July 24th 2008 - Sunday

About to begin excavation of remaining layers in oven/flag... plan is to go down in layers at the easterly (oven) end, where last year's excavation has revealed slumped layers across its upper part (as ash-rich fill underneath)

West Facing Section

Floor Surface

Chalk edges of cut are reddened by fire

Full depth not yet exposed... plan overlaid - showing section location
So — for 2008 I'll start with *new* numbers for the fills (and possibly full-extent of the cut, once exposed).

There are no clear context numbers in the archive for the "chimney" or possible (once, thought) posthole at the eastern end ... will re-assign a cut number, but fill already removed — OK, will give a number for that as well, for strat. matrix.

Actually, no cut! Just a fill!!!
257) CUT... SMART BREAK OF SLOPE
  VERTICAL SIDES CUT IRREGULARLY INTO
  CHALK BEDROCK, THICKER FLOOR (37)
  BASE OF CUT NOT YET FULLY EXPOSED — IRREGULAR

258) UNKNOWN — AS REMOVED AS "POSTHOLE" FILL
   IN 2007.

259) 80% LARGE (15-20cm DIAM) SUB-ANGULAR
     CHALK BLOCKS
   20% LIGHT YELLOWISH GREY SILT, WITH
     NUMEROUS FINE MORTAR + CHALK INCLUSIONS
     (< 5mm).

   PACKING OR STRUCTURAL COMPONENT FOR
   CHIMNEY / VENT OF OVEN?
   ABOUT 10-15cm DEPTH.
   NO FINDS

   REMOVED BY HAND AFTER PLANNING — ROSE
   HAS A RECORD SHOT OF AFTERWARDS (TOP OF 260).
   N-S LINE OF SPOT HEIGHTS (x4) FOR 259/260
   INTERFACE
(260) **Mid Brown Friable Claeey Silt**

- Small Chazic (1-3 cm) Angular/Sub-Angular
- 5% Charcoal
- Occ. Burnt clay flecks

Only 1-2 cm thick, irregular lens overlying eastern ends of (261).

(261) Very mixed - redep burnt + unburnt chazic 2-15 cm (<10 cm)

About 40% inclusions: chazic 90%

10% burnt clay lumps (1-5 mm diam) + charcoal flecks

Mid yellowish brown friable claeey silt - with patches richer in above inclusions.

(262) Compact but soft, fine red ash

- With numerous charcoal flecks
- 1 x fingernail
- Occ. Burnt bone frags
- 100% bulk sampled (smalls/macros)

Clear interfaces above and below - flecked
29th July 2008

Cut (257) has become more symmetrical.

(261) Fills lower part of oven at east end.
Also fills flue to west.
Missing in centre - removed 2007 & 151.
Red ash 100% sample.

(262) Already removed in oven end
(on Sunday 27th July 2008).
More "chalky" part in flue is a
continuation of this chalky rubble
backfill, & e = 145 from 2007.

(263) Chunk of clay lining?
Spot height so far - removing
(261) + (262) for now.

Lunchtime
"Pool" - well, circular fill in centre of cut 257, underlyng 262, & underlyng 276.

To be excavated on 30th July!!

Planned around surface edges, plus spot heights (edges + centres)

Mid blueish grey, gritty feeling fill

Lots of charcoal flecks & other burnt inclusions? (etc)

Will be 100% sampled.

Clay-rich mid yellowish brown fill that follows cut 257 in its lower half.

Includes tile fragments...

Remains of a lining? Only present (it seems) in oven base - not flue.

Overlying 275!!! Seems to cease where cut 257 changes slope...

Looking to east

Section faces west
More Notes! 30th July 2008

276 Compact Bocky Clay (mid yellowish) very mixed inclusions, brown which seem greater on northern side of fill

30% charcoal flecks & dark fine ash
10% chalk frags 0.5 - 5 cm diam, angular to sub-angular
10% burnt clay (orange) lumps

Finds
4 fragments of same tile interfaces very clear, and also smooth/regular.

Spot heights taken around top
Spot heights for top of 275 = base
First plan of 275 = base of 276 as now known to overlie. So, full extent of 275 only revealed now that 276 has been removed.

275 Clayey silt, with very high % inclusions

40% fine grey ash
10% large charcoal fragments
?30% Fe droplets and slag
mid bluish grey
10% chalk frags ≤ 5 cm. Subangular
loose, crumbly matrix with clear edges. Maybe loosest fill of cut 257
max diam 90cm, 3 cut 257
max depth 35cm

Sharp break of slope, straight (if irregular) sides - stepped
8 slightly into gently sloped (5°?)
smooth flat chalk base.
DESCENDS E to W
IN OVEN

DESCENDS W to E
DOWN THE FIBS

E.g.

- denotes cutting edge of excav in 2022
- chalk under floor
- bedrock
Example matrix?

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<thead>
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<th>2007</th>
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<tr>
<td>140</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>151</td>
<td>262</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

140 ≈ 259 ≈ 258

Uppermost compacted fill
with large chalk blocks

260

261

Mixed chalky backfill
in fine sand

151 = 262

Red ash in fine sand

276 x 263

Clay-rich fillings

275

Slag-rich basal fill

Cut 146 = Cut 257

Oven created

83

Afer, from - I may have the wrong numbers!