

1.11 Quarries

List of quarries

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F685	layers 369, 370	E649430	Roman
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F698	layers 373, 368	E529458	Roman
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F709	layers 392, 393	E564463	Roman
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F776		K700500	Roman
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Descriptions of the quarries

F684 Tr 1 E656446 Quarry type 4

Length: 2.8 m Width: 2.2 m Depth: 0.5 m

Description: The hollow was quarried out from the side of the ditch F679/680. It cuts F679/680, F691 and is cut by F685; it is sealed by layer 361. During excavation the hollow was regarded as extending both north and south of the ditch. However the area on the north forms a distinctly separate hollow 1.3 m wide with an even sloping wall and curved base. Layer 2 occurs in this area only, whilst (371) extends across the whole area of quarrying and ditch.

Fill: (2) In the lowest 0.1–0.15 m the quarry contains chalk grit and a few larger pieces, but the top is delineated by a thin lens of rounded chalk 10–30 mm and grit.

(1) = (371) Across the top was a brown clayey silt containing a moderate density of small angular chalk up to 30 mm, including darker more soily lenses and paler chalkier areas, where it cuts through natural ridges of chalk.

F685 Tr 1 E649430 Quarry type 4

Length: top – 3.0 m, base – 2.2 m Width: 2.4 m Depth: 0.42 m

Description: This feature has the form of an oval-shaped basin with gently sloping sides merging into a dished base. It cuts F679/680 and F684 and is sealed by layer 361.

Fill: (370) Brown clayey soil containing flint nodules up to 150 mm and a moderate quantity of angular chalk *c.*20 mm concentrated in the centre. Fragments of charcoal occurred towards the base and frequent occupation debris, especially pottery, daub, bones and oyster shell.
(369) Chalk blocks up to 200 mm and flints up to 150 mm in dark brown clayey soil containing a moderate density of chalk *c.*20 mm, occasional roof slates and pottery.

F691 Tr 1 E645450 Quarry type 1

Length: top – 2.0 m, base – 1.5 m Width: top – 1.5 m; base – 1.0 m Depth: 0.45 m

Description: This quarry was an oval basin-shaped hollow, with even sloping sides at an angle of about 45° and a flat slightly inclined base. It had been cut by F679/680 and F684.

Fill: It contained a single layer (396) consisting of brown clayey silt with a moderate density of chalk up to 50 mm, becoming paler towards the base as chalk grit content increased.

F696 Tr 1 E529474 Quarry type 4

Length: top – >0.8 m, base – >0.5 m Width: top – 1.3 m, base – 0.5 m Depth: 0.95 m

Description: This quarry was a circular basin-shaped hollow with sloping sides with curving basal angle joining to the flat base. It was uneroded. It cuts F679/680 and was sealed by layer 373.

Fill: In its base was a light brown clayey silt (397) [1st cent AD+] containing a moderate density of subangular chalk up to 20 mm, increasing in density close to the base. The upper part of the quarry is filled with layer 373 [1st–2nd cent. AD], which extends across several features.

F697 Tr 1 E516454 Quarry type 4

Length: top – 1.4 m, base – 1.0 m Width: top – 1.0 m, base – 0.5 m Depth: 0.63 m

Description: This feature was sub-oval, having sloping sides at approximately 45° angle and a rounded base. It was uneroded. It cut F679/680 and was probably contemporary with F698, both forming a single episode of quarrying from both sides of the ditch. It was thought to be cut by a post-hole (ph 1039), but this is unlikely to be a genuine feature, being rather variations in the fill of the quarry.

Fill: In the base was an orange brown silty clay containing a little chalk grit and fragments

c.10 mm in size, with a few small chalky lenses interleaving at the sides. The area designated ph 1039 had a much higher chalk content, representing a chalkier tip in this area of the quarry.

F698 Tr 1 E529456 Quarry type 4

Length: >0.5 m Width: top – 1.1 m, base – c.0.6 m Depth: 0.7 m

Description: This circular quarry scoop had been cut from the edge of the ditch F679/680. This quarry together with F696 completely truncated the upper part of the ditch in this area and the three features have a common upper fill (layers 367, 368, 374, 373).

Fill: Relating to F698 exclusively was a thin layer of light brown clayey silt (399) mixed with small subangular chalk up to 20 mm, weathered from the quarry sides. Above this was an orange brown clayey soil, hard and compact, containing a low density of small subangular chalk and occasional flints (373). This layer was particularly thick over both quarries, thinning in the centre over the ditch. Delineating the hollow formed by the top of (373) was a thin dark grey layer (374) tipped from the north side, consisting of charcoal, ash and occupation debris, especially pottery, oyster and mussel shells.

Above this was an orange brown clayey soil (368) containing a moderate density of subangular chalk up to 50 mm and much chalk grit plus occasional small flints. Infilling the top of the quarries was a mix of small subangular chalk 5–30 mm and orange brown clayey silt, with occasional flints and frequent pottery and bone.

Sealing the top of the quarries were layers (398, 359, 360) relating to the aisled hall.

F704 Tr 1 E556469 Quarry type 4

Length: top – >1.6 m, base – c.1.2 m Width: top – 1.2 m, base – c.0.4 m
Depth: 0.82–0.92 m

Description: This sub-oval hollow had steeply sloping concave sides curving in to the rounded dished base. It was dug from the sides of the ditch F679/680 and its upper fill extends over the ditch.

Fill: On the base of the quarry was a light brown chalky clay silt (394) containing a moderate–high density of subangular chalk 5–30 mm mixed throughout the layer. This appears to be dumped material rather than erosion products. Above this and extending over the ditch fill (cutting 4) was an orange brown clayey soil (393) containing in general a low density of subangular chalk, 5–15 mm, but with a greater frequency and size in the central hollow, together with a few flints. Infilling the top was a thick deliberate dump (392) of subangular chalk 10–50 mm plus some flints 50–90 mm in a whitish grey chalky silt matrix with much chalk grit.

F709 Tr 1 E564463 Quarry type 4

Length: 1.3 m Width: 0.7 m Depth: 0.9 m

Description: This quarry took the form of an irregular oval scoop with uneven sloping sides, stepped in places and several separate hollows in the base with curved or flat floors. It was dug out from the sides of ditch F679/680.

Fill: It contained a sticky orange brown clay (407) mixed with a high density of chalk grit and occasional small angular lumps, possibly material eroded from the quarry walls. This infilled the basal scoops of the quarry only; the upper part was filled with layers 393 (see F704) and the upper horizon of 404, which both extended across the ditch F679/680 (cutting 4) and the nearby quarry scoop F704.

F748 (and F760) Tr 3 K54–K74 Quarry type 5: Multiple, complex

Length: 16.50 m Width: 9.00 m Depth: 1.10 m Cuts F751, F756, F749
Below L441

Description: A quarry complex, which comprised multiple interconnecting hollows. Most of the quarry was left unexcavated apart from a trial trench 2 m wide across the centre of the quarry, but only fully excavated to natural at its south-east end. It is clear the quarry comprised numerous scoops and hollows varying in shape from circular to subrectangular, ranging in size from 0.75 m up to 2.2 m. The sides sloped ranging from steep–near vertical to less than 45°. The floors of the hollows were generally flat or dished. Adze-type tool marks present.

Fill: L441: a single thick (0.35 m) layer blanketed the whole quarry complex and also extended over the top of ditch F751 and some of the post-holes to the south. It was a compact dark brown clayey soil containing a low density of stone mostly small rounded chalk up to 15 mm and grit together with rare angular flints *c.*40 mm and nodules *c.*120 mm. The layer contained a high density of occupation debris, mostly pottery, but also bone, fired clay, clay tile, building stone (sandstone) including a fragment of column drum, and broken limestone roof slates shattered and mostly burnt.

L447: Greyish brown clayey soil mixed with a high density of ash with dark smears of fine charcoal; on the south-west side at the base was a thick lens of dense ash with charcoal fragments. The layer was distinguished by the high stone content, especially angular flints 50–150 mm, subrounded chalk up to 80 mm and frequent limestone roof slates up to 130 mm, some burnt and lying flat. The layer also contained considerable occupation material especially pottery, frequently large sherds, also oyster shell, bone, Fe nails and clay tile.

L448: Yellowish brown clay mixed with clayey soil and moderate–high density of rounded chalk grit and lumps 10–50 mm plus scattered flints up to 40 mm and charcoal fragments. [Deliberate tip possibly debris derived from quarrying in another part of the feature.]

L449: Orange brown clayey soil containing moderate–high density of sub-angular/rounded chalk up to 70 mm, but most *c.*10 mm, occasional angular flints and charcoal fragments. Within the layer were lenses of pale yellow chalky marl and thin tips of chalk. [Deliberate tips similar to L448.]

L472: Sticky orange-brown silty clay containing subangular tabular flints up to 50 mm and a low density of fine chalk grit. This layer occurred over the base of the western hollow of the

quarry as excavated. [Possibly primary silting.]

L473: This layer occurred only in the lowest scoop cutting diagonally across the trial trench. It was composed of a mixed deposit of sub-angular/-rounded chalk lumps up to 50 mm set in a matrix of orange brown clay soil. [Tip of waste material from quarrying.]

F760 Tr 3 K550400 Quarry hollow/scoop Unex

Length: 1.00 m Width: 0.80 m Depth: ~ Part of F748 Below L441

Description: Part of quarry complex F748, forming a small lobe projecting beyond the main quarry edge on the north-west side. Upper part blanketed by L441.

F767 Tr 4 L035700 Quarry type 4: Multiple, derivative Unex

Length: >4.8 m Width: 4.00 m Depth: 0.16 m Cuts ?F766

Description: A shallow quarry complex apparently cut from the upper edge of ditch F766. Only a small section was excavated at its east end as part of F766/3. Here it took the form of shallow scoops, which joined with F797 to the east. The whole was probably a series of conjoining quarry scoops of varying depths.

Fill: (1) Greyish brown clayey soil containing a moderate density of small chalk c.15 mm and occasional flints with disturbed chalk marl over the base.

F771 Tr 3 K700500 Quarry type 3: Single, derivative

Length: 3.40 m Width: 1.15 m Depth: 0.58 m F751

Description: A linear quarry along the north side of ditch F751. The north edge was gently curved, slightly scalloped with fairly steep sloping sides with rounded basal angle joining to a dished base forming a slight ridge along the edge of F751.

Fill: (1) s.a. F751/2 (3) Light brown chalky clay silt containing a high density of subrounded chalk up to 20 mm and grit and scattered small angular flints. The base of the layer was delineated by a distinct chalk lens.

(2) s.a. F751/2 (4) Sticky orange brown clay silt containing a high density of subrounded chalk 5–15 mm interleaved with thin lenses of sub-angular/rounded chalk up to 40 mm sloping in from the north edge as well as discrete dumps of chalk on the base of the quarry.

(3) Compact dark brown sticky clay silt containing a high density of rubbly subrounded chalk up to 60 mm forming tips or dumps within the layer, which contained frequent charcoal throughout, small flints 20–50 mm, occasional pottery and a tip of ash at the base of the quarry.

F774 Tr 3 K814392 Quarry: Single, derivative

Length: 1.50 m Width: top – 1.70 m, base – 0.5 m Depth: 0.70 m Cuts ?F750

Description: A rounded hollow cutting into the west side of ditch F750; it had sloping sides continuous with the dished base. As it was of limited extent it is best interpreted as a small area of quarrying, rather than recutting of the ditch.

Fill: F750/2 (2) The lowest layer in the feature was a mixed brown soil containing a moderate density of chalk up to 20 mm throughout with many larger rounded chalk blocks and angular flints 30–150 mm in size rolled to the centre of the hollow. Occasional pottery and charcoal flecks occurred, together with 15 litres of limestone roof slate, but little other occupation debris.

F750/2 (6) filled the upper part of the quarry and would appear to be no different to the layer of silting that accumulated elsewhere in the ditch, suggesting this small quarry was cut between the accumulation of layers 6 and 7 as seen to the south. It was a brown soil containing chalk grit, occasional burnt chalk and charcoal flecks.

F776 Tr 3 K700500 Quarry type 3: Single, derivative

Length: 1.80 m Width: top – 0.85 m, base – 1.0 x 0.6 m Depth: 0.65 m Cuts F749, F751

Description: Ovoid hollow with even sloping sides continuous with rounded dished base.

Fill: The fill was not recorded separately to F751/2. The west section barely catches the fill of the quarry, which indicates the fill was a soil with a high density of chalk grit. The top was defined by a stony lens consisting of chalk and flints 20–100 mm, which continued across the top of F751 and F771 and appears to be a continuation of the extensive layer of building debris at the east end of the quarries and ditch.

F784 Tr 4 L023790 Quarry type 3: Single, derivative

Length: 1.60 m Width: top – 1.30 m, base – 1.12 m Depth: 0.48 m
Part of F821 Cuts F826

Description: Circular quarry scoop with steep sloping sides and fairly flat base, slightly irregular.

Fill: Brownish grey clayey soil containing a moderate density of small subangular chalk and angular flints 10–30 mm, some burnt. This layer extended across the quarry and pit F826.

Brown clayey soil containing moderate density of subangular chalk up to 70 mm and grit and frequent flints 30–120 mm especially concentrated towards the base of the fill.

F788 Tr 4 L118732 Quarry type 4: Multiple, derivative

Length: 4.20 m Width: 2.30 m 0.37–0.75 F766

Description: The quarry extends to north and south of the ditch F766, cutting across it and presumably formed by quarrying out from the ditch sides. The quarry was made up of numerous scoops ranging from circular through oval to trilobate: the deeper hollows ranged from 0.5–0.75 m deep with shallower areas between. The scoops ranged from steep sided to shallowly shelving and dished.

Fill: (1) Greyish brown clayey soil containing a low density of rounded chalk grit up to 10 mm and moderate density of angular flint 10–30 mm. Occasional fragments of burnt clay, charcoal and patches of ash.

(2) Light brown clayey soil containing a low density of chalk grit and subangular fragments up to 25 mm. Some larger chalk and flint rubble *c.*50–140 mm occurred on the south side together with diffuse chalk or stonier tip lines. Rare charcoal flecks.

Brown clayey soil with varying densities of small chalk *c.*15 mm and grit, sometimes forming distinct chalky horizons or combined with small angular flints stony horizons. These lenses were discontinuous often confined within the base of individual scoops and in that respect (3) is a blanket number for several different basal layers.

F796 Tr 4 L155712 Quarry type 1: Single, discrete

Length: 3.50 m Width: top – 2.40 m, base – 1.95 m Depth: 0.23 m
Possibly intercut with QH F788 on its north-east corner otherwise isolated

Description: Irregular subrectangular feature with sloping sides, steepest on the west and flat undulating base cut in a series of shallow scoops. Only the western third was excavated. The function of the feature is unclear: it is not typical of quarrying being so shallow. It may have formed some sort of working hollow – it would appear to be deliberately cut rather than representing an area of wear.

Fill: (1) The top of the feature had been packed and levelled with a subrectangular spread of sub-angular/-rounded chalk rubble 20–70 mm with occasional angular flints *c.*50 mm tightly packed with chalk grit between in a matrix of pale grey chalky silt. The surface was irregular and rough (no signs of trampling were present).

(2) In the north-west corner of the feature was a brownish grey silty clay soil containing a moderate density of chalk grit and small subangular fragments 15–30 mm and occasional burnt flints *c.*30 mm. Dark grey mottles within the soil resulted from the incorporation of ash and fine charcoal. One large potsherd was recovered.

(3) Infilling the lower part over the southern and western area of the feature was a brownish yellow chalky clay containing moderate quantities of chalk grit and small lumps 10–20 mm with some denser concentrations and tips.

F797 Tr 4 L077732 Quarry type 4: Multiple, derivative

Length: 2.50 m Width: top – 0.85 m, base – 0.63 m Depth: 0.32 m
Partly excavated Part of F788, F767 Cuts F766

Description: Rounded quarry hollow cut out from the south edge of ditch F766. It had steeply sloping sides curving in to the base, which was flat and even, but with some irregularities possibly animal burrows.

Fill: The fill of the quarry extended across the whole width of the ditch and possibly joined with quarrying on the north edge of the ditch. Any artefacts from the fill were labelled F766/3 (1) and (2).

(1) The uppermost fill in the hollow mainly over the ditch was a greyish brown soil containing a low density of subangular chalk up to 30 mm, occasional burnt chalk *c.*20 mm, angular flints 20–40 mm and flecks of charcoal.

(2) Filling most of the quarry was a light brown chalky clay soil containing a moderate density of chalk grit and subangular chalk up to 30 mm and angular flints 20–40 mm often burnt. Much of the larger stones appear to concentrate into diffuse tip lines. Several fragments of pottery and charcoal present.

F800 Tr 4 L280724 ?Quarry type 3: Multiple, discrete

Length: 1.72 Width: top – 1.70 m, base – 1.3 m Depth: 0.65 m
Rel to F834 obliterated Within building 3 Cut by F833

Description: Irregular sub-oval or subrectangular feature cut as two deep rounded circular scoops. The west edge was probably overcut, because of the difficulty in distinguishing between fill and natural chalk marl. The east half was not excavated.

Fill: (4) Across the base of the feature was a layer of brown clayey silt containing chalk grit and subangular fragments up to 30 mm, plus occasional flint and charcoal. [?Natural clay wash.]

(3) Light brown soil containing a high density of chalk grit plus a few larger blocks *c.*30 mm and angular flints 20–30 mm. It contains scattered charcoal fragments and a lens of ash on the south side. [This could be eroded material, but is perhaps more likely redeposited natural chalk marl with some occupation debris.]

(2) Light brown silty soil mixed with grey ash containing subangular chalk grit and fragments 10–20 mm and a few flints 30–60 mm at the north end. [Deliberate dump.]

(1) Grey ash and silty soil containing scattered charcoal fragments and sparse chalk lumps up to 20 mm; a lens of small chalk and flints *c.*10–20 mm occurs in the top probably partly cut by F833.

F814 Tr 4 L200700 Quarry: ?Multiple, ?derivative

Length: >1.1 m Width: 1.60 m Depth: 0.6–0.76 m Uncertain rel to F766

Description: Sub-oval hollow probably forming the east end of a linear series of quarry scoops along the north edge of ditch F766 between cuttings 5 and 8. The main hollow had steeply sloping sides curving in at the base to merge into the flat floor. The edge of a deeper circular scoop occurred against the section. The upper layers of the quarry fill (1) and (2) extended across the whole width of the ditch F766 and quarry.

Fill: (1) Greyish brown clayey soil containing a moderate density of subangular chalk up to 30 mm plus sparse angular flint 10–30 mm, some burnt and rare nodule *c.*100 mm.
 (2) Grey soil with brown mottles mixed with a high ash content contained a high density of chalk grit, but fewer fragments 10–30 mm, plus scattered flints 20–60 mm, a few burnt, and occasional charcoal. [Deliberate tip.]
 (3) Infilling the deeper hollow only was a dark brown clayey soil mixed with chalk grit up to 10 mm and rare larger flint and chalk up to 40 mm.
 (4) Covering the base of the main hollow was a grey soil with compact clay blocks with much chalk grit (?chalk marl) within it and containing a moderate–high density of chalk 15–60 mm and a few flints 10–40 mm.

F821 Tr 4 L000700 Quarry type 3: Single, derivative

Length: 1.10 m Width: >0.5 m Depth: 0.44 m Rel uncertain to F784 Cuts ?F826

Description: Small circular quarry, of which only the southern part was exposed in the trench: it is unclear whether this is a half section or only a small arc of a more extensive quarry. Probably part of a single phase of quarrying with F784. The upper layers appear to be continuous with those of F784 suggesting a single episode of quarrying expanded out from the top edge of pit F826, though it is possible to see potential cuts.

Fill: (1) Dark brown clayey soil containing a low density of subangular chalk blocks up to 20 mm and scattered flints up to 60 mm.
 (2) Brown clayey soil containing a low density of subangular chalk mostly 10–30 mm and grit, plus occasional flints of similar size, but some rare larger blocks of chalk and flint 60–70 mm.
 (3) Dark greyish brown ash and soil containing charcoal flecks and a little chalk and flint grit. This layer was thickest within F821, but it formed a wedge tailing out over F826 as a thin lens for a distance of *c.*0.3 m.

F835 Tr 4 L275815 Quarry type 5: Multiple, complex

Length: 3.20 m Width: top – >1.7 m, base – 1.05 m Depth: 0.18–0.6 m
 Part of ?F836 Cuts ?F852/F799 Cut by F770 Below ploughsoil, ?L455

Description: The main part of the feature was roughly circular about 1.8 m diameter and conical in profile with a flattened base. Around this were shallower ledges and small hollows, mostly on the west side. A deep circular hole 0.5 m diameter may have been a separate post-hole intercutting with the quarry.

Fill: L469: Infilling the lowest hollow was a brown clay soil containing a moderate density of chalk grit and small subangular fragments 10–25 mm and angular flints mostly 20–30 mm, but one block 80 mm; also patches of yellow marl, and smears of charcoal and ash.
 L467: Dark brown fine silty soil mixed with a very high density of dark grey ash and fine charcoal; it contained a low density of small chalk 5–15 mm, occasional flints, some burnt, up to 50 mm and frequent clay tile and pottery.
 Across the top of the whole complex infilling the shallower ledges was a brown clayey soil containing a moderate density of chalk 10–40 mm and chalk grit, plus sparse flints up to 80 mm

and a scatter of pottery and bone. This layer was possibly equivalent to L455, which covered F799 and was possibly excavated as part of that layer.

F836 Tr 4 L294805 Quarry type 1: Single, discrete

Length: 2.40 m Width: 1.80 Depth: 0.63 m ?F835 contemporary?

Description: Subcircular cut with steep fairly straight sides and a fairly flat slightly undulating base, which subdivides into indistinct hollows. Around the north edge there are several shallow scoops creating a scalloped effect around the upper edge. These irregularities suggest the feature was a small quarry probably all part of a single complex with F835: though the two quarries barely touch, the shallow shelf around F835 does extend to this feature apparently encompassing it also. Half sectioned, back half unex.

Fill: L470/1: The fill was excavated as a single layer L470, but this can be subdivided into at least six horizons. It is basically a dark brown clayey soil containing much occupation debris and frequent sub-angular/rounded chalk up to 30 mm, with somewhat sparser larger blocks up to 60 mm; the chalk is unevenly distributed suggestive of numerous dumps or tips of material.

L470/2: The lowest horizon infilling the basal angles was a tip of clay with moderate density chalk grit and scattered subrounded lumps up to 30 mm. A tip of a few large flint nodules 100–150 mm with small chalk rubble occurred on the surface of this towards the centre of the pit. The remainder of the lower third was infilled with a horizontal deposit of clay with a lower density of chalk 10–35 mm and sparse charcoal fragments.

L470/3: Across the middle over the west half was a thin wedge of small rounded chalk 10–40 mm in a matrix of clay soil with large blocks of yellowish brown clay marl 100–150 mm within it against the west edge.

L470/4: The upper half was filled as described in 1 above, but with additional blocks of yellow brown marl 50–120 mm on the east side and a distinct thick layer of ash and charcoal flecks in the middle. There was also much occupation debris in the upper horizons, especially pottery, bone, burnt chalk, burnt flint and fired clay.