Whelpley Hill 2013 Excavations
Overall plan: Establish – date occupation, size and wealth of community. Integrate into local and broader landscape

? Impact of plough degradation on survival of features

Plan for 2013: Major focus on visible features and those detected by geophysics
11 trenches excavated - 8 were informative.

i) Bank - with hope of identifying make-up & original ground surface

ii) Outer ditch to establish depth, nature of fill & recovery environmental deposits

iii) Possible southern entrance to firmly establish identity and structure

iv) Circular low resistance feature to identify function

v) Establish whether an inner ditch was present
Whelpley Hill June trenches from a copter

Finds made by local farmer

Note – trenches cover only small proportion of total area

March - Coffee break
Whelpley Hill: geophysics and disposition of trenches
WH March 2013: Exploration of bank structure

- Topsoil
- Brown/orange clay with occasional flints
- Friable grey/brown clay with linear black deposits/structures
- Sandy intrusion
- Friable orange clay with occasional flints
- Stiff orange clay

Base of bank?
Whelpley Hill - Outer ditch. Finding the ditch fill

Tr 2 Cut 2 - Outer ditch
1m wide x 3m long, 1.3m deep

Top-soil
Red clay
Ditch fill

Tr 8 - Outer ditch
1.5m wide x 8m long
000 – brown/grey soil with small flints and rounded pebbles

001 – stiff orange clay-malleable with large-medium sz flints (bank dump)

BCC – brown clay intrusion prior to bank dump

001-2 – brown orange clay with scatter of chalk nodules

002-1 – crumbly grey brown ditch fill with medium sz flints, charcoal frags & organics

002-2 – crumbly grey black ditch fill with organics

004 – small scale coal dump

003 – smooth conformable base orange clay (OC)

- coal
- chalk nodules
- flint
Whelpley Hill: geophysics and disposition of trenches
WH: Entrance 1 to enclosure: Combined trenches 3 and 9

bank slope
south west facing
Section A-B

bank slope
north-east facing
Section C-D

8m interior
1m topsoil
red clay
grey/brown friable clay
Excavation of 19th C pit in entrance floor

Calf skeleton

Sheep skeleton

CVAHS team above pit
Whelpley Hill: geophysics and disposition of trenches
WH 2013 Trench 10; sections I – XI across possible pond

[Diagram showing profile of basal stiff red clay with depths and descriptions of soil layers]

1m extension

pond edge

profile of basal stiff red clay

pond centre

WH Tr 10 XII extension – pond centre

topsoil with pot fragments & small flints

0.5m
dark brown silt with few inclusions

1.0m
moist brown/yellow silt with large flints

1.5m
moist dark brown/yellow silt with large flints

2.0m
stiff red clay; no inclusions

VII
V
III
IX
XII
extension

pond centre
Major findings

i) Bank - structure complex: probably at least 1-2m higher in original form; original width at base at least 7m.

ii) Outer ditch c.3m depth and 9m wide at maximum. Ditch deposits sampled currently being analysed

iii) Southern entrance confirmed; 5m wide, 6m long passage; 19th C pit dug into solid clay beneath surface of entrance

iv) Circular high resistance feature - probable pond, one of three.

Comments

Size and structure suggests a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age enclosures
Charcoal recovered from outer ditch, pond trench

BUT no other dateable finds made apart from 18/19th C pot & tile fragments, clay pipe & nails in upper levels plus two oyster shells; animal skeletons associated with pit.