

5. Trench by Trench Results

- 5.1 The first work to be undertaken during the 1999 season, was the re-excavation of the trench across the perimeter ditch in the Old Vicarage garden (recorded in 1998 as trenches C and D). This trench will now be discussed as trench 1. The north section of this trench was straightened and the lower fills excavated to give a full profile, a further two distinct layers of silting were identified before encountering the base. This concluded that the feature was cut through the solid natural bedrock measuring 4m at its widest point and 2.1m from the present ground level to the base of the ditch.

The fills, cuts and layers were subsequently re-numbered and re-contexted to suit. The numbering sequence now runs from (1001) onwards, with (1000) being the natural ground formation. Fill (1012) was a mid-greyish brown silt lying in the lower third of the ditch containing an abundance of charcoal flecks and stains together with frequent small and medium sandstones. Artifacts discovered within this fill include frequent fire-cracked pebbles, a single sherd of Iron Age pottery and two possible Late Bronze Age flint tools. The primary fill (1019) which was a pale yellowish brown silt with frequent small sandstones and occasional charcoal flecks. Artifacts recovered from this layer were a conical bronze boss (possible horse furniture from either Late Bronze Age or Iron Age), four fragments of possible slag/furnace waste and a two ferrous object of unknown use. Fill (1020) revealed four sherds of Iron Age pottery and several fragments of a ferrous material, the remainder of objects discovered in this section of the ditch were five sherds of Iron Age pottery from the fill (1011) and a single sherd of Iron Age pottery from fill (1008).



Plate 1 Profile of the Ditch in Trench 1

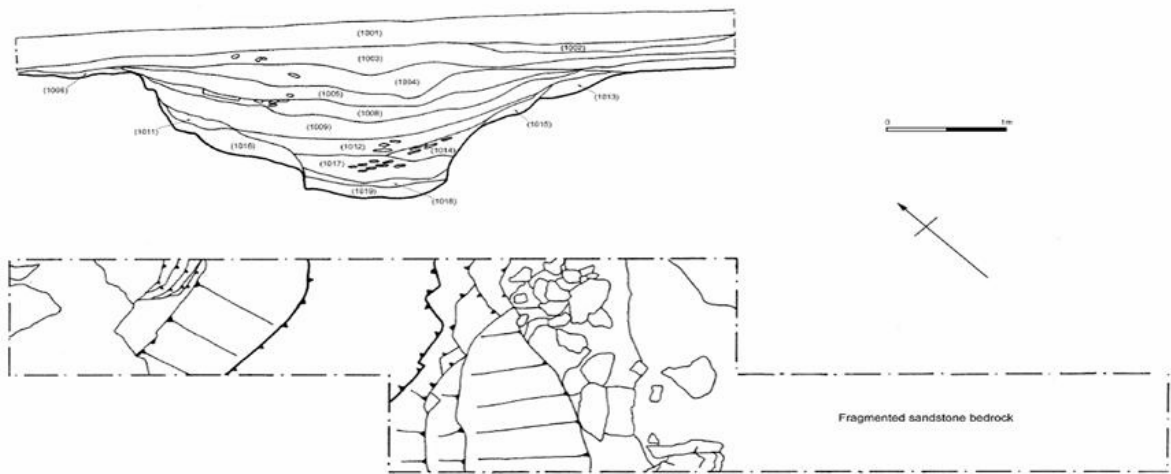


Figure 3 Southwest facing section