24/7/07

87 - OVERLAIN BY TOPSOIL 82 AND 89

YELLOW-ORANGE GRAVELLY MORTAR AND RUBBLE LAYER ALONG WESTERN WALL OF BUILDING. BEGAN FROM NW CORNER, WHERE THIS LAYER WAS PATCHY. PEEL BACK THINLY—MORE OF A HARD CLEAN. THE LAYER PROPERLY BEGINS FURTHER SOUTH ALONG THE WALL. ROBBER/CONSTRUCTION TRENCH FILL APPEARS NOT TOTALLY REMOVED—ATTEMPTED TO LEAVE IT INSITU AND NOT MIX LAYERS. AWAY FROM THE WALL TO THE WEST, THE LAYER (83) IS NON-EXISTANT AND THERE IS A THICK, CLAY, RED-BROWN LAYER W/ FREQUENT SMALL PIECES OF CHALK—89
24/7/07 - 26/7/07 (1.5 days of rain)

89 - overlies 87, overlain by topsoil 82

89: Clay (red-brown) w/ frequent small chalk frags. Linear and insubstantial. Overlies 87 (to the east) and another dark brown clay/gravel layer w/ frequent roof tile (continues to the west). This layer (#91) underlies 87. 311 Fe nail, 314 Fe nail

Diagram:

- Clay/roof tiles
- 89
- 87
- Clay/roof tile
- 89 in 89.

Legend:

N↑

W. WALL TRENCH
5m

311 314
27/7/07

The edge of 89 Robber is mostly removed, exposing the interface of 87 and 91. 91 dips beneath 87, sloping down towards the western wall trend. The remainder of the Robber trench needs to come out before proceeding.

Could be where a brooch SF 41, EDM 2001 was MD + removed last year. 91 is not 38.
(cont'd)
The edge of 579 robber trench proved too difficult for me to find, I have re-begun excavating 87 again. Some sandstone roofing material, ceramic chimney pot + 3 nails (326, 327, 328), 331 - Fe nail and prags.

Coming down on less mortar, but much more plaster. No facing, so we're not removing carefully. Towards the wall trench, however, there is less plaster, less roof tiles (sandstone) and more rubble.
29/07/07

Continued excavating 87.

335 Fe nail, 340 cu-alloy object, fragmentary. Mags the conservator is carefully exposing it and it has been periodically photographed.

87 not completely removed between section lines. Began to excavate 96 at southern section line while mags continued to remove 340.

Wall trench

340 Fe nail in 87.
AFTER THE REMOVAL OF 340, which is possibly a bucket-rim fitting, I finished excavating 87. 87 came down on 96, which has a very similar matrix, but more rubble.

(05/08/07)
87 must have also come down on 91 and 98 - see final section drawing.
30/07/07

Excavating 96, the rubble of which is now removed. It came down to a less mortary portion w/ smaller pieces of chalk rubble. Roof tiles have been in 96 the whole time, often angled at about 60°. They continue into this less rubbly, less mortary bit. It will be excavated as 96 too. It is all the same feature, cutting into 91 plaster layer. I would say that 96 is a large robber trench because it is intrusive, & rubbly and abuts the wall. It came down on sandy silt (red-brown) and a possible packed chalk surface.
(cont’d)

Another 2 pieces of possible chimney pot from 36, lots of sandstone tile. 35† was a small odd bit of slag-like (non-metallic) substance. James wants to take it back to UCL and test its content.

353, 354, 355 Fe nails.
31/07/07

Robber trench fill 96 REMOVED. Cut of this trench assigned 97. 97 cuts a possible chalk surface lower down (≈15 cm), 142.

Today removing a compact layer also cut by 97. It is 18, sandy clay w/very frequent plaster frags and chalk. It appears fairly thin, but sloping and, perhaps, deepening towards the building. 91 is under 98 because the large roof tiles slope under the plaster at about 30° angle.
359/360 Fe Nails in 98.

- 89
  - 87 mortary/gravely spread
  - 96 robber trench Gill
  - 97 robber trench cut
  - 98 plaster-rich
  - 91 - cobbly w/ roof tiles

The idea that 91 is under 98 is one of three possible options: 1) 91 underlies 58, removing 98 is correct; 2) 91 overlies 98 and the part of 98 I am removing is non-stratigraphically excavated; 3) 91 abuts 98 and the chronology of deposition is uncertain.
LUCKILY, IT APPEARS THAT I WAS RIGHT AND # UNDERNEATH 98, BECAUSE AS I REMOVE 98, IT COMES DOWN ONTO RUBBLY SANDY CLAY L/ TILES.

MORE CHIMNEY POT IN 98, AND 350, AND 360 FE NAILS. I CAN SEE OTHER CHIMNEY POT FRAGS IN UNDERLYING LAYER.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN 91 AND 101 (WHICH COULD BE EQUAL TO 38) IS NEXT TO FIGURE OUT.
FINISHED REMOVING 98. A 97, WHICH UNDERLIES IT, LOOKS LIKE A (DEGRADED) COBBLY-CHALK SURFACE W/TILES. IT EXTENDS BACK (WEST) ABOUT 2 M FROM THE BUILDING, THEN IT FADES INTO 101. MARTIN WANTS 91 EXCAVATED FIRST; HE THINKS IT OVERLIES 101 AND THAT 101 WILL SLOPE DOWN EASTWARDS TOWARD THE BUILDING.
91 CAME DOWN ONTO RED-BROWN SANDY CLAY W/ LOTS OF ROOF TILES, SOME PLASTER, + SOME CHALK FRAGS. IT LOOKS LIKE THIS MIGHT BE A GULLY/DITCH-LIKE LINEAR FEATURE ALONG THE WESTERN EDGE (REAR) OF THE BLOG.
2/08/07

The possibility that 91 and 109 are somewhat mixed is high. The differentiation between the two is less based on matrix change than on the way certain roof tiles appear to be lying on a ditch-shaped surface. Between the western and eastern part is soft fill-like sediment in a linear shape, which could be the deeper part of the ditch fill.
11/08/07: 143 SHOULD BE BETWEEN 109 AND 110.
5/08/07

"PEA GRAVEL" MATRIX

89 - patchy, insubstantial red-brown sandy clay
87 - mortary, gravelly spread
96 - robber trench fill
97 - robber trench cut
98 - compact plaster-rich
91 - cobbly with roof tiles, upper part of fill of 114
109 - loose with roof tiles, lower part of fill of 114
114 - cut of gravel/ditch west of bldg
101 - dark spread w/ chalk frags.

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The robber trench 97 cut 114 on its eastern side; this side is of lower elevation for that reason.

11/08/07: 193 s should be shown.

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The base of 114 had angular chalk frags (~8-20 cm) in a loose
(Homogeneous dark brown with small chalk fragments, 1-10 cm)

11/08/07: 143 not shown.
BEGINNING TO EXCAVATE THE FIRST LAYER THAT I THINK WAS CUT BY \((114)\) GULLY/DITCH CUT, \((101)\) DARK BROWN SILTY CLAY WITH FREQUENT CHALK FRAGS. \((114)\) AND \((97)\) WERE SWEEP OUT AND PHOTOGRAPHED TODAY.

[\((17/08/07): (143)\) WAS LEFT IN SITU AT THIS STAGE. WE WERE EXCAVATING THE PART OF \((10)\) THAT OVERLAY \((143)\). SEE FINAL SECTION DRAWING]
Today and 06/08/07 have been excavating (101), which is very compact clay w/ a bit of chalk. Bone (fragmented) and small amount of potsherds came down on 5-20 cm chalk rubble/surface, (142). The chalk + clay area w/ between (114) and (101)/(142) area remains unexcavated (101) probably represents an area of standing water.
101 is now excavated, 142 underlies it. We have left a bank to the west of the 114 ditch. This bank could be a chalkier part of 101, as they lay at the same level. I don't think so, however, because the chalky bank seems to continue parallel to the rear wall of the bldg. and the ditch 114. It is probably a bank built up from digging out the ditch 114. I am going to remove a part of this bank 143 to check that it comes down onto 142. And it does. 143 to be removed.
At the western side of (143) bank feature, I think there was more to be removed, which makes sense as this interface was sort of unclear. As we excavated (143) eastward, we came onto what is more likely to be the bank feature, with bone roof slates and darker sediment.
143 came down onto more 101. There is also some 101 on the other side of the ditch 114. On the western edge of the ditch was a bit of extra 105 ditch fill that had to come off.

Possible ditch/pit (darker, softer)

09/08/07

149 with pit + sheep/goat burial
08/08/07

189 red-brown patchy clay
187 mortar spread
184 robber trench fill
197 robber trench cut
198 plaster-rich thin crust
143 chalk frag "bank"

91 top layer of ditch fill
109 lower layer of ditch fill
114 ditch cut
101 compact red-brown clay with chalk frags
142 chalk "rubble" surface with "pea gravel"

There are problems with this, mostly the relationship between 193 and the other layers. See final matrix.
09/08/07

147 is removed. At the southern edge of the trench, there is an area 1m x 1m approx. of darker, softer, siltier sediment with charcoal and bone, 149.

149 should have been two contexts, the pit and the spread deposit. The pit cut has been assigned 160. The fill of 160 contained a sheep/goat burial and also some...
SMALLER BONES, OF A LAMB? WE TOOK PICS AND REMOVED IT. THERE ARE SMALL BONES + FRAGS IN THE FILL SEDIMENT THAT WE NEED TO GO THROUGH.

149 SEEMS TO COME DOWN ONTO CHALK RUBBLE/NATURAL?, ALTHOUGH 149 ISN'T TOTALLY REMOVED. FOUND SOME GALENA/LEAD ORE AND SAND-TEMPERED CERAMICS.

I GAVE RACHEL THE SEDIMENT FROM THE PIT 160, AND HOPEFULLY SHE WILL PLOT OR SIEVE IT.

149 HAD MORE SAND-TEMPERED, LOW-FIRED POTSHERDS.

ONCE 149 IS TOTALLY REMOVED, 142 WILL BE VISIBLE ACROSS THE WHOLE TRENCH EXCEPT WHERE THERE IS A PATCH OF CLAY (NATURAL?) AND WHERE 142 HAS BEEN CUT BY 97 ROBBER TRENCH CUT.
One odd thing now that (149) is removed and (142) chalk rubble (natural glacial?) is visible over the whole surface except the robber trench is that under the ditch feature, the chalk rubble is more angular than over the rest of the trench. Also, the clay matrix of the rubble is more red-brown at the northern side of the trench and darker brown at the southern side. Is there more (149)? Is it natural variation?