



SOUTH PENNINE ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

ARCHAEOLOGY FOR ALL

Mitchell Field Nook Farm Dig

Day 2 20th October 2019

Trench 1



The group experienced a day of digging, detecting, drones and double rainbows as the evaluation trench was continued. The age range of today's digging group ranged from 6 years to "a bit" older.



Diggers in action

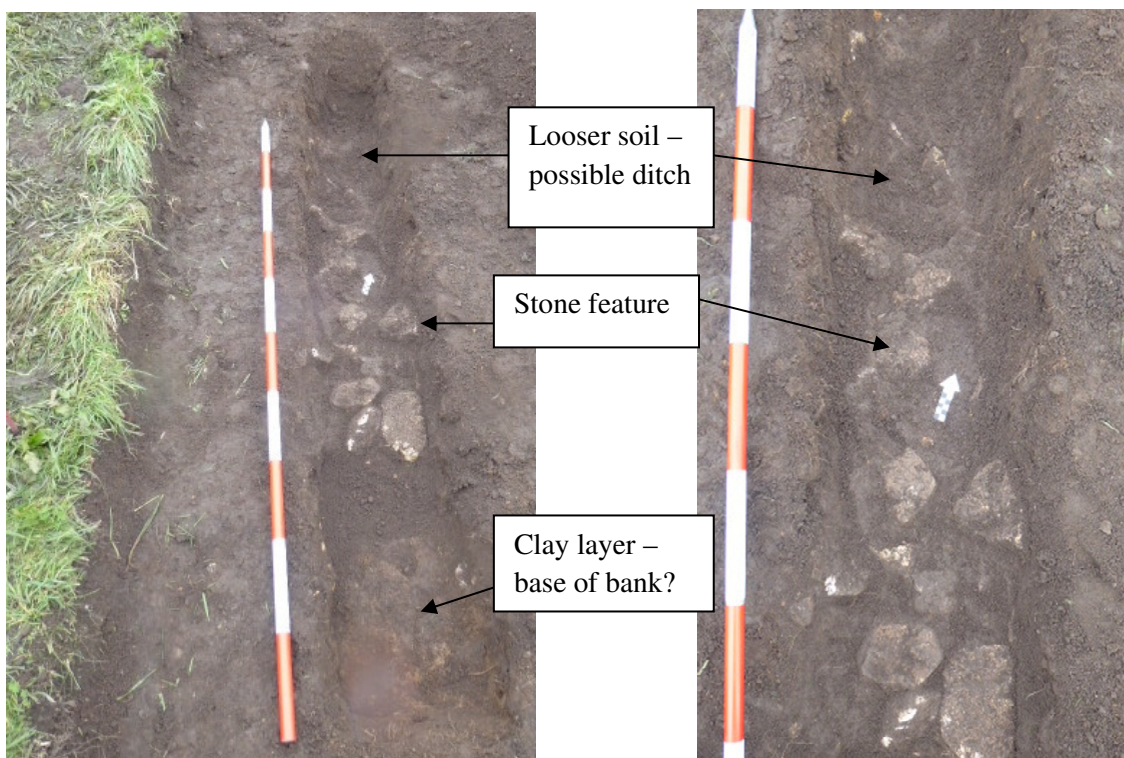
Excavation in the trench was continued by trowelling the northern half and light mattocking of the southern half.

The eroded bank seemed to be visible in Context 2, especially in the northern half of the trench. A similar context was also found covering the southern half of the trench where a ditch was expected to be visible.

A sondage was cut through the trench. This revealed a stone feature with two definite edges. To the north of this the soil was dark and loose – possibly the ditch. To the south a layer of clay was found – possible the base of the southern bank.



Context 2 looking south. (Red peg marks metal detecting signal.)



Finds

The absence of modern or Victorian finds in Context 2 and the sondage seems to suggest an early date for the feature. Further investigation would be beneficial.



Small piece of Cornish Ware found in spoil while backfilling

Metal detecting survey

Kevin continued a survey of the north eastern area. He also spent some time teaching how to use the equipment. The finds are pictured below.



Lock guard plate



Possible buckle fragment

Drone survey

A drone survey of the area was completed by Mark Walls of Footage from Above. This is a new technique for the group and we are impressed by the speed of the survey and the quality of the results. Always keen to update our approach to Archaeology, this is definitely a technique we hope to use again in the future.



Lift off!



Mark flies the drone with Whitegate Farm in the background

Conclusion

From LIDAR images, the area seems to contain many interesting features which have not been studied before. The site is near to the possible minor contour hillfort at The Hile¹.

Further investigation will be required (when access to the field is available) including a geophysical survey. More excavation should follow in the future, especially to investigate some of the circular features within the rectangle.

A report will be written on the excavation.

1 Hillforts, Homesteads and Habitats in the East Lancashire Pennines 2018 John Clayton

Report and photos C. Rousseau-Jones 20/10/19



Double rainbow over Whitegate Farm