

### Section 3.4.8 Trench 8 physical description by context

A 1999 excavation of an area only 1.5 x 8m in size, trench 8 ran in a generally east-west direction in the area north of the hillfort and was located so as to reveal the western portion of the large enclosure ditch. Excavation in the trench was focused on gaining an understanding of the history of this ditch.

Context Number	Type	Description	Fill of	Phase
8000	layer	topsoil		MODERN
8001	layer	bedrock		UN
8002	layer	subsoil		ROM+
8003	cut	ditch		?LBA-EIA
8004	fill		8008	?EIA
8005	fill		8008	?EIA
8006	fill		8003	?LBA-EIA
8007	fill		8003	?LBA-EIA
8008	cut	ditch		?EIA

Field drawings within the site archive:

Plan 800: (8001) and [8003]

Section 8.1: (8000), (8002), [8003], (8004), (8005), (8006), (8007) and [8008]

#### TOPSOIL

The topsoil was designated as **layer (8000)**. It averaged 25cm in depth in this agriculturally active field.

#### NATURAL

The chalk bedrock was identified as **layer (8001)**.

#### CUTS

**Cut [8003]** (plan 800, section 8.1) was the primary cut of a steep-sided, flat bottomed ditch with a maximum depth of 2.7m, a top width of c. 4.5m and a basal width of c. 1.3m cut into the natural **layer (8001)** and thought to be part of the large enclosure seen as a cropmark north of Alfred's Castle. The primary fill of this feature was **(8007)**, coarse, rubbly chalk and brown-grey clay wash c. 20 - 50cm thick exhibiting horizontal stratigraphy showing multiple layers of sedimentation. The secondary fill of the ditch was **(8006)** which was a layer of light brown clay mixed with chalk wash and nodules up to 60cm thick.

**Cut [8008]** (no plan, section 8.1) was a V-shaped recut of **ditch [8003]** cut into **fill (8006)** of **ditch [8003]**. The base of this recut ditch was c. 20cm in width and approximately 1.4m deep. The primary fill of this cut was **layer (8005)**, dark grey rich organic clay up to 90cm thick with a fairly homogenous mix of small chalk nodules. The secondary fill of this feature was **(8004)**, an undisturbed layer of dark brown clay with a slight chalk matrix overlying **fill (8005)** and overlain by the subsoil, **layer (8002)**.

## **LAYERS**

**Layer (8002)** (section 8.1) was composed of light, fine-grained disturbed chalky soil with a maximum thickness of 30cm that extended across the entire trench directly below **topsoil (8000)**. It overlay the **natural (8001)** and the upper **fill (8004)** of recut **ditch [8008]**.