

2005 Excavation results

5.9 Trench 41

Figures: 62, 63 and 64.

Another trench excavated in November 2005, trench 41, was positioned to positively identify the possible ditch located within the trial trench exposed in 2004. The trial trench had revealed the feature down to the correct archaeological horizon but due to time and resources excavation was unable to proceed. Trench 41 located the same archaeological feature and excavation revealed a 1.23m wide and 0.95m deep, steep sided ditch with a flat base, cut into the natural surrounding bedrock. Consisting of primary silting layers (523), (524), (525), (526) and (527). The main body of the ditch is then filled with one universal fill, a reddish brown silty clay containing a high frequency of angular and sub angular fragments. No dateable material was recovered from this feature.

Discussion

The positive identification of the ditch proves that the outer enclosure ditch identified within Trench 41 is similar in nature to that excavated in Trenches 22 and 24, and therefore the conclusion that these are part of the same feature can be made. Expanding the known extent of the outer enclosure ditch within area A and indicating that the ditch is likely to be heading off in a north easterly direction towards that of Mellor Old Hall. If this is the case then the area enclosed within the outer enclosure ditch is massive.