

29/02/2016

Excavated X113 Y109 White 4 next to Lyn's square. One possible olive seed identified by Chrissie while sorting.

Started excavating X113Y109 White 5. Noted colour change from previous layer. On top of combustion feature. One large blade visible in layer. Ceased mid-excavation by day end. Will resume tomorrow.

02/03/2016

Worked in White 6 today and yesterday. There were many calcined bones and lithics in the northern area. String line was placed to correct section profile. Northern section is directly on top of combustion feature. Lyn has similar feature in adjacent square which we will proceed to remove as 'combustion feature white 7'. Centre of section is very thin at boundary of Y108 & Y109. Colour change to 10yr 6/1 Grey.

03/03/2016

Took Combustion Feature 2 White 7 X113, Y109. There was mostly charcoal but some seeds were found in the 1mm sieve. Feature visible in profile section more clearly than it was in plan view. Continued to White 7 which ended on hard, compact layer with many orange inclusions. White 7 was powdery soil. Animal burrow encountered in Lyn's section which we plugged with black plastic bags. The hard orange-grained layer dips, rises and dips again and appears to disappear in Lyn's Combustion Feature 1 X113, Y108. Possible gypsum accretions appear on lithics throughout layer. Sub layers are being marked at their base with coloured pins. Blue is combustion feature; red is base of White 6; Purple is base of White 5; White 4 was not pinned. White 7 B1747.

04/03/16

Excavated White 8. This is the thickest layer taken out thus far. Its characterised by soft, powdery sand (10yr 7/2 light grey). We have plotted White 8 floor but sediment characteristics continue below. Large lithics noted in south section. Large bone coming out of section profile was paraloided and left in place. In north section there is evidence in the form of charcoal pieces & vertically oriented lithic to suggest that the area results from scraping out a hearth. One piece of ochre found. The sediment seems to slope down towards the south as Lyn's Y108 is lower than my Y109.

05/03/2016

White 9. Charcoal patch coming out in south section. This looks like disturbed hearth clearing rather than a hearth itself. There is much calcined bone just on top or in immediate vicinity of this charcoal patch. Some small specks of stone lying vertically suggests disturbed context. The edge of the section erodes the further down I proceed. Some pieces of stone and bone are coming out in these eroded chunks. One possible carbonised seed bagged. There is a patch of loose charcoal in the south section. It does not appear to be a combustion feature but rather a place where used coal has been cleared to. A 2nd 'floor' was identified drawn and plotted before the base of White 9 was reached. White 9 seems to be the base of Beaumont's 4WA.

06/03/2016

Started on unit 5BS. The layer is named very dark greyish brown based on Munsell chart. The slump was clear prior to commencement of excavations. Many lithics are visible in profile section and one large bone. The central part of Y109, X113 is severely truncated so there is little to excavate. So too is the north portion of the square, which is eroding away. Soil texture is clayey and dark. A soil sample for FTIR has been taken. Immediately below the rich clayey sand a burrow was located. Approximately 12 cm deep is the burrow. There are many lithics on the surface of the burrow. The level will be plotted in and the pit excavated separately. The number of the Pit excavations will be indicated by an encircled number thus 'Pit(1)'.

07/03/2016

Plotted Pit (1) lithics. This plane is about 2cm below the top surface of the pit. Started the next level of the pit called Pit (2). Base of Pit (2) reached. Section and profile being cleared for photogrammetry. One large MSA1-Like point/flake and some smaller lithics found in (2) similar to (1). There is a brittle red (possibly heated) rock to the right of the pit. A portion of the pit edge is lost in the profile section. Just above the red heated stone is some of the dark brown sand reminiscent of the very dark grayish brown sediment above. The base of X113, Y109 is slumping terribly especially near the north section. Section profile and slump cleaned for photogrammetry. Soil sample of pit fill taken for FTIR further analysis. At Dom's request the north section was cut down about 15 cm to nearly the base of 5BS, in order to expose the stratigraphy to ascertain the limits of the pit and do FTIR.

08/05/2016

Off sick

09/03/2016

Giong to plot pit in EDM and then help Lyn excavate the remainder of the north section of White 11 in her square X113 Y108. 2 charred seeds found. Charcoal layer seems to sit directly on the orange layer underneath White 11. The top of the orange layer slopes dramatically towards the profile section and appear bowl shaped. The White 11 was taken and plotted in two levels, each with its own bucket point 2425 and 2452. 5YR 5/4 reddish brown is the colour of the orange layer. Base of White 11 indicated by small yellow pins. Taking out White 12, which seems to dip under reddish brown just where the stone conglomerate is located. Very dark Grayish Brown seems to disappear into White 12 at about 15 cm from the start of Y108 (north section).

10/03/2016

Excavating the reddish brown layer in X113 Y108. The red soil seems to recede towards the south. At least two or three heated rock conglomerates have been noticed lying perhaps on the white ash underneath reddish brown layer. It appears as if the stones are arranged around the concavity towards the profile section... there is sharp contact in the right where White 13 is undercut by the brown layer. The reddish brown 1 lies atop White 13 and the brown layer to the right. The two 'hearth stones' are associated with White 13 and left in situ but plotted as individual lithics. Likewise, because Lyn has not finished her pit excavation I can't take out the remnants of reddish brown 1. Artefacts in there will be plotted separately and left in place.

15/03/2016

Resumed work on X113 Y109 taking out the sides of the pit. Went down to the base of the pit which consisted of a white level in or below 5BS very dark Grayish Brown. The fire-heated rock in the side of the pit was left intact.

06/05/2017

Started excavating N109.5 E119.5 from base of 2BS UPPER. Square previously excavated by Will in 2015. There is a white dosimeter pipe through the floor of the SE section. I've consulted Will's old notes and have a sedimentological profile drawing compiled by Dom as a guide. Took two plots of lithics from the base of 2BS UPPER grass Bed 1. They were exposed when I cleaned my floor section. 10YR 5/4 Yellowish Brown Carlos 1. There was a lot of roof spall in north area, including two large rocks. Plan 1 is marked by two lithics lying in the centre area. In the SW corner there is a darker brown patch, which may be a burrow or top of the next layer peeping through. Base of roof spall rocks are on base of Carlos 1. The base slopes dramatically down to the western wall. Forgot bucket point. Yellowish Brown Carlos 2 – there is a piece of long bone fragment and lying close by is a small animal jaw. Lithics appear to be roof spall.

07/05/2017

Started layer yellowish Brown Carlos 3. Much the same as the previous layers. The sediment is getting slightly harder and more consolidated. Lithics on horizontal plan are roof spall. There is lots of noticeable microfauna: ribs, long bones, particularly in NE corner.

Yellowish brown Carlos 4 – NE corner where microfauna is coming out there are some lithics lying on their side indicating disturbance of some kind. Angle is not more than 30 degrees. Various orientations.

Carlos 5- lots of microfauna. Some elements are identifiable. Small (<3 mm) fleck of quartz apparent. In the E section there are many flecks of charcoal underneath which is a poorly constituted grass mat (see Will's note book of 13 March 2016). This appears to be the adjacent portion of the same thing. However, from the E profile it appears that the combustion feature lies below the grass mat. The soil changes colour due to presence of charcoal and tomorrow I'll start a new layer name as per Munesell reading. The charcoal does not seem to extend across western edge of square.

Brown mat Carly 1 – started by removing and bagging grass mat strands sticking out as it does not seem consolidated enough to remove en masse.

08/05/2017

The mat appears to be of different thicknesses in different places or just variously consolidated. A large bone fragment and two twigs (among other stuff) were paraloided and plotted and taken out as Plan 1. Carly 2 will be the remainder of the mat and end on top of the white ash lens.

Brown Mat Carly 2 – I removed the rest of this layer. Will had gypsumed an example of this mat in the adjacent square last year and so I only retained a few grass strands as an example. There were

some twigs in the mat as in Carly 1, which I paraloided and removed. The mat covers the whole square but the underlying combustion feature appears only in the eastern section. In the NW corner are two patches of charcoal without white ash. I'm unsure if these are part of the layer under White. Will called this 2BS UPPER GRASS Bed 1.

09/05/17

Will be excavating combustion feature below grass mat 1. In 2016 Will called this 2BS UPPER COMBUSTION FEATURE 1 (10YR 6/5) pale brown. My reading gives 10YR 7/2 light gray. In the profile section I can see that the white is forked by a pinkish orange sand which Dom thinks is an area of mixing and that its part of the white ash. This layer has been called Light Gray Casey 1. The red soil under the white was sterile and removed as part of the same layer since it represents a single event. After the white ash there are 9 lithics laying on the black. This will be taken out next as a separate layer.

VERY DARK BROWN Cat 1 (10 YR 2/2) – This is the black part of the combustion feature that Will called COMBUSTION FEATURE 1 Black. I too notice that this lens seems to be composed of burned grass. The Munsell reading corresponds to Wills reading in 2016. Had to stop working at 9:30 due to photogrammetry in Will square. YR 3/3 dark Brown is the colour of the soil that interdigitates this layer. To the eye it's a rich reddish brown colour. Cat 1 has black and red – both composed of burnt grass. The grass matting that Will had distinguished as a separate layer was not likewise distinguished as separate from the combustion feature in my square. There were unburned patches of grass matting in the SE and NW corners which technically could have been taken out as a separate layer but a) I missed them while excavating and b) the latter section is unlikely to be related to the thing that Will had as they are separated by space.

10YR 4/3 Brown Cathy 1 – Will thought this layer was rodent burrow infill. I could not find any info sheet on this layer in the 2016 excavation notes.

10/05/2017

I have decided that Brown May Carly 2, in the NW corner, should be taken out separately as it is pretty intact and there is a large bovid rib laying on top of the mat. There are tiny red specs peeking out which might be ochre. I've checked the underside of the rib and there is no ochre on it.

Brown Cathy 2 – Now below the level where Will stopped in 2016 in the neighbouring square. The sediment is loose, sandy with lots of gravel composed of roof spall.

Brown Cathy 3 – Much the same as above. The amount of roof spall and gravel in Brown Cathy I think indicates an environmental situation in which humans were not inhabiting the site.

Brown Cathy 4 – Marine took sediment sample of base of layer for FTIR. Due to high density of roof spall I'm only plotting the larger pieces.

11/05/2017 – Brown Cathy 5

Misty today. Have taken a Munsell reading at two spots in the cave and have got two different results both of which differ from the result I got yesterday in good light. I'm keeping the reading from yesterday. Have reached the end of sterile Brown Cathy at last. The base of Brown Cathy 7 is a

richer redder colour with less gravel. There is a slight combustion feature in SE corner with piece of wood embedded. I will now be moving across to the square to my right N109 E120 NW quarter. I will be starting in the Brown Cathy layers and taking it down to the end of Brown Cathy.

12/05/2017

Took out the last of Brown Cathy in E120. It's now on the same level as E119. On Lyn's advice I'll proceed by digging both squares simultaneously and bucketing them separately, thus allowing me to keep track of the natural gradient of the slope.

14/05/2017

Have taken out Yellowish Brown Caz 1 in both squares E119 and E120. This was a soft velvety layer, the base of which is complicated. Several artefacts were plotted including wood, some of which is charred at one or both ends (a colouration lost due to the paraloid applied to preserve the wood) Photos of base taken on Lyn's camera and tablet. The base of both squares is now as follows: the South half contains a combustion feature with some charred stick around the periphery. The northern half and peering out in the western side is a layer of strange white speckled rock. This does not appear to be roof spall and undercuts the combustion feature. In the west section there is a single layer thick grass mat, removed separately as Grass Mat Cecilia. The fibres are white and seem to be under the combustion feature and above the white rocks. There is a large piece of wood in the SW corner too.

Dark Grayish Brown Cecil is the combustion feature in the S of the two squares. It was very shallow in E119 and thicker in E120. Below the combustion feature in E120 appears to be another grass mat.

16/05/2017

After having removed the speckled white rock layer that was surrounding the combustion feature I came across a grass mat. This is the same mat, a portion of which was removed in E119 as Grass mat Ceta. The remainder of the mat will be taken out under this name. There are some interesting lithics at the base of Dark Yellowish Brown Cecilia: one of quartzite, one with retouch. There are several pieces of wood and poorly preserved bone, including a possible bovine cranium and horn core.

17/05/2017

Grass Mat Ceta portion jacketed and removed from E120. Brilliantly done.

Black Cerberus – this is a combustion feature below Ceta. It is interrupted by animal burrows (n=2) in E120 and a bone bed in E119. The bone bed will be removed separately as Dark Yellowish Brown Chloe

Dark Yellowish Brown Chloe – this contains several lithics and many bones, which appear to be from one or more whole skeletons. There are four stone flakes one of which has ochre rubbed on its dorsal surface

18/05/2017 FINAL NOTES

Due to Will finding a layer in e118 that I did not have in E119 I had to rename a layer so as to maintain the alphabetical order of the names. Cat has been changed therefore to Caso. I have not had time to alter this on the EDM sheet or on the finds bags – This needs to be done. There are only two finds from this layer: Li3332 and Li3333.

After drawing the section its clear that Black Cerberus is ended and we are now in lower layers. The two buckets with Black Cerberus sediment in need of a bucket point and to be sieved and sorted. The artefacts from this level in E120 have already been plotted and removed. Black Cerberus was not clearly present in the central portion of E119 and the bones in the bone bed Chloe were exposed. It seems now that the bones associated with Chkoe1 and Chloe 2 are in fact separate levels, not, as I thought, a pit dug into Black Cerberus. While I have plotted the artefacts from Cerberus as two decoupages/plans the sediment was placed into one bucket. The bones continue down the profile and can be seen sticking out the centre of E119. E120 is truncated by rock against which is grass matting which I suspect might be from an animal burrow. There appears to be an animal burrow in the north profile.

Shape of the square – this is not a true 50X50 cm square. In 2015 the north wall was not cut back enough because Will feared the boulder would fall on his head. West of E119 the wall juts out 5 cm. this is a line I inherited and so have followed it.

Where Chloe left off – the current floor is the base of Chloe (I think). It is apparent that there are multiple combustion features rather than a single large one as I had initially thought

Will Bank's note - the buckets that were left with Cerberus sediment were not labelled by me as such in the end. The plan and stratigraphy indicate that Cerberus is in fact a combustion feature that is associated with a level that contains a series of combustion features that sit atop and also incorporated into a level that has a lower grass mat. This level with the features and mat will be named Cilla. Therefore all of the artefacts and associated bags for Cerberus (and level forms) need to be changed to Cilla Combustion 1.