Trench MF37 narrative

Trevor Greer

Intoduction.

Trench 37 was opened in 2007 with the aim of investigating the terminal end of the north-eastern embankment and its possible relationship with the findings in trench 17. This putative terminal lay two to three metres from the excavations in trench 17 at the northern point of the arena. The position of this terminal was indicated through geophysical survey. This part of the arena embankment ran from what was determined as the eastern gateway of the arena and the activity in trench 1 in a northwest arc following the curve of the arena for approximately ten metres. The end of the embankment terminal that formed the northern side of the eastern entrance measured approximately eight metres and was the widest point of this structure. As the embankment progressed northward it formed a curved cone shape that ended in an embankment terminal of perhaps just two metres.

Trench 37 proved to be very shallow with an average depth of about 30cm, at least down to what was considered to be the original Iron Age ground surface (37017). The following layers (37001) through to (37013) and including (37015) and (37016) were all subsoil patches located directly below topsoil level (37000). For the most part these layers were made up of mid brown sandy silt, however from context (37009) to (37015) these layers were made up of patches of stony rubble.

Context [3714] was recorded as a possible structure and possibly the last vestige of what may have been the outer revetment of the embankment terminal. This appeared as a finger of stony soil protruding from the east of the terminal and measured 3.5 metres in length and 1.6 metres at its widest point tapering to just 10cm. Without a cut or any meaningful structural debris this does not provide convincing evidence for a reveted terminal end.

Layers.

Context (37000) topsoil. From context (37001) to (37008) subsoil contexts, were made up of mid brown to yellow sandy silt. Contexts (37009) through to context (37013) were a mixture of mid brown/yellow sandy silt mixed with stony rubble and recorded as subsoil contexts. Context [37014] recorded as a possible structure, possibly the last vestige of what might have been the reveted terminal end comprising a tapering finger of stony soil. Contexts (37015) and (37016) were deposits of stony sandy silt, subsoil material. Context (37017) an area of sandy soil was thought to be the original Iron Age surface.

Small finds.

Only one small find was recovered, a Copper-alloy Roman coin in the topsoil (37000). Find SF 5473. It was noted that the soil conditions showed evidence of considerable ploughing.

Pottery

Only two pieces of Iron Age pottery were recovered. Type PCW.