

2005 Excavation Results

5.4 Trench 38

Figures: 53, 55 and 56.

Trench 38 was placed in order to assess the potential for the continuation of the outer enclosure ditch from that identified within trench 30 in a westerly direction towards the church. Recent geophysical survey of the surrounding area using a magnetometer to follow the possible location of the ditch allowed for the accurate positioning of trench 38, as close to the car park wall as feasibly possible, *c.*3m.

The trench was rectangular in shape, measuring 4.80m by 2.00m and orientated north south at right angles over the projected geophysical anomaly. The geological make up of the trench consisted of a fractured bedrock overlying plated bedrock. The topsoil and subsoil extended to a depth of 0.51m.

Located just off centre to the north, a 1.90m wide rock cut ditch was identified [409]. The depth of the excavated feature was 0.95m from the top of the archaeological layer. The profile of the feature consists of steep sloping sides cut from the bedrock onto a flat solid base.

The layer morphology of the ditch segment consists of a primary fill of light brown silty sand, containing frequent inclusions of large angular fragments of re-deposited natural (410). Towards the northern slope a secondary deposit of light brown silty sand containing frequent inclusions of 0-0.15m angular plated fragments was identified (411). Overlain by the main ditch fill (412) consisted of light-mid brown silty sand with occasional smaller fragments of sub-rounded material. No finds were recovered from any of the fills within this ditch.

Discussion

Excavation concluded that the outer enclosure ditch does continue in a westerly direction, in similar form to Trench 30 and can be positively identified up to the car park. This proves that the geophysical results work particularly well within the outer field on this side of the hilltop, specifically upon areas of a bedrock background compared to a clay background as seen in Area D.