

CAMBRIDGE INDEPENDENT ARCHAEOLOGY – CIA20

Report of the interim excavations at Nine Wells, Whittlesford in 2015

Part I -TR9 Report 2015

A general discussion of the trench, overview of findings, and conclusions.
Further details of earlier excavations of this area of the site from 2013 and 2014 can be
accessed from www.ciarch.org.uk

in addition

Part II – TR9 Day to Day Details

A detailed, pictorial and graphical representation of the excavation,
contexts and sections of
Trench 9 Ext 2015

JNelson

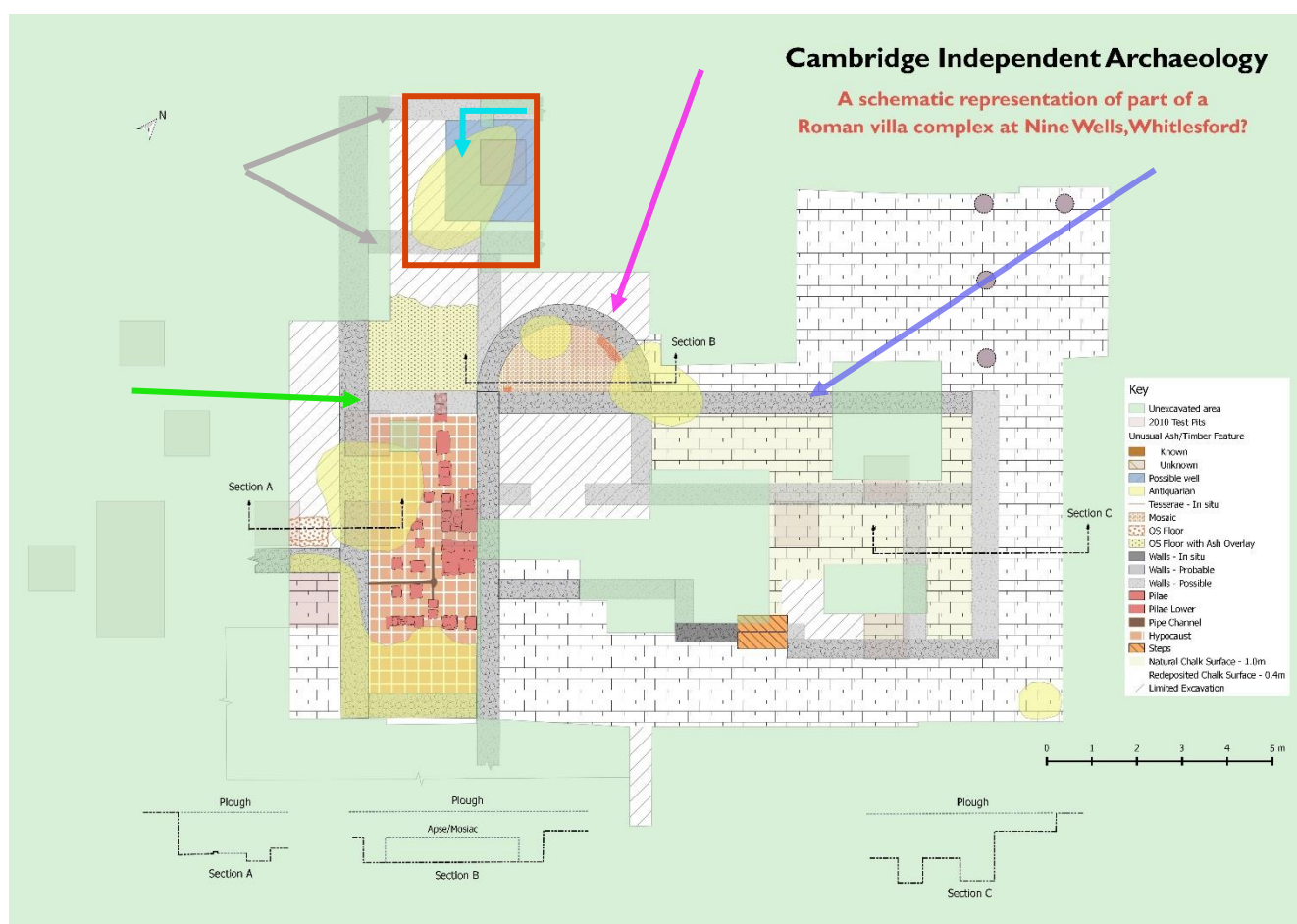
CAMBRIDGE INDEPENDENT ARCHAEOLOGY – CIA20

Report of the interim excavations at Nine Wells, Whittlesford in 2015

Part I -TR9 Report 2015

A general discussion of the trench, overview of findings, and conclusions.

Further details of earlier excavations of this area of the site from 2013 and 2014 can be accessed from www.ciarch.org.uk



The area of excavation for TR9 in 2015 is outlined in red in the schematic representation. Within that area you can see the following:-

- 1) Within the bold red rectangle see a small faint square (within a larger blue area) representing the position of a test pit (I15/16) dug in 2010.
- 2) A blue area that is considered to be a well/sump/reservoir and is the area where the deepest excavation took place in 2015.
- 3) An irregular pale yellow area, within the red rectangle, thought to be a robbed out area.
- 4) The turquoise arrow in the furthest NE corner represents a rubble layer suggestive of a wall laying in a roughly North East - South West direction with a near 90° return all with substantial amounts of redistributed chalk below. These 'walls' may not represent villa walls but may be shorter, retaining walls related to the well/sump/reservoir.
- 5) The two grey arrows point to what may possibly be (unconfirmed) walls associated with the villa complex.

- 6) The bright green arrow points to what we believe may be a further wall line and, in the diagram, it is suggested that it continues in a NW direction.
- 7) The pink arrow points to the outline of an apse feature discovered in 2011.
- 8) The blue arrow indicates a partly excavated wall foundation trench, excavated in 2014, that is considered to be associated with the wall indicated by the green arrow.

View of the 'well' area at end of season 2014

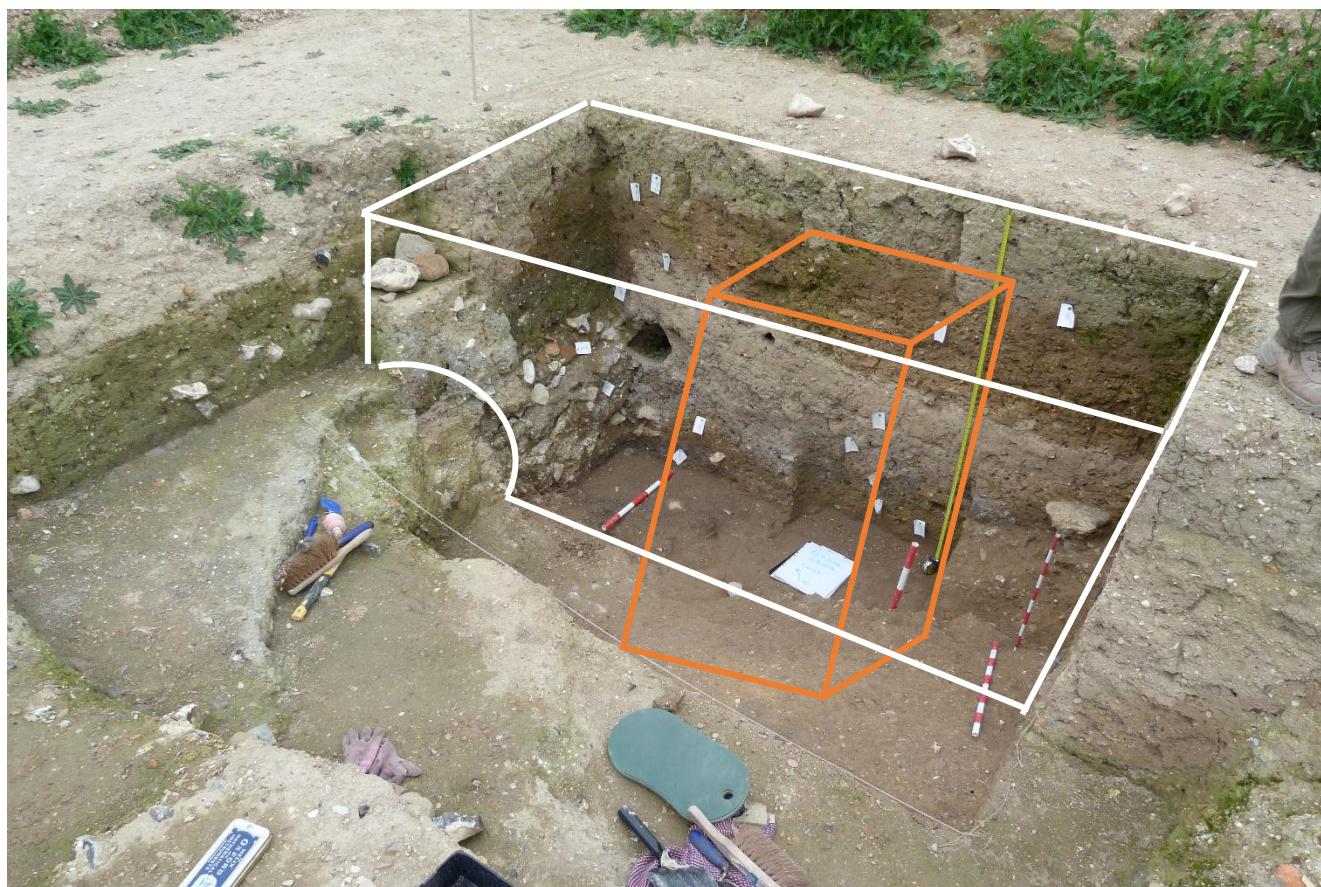


Figure 1: View NNE

Early investigations carried out in 2009 had revealed this part of the site to have high resistance on geophysical survey. In 2010 a test pit, I15/16, was excavated to investigate the 'geofiz' response. (Note graphic representation of this test pit in orange, Fig 1). This test pit was dug to differing depths in each of the four quadrants. In the SW quadrant (dug to 100cm) a fragment of mortarium was found. The NE quadrant was found to not be 'natural' even at 130cm. Finds in this 2010 test pit included 7 pot, 17 pieces of painted plaster, 30 tesserae, close to 2kg of mixed roof and flue tile and brick, and some mortar and opus signinum. In 2013 a further large amount of painted plaster was found within the area outlined in white, along with some pot and general debris of CBM as found across the whole site. Further analysis and logging of all finds is still underway and should be available by the end of 2016.

It would appear that there have been natural depressions, pingoes, in this area for a great length of time and the site is also well documented to be the location of the Chronicle Hills, barrows that even in the 1800's were being excavated and found to contain human remains.¹ It is very likely that Iron Age settlers may well have made this area their home too². A roman shrine was also excavated by this group in 2009.³ Over time there will have been remodelling of homesteads/villas and perhaps ransacking and demolition or destruction of the villa by whoever at various early times. Each circumstance would require the removal or dispersal of debris which may have contributed to the generalised sharply angled layers of demolition fabrics across the site, into hollows and other natural depressions, though sometimes the angles can be opposing one another. Subsequent later medieval and post mediaeval ploughing of the site with further agricultural processes and the impact of the Enclosure Laws will have remodelled the surface layers. In addition, the levelling of the site

as mentioned in a National Register Report in 1818⁴, is likely to have further contributed to extensive trashing of the area and consequent complex levels of debris across the site.

Most contexts in this trench appear to fall in a NE direction and the deepest context revealed in 2014 is in the furthest NE corner of Figure 1. Previous years excavations had suggested a pit/sump/well feature from early discoveries of a seemingly semi-circular deposition of quite blue grey, soft deposits at about 35cm from the surface. Further west, near to the site, close to the edge of the trackway, water does pool and of course the site is known as Nine Wells so it may be that over the years it has been subject to laying water in natural, pingoes, or unnatural dips in the terrain which may have contributed to a marshy, silty blue/grey deposition in places.

The plan for 2015 was to try to clarify further what this area of the trench held, its formation and its possible use.

The scruffy rubble feature discovered in 2013, see Fig 2, remained as a tantalising suggestion of either a wall or the substructure of a wall. Complex layers of brown soil/grey soil/CBM/brown soil/grey soil/CBM were assiduously chased out in 2014 in an attempt to establish contemporaneous context levels. But the secrets of this area remained hidden. In 2015, knowing that the site would be backfilled regardless after a short season of excavating, it was necessary to be more direct.



Figure 2: The rubble feature, showing between the red/white measures, above redeposited chalk clumps

The early discovery of an angular return to the rubble feature, Figure 3, dispelled the idea of a curving, semi-circular feature. But there had definitely been a suggestion of that. Does this suggest that from whatever time the squarer feature went out of service the depression in the terrain naturally filled with a soft, water logged fill resulting in the grey circular feature seen on early excavation in 2013 and the repetitive grey/soil/grey/soil layers. Then, the suggestion that this was an area of 'robbers' and antiquarians activity and the time constraints looming allowed a more speedy approach to the excavation. However, the only indication of robbers was the truncated rubble return. No finds have yet been dated that would support antiquarian 'robbers'. Pot is being analysed and painted plaster was found at all layers, not that that would indicate a date either. The only firm evidence of robbing continues to lay alongside the abrupt interruption to the run of the

scruffy rubble feature in a SW/NE direction, seen in Figure 3, which could have occurred many, many years before antiquarians!



Figure 3: the rubble feature makes a turn in a NW/SW direction. Note where it discontinues adjacent to the red/white measure

Rather, does the continual discovery of layer after layer of thin grey/brown/CBM deposits to at least a depth of 40cm below plough, and tilting at approximately 10 °downwards towards the NE, the deepest context, discount any activity during the past 200yrs. Surely that level of built-up layers must have taken many more years than since the 'antiquarians' and thus suggest much earlier destruction.

Time was against us and so, in order to at least resolve the depth to natural in the deepest corner of the area it was necessary to abandon further investigations into the shape and extent of the angular feature and concentrate on a sondage in the NE corner.

Discussion of findings

This 2015 excavation concentrated solely again on the TR9 extension in the area of the 'well' feature.

It would seem reasonable to presume that our early suspicions of there being a circular feature in this area at some time is confirmed. However, the circular nature of it may on the one hand appear to have been a later result due to robbing at some point in the past of the angular wall feature, and wet/damp conditions contributing to a later, vaguely circular deposit of silty blue. It appears that a scoop may have been cut out of the natural chalk at some early time, very early perhaps, and the depression formed made more secure with a rough rubble surrounding wall. We still don't know that original date of build but at least a dateable butt beaker base was found deep in the fill below the level of that 'wall'. Was the vague rubble wall built after the sherd was dropped or was the wall there before-hand. Was the rubble wall robbed early in the early occupation years, or later in the 'antiquarian' era? How long would it take for the feature to be transformed, filled, in layers, naturally, after robbing activity thus changing the original shape of the feature from squarish to circular? The water table may also have been higher in early Roman times and before.

Was this a filtered reservoir filling upwards from a spring or was it dug to be a sump to drain away from the adjacent building if it was contemporaneous? We will need to check the characteristics of chalk samples to establish if it is permeable or not, and/or is it chalk suitable for building material? The rubble feature, which is suggestive of an angular/square shaped wall, appears to have come after the scoop into the natural chalk (210cm below surface) and there is much redistributed chalk below the rubble remains, C1388, S51, Figure 2, down to natural chalk at approx. 220cm. How does the semi-square rubble feature fit with the original scoop into chalk? We can confirm that the base of a butt beaker, Figure 31, was found at the bottom of this sondage, so that can date its earliest use at least.

The author does not believe the demolition of the square rubble feature occurred by antiquarians but occurred very many years beforehand and perhaps occurred any time after the years of habitation of this villa site. The frequency and consistency of differing fills across the area appear convincing that it took many more than 200yrs to build up such a depth of layered deposits. Finds in general are always mixed up on this site, pottery is not abundant but perhaps we might be lucky and on examination of the finds in store we may still find some reasonable pattern of pottery dating to confirm long established layers of deposits. We know antiquarians were investigating the site but no proof has been established in this area of the TR9 extension.



View of area at end of season 2015

Part II – TR9 Day to Day Details

A detailed, pictorial and graphical representation of the excavation contexts and finds of Trench 9 Ext 2015

Figure 1-3 shows the area at the start of the season. A bit tired with lots of debris fallen up against the sections!



Fig 1 Facing NE



Fig 2 Facing SE



Fig 3 Facing NE

The height of the NE trench wall, Section 33, was reduced for safety and the TD2 was lowered by 50cm. This resulted in TD2 being 78cm below TD1.

The area was then cleaned down to the levels of 2014.

Figure 3:

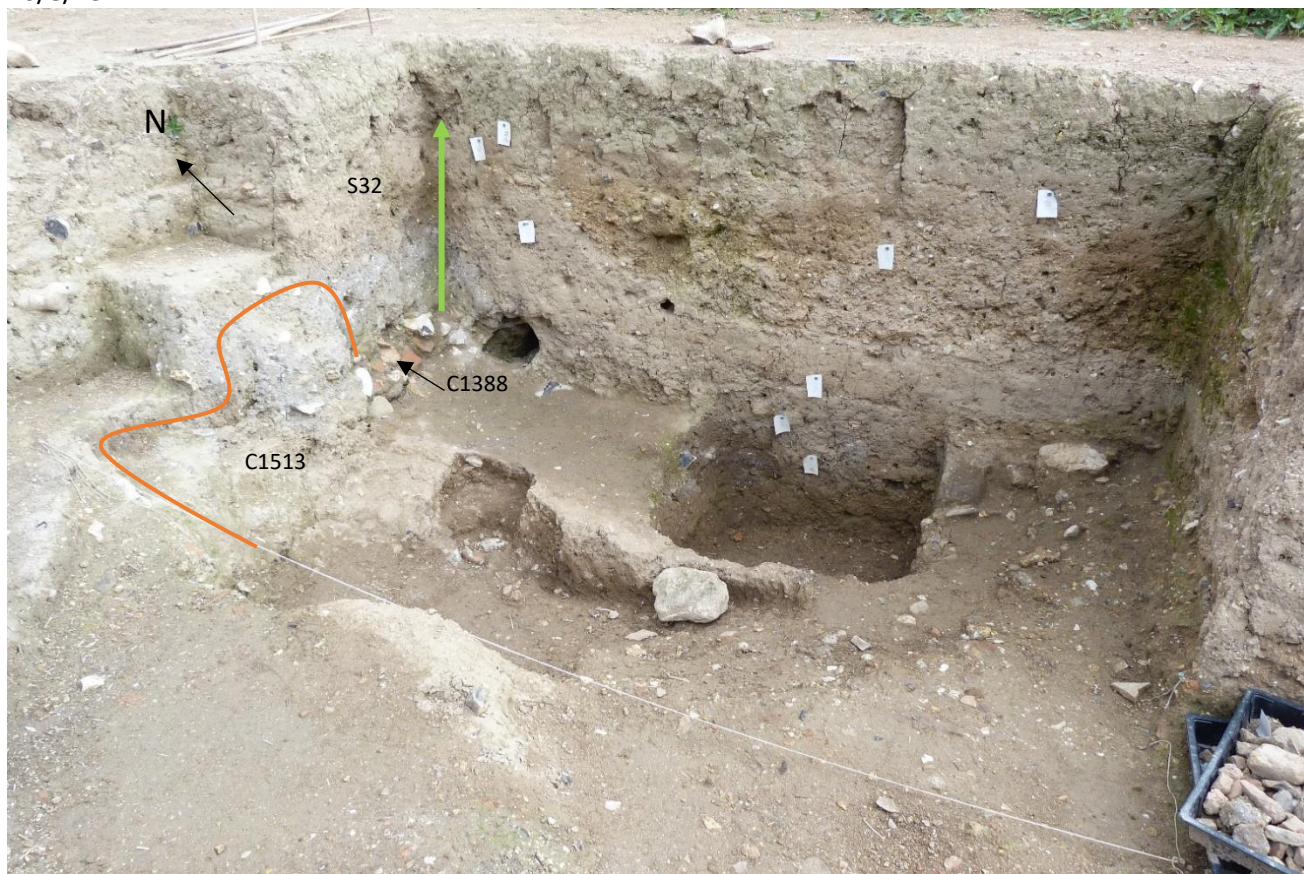


Figure 4 An old photo used to indicate area of C1513, to the right of the orange line

Adam Lister began by investigating the C1388 (rubble wall) and the C1474 (chalk blocks below C1388 see Figure 5) layers from the NE trench section, S51. The chalk appears to have been deposited in three large chunks. He continued clearing further towards the NW (indicated by orange area Figure 4), revealing a fill of OS, plaster, Colyweston tile, flue tile and other building material which appeared to be a continuation of C1388 next to the cut 1441 (green arrow Fig 4). This was a new context, C1513, and was taken out vertically not in stratigraphical layers. The CBM was dispersed within an ashy, friable, cinder like grey context material also with some fragments of burn/ wood/charcoal. A ledge appears at 60cm below TD2 (TD2 now 78cm below TD1, the surface level across the site), in the same alignment as the C1474 chalk, and extends 9-10 cm out from the NW face. See Figure 6



Figure 6: Red dashed line indicates limit of excavation in 2014. Fill C1513 removed exposing rubble and ledge.

The edge of the ledge clips the line of chalk nearer the NE wall face, S33. See blue dashed line in Figure 7, looking NE



Figure 7:

AL continued to follow the chalk rubble feature towards the SW/NW trench section and progressed the excavation 10cm beyond the original area defined in 2014 to reveal an apparent return at an angle to both C1388 and C1474. See Figure 8/7. At this point the fill becomes more just like soil with no finds, C1517. Since these layers lie in complex dipping directions towards the NE it may be that C1517 could compare to C1389 (seen in Section 33 in 2014) much lower down from the surface. The lowest exposed surface level of excavation at end 2014 was as seen, the top of C1464

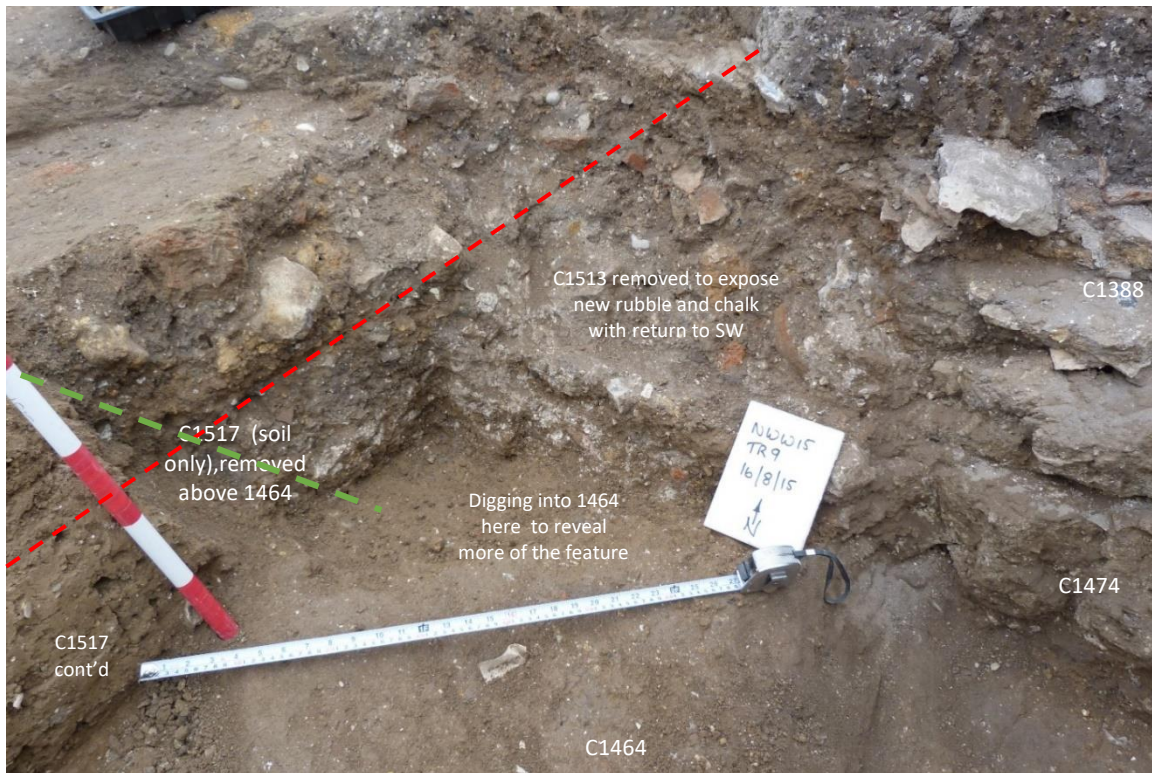


Figure 8: C1517 Removed from 10cm increase in area extension to the original 2014 layout. Note green dashed line showing extent of C1517 removed at this time.

16/8/15 JN: In 2014 a difference was noted between the north and south areas of the context C1451 (laying above C1463 and C1464). As a result they are referred to as C1451N and C1451S. The contexts below C1451 were numbered C1464 and C1463 respectively. In 2015 the northern context, C1464, seems to be more clay and the southern, C1463, has more CBM. No finds of any merit were recovered however. See Figure 9

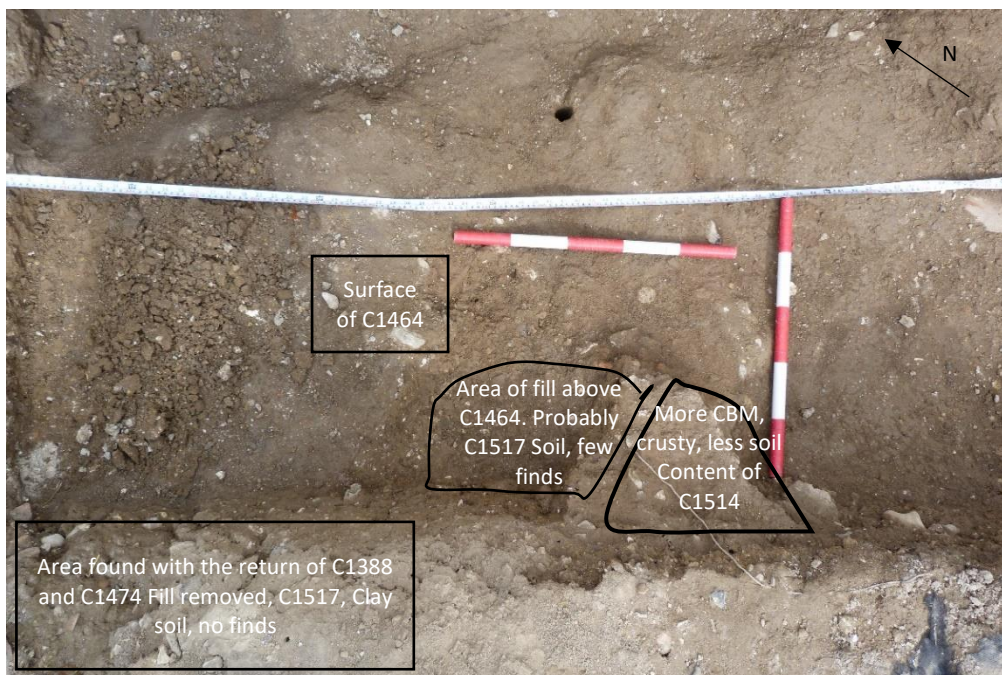


Figure 9: Surface in plan.

The plan next is to :

- To follow the return of the rubble/chalk feature in a NW/SW direction by taking off a further 10cm, hopefully revealing the feature and following its route and extent southwards.
- Refer to Figure 6. To extend the line from the NE trench wall, S32, across the front of the chalk C1474 and rubble C1388, across the ledge and further westwards into the blue grey fill extending outside the

original excavation area (see red dotted line Figure 6) to see the width of the rubble/chalk feature. *This was delayed whilst work continued on the surface of the area (outlined in blue Fig 10) and that was assigned C1515. This then revealed a sloping mass of hard fast CBM see Figure 11*

- c) To continue investigating lower contexts below C1453 (deepest NE corner of the excavation, blue grey deposit 2014).

22/8/15

AL began by cleaning up the surface of area outlined in blue within the newly extended area of investigation, C1515, Figure 10. This was the very blue grey area of deposit as seen in the early 2013 photos. He began by taking down all across the area by 5cm. Then this continued to reveal much CBM situated firmly in the surface, see Figure 11/12.



Figure 10: Surface of C1515 outlined in blue



Figure 11: TR9 looking NNW



Figure 12: TR9 looking NNW

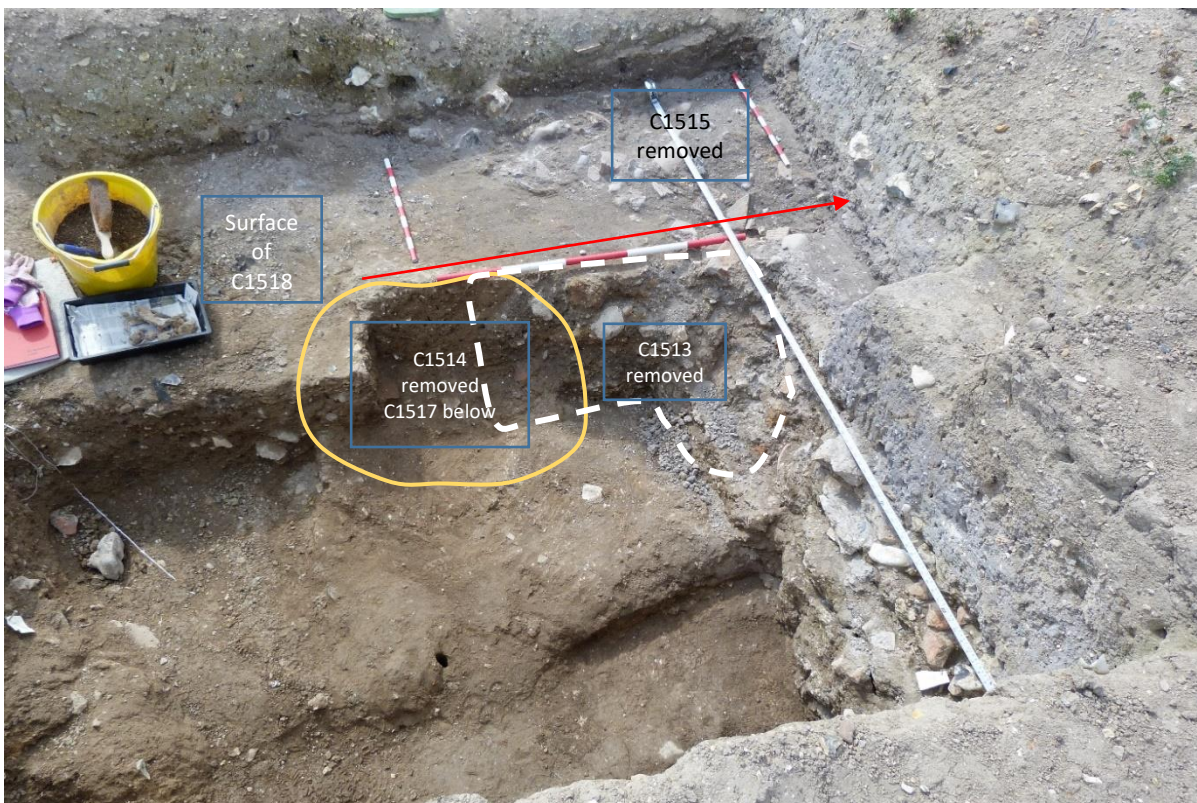


Figure 13: TR9 looking W. Red arrow represent a distance of 150cm from section 32, depth 74cm, 170cm away from NE section 33. C1517 butts up to a more crunchy layer on left hand side within yellow outline

22/8/15 JN: JN continued to work in the area outlined in yellow, Figure 13, continuing the theme of extending the area in a SW/NW direction. The fill here, C1517, was again very compact clayey soil with no finds of any merit abutting the area of grey ashy deposits seen within and between the CBM filled area, outlined in white dashes, C 1513. Figure 13. This is considered to be a continuation of C1388 (2014)

A junction appeared as seen in Figure 14, indicated by green arrow. The junction between the grey ashy rubbly context (assigned C1388) and the brown soil/clayey fill C1517 adjacent. This appeared to be a strong delineation but as seen later it did not continue as such a strong difference.

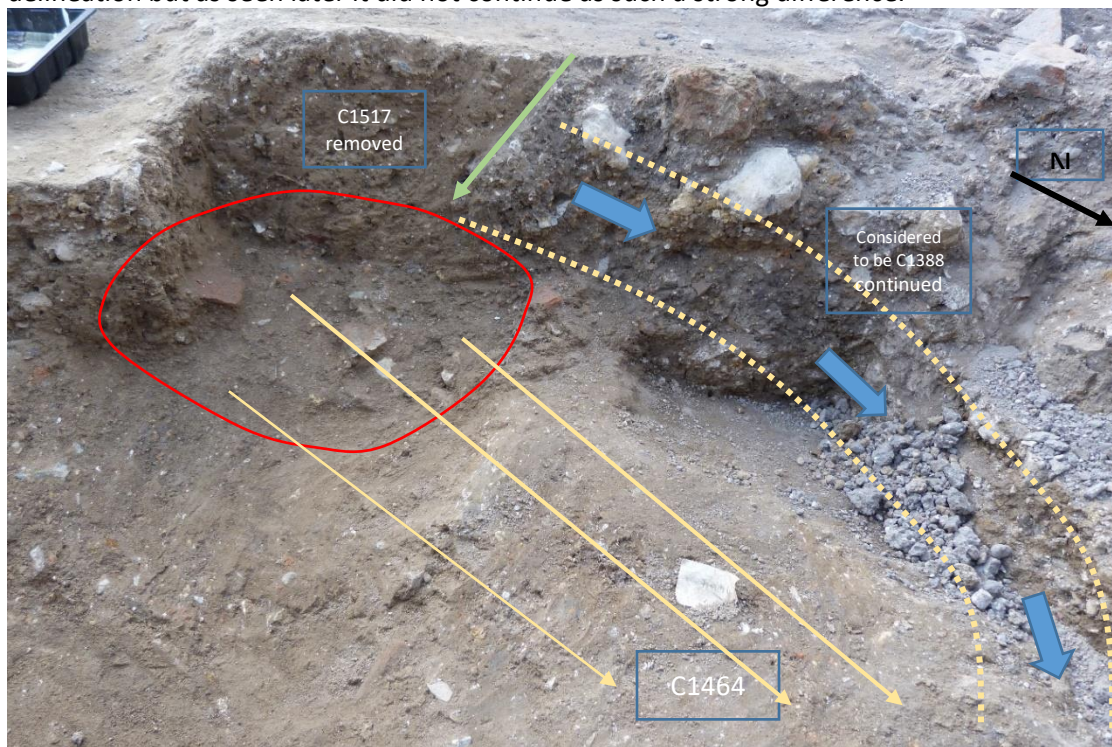


Figure 14: Green arrow indicating angle of grey fill against brown soil fill. Yellow dotted line represents a possible direction of infill downwards towards the NE corner, which may explain how C1517 may be part and parcel of C1389 (noted at a much deeper level in NE section 33)
Area outlined in red is grey and ashy sloping in same plane as the surface of C1464 (but appears to be under it. Is this possibly C1453 (from 2014?) indicated by yellow arrows towards NE corner of the trench.

23/8/15 JN:

There continues to be different levels that have occurred, see Figure 15. JN reviewed the area of C1453, the lowest context as seen in 2014 in the floor and furthest NE section 33. On just a light clear of that surface towards the west, from the corner, a chalky area appears just at the base of another change in layer. See red arrow Figure 15. Just to be noted at this time. *[Subsequent excavation late in the season reveals a great deal of chalk in this area].*



Figure 15 Red arrow indicated presence of chalk at base

On advice from JH, JN continued to investigate the whole of area outlined in blue dashed lines with the aim to establish, fresh again if possible, the extent of the outline of the original blue grey apparently semi-circular feature towards the SE and SW. At this time this is C1518. So C1518 is a continuation of AL work on removing C1515. It was assigned a new context C1518 since it was not the very grey colour but more brown and with much loose CBM.

TR9 Report – AL 27/8/15

Trench 9 shows a distinct layer of demolition material in the section at the North Eastern end of the trench, contexts 1388 and 1474. This demolition material has a very distinct cut off plain facing into the excavation and what appears to be a tangential intersection in the north western corner of context 1388. There are then a series of fine fill layers dipping into the North East corner which are to be excavated on a layer by layer basis, but initially investigation shows that they seem to contain no archaeological finds and therefore may indicate that these have been formed by material being washed or blown into a depression edged by the linear features. It may be necessary to take samples for pollen or soil analysis to verify this.

The excavation of context 1515 hoped to reveal the top surface of the intersecting linear features to help determine their extent and origin. The top 50mm of the context contained a great number of snail shells and these have been taken for species identification to the Department of Zoology at the University of Cambridge. Their identification may help indicate the environment and timescale between the infilling of these features and their subsequent internment by the levelling of the land.

The flue tile and brick debris within the demolition material within the context, 50mm through to 125mm, has sharp edges and wall plaster, some painted and opus signinum is very friable, indicating that it has not been moved or mixed by ploughing. There are a number of flints/sandstone boulders within the fill with lime mortar attached possibly from the original wall fill or facing stones. The age of back fill as yet not been determined and therefore could range from early post roman onwards.



Figure 16 from 2013. View NNW. Note a clear difference between the greyer fill in the north of the trench against the more yellow fill of the south. TR9Ext can be seen still separate in the top right hand side of the picture.

The area to the south of TR9Ext and within the greater area of TR9 was cleaned in order to investigate the junction between the yellowy lowest excavated surface, in the southerly half of TR9, adjacent to the grey/blue surface in the northerly half in 2013. At 315cm from the northern extent of the TR9, against the East section, remained a raised area, Yellow arrow Figure 16 and 17, that had resulted from investigation in 2013 to locate the supposed extent of the 'well' feature to the south. A lateral trench south of this was excavated also in 2013 to try to establish if there was indication of a room to the south of the 'well' feature forming the remainder of the trench. Nothing conclusive could be established.

In 2015, Fig 17 and 18, the top of this raised area can be seen as chalk deposit. This position coincided with a similar area on the opposite side of the trench, in the NW/SW trench wall, Section 31, that had been considered as indicating a fragile wall base – subsequently discounted as being a wall due to its poor construction. However, these two features do line up. See figure 16.

It was still not possible to establish a defined change of colour at any particular point. It may be that the fill angles are still confounding influences. No contexts were assigned since much of the fill was washed in over two years.

Next step

- 1 To investigate and level the raised area with the chalk deposit on top, Figure 17 to the level of the more northern surface. *Due to time constraints this was not completed in 2015*
- 2 To remove 5cm from the area adjacent to the recently revealed hard compacted rubble surface adjacent to the NW/NE section towards the south whilst looking to find the extent of the grey 'well' feature. (see Figure 11), C1518. Due to consultation with MH it was decided that there was a robber area that needed to be removed more quickly to assist further investigations. See Figure 26



Figure 17: View NE showing chalky surface to raised area. To its direct left (where the tape is) the supposed southern edge of 'well' feature. To the right the weathered SE remains of the lateral trench dug in 2013 to search for borders of room division. None found in 2013.



Figure 18 Photo 2013: View SW showing the fragile clump of suggested wall feature at top right and the chalk surface opposite it, as described here, in the bottom right hand corner.

3/9/15

Glass fragment approx. 177cm from North section, 72cm away from trench section and 80cm deep. See red dot Figure 19



Fig 19

Further work was done on C1518 to try to establish the outline of this 'well' area.

A brown only area was revealed, see Figure 20 outlined in orange. This was removed as C1519 but may have been a continuation of C1517 considering the way the layers fall in this area.

Underneath this brown fill was, again, a greyer layer but with a little CBM, softer fill, falling in the direction of C1453. Such alternate layers have been found consistently in this area. The area to the left of C1519 is more crunchy (C1518 with c1529), with much more small CBM. At this point, bearing in mind how the layers fall, attention now turned to whether it was possible to estimate from where the lowest context C1453 arose.

4/9/15

Brown soil fill C1519 was removed (see outlined Figure 20). Very few finds, and butts up to a more CBM rich area assigned C1529. However, this could be what was C1463 in 2014 which was the southerly harder surface below C1451S. Unfortunately, at the time of cleaning back in preparation for 2015 digging C1463 was removed by mistake so continuity of contexts has been difficult to evaluate.

All of the brown context C1519 was on top of a softer grey ashy surface of similar incline drop to other contexts - Context unknown or unassigned at this time.



Figure 20: Orange outline indicates C1519, a soil infill abutting a crunchy, much more CBM fill to its left, C1518. Note angle of layers of grey then soil then grey then soil shown by yellow arrows. See also Figure 22



Figure 21: C1519 in process of being removed starting at approximately 80cm depth. To its left the crunchy area of CBM has soft grey underneath, the brown C1519 has soft grey underneath.

The alternating layers of grey and brown in the remaining baulk in the SW/NW section were examined in relation to the dipping layers into the NE corner of the area, especially C1453. The following pictures show how they may relate.



Figure 22: View SW/NW: Close up of the remaining baulk section with grey/brown layers alternating indicated also in Fig 20 by yellow arrows.



Figure 23: Cane approximating the fall in layers – 10 degrees – Red arrow indicating C1453 in NE corner



Figure 24 View NW: Note where lower tag is in the remaining baulk. Is this marking where C1453 of 2014 arises, ie the same as the lowest context revealed in Figure 23 and 25 *[The author notes that the C1453 is probably waterlogged, being the deepest context and therefore may appear to be a deeper bluey/ grey.]* But the question is still are these grey/brown/grey/brown deposits contemporary with those found in the deepest contexts of the NE corner of this trench?

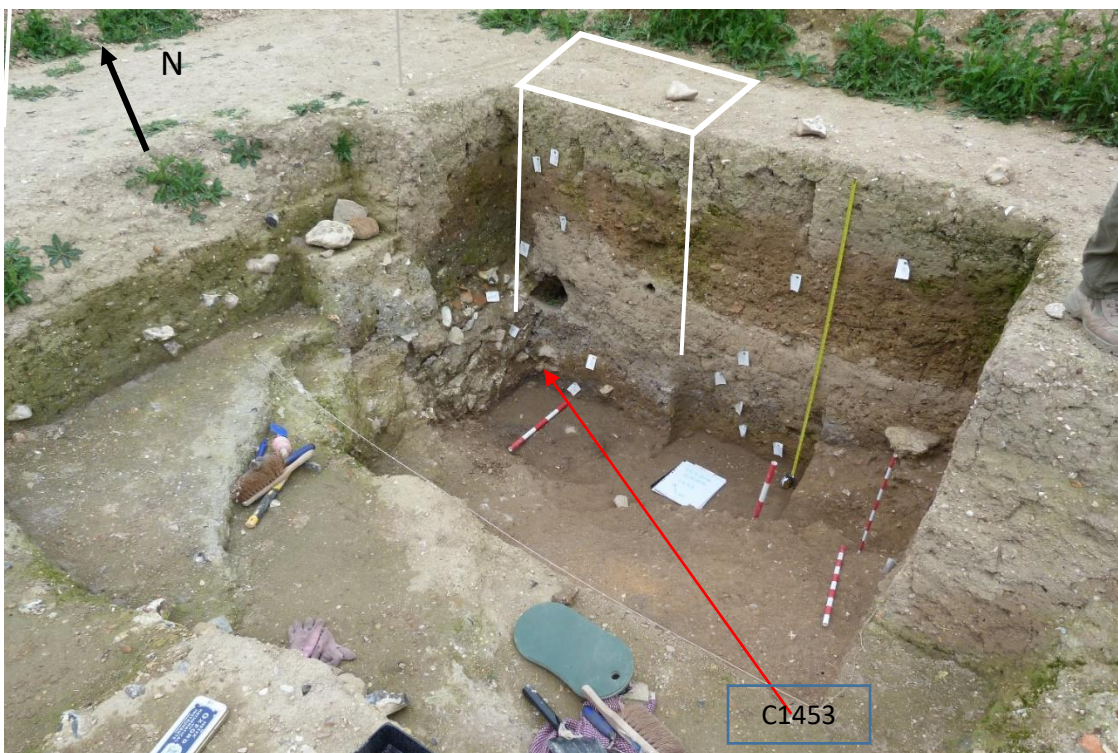


Figure 25 : C1453 indicated by red arrow. Photo 2014. Note also the hole in the NE Section 33. This started as a small natural void, it has weathered over time and when looking inside now one can see the rubble continuing around behind that section towards the SE. Perhaps it would be interesting to take out that corner

(white lines) and see how it lies relative to the rubble we already have seen. This is unlikely to be done by this group now.



Figure 26 : 13/9/15 Green dashed line of C1529 part removed.
Orange line indicating area to be cleared next following review by Mark Hinman considering it to be antiquarian activity

The near 90 ° return of the rubble/chalk feature may indicate a square shaped sump/reservoir that may have held water for some reason. It may have been disfigured by antiquarian digging and have been greatly robbed out. We need to investigate if this is the case and can now use more aggressive processes to remove the area surrounded by the orange line, Figure 26, continue up to close to the surface of C1518 (the area revealed by C1515 removal), then revert to trowel to search more slowly for the outline of the robber trench and where the earliest deposits begin.

18/9/15



Figure 27 : Red dot marks the location of sample of soft crumbly grey fill taken for potential analysis

21/9/15

Continued removal of this area as C1529. Yellow mortar deposit areas exposed below the soft fill



Figure 28 : View SW. Work begins more aggressively. Note the yellowy mortar area, yellow arrow, underlying all these grey/brown layers and the section marked by blue line, shown in more detail in Figure 30.

This does not feel like the residue of a robbed out area. The continued layered deposits seen throughout are at depths that are not yet convincing of even activity as recently as 200 yrs ago. Everything appears to be substantially in situ – at whatever date that might have been.



Figure 29: note continued layers of grey/blue/ grey/ blue. Particularly the grey with many chalk flecks.

Shell **sample** taken at 108cm from surface, 190cm from NW/NE section and 168cm from NE/SE section. (Not recorded in samples spreadsheet)

Charcoal sample taken from 120cm from surface, 145 from NW/NE section and 150 from NE/SE section. (not recorded in samples spreadsheet)



Figure 30: Area at end of 21/9/15. Note angle of deposit marked by blue line

24/9/15

We have only one week left so today we plan to dig a sondage adjacent to the NW/NE, Section 51, from the NE corner towards the rubble surface of C1518. The first finds of the sondage are C1545. Starting at 66cm below TD2 extending a length of 123cm from NE/SE section 33 and to approximately 85cm wide.

The sondage was extended in a southerly direction (for access) and excavated to expose a chalk feature, see Figure 31, which itself sat on what appeared to be a large amount of redeposited chalk also containing flint stones, degraded tile and OS. Why would there appear to be a slight mound? Shell, Sample 21, was bagged at 103cm below TD2. Content of C1545 was large flints along with large bits of mortar with very blue grey soft fill with chalk flecks and occasional charcoal below a yellow mortar layer, visible in Figure 31.



Figure 31: Chalk feature appears with soft grey around it but mortar layer showing in section. Note it began as a slight mound of chalk, see green line

Further removal of the chalk shows degraded tile/OS fragments and the mortar appears further across the bottom of the sondage alongside the grey fill at this time. At 106cm two pieces of painted plaster were lifted on the border between the mortar and the soft grey fill. Removal of this mortar layer reveals an extending area of blue grey fill. Pot was found at 110cm below TD2 see Figure 33. Chalk does not yet appear to be natural as it first appeared.



Figure 32: Some of the chalk removed showing more of the mortar around it with blue grey adjacent. Approx. 110cm below TD2 at this point. This level is approximately 10cm above the water table as indicated by approximate comparison of level to the waterlogged edge of the track where water pools in the field.



Figure 33: Butt Beaker found 110cm below TD2 (approximately 188cm below TD1, ground surface.)



Figure 34: At end of day 24/9/15 the beginnings of the chalk appear at about 92cm below TD2 as marked with a yellow solid arrow. This dips further downwards in the direction marked with yellow dotted arrow. Does this suggest a dug out feature with a central area somewhere within the ranges of the black bucket in the foreground perhaps from a time before the angular rubble wall feature, or a smaller scooped out area within the possible angular feature?

Was this dug out before the rubble wall feature was in place or as part of the rubble wall feature?



Figure 35: Red dots: NE 114cm, NW100cm, SE 112cm, SW 100cm. Blue dot 72cm. Green dot 78cm all below TD2. Surface of C1550 with C1545 removed



Figure 36: Note: check the SE sondage wall, Section 55, shown for position of yellow mortar relative to where natural occurs. Measures are below TD2. Date 24/9/15

28/9/15

C1550- further removal of fill in this sondage till natural. More natural chalk is coming up – here it has a yellow tinge. Now down to 120cm below TD2 to top of CBM. Getting a bit wet, not water filled but damp and feels different now. 130cm is natural chalk.

29/9/15

No further digging done.

Visitors to site: Hayley Roberts PhD student from Bournemouth asking about Community Archaeology.

RC brought two visitors in pm looking at the site and spending some time at the 'well' end.

Opinion that there are large chunks of redeposited chalk which in some cases contain some CBM making up the NW/NE wall section (above the sondage in NE corner of the trench). Below that becomes natural chalk at about 130cm below TD2 (approx. 210cm below ground surface). Final depth 135cm below TD2 but this includes about 5cm dug into natural chalk.



Figure 37: View into sondage at 134.6cm from TD2. Note evidence of brick/tile fragment above natural just above the tape head. 28/9/15



Figure 38: View of SE Section 55 of sondage. The chalk appears to be a cut along the yellow line indicating further evidence of a cut depression of some free-form shape perhaps centring nearer the angular rubble 'wall'. 28/9/15



Figure 39: View NE to Section 33(extended into sondage). Note yellow lines indicating line of the chalk within the section. 28/9/15



Figure 40: View NW within the sondage, Section 56. This appears to be mixed chalk, flint, CBM debris and fill towards the rubble return C1388.

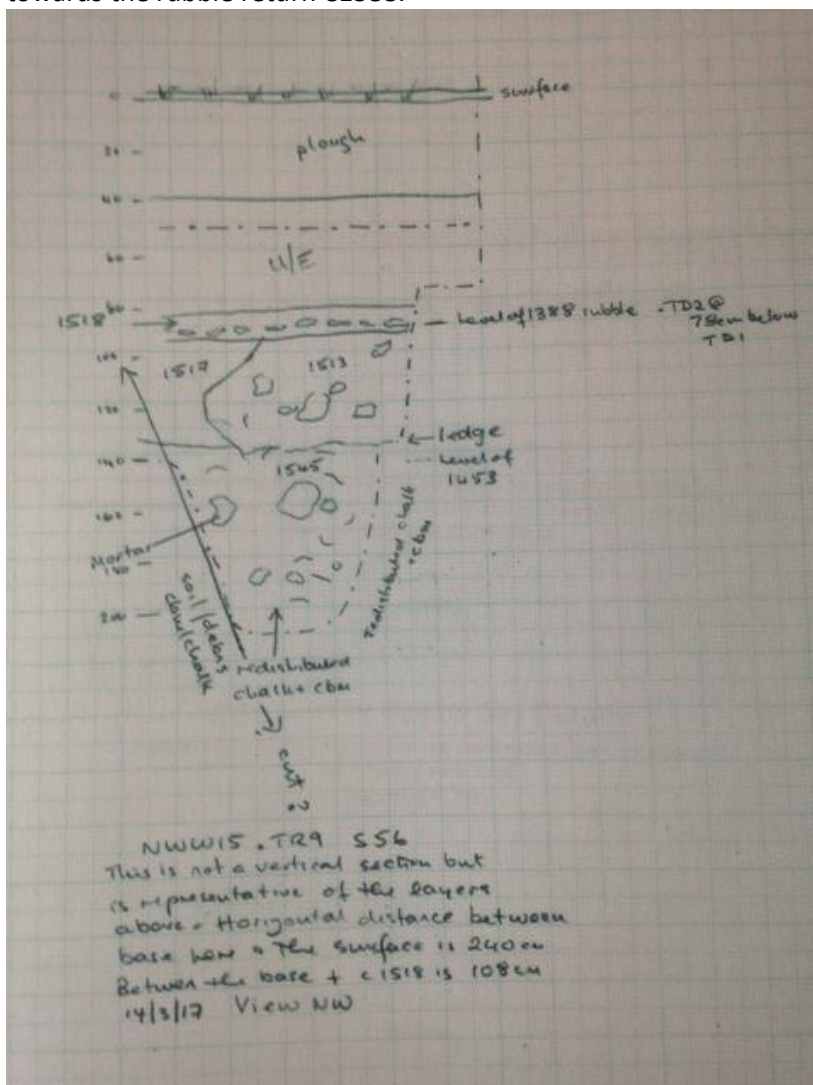


Figure 41: Section 56. View W: This is not a vertical face. The angle towards the west is about 40degrees until the section meets C1513/1517. Thence it's vertical then again largely Horizontal towards the U/E baulk.



Figure 42: At end of 2015 this is the TR9 Extension. Does the orange dotted line suggest an angular, wall supported sump dug out of a vaguely circular base of chalk? We know the wall feature may continue into the baulk but don't know how far.

Section Drawings

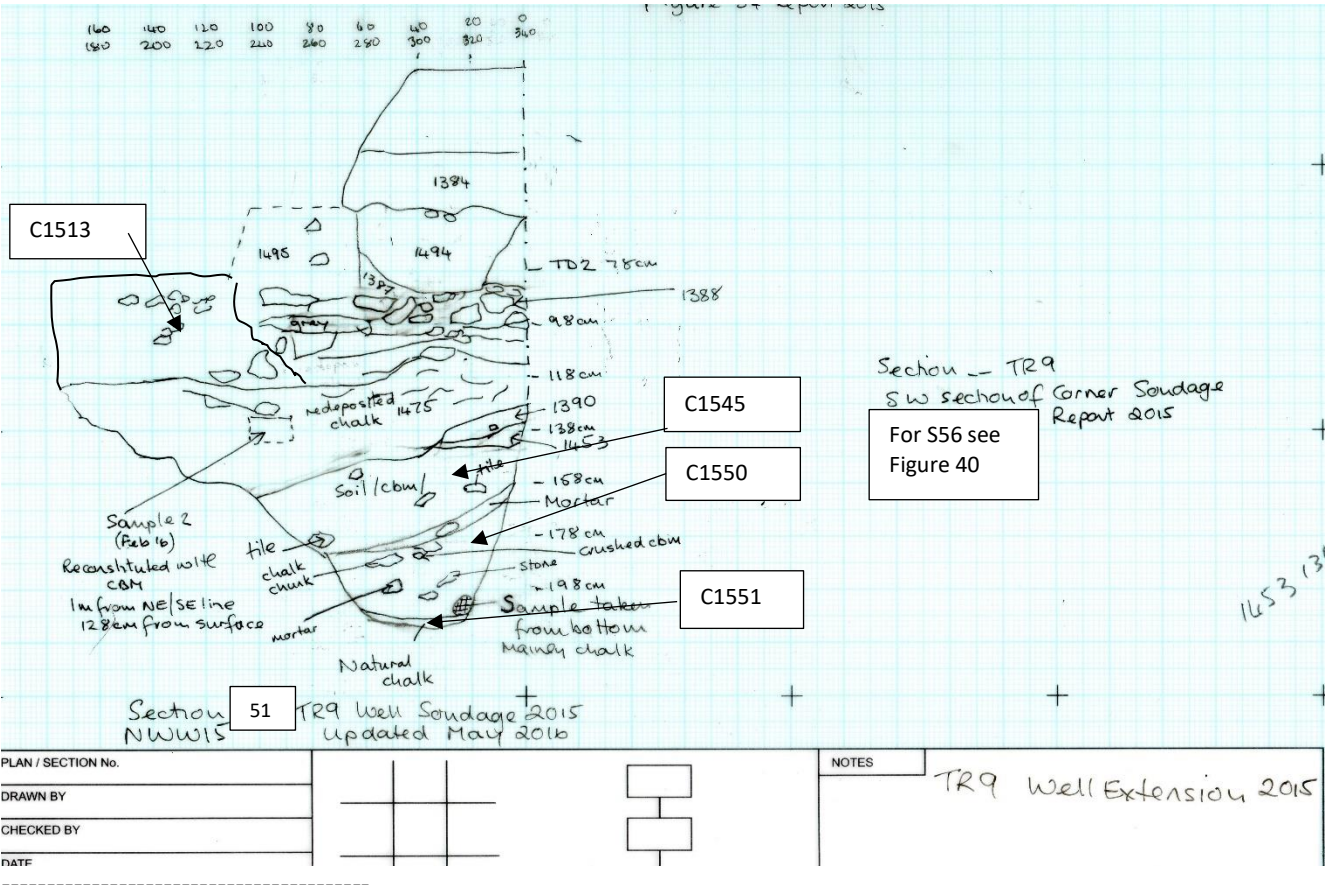


Figure 43: Section 51 and Section 56. Not drawn but can be seen in Figure 46 and 40 of this report

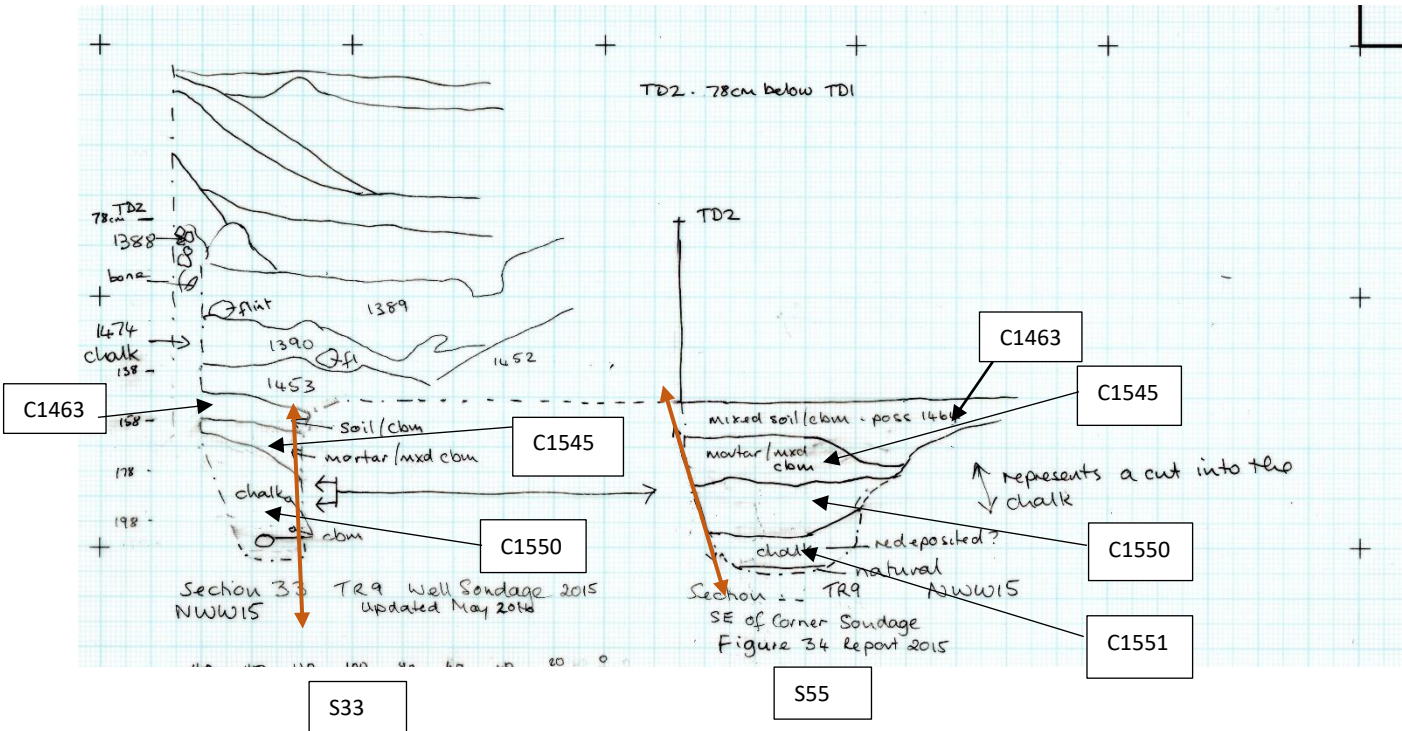


Figure 44: Section 33 and Section 55, SE section of sondage. Brown arrow represents a Cut (xxx5)

Is the brown arrow a cut and is it different to the one in the corner above it??

Plan of the area of excavation Sept 30th 2015

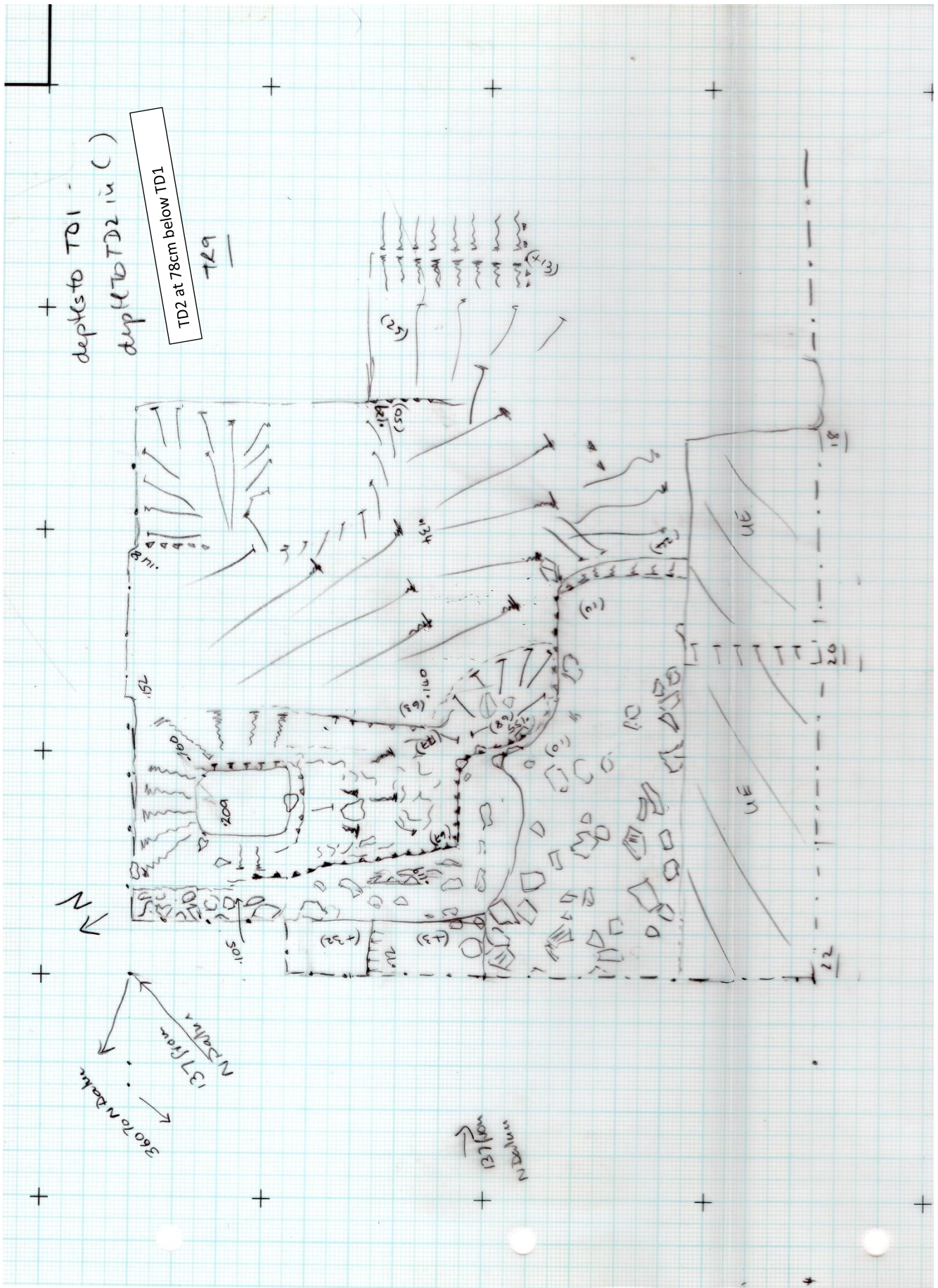


Figure 45



Figure 46: Section 51 Viewed at 45°angle due to position.



Figure 47: Section 55 View of SE section of NE corner sondage



Figure 48: Section 33

Contexts for Tr9 2015 – note these additions to section drawings for S51 and S55 where applicable

Context		Depth	Notes – Most layers are angled so they can cover a range of depths across the area
Original	New		
			Earlier contexts can be seen in earlier reports. Only those relevant to this document are noted here
a	1384	34-56	More soil, less grey, less chalk, harder
b	1494	54-58	Brown/grey/blue with fragments of mortar, chalk chips, tile – not soft
c	1495	50-100	Very friable, soft blue/grey, earthy/ashy, less constituents, very small stones
d	1387	60-90	Brown/grey/blue with fragments mortar, chalk, tile: b and d very grey but b dries to a lighter colour and has less chalk chips
	1388	83-104	Rubble beginning of the cut 1441
	1441	82	Cut
e	1475	100 -	Reconstituted chalk
f	1474	124-128	More brown soil
g	1453	138 -	Dark, soft, silty grey
	1514	84-119	Within area of trench: Area to the south of 1513 seeking a continuation of the rubble wall feature
	1515	75	Within area of trench: Area to west of the newly revealed wall feature and at higher level revealing area of compacted rubble surface. Quite grey fill and fixed CBM
	1517	84-119	Within area of trench: Continuation of 1514 towards the west suggestive of antiquarian activity. No further sign of a rubble wall feature.
	1518	80-85	Within area of trench : Continuation of taking 1515 down to try to reveal the extent of the possible circular grey outline of what was thought to be a circular well feature. More brown with looser CBM
	1519	85-119	Within area of trench: Brown softer area outlined in Fig 20, possibly the same fill as 1517. This area found to then lie on a softer grey layer typical of the repeated layers in the area. This softer are butts up then against a hard CBM rich area, assigned 1529. This may relate to the lower angled fill of 2014, C 1463/4
	1529	85-90	Within area of trench: Hard area of more CBM
	1545	140-158	S51: First context excavated in a sondage in the NE corner of the 'well' area
	CXXX4		S51 & S33: Thin layer of mortar
	1550	158-210	S51 & S33: Second context excavated in the sondage
		208	S51: Natural
	C1545	164-184	S55: Mortar and mixed cbm
	C1550	184-203	S55: clay lens
	C1551	203-212	S55: redistributed chalk
	Cxxx5		S55: Cut
		212	S55: Natural

Contexts for Tr9 – Sections 30 View NE, 33 and 35			
Context		Depth	Notes – Most layers are angled so they can cover a range of depths across the area
Original	New		
x	1381	24-36	Mainly soil, some red flecks, little CBM
x	1382	38-70	Crushed CBM, granular
x	1383	26-70	More soil consistency, lighter grey – an angled lens of fill
x	1384	32-90	Hard chalky clay, little CBM, may be a ‘capping’ layer – starts at 32 , drops to 90
x	1385	70-100	Similar to 1384 but more friable - starts at 70 drops to 100
	1386	92-98	This number used in early section drawings of S30 before later contexts assigned in plan. Same context as 1432, hard compact thin layer of CBM with brown soil below. More CBM, stone, flint, mortar.
x	1387	58-	More blue/grey, silty, with chalk chips. Appears to travel round to the NW in S32Ext. Lays over cut 1441
x	1388	84-100	Rubble fill in S51Ext. Layer of brick/tile, flint, stone and chalk. Possible foundation. Start of cut 1441
	1441	83	Cut
x	1389	100-138	Largely soft, brown soil with abundant clumps of soft grey deposits, some small stone, a little CBM. Initially this presented as a hard crust, perhaps trample. On removal the lower layers were often mixed brown and grey.
x	1390/1474	124-138	1390 assigned in NE extension wall S33. 1474 assigned in NW extension wall S32Ext. Soft brown soil – this context removed with 1389 as it was difficult to differentiate, however, there appears to be some clarity of difference visual in the wall section
	1391		A void that was investigated in 2013 and has eroded further over time
	1392/1452	116 -	In earlier 2014 this hard, yellowy mortar area appeared at the base of the deep sondage next to the NE Ext wall, S33 and traverses to S35. Later assigned 1452. Mixed CBM. Triangular fill at about 40°
2014	1385/1423		Slim crisp area of CBM with some brown soil
2014	1386/1432		Underlying 1423. Brown, softer more soil
2014	1451	98 -	A surface area that is indecipherable at this time, may even be equivalent to 1463. Abundant CBM interspersed with grey ashy deposit. Finds separated into 1451N and S based on the underlying context having different texture in the N and S areas.
	1453	138	Grey, soft fill in NE wall S33. Very soft. Runs under 1463
	1463	≈ 128	Current unexcavated surface in northern half of the area. See note on 1451.
	1464	≈ 132	Current unexcavated surface in southern half of the area. See note on 1451
	1545	158	
	1550	163	

Contexts for Tr9 – Section 51 TR9Ext: View NW: NB this section stands 30cm further SE from S32 therefore direct comparisons of contexts with S32 may not be appropriate.

Context		Depth	Notes
Original	New		
a	1384	34-56	More soil, less grey, less chalk, harder
b	1494	54-58	Brown/grey/blue with fragments of mortar, chalk chips, tile – not soft
c	1495	50-100	Very friable, soft blue/grey, earthy/ashy, less constituents, very small stones
d	1387	60-90	Brown/grey/blue with fragments mortar, chalk, tile
e	1475	100 -	Reconstituted chalk
f	1474	124-128	More brown soil
g	1453	138 -	Dark, soft, silty grey
	1545	142	
	1550	163	
	1551	208	

References

- 1 PCAS Vol XCV1 2007
- 2 www.archiuk.com
- 3 CIA website – to be added
- 4 https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=ECYFAAAAQAAJ&pg=RA1-PT38&lpg=RA1-PT38&dq=1818+levelling+of+chronicle+hills&source=bl&ots=4nuTxOfImN&sig=wcHwIHp-jsO-NGW4qX_cRvBHPFc&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwi32evem-bMAhXEWBokHR-tBuUQ6AEIKjAC#v=onepage&q=1818%20levelling%20of%20chronicle%20hills&f=false

Context Sheets:

Cambridge Independent Archaeology Context Record

Site Code: **NWW15** Area: Trench: **TR9** Context: **Overview**

Date: **26/8/15** Recorded by: **JN**

Feature Type: Deposit ☐ Cut ☐ Fill ☐ Structural ☐

Description:

C1518 Continuation of light cleaning of 1515 towards South JN blue grey surface

C1517 brown soil, no finds JN

C1514 JN 16/8/15 move back to left of soily area C1517

C1513 AL 16/8/15 to expose more rubble & clay

C1515 Surface of blue grey taken down to level much clay level falling to South

C1516 Ashy feature showing against brown soil but behind is rubble & clay

A-B

A

B

NE

N

Surface 1464

1388 above 1474

1388

Above ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

☐ This context

Below ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Other Comments and Discussion:

Finds: Pot ☐ Lithic ☐ Bone ☐ Metal ☐ Other ☐

Small Finds: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Samples:

Plan: Section: Photo

Context Sheet: Overview26/8/15

Cambridge Independent Archaeology Context Record

Site Code: NWW15 Area: Trench: TR9 Context: 1514

Date: 16/8/15 Recorded by: JN

Feature Type: Deposit ☐ Cut ☐ Fill ☐ Structural ☐

Description:

NE Section

C1388

C1453

C1464 surface

1513

C1513 removed to expose further rubble like C1388 + chalk AL

C1517 brown soil no finds AL

C1514 move crunchy clay fill JN

removed by mistake in cleaning before season 2015 was surface C1463+ was angled as indicated

diagrammatic line between 1451N + 1451S

1 limestone

1 limestone with 05 odd fragments of tile

1 sample of grey

1 bone

1 white snail

1 oyster

5 snail

photod ✓

Above ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

☐ This context

Below ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Other Comments and Discussion:

at junction between C1451N + S The fill changes as reported in 2014 This is at that junction with the more sandy clay C1517 against the clay/crunchy area C1514. Because of the way the C1517 behind C1515 and aside it.

C1515

C1517

Finds: Pot ☐ Lithic ☐ Bone ☐ Metal ☐ Other ☐

Small Finds: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Samples:

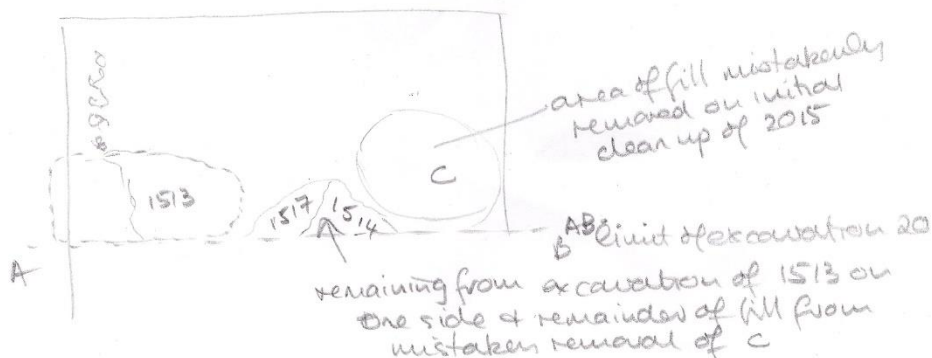
Plan: Section: Photo

Context Sheet 1514/1 26/8/15

Cambridge Independent Archaeology Context Record

Site Code: NWW15	Area:	Trench: TR9	Context: 1514
Date: 16/8/15		Recorded by:	
Feature Type: Deposit ☐ Cut ☐ Fill ☐ Structural ☐			

Description:



Above							
Below							

Other Comments and Discussion:

Finds:	Pot ☐	Lithic ☐	Bone ☐	Metal ☐	Other ☐
Small Finds:					
Samples:					
Plan:	Section:	Photo			

Context Sheet: 1514/2 26/8/15

Cambridge Independent Archaeology Context Record

Site Code: NWW15	Area:	Trench: TR9	Context: 1517
Date:		Recorded by: JN	
Feature Type: Deposit ☐	Cut ☐	Fill ☐	Structural ☐

Description:

Above						
Below						

Other Comments and Discussion:

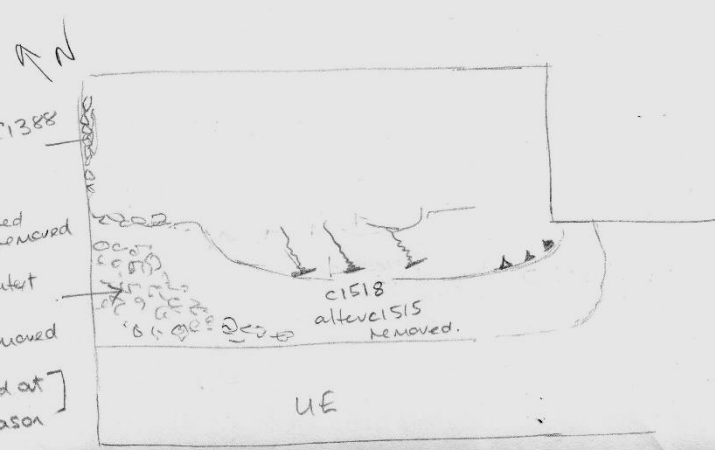
Soil only vvv few finds - odd fragment of brick/tile

Finds:	Pot ☐	Lithic ☐	Bone ☐	Metal ☐	Other ☐
Small Finds:					

Samples:		
Plan:	Section:	Photo

Context Sheet: C1517

Cambridge Independent Archaeology Context Record

Site Code: NWW15	Area:	Trench: TR9	Context: 1518
Date:		Recorded by:	
Feature Type: Deposit ☐ Cut ☐ Fill ☐ Structural ☐			
Description: 			
Above 1515			
1518 This context			
Below			
Other Comments and Discussion: - C1518 is under C1515 - is brown fill with reasonable amount of CBM but this CBM is not hard/fast as it is in C1515			
Finds: Pot ☐ Lithic ☐ Bone ☐ Metal ☐ Other ☐			
Small Finds: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐			
Samples:			
Plan:		Section:	
Photo			

Context Sheet: C1518