010	fill		14009	MODERN
14011	layer	destruction layer		L3-4
14012	layer	destruction layer		L3-4
14013	cut	pit		?MIA
14014	fill		14013	?MIA
14015	cut			?MIA
14016	fill		14015	?MIA

Field drawings within the site archive:

Plan 1401: (14006), [14007] and (14008)

Plan 1402: (14006)

Plan 1403: (14001), [14004] and (14005)

Plan 1404: [14013], (14014)

Plan 1405: [14015], (14016)

Plan 1406: [14007], (14008) and [22009]

There are no section drawings from trench 14.

TOPSOIL

Layer (14000) was a deposit of organic soil overlying the entire trench.

CUTS

Cut [14002] (no drawings) was described as being an oval cut 60cm north-south and 30cm east-west which cut the subsoil **layer (14001)** and was cut by **[14009]** (discussed below). The cut was overlain by **topsoil (14000)**, and was filled by **(14003)**, yellow brown clay loam with large sarsens. This was interpreted as a possible pit cut by a later animal burrow.

Cut [14004] (plan 1403) was large cut only partially exposed on the northern edge of trench 14. The feature was c. 3m wide and extended a maximum of 1m south into the trench from the edge. It was centred c. 16m from the western end of the trench and appeared to extend under the north edge of the trench. The fill of this feature was designated **fill (14005)**, a yellow-brown clay-loam soil surrounding at least 37 sarsen blocks, mostly over 20cm across, covering virtually the entire surface of the cut. The feature was interpreted as a possible storage pit.

Cut [14007] (plan 1401) was a circular feature which was only partially exposed appeared to extend under the northern and western ends of the trench. The cut was visible for approximately 1m along the northern trench edge and extended southwards from 30-60cm into the trench. It was overlain by **topsoil (14000)** and cut **layer (14006)**; its relationship to subsoil **layer (14001)** was uncertain. It was filled by **(14008)**, a yellow-brown clay-loam. This was interpreted as a probable robber pit.

Cut [14009] (no drawings) was a 10cm wide linear feature running east-west across the trench. It was overlain by **topsoil (14000)** and cut subsoil **layer (14001)** and possible **pit [14002]** as discussed above. This feature was interpreted as a possible animal burrow.

Cut [14013] (plan 1404) was an unexcavated circular feature defined more by **fill (14014)**, a group of sarsens on a layer of brown soil with approximately 40% chalk inclusions, than as a visible cut. This feature was located approximately 4m from the eastern end of the trench. The diameter of the feature was estimated at c. 90cm and it was centrally located in this 1m wide portion of the trench. In **fill (14014)** a single sarsen stone of 18 x 25cm was accompanied by at least 24 small sarsen pieces less than 14cm across and smaller than 10cm in width. This was interpreted as a possible pit.

Cut [14015] (plan 1405) was an unexcavated feature without a clear cut that was located approximately 10-72cm from the eastern end of the trench, c. 30cm from the northern edge and c. 20cm from the southern trench edge. As was the case with **cut [14013]** described above, this feature was largely defined by a grouping of 16 stones, designated **fill (14016)**, ranging in size from 14 x 22cm down to c. 4cm in diameter. This cut was interpreted as a possible pit.

LAYERS

Layer (14001) (plan 1403) was the subsoil layer overlain by topsoil **layer (14000)** and cut by possible **pits [14002]** and **[14004]**. It was composed of yellow brown clay loam with small chalk and stone inclusions.

Layer (14006) (plans 1401 and 1402) was a spread of chalk rubble overlying and extending east of **structure [22009]** covering the full 2m width of the trench from the western trench terminus for a distance of c. 10m to the east. It was overlain by **topsoil (14000)** and cut by **pit [14007]**; its relationship to **layer (14001)** was undetermined. This was interpreted as a destruction layer associated with the removal of the stone in the north villa wall.

Layer (14011) (no drawings) was described as being similar to **layer (14006)** except that it contained "more substantial rubble" and lay "to the (trench grid) west of the wall". This suggests it probably was located to the south of **structure [22009]**. The location and extent of this layer were not recorded. This was interpreted as a destruction layer.

Layer (14012) (no drawings) was also described as being similar to **layer (14006)** though lying "below the top of the wall remains" and on the (trench grid) "east side" of the wall. This would suggest a layer positioned to the north of **structure [22009]**. This was also interpreted as a destruction layer.