

Section 3.4.4 Trench 4 physical description by context

Trench 4, located in the north-western break in the hillfort enclosure, was rectangular and measured 20 x 2.5m. Its placement was intended to allow investigation of both the entrance to the hillfort and the history of the rampart itself. First opened during the 1999 excavation season, context numbers 4000 through 4059 relate to that year's work. Context numbers up to and including 4130 were used during the 2000 season. The final two context numbers shown in the table were assigned during the post-excavation process.

Context Number	Type	Description	Fill of	Phase
4000	layer	topsoil		MODERN
4001	layer	subsoil		ROM+
4002	layer			MIA
4003	cut	?stakehole		?MODERN
4004	fill		4003	?MODERN
4005	cut	?stakehole		?MODERN
4006	fill		4005	?MODERN
4007	cut	?stakehole		?MODERN
4008	fill		4007	?MODERN
4009	cut	?stakehole		?MODERN
4010	fill		4009	?MODERN
4011	cut	?stakehole		?MODERN
4012	fill		4011	?MODERN
4013	cut	?stakehole		?MODERN
4014	fill		4013	?MODERN
4015	cut	?stakehole		?MODERN
4016	fill		4015	?MODERN
4017	cut	?stakehole		?MODERN
4018	fill		4017	?MODERN
4019	cut	?stakehole		?MODERN
4020	fill		4019	?MODERN
4021	cut	?posthole		?MODERN
4022	fill		4021	?MODERN
4023	cut	?stakehole		?MODERN
4024	fill		4023	?MODERN
4025	layer	occupation layer		MIA
4026	structure	rampart		MIA
4027	layer	rampart		MIA
4028	structure	rampart		MIA
4029	layer			MIA
4030	layer			?EIA-MIA
4031	layer	natural		UN
4032	layer	rampart tumble		?MIA
4033	layer			MIA
4034	cut	other natural feature		UN

4035	layer	rampart		MIA
4036	layer	surface		MIA
4037	layer			?EIA-MIA
4038	layer			MIA
4039	layer	surface		MIA
4041	cut	?stakehole		MIA
4042	layer	rampart		MIA
4043	layer	surface		MIA
4044	layer	rampart		ROM+
4045	layer	surface		MIA
4046	cut	posthole		MIA
4047	fill		4046	MIA
4048	cut	robber trench		MIA
4049	layer			MIA
4050	layer			MIA
4051	layer	surface		MIA
4052	cut	posthole		MIA
4053	fill		4052	MIA
4054	cut	posthole		MIA
4055	fill		4054	MIA
4056	cut	?stakehole		UN
4057	cut	robber trench		MIA
4058	fill		4057	MIA
4059	layer	rampart		MIA
4060	layer	ploughsoil		?EIA-MIA
4061	layer			MIA
4062	layer			MIA
4063	cut	pit		MIA
4064	cut	posthole		MIA
4065	fill		4064	MIA
4066	layer			?EIA-MIA
4067	layer			MIA
4068	layer	natural		UN
4069	fill		4063	MIA
4070	fill		4063	MIA
4071	fill		4063	MIA
4072	fill		4063	MIA
4073	cut	ditch		MIA
4074	fill		4073	MIA
4075	fill		4063	MIA
4076	fill		4063	MIA
4077	fill		4063	MIA
4078	fill		4063	MIA
4079	fill		4063	MIA
4080	cut	stakehole		UN
4081	fill		4080	UN
4082	cut	stakehole		UN
4083	fill		4082	UN
4084	cut	stakehole		UN

4085	fill		4084	UN
4086	cut	other natural feature		UN
4087	fill		4086	UN
4088	cut	other natural feature		UN
4089	fill		4088	UN
4090	cut	stakehole		UN
4091	fill		4090	UN
4092	cut	stakehole		?MIA
4093	fill		4092	?MIA
4094	cut	other natural feature		?MIA
4095	fill		4094	?MIA
4096	layer			UN
4097	cut	irregular hollow hole		UN
4098	fill		4097	UN
4099	cut	ardmark		?MIA
4100	layer			?EIA-MIA
4101	fill		4090	UN
4102	fill		4086	UN
4103	fill		4086	UN
4104	fill		4063	MIA
4105	cut	stakehole		?MIA
4106	fill		4105	?MIA
4107	cut	?stakehole		UN
4108	fill		4107	UN
4109	cut	other natural feature		?MIA
4110	fill		4109	?MIA
4111	cut	?stakehole		MIA
4112	fill		4111	MIA
4113	cut	?stakehole		UN
4114	fill		4113	UN
4115	fill		4063	MIA
4116	fill		4063	MIA
4117	fill		4088	UN
4118	cut	pre-rampart pit		?EIA-MIA
4119	fill		4118	?EIA-MIA
4120	fill		4063	MIA
4122	fill		4126	?EIA-MIA
4123	fill		4126	?EIA-MIA
4124	layer			MIA
4125	cut	ardmarks		?EIA-MIA
4126	cut	tree throw		?EIA-MIA
4127	fill		4131	MIA
4128	fill		4131	MIA
4129	cut	irregular hollow hole		UN
4130	fill		4129	UN
4131	cut	ditch		MIA
4132	fill		4056	UN

Field drawings within the site archive:

Plans:

400: (4032)

401: [4019], (4025), (4032), (4033)

402: (4002), [4003], [4005], [4007], [4013], [4015], [4017], [4021], (4025), [4026], (4027), [4028]

403: (4027), [4028], (4035), (4036), (4039), [4056]

404: (4025), [4026], (4027), (4043), (4045), [4046]

405: [4026], (4027), [4028], (4036), (4045)

406: (4027), (4042), (4045), [4046], (4051), [4052], [4054]

407: [4028], (4039)

408: [4063], [4064]

409: (4061)

410: [4063], (4070), (4071)

411: [4063], [4073], (4074), (4075), (4076), (4077)

412: [4063], [4073], (4074), (4078), (4079)

413: [4063], [4073], (4074), (4077)

414: [4086]

415: [4063], (4115), (4116), [4125]

416: (4042), [4080], [4082], [4084], [4090], [4099], [4125]

417: (4036), [4118]

418: [4063], [4073]

Sections:

4.01: [4054]

4.02: [4046]

4.03: [4052]

4.04A: (4039), [4057], (4059)

4.04B/C: [4057]

4.05: [4086]

4.06: (4025), (4027), [4028], (4035), (4039), (4042), (4045), (4051), (4059), [4118], [4126]

4.07: (4025), (4062), [4063], [4073]

4.08: (4025), (4027), [4028], (4042), (4059), [4073], [4131]

4.09: [4064]

TOPSOIL

Layer (4000) (plan 400, sections 4.04A and B/C, 4.06, 4.07 and 4.08), a loose mid-brown loam which overlay **contexts (4001), (4002), (4025), (4026), (4027), (4028)** and **(4029)**. Three small finds were located in the topsoil: an undated copper alloy rod or handle (SF 452), an undated iron object (SF 461) and a ceramic disc or counter, possibly of Roman date (SF 449). Fragments of an adult human skull were found in this layer.

NATURAL

Layer (4031) = (4068) context number **(4031)** appears only on Sections 4.04A and 4.04B/C from 1999 while **(4068)** is shown on Sections 4.06, 4.07 and 4.08 from 2000. Both numbers refer to the same layer of natural chalk bedrock which underlay all of trench 4.

STRUCTURES

Structure [4026] (plans 402, 404, 405, no section) a line of sarsen stones c. 1.7m from the eastern end of the trench visible across its entire width, c. 40-50cm x 30cm in size. Seven of the stones are *in situ* and three appear to have tumbled from their original placements. See detailed description in the main text. This was considered to be the back facing of the rampart.

Structure [4028] (plans 402, 403, 405 and 407, sections 4.06 and 4.08) a row of sarsen stones c. 3.7m from the eastern end of the trench visible across its entire width, of similar sizes to those in [4026]. Refer to main text for a full description. This was considered to be the front facing of the rampart.

CUTS

Cut [4003] (plan 402, no section) a possible stakehole approximately 7m from the eastern end of the trench, c. 4-5cm in diameter, 8-10cm deep with a pointed profile possibly cutting topsoil **layer (4000)** and definitely cutting disturbed soil **layer (4002)**. The feature had a single **fill (4004)** which was the same composition as **topsoil (4000)**. No artefacts were recovered in this feature. This cut was thought to possibly be a stakehole, perhaps from a modern fence.

The same physical description and interpretation as for **cut [4003]** is applicable to the following cuts and their single fills: **[4005]/(4006)**, **[4007]/(4008)**, **[4009]/(4010)**, **[4011]/(4012)**, **[4015]/(4016)**, **[4017]/(4018)**, **[4019]/(4020)**, **[4021]/(4022)** and **[4023]/(4024)**. **Cut [4013]** had the same physical description, but **fill (4014)** contained 27 sherds, 184gm, of residual prehistoric pottery.

Cut [4034] (no drawings) a hollow behind the rampart which cut **layer (4025)**. No fill number was assigned and there were no associated artefacts. This cut was interpreted as a natural feature.

Cut [4041] (no drawings) a circular cut, c. 7.5cm in diameter, c. 12.5cm deep, with a pointed profile cut into **layer (4025)**. No fill number assigned; no finds from this feature. This was thought to be a possible stakehole.

Cut [4046] (plan 406, section 4.02) a circular posthole c. 13cm in diameter, 65cm deep with straight sides and a flat bottom located near the centre of the trench, c. 1.7m from the eastern end. **Fill (4047)** was a friable mid brown loam with 1-2cm flecks of charcoal and 5-10cm burnt sarsens likely to have originated in **layer (4051)**. Nine animal bones were excavated in the fill of this feature. One of three postholes located at the rear of the rampart that may originally have contained a revetting post.

Cut [4048] (no drawings) a ditch of irregular V-shape with a maximum width of 1m cut into **layer (4002)** at the front face of the front **rampart [4028]**. No fill number was assigned to this cut feature and no artefacts were recovered in it. This cut was considered to be a robber trench at the front face of the rampart.

Cut [4052] (plan 406, section 4.03) an oval hole c. 17 x 13cm and 88cm deep cut into **layer (4061)** located c. 2.4m from the eastern end of the trench and 0.20m from the north trench edge. The hole had a flat bottom with the sides slightly inclined to the west. There was only one **fill (4053)** in the feature, composed of dark grey loam with abundant charcoal pieces c. 2cm or larger in size. A particular concentration of burnt sarsens up to 15cm in size was noted at the bottom of the fill although they were present throughout. Finds from this fill consisted of 7 sherds, 26gm of prehistoric pottery and 18 animal bones. Second of three postholes at the rear of the rampart that may have originally contained a revetting post.

Cut [4054] (plan 406, section 4.01) a circular hole c. 13cm in diameter and c. 72cm in depth with straight sides and a flat bottom centred c. 1.8m from the eastern end of the trench and c. 0.5m from its southern edge cut into **layer (4060)**. Burnt sarsen, possibly from **layer (4051)**, was recovered from the single **fill (4055)**. Two sherds of early Early Iron Age pottery, each weighing more than 100gm, were recovered from this feature. This was thought to be the third of three postholes at the rear of the rampart which may have originally contained a revetting post.

Cut [4056] (plan 403, no section) a 6cm circular hole, c. 9cm deep cut into one of the sarsens in the top of **front rampart [4028]** located c. 3.9m from the eastern end of the trench and c. 0.70cm from the southern edge of the trench. No finds were made in its **fill (4132)**. This cut was a possible stakehole in a sarsen in the front rampart.

Cut [4057] (no plan, section 4.04) a roughly V-shaped cut visible in the southern trench section c. 18.7m from the eastern end of the trench. The feature cut **layers (4002), (4033)** and **(4059)**. No artefacts were recovered from the single **fill (4058)**, a brown friable loam c. 20% small chalk inclusions of 2-3cm size. This was interpreted as a possible robber hole.

Cut [4063] (plans 408, 410, 411, 412, 413, 415 and 418, section 4.07) a large, partially exposed beehive-shaped pit with a depth of c. 1.35m located at the eastern edge of the trench, cutting **layer (4061)** and **natural (4068)**. The visible portion was c. 1.42m east to west and 1.40m north to south, with the lip c. 0.6m from the southern trench edge and 0.8m from the northern trench edge. Thirteen **fills** were described in the pit: **(4069), (4070), (4071), (4072), (4075), (4076), (4077), (4078), (4079), (4104), (4115), (4116)** and **(4120)**. There is a full discussion of the finds in these fills in the main text. This cut was a pit with strong evidence of both structured and casual deposition.

Cut [4064] (plan 408, section 4.09) an ovoid feature in the south eastern corner of the trench c. 25 x 23cm at its top and c. 41cm deep at its relatively flat base. Approximately 12cm from the top of the cut the hole narrowed to approximately 14cm in width before expanding again to 26cm at about 31cm in depth. A single large burnt sarsen was sticking out of the top of **fill (4064)**, the only fill in the feature. The fill was composed of dark brown loam with charcoal flecks and 40% chalk lumps and contained 1 sherd, 36gm of prehistoric pottery and 5 animal bones. This was considered to be a probable posthole.

Cut [4073] (plans 411, 412, 413 and 418, sections 4.07 and 4.08) a broad, U-shaped cut which recuts **pit [4131]** and cuts **pit [4063]**, was partially exposed in the north-eastern corner of the trench, having only a single **fill (4074)**. See the main text for a full discussion of the relationship of this feature to other cuts in the trench and finds. This feature was a pit.

Cut [4080] (plan 416, no section) a roughly circular hole c. 5cm in diameter with a sharp shoulder break and 6cm deep located approximately 3.10m from the eastern trench edge and adjacent to the northern trench edge, cutting pre-rampart **layer (4061)** and **natural (4031) = (4068)**. On the west side, the cut was vertical to a depth of 3cm, where there was a small flat step, after which the side sloped to the east, while the south side was vertical and the east side was undercut. No artefacts were recovered from its single **fill (4081)**. One of a line of three stakeholes spaced at c. 30cm intervals; aligned with **[4082]** and **[4084]**.

Cut [4082] (plan 416, no section) a circular hole c. 4cm in diameter, 5.5cm deep with a V-shaped profile with a sharp shoulder break located c. 3.20m from the eastern trench end and c. 30cm from the northern trench edge, cutting pre-rampart **layer (4061)** and **natural (4031) = (4068)**. No finds were made when the feature's mid-brown clay silt with c. 40% small chalk inclusions single **fill (4084)** was excavated. Second of a line of three stakeholes spaced at c. 30cm intervals; aligned with **[4080]** and **[4084]**.

Cut [4084] (plan 416, no section) a circular hole c. 4.5cm in diameter and 5.5cm deep with a sharp shoulder break located c. 3.20m from the eastern trench end and c. 60cm from the northern trench edge, cutting pre-rampart **layer (4061)** and **natural (4031) = (4068)**. The western side of the hole had a vertical profile and a regular surface while the remaining three sides had vertical slopes but irregular surfaces and the base of the cut was flat. No finds were made in the feature's mid-brown clay silt **fill (4085)** that had c. 65-70% chalk inclusions of less than 1cm diameter. Third of a line of three stakeholes spaced at c. 30cm intervals; aligned with **[4080]** and **[4082]**.

Cut [4086] (plans 414 and 416, section 4.05) a circular dark patch c. 46cm in diameter cutting natural **layer (4031) = (4068)** to a maximum depth of c. 20cm. There were three **fills**: light brown loam with small shattered chalk inclusions **(4087)**, light grey chalky material **(4102)** and weathered chalk **(4103)**, none of which contained artefacts. Initially thought to be a possible posthole, upon excavation the feature was found to be an animal burrow.

Cut [4088] (plan 416, no section) an irregular cut c. 32 x 26cm through **layer (4096)** into natural **layer (4031) = (4068)** located c. 4.5m from the eastern end of the trench and c. 80cm from the northern edge which was not fully excavated. The feature was described as "...an irregular depression to the east with two deep oval holes to the west". The upper portion of the cut was described as being root damaged and possibly cut by an animal burrow. The upper fill of the feature, **layer (4089)**, was composed of light brown loam with numerous shattered chalk inclusions while lower **fill (4117)** within the two holes was described as friable weathered chalk with frequent chalk lumps 0.5-5.0cm in size within a darker matrix, possibly a natural deposit. Neither fill contained any artefacts. Not well understood; the field sketch on context sheet [4088] suggests a possible double posthole or post- and stakehole combination with bases at a depth in excess of c. 25cm, though this measurement may be the result of the excavation technique. It is also possible that this was some type of natural feature.

Cut [4090] (plan 416, no section) a sub circular cut c. 7 x 8cm at its top but having a figure 8 configuration near its base, located c. 3.9m from the eastern end of the trench and c. 60cm from the northern trench edge. The feature was not fully excavated but probing suggested that the bottom would have been reached at a depth c. 9cm. The top 2cm of the cut held **fill (4091)**, light brown silt with chalk flecks, possibly originally a part of overlying **layer (4060) = (4066) = (4100)** which had sunk into the top of **cut [4090]**. Primary **fill (4101)** was composed of very pale yellow-brown friable silt containing c. 30% sub angular chalk pieces less than 1cm in size mixed with a small number of chalk pieces up to 3cm in size. No artefacts were found in either fill. This was possibly a reused stakehole or two intercutting stakeholes.

Cut [4092] (plan 416, no section) a sub circular cut c. 7 x 9cm in size into bedrock **layer (4031) = (4068)** with generally vertical sides located c. 4.0m from the eastern end of the trench and c. 12cm from its northern edge. It was not fully excavated, but probing suggested that the cut was c. 10cm deep. The single fill of the feature, **context (4093)**, was friable very pale yellowish grey silt with 10-20% sub angular chalk inclusions less than 2cm in size, similar to the matrix surrounding weathered chalk bedrock **layer (4096)**. This was a possible stakehole.

Cut [4094] (plan 416, no section) an amorphous patch c. 20 x 14cm in size cutting **layer (4096)** and natural **layer (4031) = (4068)** located c. 4.4m from the eastern end of the trench and c. 20cm from the north trench edge. The depth of this feature is unknown. A single **fill** of mixed soil and soft chalk **(4095)** was associated with this cut. No artefacts were found in the fill. Possibly a feature cut into the bedrock or a natural feature.

Cut [4097] (plans 416 and 417, no section) an amorphous hollow area with a maximum extent of 1.4 x 1.1m centred c. 5.0m from the eastern end of the trench at a point approximately equidistant from the north and south edges of the trench. The hollow cut **layer (4096)** and bedrock **layer (4031) = (4068)**. The hollow was cut by the ardmarks in **group [4099] = [4125]**. The feature had a single **fill (4098)** composed of light brown silt with a high percentage of 3-6cm size chalk lumps; the fill did not contain any artefacts.

This was a possible tree throw dating from a period prior to the cutting of the field with an ard.

Cuts [4099] = [4125] (plans 416 and 417, no section) a group of ardmakes oriented southeast-northwest visible across the full width of the trench c. 5.0-5.8m from the eastern trench end. The marks cut **layers (4096), (4124)** and bedrock layer **(4031) = (4068)** as well as possible **tree throw [4097]** discussed above. These were interpreted as ardmakes cutting into bedrock layer.

Cut [4105] (no drawings) a sub circular hole c. 7-8cm in diameter and c. 12cm deep with rounded shoulders and a rounded but V-shaped base cutting chalk natural **layer (4031) = (4068)**. The upper 2-3cm of the cut were described as weathered chalk so their original corner break of the feature could not be determined. The single **fill (4106)** was composed of friable slightly yellowish grey silt with c. 30-40% sub angular chalk inclusions less than 1cm in size. No finds were made in the fill of this feature. This cut was a stakehole.

Cut [4107] (no drawings) described as a "small roundish hole" at an unspecified location, probably overlain by **ploughsoil (4060) = (4066) = (4100)**, filled by **(4108)**, very pale yellowish-brown friable clay silt with c. 30% sub angular chalk pieces less than 3cm in size which contained no artefacts.

This was another possible stakehole.

Cut [4109] (no drawings) an "amorphous patch in the bedrock" **layer (4031) = (4068)** at an unspecified location overlain by **ploughsoil (4060) = (4066) = (4100)**, with **fill (4110)** being light to mid-brown soil containing chalk fragments but no artefacts. This cut was possibly a natural feature.

Cut [4111] (no drawings) a "small, amorphous patch...on chalk bedrock" **layer (4031) = (4068)** at an unspecified location overlain by **ploughsoil (4060) = (4066) = (4100)**, with **fill (4112)** being light to mid-brown soil with chalk fragments. No artefacts were recovered from this fill. This was interpreted as being another possible stakehole.

Cut [4113] (no drawings) a poorly described "small amorphous patch of soil in bedrock", probably cutting natural **layer (4031) = (4068)**. The single **fill** of the feature **(4114)** was not described and held no artefacts. A feature thought to be a possible stakehole or animal burrow.

Cut [4118] (plan 417, section 4.06) a partially exposed pit under ploughsoil **layer (4100) = (4060)**, centred c. 5.2m from the eastern trench end along the southern edge of the trench, which seems to have been cut into two fills of pre-existing **cut [4126]**. The visible portion of the feature was c. 0.46m north to south and 0.88m east to west. The single **fill (4119)** in the feature was a dark brown to black friable clay loam with 20-30% chalk inclusions. Artefact-free **fill (4119)** was cut by some of the ardmakes in the feature **group [4125]**. A pit with a single fill cut into the fills of a probable tree throw.

Cut [4126] (no plan, section 4.06) an irregular hole, c. 35cm deep, centred c. 5.25m from the eastern trench end, only partially exposed by the southern trench edge. The feature was c. 1.30m east-west and 0.90m north-south and cut the layer above the **bedrock, (4096)**, and bedrock **layer (4031) = (4068)**. The pit had two **fills, (4122) and (4123)**. No artefacts were recovered from either fill. This feature was cut by **feature [4118]** which is described above. Probably a tree throw.

Cut [4129] (plan 418, no section) a cut centred c. 0.80m from the eastern trench edge and c. 0.60m from the north-eastern corner of the trench. It was overlain by **layer (4061)** and cut by both **pit [4063]** at the south and **[4073]** at the north. The plan shows the excavated feature had a maximum length of c. 48cm and a maximum width of c. 24cm. The single **fill** of the feature, **(4130)**, was a dark brown soil with numerous chalk inclusions. An irregular natural feature, possibly a tree throw.

Cut [4131] (no plan, sections 4.07 and 4.08) this context number was issued during the post-excavation phase to identify the primary cut of a pit located in the north-eastern trench corner of natural **layer (4031) = (4068)**. The upper level of this feature was recut and described earlier as **cut [4073]**. There is a full discussion of this pit and its two **fills, (4127) and (4128)**, in the main text. This was the primary cut of a pit later recut by **[4073]**.

LAYERS

Layer (4001) (plan 400, sections 4.06 and 4.08) composed of loose, light brown soil with small flecks of chalk extending over much of the western end of the trench. The layer also extends up the slope towards the rampart where it thins and disappears as it approaches the top of the rampart. The section drawings show the layer varying in thickness from c. 20-40cm. Three iron finds were made in this layer: a cleat (SF 458), a hobnail (SF 459) and a nail (SF 472). The human bone assemblage in the layer consisted of pieces from one or more adults: a fragment from the right mandible, a rib fragment and a tooth. An assemblage of 96 animal bones also was recovered. The layer overlay shattered bedrock **layer (4030)**, sarsen **surface (4036)** and outer rampart **layer (4059)**. This was a probable subsoil layer.

Layer (4002) = (4029) (plan 402, sections 4.04 and 4.06) a brown loamy matrix with c. 80% chalk shatter averaging 5cm in size but with some specimens up to 10cm. This layer was overlain by the **topsoil (4000)** and lay above **layer (4035)** which is described below. It was cut by **robber trench [4048]**. Drawings show that the layer varied in thickness from c. 10-32cm. 42 sherds of prehistoric pottery with a total weight of 227gm, an adult human molar and 157 animal bones were recovered in this layer. This was the disturbed top layer of the outer rampart.

Layer (4025) (plans 402 and 404, sections 4.06, 4.07 and 4.08) lying beneath the **topsoil (4000)**, this context was located in the eastern c. 1.4-2.0m of the trench and was visible across the full c. 2.8m width of the trench. No physical description of the layer was recorded by the excavator. The layer abutted the rear sarsen face of the **rampart [4026]** and lay

above ploughsoil **layer (4060)**, early soil **layer (4062)** and **pit [4073]**. Finds in the layer included an iron cleat (SF 522), 32 sherds of prehistoric pot weighing 193gm, and 212 animal bones. This was an occupation level against the back of the rear rampart which contained fallen rampart stones embedded within it. The layer formed after the collapse of the rampart and accumulated around the rampart stones.

Layer (4027) (plans 402, 403, 404, 405 and 406, sections 4.06 and 4.08) a mid-brown loam matrix with chalk lumps up to c. 10cm in size. The layer primarily lay to the east of the front sarsen **rampart [4028]** although it was overlain by it in some areas, and extended under the sarsens which made up the rear **rampart face [4026]**. The context was centred approximately 2.7m from the eastern end of the trench and was visible across its full width; thickness of the layer as shown in section drawings varied from c. 7cm under **[4028]** to c. 15-16cm to the east of this rampart face. This layer was overlain by **layers (4000)** and **(4001)** and overlaid **layer (4042)**. It was noted by the excavator that the "end rear sarsen stone is deeper within **(4027)**," with the other stones sitting on the layer, perhaps with the deeper stone acting as some type of marker to aid in aligning the rampart. Artefacts found in the layer include an iron strip (SF 659), 26 sherds, 106gm, of prehistoric pottery and 96 animal bones.

This was a layer of rampart fill and a levelling platform for the rear sarsens.

Layer (4030) (plan 401, sections 4.04 and 4.08) a layer of chalk pieces no more than c. 5cm in size overlying chalk bedrock **layer (4031)** and beneath part of **layer (4033)** as well as **layers (4036)**, **(4037)** and **(4059)**. No artefacts were recovered from this layer. The context was interpreted as a layer of shattered bedrock.

Layer (4032) (plans 400 and 401, no section) a general number assigned to the large sarsens over c. 20cm in size from the front face of the rampart and were found randomly scattered across the western portion of the trench, starting c. 3.7m from the eastern trench end to the western end of the trench. The sarsens were overlain by **topsoil layer (4000)**, **layers (4002) = (4029)** and **(4035)**. No artefacts were found in this layer. This was a context composed of a tumble of sarsens from the front face of the rampart.

Layer (4033) (plan 401, section 4.06) shown on plan 401 as being visible in an area c. 8.0-11.4m from the eastern end of the trench along the southern trench edge. The exposed area covered the full width of the trench on its eastern end, tapering in width to c. 0.90m at its western end. The thickness of the deposit was not recorded and could not be estimated from the original section drawing. It was overlain by **layers (4035)** and **(4059)** and overlaid **layers (4037)** and **(4039)**. At its western end it was above **bedrock shatter (4030)**. Only seen to the west of the front rampart; sarsen tumble is on top of it and within it. Finds in the layer included two iron nails (SF 481 and 482), a single 7gm sherd of prehistoric pottery and 14 animal bones. The layer was thought to be composed of material washed down from rampart fill.

Layer (4035) (plan 403, section 4.06) densely packed chalk lumps c. 15-20cm in size within a fine brown loam matrix. This layer had larger chunks of chalk and was more

densely packed than **layer (4002) = (4029)** which overlay it, and lay above **layers (4032), (4033), (4039)** and **(4059)** and front sarsen **rampart [4028]**. The assemblage of artefacts found within the layer was composed of 4 sherds, 21gm of prehistoric pottery and 19 animal bones. This was a layer created by repeated dumps of material associated with the construction of the front rampart.

Layer (4036) (plans 403 and 405, section 4.08) a cobbled surface composed of 80% sarsen/20% chalk pieces averaging 10cm in size within a brown loam matrix. According to drawings, the layer varied in thickness from c. 14-32cm, extended to the west of the front **rampart [4028]** for a maximum distance of 1.6m along the northern trench edge and abutted the rampart for a southwards distance of c. 1.62m where it narrowed to only 12cm in width, thus forming a rather triangular area of pavement as viewed within the trench. Four animal bones were the only artefacts associated with this layer. This was thought to perhaps be a laid sarsen surface going up to the face of the rampart, perhaps to the hillfort entrance.

Layer (4037) (no plan, sections 4.04A and 4.08) a mid-brown clay loam containing 40% chalk pieces and flecks with a maximum size of c. 2cm located to the west of the front **rampart face [4028]**. This was overlain by **layers (4033), (4035)** and **(4059)** and overlay **(4030)** and bedrock **layer (4031) = (4068)**. Finds in the layer included 7 sherds, 25gm of prehistoric pottery and 10 animal bones. This may have been a layer of pre-rampart soil.

Layer (4038) (plans 403 and 416, section 4.08) a spread of brown loam with c. 40% chalk pieces 2-6cm in size and chalk flecks excavated in both 1999 and 2000. Laying to the west of front **rampart [4028]** and sarsen **surface (4036)** it centred approximately 4.5m from the eastern end of the trench and extended across the full width of the trench. It was overlain by **layers (4001), (4035)** and **(4036)** and overlay **(4039)**. The deposit tapered to a point at the western edge where it lay between **layers (4035)** and **(4039)**. 5 sherds, 41gm of prehistoric pottery and 18 animal bones were recovered in this layer. This was interpreted as a layer possibly composed of material eroded from front rampart.

Layer (4039) (plans 403 and 407, sections 4.04 and 4.06) a hard, compacted, possibly puddled, chalk surface c. 7-8cm thick over pure chalk rubble averaging 5-6cm in size laying to the west of the **rampart [4028]**, though abutting it at the southern edge of the trench. Centred approximately 5m from the eastern end of the trench, it was visible for c. 2m at the southern edge of the trench but for only 30cm at the northern trench edge, forming a rough right angle triangle as viewed in the trench. It was overlain by **layers (4035), (4045)** and **(4051)**, lying above **layers (4037)** and **(4060) = (4100)**. Five sheep/goat bones were the only artefacts found in this layer. Although obviously manmade and respecting the front of the rampart, its full extent and function could not be determined within the confines of the trench.

Layer (4042) (plan 406, sections 4.06 and 4.08) consisted of brown loam with 20% chalk inclusions with a maximum size of 1-2cm located c. 3m from the eastern end of the trench

and visible on the southern trench edge. **Layer (4042)** was overlain by **layer (4027)** and overlay **(4030)**, **(4035)** and **(4042)**. Section drawings show the layer extending 0.85-1.15m with a maximum thickness of 12cm, though tapering to nothing towards the east. Finds in the layer included 16 sherds, 57gm, of prehistoric pottery, a fragment from an adult human skull and 27 animal bones. A layer within the rampart fills, between chalk rubble layer (4027) and sarsen **surface (4045)** at the entrance.

Layer (4043) (plan 403, no section) a cobbled surface composed 50/50 of sarsen and chalk pieces c. 10cm in size visible as two discrete patches of material to the east of rear **rampart [4026]** c. 1.6m from the eastern end of the trench. The more southerly patch, centred c. 94cm from northern trench edge, was c. 20cm east to west and c. 30cm north to south. The larger area was c. 34cm east to west and c. 50cm north to south, centred c. 34cm from the northern trench edge and ending within 8cm of it. It was overlain by **layer (4025)** and plan 408 from the second year of the excavation would suggest it overlaid **layer (4061)**. No artefacts were found in this layer. A paved surface to the east of the rear **rampart face [4026]** at the entrance end. Although similar to **layer (4036)** to the west of the front rampart, it was not part of this layer.

Layer (4044) (no drawings) was described as brown loam surrounding misplaced sarsens at the northern end of the rampart. These were overlain by **topsoil (4000)**. A total of 47 iron hobnails were recovered in two groups (SF 551 and SF 1127). A broken worked bone point (SF 1490) was also recovered in the layer along with 27 sherds with a total weight of 109gm of prehistoric pottery and 21 animal bones. This was possibly a layer of altered topsoil.

Layer (4045) (plans 404, 405 and 406, section 4.06) a spread of sarsen cobbles averaging 10cm in size within a brown loam matrix covering an area c. 0.7-1.5m east to west and extending c. 1.9m from the southern trench edge between the front and rear **ramparts ([4028]** and **[4026]** respectively). It was beneath **layer (4042)** and overlay **layers (4039)**, **(4050)** and **(4051)**. Small find 580 from this layer consisted of three iron items, two blade fragments and a pierced strip. Prehistoric pottery in the layer included 77 sherds, 442gm made of eight different fabrics. The head and neck from a human left femur and 298 animal bones, some of which lay upon the cobbled surface, came from this layer. A possibly laid surface which the excavator thought might be the same as **layers (4036)** and/or **(4043)**.

Layer (4049) (no drawings) a 2cm thick brown loam deposit with inclusions of chalk flecks and c. 2cm chalk pieces beneath and between the rear **rampart face sarsens [4026]**. It overlay **layer (4027)**. Artefacts found in the layer included 15 sherds, 28gm, of prehistoric pot and 30 animal bones.

This was interpreted as being possibly a thin layer of **topsoil (4000)** which had seeped down between the rear rampart sarsens, possibly as a result of biogenic activity or erosion.

Layer (4050) (plan 406, no section) a c. 1-2cm thick spread of brown loamy clay and charcoal pieces approximately 2.3m from the eastern end of the trench, visible across the

width of the trench. Excavated in 1999 and 2000, it was overlain by **layer (4045)** and lay above burnt sarsen **surface (4051)**. Two sherds of prehistoric pottery weighing 8gm and six animal bones were found in this layer. This was a layer to the east of the front **rampart [4028]**.

Layer (4051) (plan 406, section 4.06) a laid surface of sarsen cobbles c. 5-15cm in size, many of which show evidence of burning *in situ*, found to the east of the front **rampart [4028]**. This layer was centred c. 2.2m from the eastern end of the trench and was visible across most of the width of the trench. It was overlain by **layers (4045)** and **(4050)** and overlay **layers (4039)** and **(4060) = (4066) = (4100)**. The layer held 8 sherds, 64gm, of prehistoric pottery and 16 animal bones. This was explained as a basal layer in the rampart that exhibited evidence of burning.

Layer (4059) (no plan, sections 4.04, 4.06 and 4.08) a fairly compact chalk spread c. 15-20cm thick with a c. 10% brown loam matrix; the chalk pieces are up to 7-8cm in size. Located to the west of the front **rampart face [4028]** it was approximately 5.5m from the eastern trench end. It was overlain by **layers (4001)**, **(4002)** and **(4035)** and overlay **layers (4033)**, **(4037)** and **(4039)**. On a solid surface at its interface with **layers (4033)** and **(4039)**, it fades in thickness upwards towards **layer (4002)** except at its front face where it has large blocks from **layer (4035)** over it. No artefacts were associated with this layer. This layer was seen as a chalk dump at the outer **rampart [4028]**; the relationship, if any, between this chalk spread and similar appearing **surface (4035)** was undetermined.

Layer (4060) = (4066) = (4100) (plans 407, 408 and 409, sections 4.06 and 4.07) a light brown slightly sticky loam soil varying in thickness from c. 2 -22cm on section drawings. It was visible in the section of both the eastern and southern edges of the trench. At the eastern end of the trench it extended for c. 90cm from the southern trench edge, becoming wider to the west until at c. 4.6m from the eastern trench end it became visible across the full width of the trench. It was overlain by **layers (4025)**, **(4039)**, **(4042)**, **(4045)**, **(4051)** and **(4067)**. It lay directly above bedrock **layer (4031) = (4068)**. As excavation proceeded, it proved to be the same as **layer (4066)**. Finds logged as coming from **layer (4060)** including 32 sherds, 288gm, of prehistoric pottery and 37 animal bones. An additional four animal bones were recorded in **layer (4100)**. No finds were identified as coming from **(4066)**. This layer was a pre-rampart ploughsoil which formed the probable pre-rampart ground surface.

Layer (4061) (plans 408, 409 and 418, no section) a dense, packed layer of chalky rubble with a fairly small average stone size having one large burnt sarsen embedded in the layer at the northern trench edge. This layer occupied the eastern end of the trench in the area to the north of **layer (4060)** for a distance of c. 4.9m along the northern trench edge. This layer was cut by **posthole [4052]** and **stakeholes [4080]**, **[4082]** and **[4084]**. There seemed to be a sharply defined edge on the south side of the layer where it met **layer (4060)**. A single sherd of prehistoric pottery weighing 6gm and 10 animal bones were the only finds in this layer. This was a very early pre-rampart ground surface, possibly

contemporaneous with **(4060) = (4066) = (4100)**. It is possible that this is a trampled layer of upper bedrock shatter.

Layer (4062) (no plan, section 4.07) a layer of brown loam with charcoal flecks and chalk fragments. The layer is visible in the full 2.84m width of the section drawing of the eastern trench end. Its full western extent was not recorded on a plan, but the context sheet records the layer as abutting **layer (4061)**, so it may have extended c. 1.20m into the north eastern corner of the trench. The thickness of the layer varied from c. 7cm to c. 36cm on the section drawing and was thickest above **pits [4063]** and **[4131]**. **Layer (4062)** was overlain by **layer (4025)**. It overlies the upper **fill (4069)** of **pit [4063]**, the primary **fill (4074)** of **pit [4073]** and pre-rampart ploughsoil **layer (4060) = (4066) = (4100)**. Finds in the layer consisted of 6 sherds, 55gm of prehistoric pottery, a single 3gm sherd from a Roman black burnished wear bowl thought to be intrusive, and 45 animal bones. This was an early soil layer.

Layer (4067) (plan 409, no section) an irregular area of very black charcoal rich soil on the upper surface of **layer (4060)** c. 42 x 45cm in size centred c. 4.2m from the eastern end of the trench and c. 0.9m from the southern trench edge. No artefacts were associated with this layer. This was described as a possible patch of burning dated prior to the first phase of rampart construction.

Layer (4096) (plans 416 and 417, no section) an irregularly shaped patch of soft weathered fine-grained chalk above the natural **layer (4068) = (4031)**. Visible for c. 1.7m along the northern trench edge starting approximately 4.3m from the eastern end of the trench, it extended c. 0.55-1.20m southward. It is overlain by **layer (4060) = (4100)** and is cut by **natural features [4088]** and **[4094]**, **irregular hollow/possible tree throw [4097]** and ardmarks from **group [4125]**. This was interpreted as a chalk layer above bedrock with probable root disturbance.

Layer (4124) (no plan or section) a friable cream coloured matrix with fine chalk containing c. 80% angular and sub angular chalk pieces of variable sizes up to c. 5cm across. Described as having an irregular southern edge and merging imperceptibly with **layer (4096)** on its other sides, neither its thickness nor a central location point was recorded. The features just described, however, would suggest a location somewhere on the southern trench edge c. 4.5m from the eastern trench end and extending into the trench possibly 1.8-2.0m. Its upper surface was heavily scored by ardmak **group [4125]**. It was described as being overlain by **layer (4100) = (4060)** and overlaying **fill (4122)** of **pit [4126]**. The excavator described this as a layer of chalk shatter which has been changed and compacted by repeated ploughing, forming a cap over **fill (4122)**.