

DINGAAN'S KRAAL, DINGAANSTAT

Edited field-notes on the trenches dug in the area of the lower hut, for reference but not publication.

78/142. Trench 1, laid out 8.5 - 13.5 m north of peg P along the base-line and 1 m east of it. Continued as Trench 1 ext. 13.5 - 15.5 m ~~east~~<sup>north</sup> of peg P on same side of base-line.

Nothing was found in this trench.

In Trench 1 which cut across a shallow depression, thought possible to mark an eroded path in use at the time of the kraal from the entrance outwards; but no evidence was found to support this.

In Trench 1 the earth above rubble was very shallow. On the surface of the rubble were several shallow depressions, which formed no pattern and could not have formed the sockets for posts.

In Trench 1 ext. at 14.5 m north of peg P, there was a sharp step upwards in the rubble about 4 cm high; north of this the rubble was only 5 cm below turf. In the whole trench there was no sign of other such steps. Just below and south of this step was a marked shallow depression in the rubble. I could not explain these steps.

78/143-5. Trench 2.

Trench 2 (78/143) was laid out at right angles to the base-line along the depression in the surface. It ran from peg P 10.5-11.5 m north 1-7 m east. It was extended as Trench 2 ext. (78/144) at 7-10 m east of peg P and 1-7 m north. Finally, looking for the stockade or gate 2 wing-trenches were dug (78/145) 9.5 - 12 m north of peg P and 9.5 - 10.5 m east.

78/143 Trench 2. Towards west, earth above the rubble was very shallow, but deepens towards east as the trench passed out of the depression. At 4.5 m east of the base-line the earth on the north side was 12 cm thick; at 7.2 m it was 18 cm thick on south. Near the rubble were found 1 piece of reddened quartzite perhaps burnt and 1 piece of bone; not far from the turf 3 trade-beads (the only pieces kept; almost certainly washed down the hill).

78/144 Trench 2 ext. 2 broken pieces of quartzite found which seem to have no signification and are discarded. In the extreme s.e. corner was a fairly deep pit in the rubble; so Trench 2 wings (78/145) was dug to see if any light could be thrown on this but no similar pits were found, no trace of gate or stockade. 1 small native sherd found and 1 scrap bone, both discarded

78/146-7. Trench 3.

Trench 2 (78/146) was laid out at right angles to the base-line and north of the access-road. It ran, from peg P, 27-28 m north 0-9 m east.

On this line, beneath and east of the thorn-break, there appeared on surface a shallow depression where the grass was green in contrast to the yellow winter-grass elsewhere. This seemed to be an old pond. East of it were scattered granite blocks, some fixed and some apparently loose, which may have been quarried from the hollow. As this hollow clearly needed testing, Trench 3 was extended east so as to cut it.

78/147 Trench 3 ext. was laid out from peg P, 27-28 m north and 9 - 10.5 m east up to the thorn-break. This trench was partly dug but not finished. It was continued as Trench 4, which was laid out across the pond and beyond the thorn-break, from peg P 26.5 - 27.5 m north 10.5 - 14 m east. There was not time for any digging on Trench 4.

78/146a. Trench 3, 0-10 cm. Mostly dark earth with one patch of harder light earth. Most of the finds were towards the east end, where there seems to have been low midden, as at 7.5 m east of base-line there was an ant-bear hole 25 cm deep. The midden probably extended all down the trench, thinning out westward as perhaps spread rather than dump. There were bone scraps all the way down at 10-15 cm depth.

78/146b. Trench 3, 10-20 cm. About 10 cm depth the earth

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changed from dark to light grey sand, fairly hard and at west end of trench nearly sterile, as finds lay on it but not in it. There were a few bones in it, so it clearly continued to be perhaps disturbed midden. In the middle part of the trench there were very few finds at this level. Finds were patchy. There were also in this part scattered scraps of burnt bone.

78/146c. Trench 3, 20-30 cm. Only the eastern end of the trench was dug below 20 cm owing to lack of time. This level and 78/146 d 30-40 cm were dug through light grey sand with few sherds, but enough to suggest still midden earth. This was round the ant-bear hole. A very small hole was dug quickly to find rubble at 52 cm, but I could not tell if finds gave out completely in this hole and the habitation-earth rested on some thickness of sterile natural earth. There was no ash and probably no charcoal, so the material was not true midden, but rather habitation earth, perhaps partly deposited by erosion. There was no stratification visible in the trench.

78/147. Trench 3 ext. This was dug down to 30 cm, at which depth there were still isolated pieces of bone. Below 10 cm was light grey sand with a few granite pebbles, and 2 rounded quartzite pebbles about 20 cm. No stratification.

N.B. Compass-points in these notes and in the report on the hut are conventional as marked on general plan, with base-line north-south. In fact the base-line was nearer east than north, and true orientation must be got from the surveyor's plan.

Preliminary tests were made for soil-stratification along the road:

- 1) at a drain on north side of the road on the base-line. Apparently 3 levels were exposed of slightly varying thickness:
  - a. 0-10 cm. Fine, light grey sand and stratified mud, probably erosion material after the site became overgrown;
  - b. 10-25 cm. Gritty sand with very small and a few larger quartz pebbles, becoming darker at base; probably the initial erosion after the kraal was burnt and abandoned before vegetation reestablished itself;
  - c. Below 25 cm. thin line of dark sand without charcoal overlying consolidated rubble; perhaps the remains of the habitation-earth.

No artefacts found on surface of any of the levels.

- 2) at a drain up the hill to east, opposite the plaque marked Groot ~~ingang~~ and Ingang:

- a. Gritty sand
- b. Beneath an unconformity, several cm of very hard sand with charcoal scraps. Probably eroded surface of ~~The top rubble is probably the eroded surface at time of~~ habitation-earth at time of abandonment.
- c. Rubble.