

On the winter school 1978 a fair sized area was partly cleared & ~~partly~~ barricaded with ~~thorn-bush~~ ^a break near the lower end of the ~~gate~~ ^{gate} on which Diego's house had been situated. This area extended on both sides of the modern access road to the ~~upper part of the site~~ ^{upper part of the site} & was chosen because it included at least one hut (from a night yield and on regard); the gate & the structure of the ~~house~~ ^{house}. It was ~~found~~ ^{below} the site of the gate marked by the Historical Monument Commission, because it was almost certain that that ~~site~~ ^{place} was too far up the hill.

Professor Packington, when he surveyed the area in 1974, put ~~some~~ ^{some} pegs to mark what appeared to be the sites of huts, & some of these had escaped the depredations of post-war sections. One of them was in the area now laid out, on the ~~west~~ ^{south} of the access road. It is with this hut site that the present paper deals. Trenches were dug to test for the entrance & structure on the ~~west~~ ^{south} of the road but yielded nothing; a trench on the ~~west~~ ^{west} of the road was not finished for lack of time. These trenches were located on a line ~~running~~ ^{conventionally} ~~from~~ ^{from} ~~the~~ ^{from} ~~peg~~ ^{peg} across the access road to 30 m ~~west~~ ^{north} of the peg. The hut area was excavated on a rectangle for the peg 2 m ~~west~~ ^{west}, 3 m ~~west~~ ^{west}, 6 m ~~west~~ ^{east} and 3 m ~~west~~ ^{west}. ~~The~~ ^{This} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~divided~~ ^{divided} into quadrants, but as most of the ~~hut~~ ^{hut} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~exposed~~ ^{exposed} & outside it the depth of ~~excavation~~ ^{excavation} was ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~more~~ ^{more} ~~than~~ ^{than} 10 cm. Draw sections. It appears that since the hut was abandoned ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~area~~ ^{area} ~~had~~ ^{had} ~~been~~ ^{been} ~~ploughed~~ ^{ploughed} & ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~soil~~ ^{soil} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~very~~ ^{very} ~~loose~~ ^{loose}. A ~~test~~ ^{test} 10 cm deep into the rubble outside the hut area to the north ~~west~~ ^{west} showed that the rubble was packed & stable, & was clearly the undisturbed ~~remains~~ ^{remains} of the ~~hut~~ ^{hut}.

The remains of the hut consist of a fairly level floor of stamped, rather greasy clay or daga, about 4 cm thick, laid on a terrace incised about 25 cm into the ~~soil~~ ^{soil} ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~edge~~ ^{edge} of the ~~hill~~ ^{hill} ~~slope~~ ^{slope} or the upper or east side. The daga rested on a ~~thin~~ ^{thin} ~~layer~~ ^{layer} of earth above the rubble, ~~which~~ ^{which} ~~must~~ ^{must} ~~have~~ ^{have} ~~been~~ ^{been} ~~laid~~ ^{laid} ~~down~~ ^{down} at least ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~edge~~ ^{edge} of the ~~hill~~ ^{hill} ~~slope~~ ^{slope}. There was no sign that the daga had been rolled. The edge was very irregular & had been considerably eroded ~~partly~~ ^{partly} ~~by~~ ^{by} ~~aloes~~ ^{aloes} & other bushes, but probably mainly by cattle which had for many years ranged ~~over~~ ^{over} the area; there are ~~many~~ ^{many} ~~holes~~ ^{holes} in the daga probably also due to erosion & some shallow pits; I do not think that there were the sockets of structural posts, as they ~~are~~ ^{are} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~found~~ ^{found} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~area~~ ^{area}; there are ~~however~~ ^{however} ~~some~~ ^{some} ~~holes~~ ^{holes} ~~near~~ ^{near} the ~~edge~~ ^{edge} of the daga ~~which~~ ^{which} ~~appear~~ ^{appear} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~be~~ ^{be} ~~sockets~~ ^{sockets} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~posts~~ ^{posts} ~~which~~ ^{which} ~~would~~ ^{would} ~~have~~ ^{have} ~~been~~ ^{been} ~~used~~ ^{used} ~~for~~ ^{for} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~hut~~ ^{hut} ~~structure~~ ^{structure}.

Recent Zulu huts were of beehive form, with thatched land on a frame of fairly thin limbs, ~~which~~ ^{which} ~~were~~ ^{were} ~~usually~~ ^{usually} ~~fastened~~ ^{fastened} at the top to a ring surrounding a smoke-hole. It was possible to reconstruct tentatively the ~~hut~~ ^{hut} ~~structure~~ ^{structure} by tracing most of a circle of very shallow & slightly softer pits in the rubble outside the extent floor. It was assumed that these pits were the bases of sockets for the ~~posts~~ ^{posts} ~~of~~ ^{of} the ~~hut~~ ^{hut} ~~frame~~ ^{frame} ~~which~~ ^{which} ~~when~~ ^{when} ~~erected~~ ^{erected} they would have been sunk into several centimeters of earth. They ~~would~~ ^{would} ~~probably~~ ^{probably} ~~have~~ ^{have} ~~been~~ ^{been} ~~less~~ ^{less} ~~than~~ ^{than} 5 cm across. On the north & south sides of the circle there were gaps caused by aloes clumps, which had probably rotted & enlarged them so that they were no longer ~~recognizable~~ ^{recognizable}. There was a gap also on the east side against the ~~scarp~~ ^{scarp} ~~which~~ ^{which} ~~marked~~ ^{marked} the ~~incision~~ ^{incision} ~~of~~ ^{of} the ~~terrace~~ ^{terrace} into the hill slope. It is probable that the warty sockets were at the ~~foot~~ ^{foot} ~~of~~ ^{of} the ~~scarp~~ ^{scarp}, though this reconstruction would put the hearts slightly off center. The western ~~or~~ ^{or} ~~eastern~~ ^{eastern} ~~edge~~ ^{edge} of the floor was probably supported by two or three upright posts in the rubble to prevent ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~hut~~ ^{hut} ~~from~~ ^{from} ~~slipping~~ ^{slipping} ~~down~~ ^{down} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~scarp~~ ^{scarp}. About 1 m outside the ring of warty sockets was ~~identified~~ ^{identified} a ~~slightly~~ ^{slightly} ~~irregular~~ ^{irregular} ~~ring~~ ^{ring} of large pits. They were not easy to identify & were perhaps spaced 60-100 cm apart. Between several of them the gap was nearly 2 m, which may indicate that an intermediate pit was not found. They were of varying size, & I could not be certain that some of them were not holes formed naturally by aloes bushes ~~or~~ ^{or} ~~other~~ ^{other} ~~plants~~ ^{plants}. However, their plan suggests a structure, so they may have been sockets of the posts of a fence or less probably a windbreak.

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(no 8) This was divided into quadrants, but as most of the hut (low was completely or nearly exposed

and outside it the earth was not more than 10 cm deep to the basal rubble, it was ~~not~~ ^{feasible}

to draw sections. It appears that since the hut was abandoned, there had been erosion nearly

to the basal rubble. The rubble was packed or stable, as shown in a ~~small~~ hut 10 cm deep

outside the hut-area to the north-west, or was clearly the ~~underlying~~ ^{actual base} of the rock.

The remains of the hut consisted of a fairly level (low of stambed, rather greeny clay or

daga about 4 cm thick. The foundation was a terrace which on the east had been

incised about 25 cm into the stable, light grey sand of the hill-slope. The incision was

~~diagonal~~ ^{or quite vertical}, and the daga probably rested against the cut surface. Elsewhere it rested

on a layer 5-8 cm thick of black earth above the rubble. This black earth must have

been laid after the incision of the terrace. There was no sign of more than one spread

of daga.

The edge of the daga was very irregular & had been much eroded, partly by ~~also~~

brush but probably mainly by cattle which had for many years ranged over the area.

The underlying dark earth in particular had suffered erosion, so that in some places the

daga appeared to have sunk. These holes through the daga were probably due to erosion;

there were also shallow pits, but it does not appear that any of these were post-

holes or they formed no pattern