

1.12 Shallow hollows and scoops

List of shallow hollows and scoops

F740	F210410	Roman
F758	K834568	Roman
F759	K915615	Roman
F761	K810605	Roman
F763	K868615	Roman
F765	K863574	Roman
F773	K812400	Roman
F794	L149719	Roman
F798	L229769	Roman
F807	L298623	undated
F809	K970540	Roman
F816	K875475	Roman
F830	L189812	undated
F842	K880466	Roman
F857	L337773	Roman
F863	K683364–K693360	Undated
F864	K709395	Roman?
F865	K709383	Roman?
F866	K778359	Roman?

Descriptions of the shallow hollows and scoops

F740 Tr 2 F210410

Length: c.1.85 m Width: 1.1 m Depth: 0.28 m

Description: This irregular sub-oval hollow was cut into the natural clay, but did not penetrate the chalk. The base was flat and sides sloping and stepped.

Fill: (2) Infilling the lowest hollow was a yellowish brown clay mixed with chalk grit, occasional charcoal flecks and a few flints 20–150 mm.

(1) Across the top was a light greyish brown clayey soil with brown clay mottles and white chalky patches; it contained a high density of chalk grit, charcoal flecks and fragments scattered throughout, sparse shattered burnt flints c.25 mm and a few angular flints and nodules 60–150 mm and one large dressed flint.

F758 Tr 3 K834568 Hollow/scoop Simple

Length: 3.00 m Width: 2.80 m Depth: 0.10 m Isolated

Description: Subcircular slightly pear-shaped shallow hollow having a very slight dished profile. Situated to north of building 4.

Fill: (1) Infilling the centre of the hollow was a dark greyish brown clayey silt containing a moderate quantity of angular flint nodules *c.*70 mm and scattered small chalk 10–30 mm and grit.

(2) Around the edge of the hollow was a layer of puddled chalky grit mixed with silt and occasional small lumps 10–60 mm. [Probably resulted from trampling around the edges of the feature.]

F759 Tr 3 K915615 Hollow/scoop Simple

Length: 4.20 m Width: >2.1 m Depth: 0.12 m Isolated

Description: Large oval dished hollow, merging imperceptibly into surrounding natural with no clear cut edges. This may represent nothing more than a large area of wear in front of building 4 – the archaeological remains of a puddle! Situated to north of building 4. Section not drawn.

Fill: (1) Homogeneous brownish grey silt mixed with a low density of rounded chalk grit – 10 mm and rare scattered flint mostly *c.*20 mm rarely up to 90 mm and infrequently burnt flint grit. Pockets of natural chalk projected up into the fill in section suggesting this was a series of conjoining areas of wear.

F761 Tr 3 K810605 Hollow/scoop Simple

Length: 3.30 m Width: >3.0 m Depth: 0.05 m Isolated

Description: Extremely shallow and indistinct hollow merging into the general irregularities of the natural chalk surface. Situated to north of building 4. Not planned (being all but invisible to the naked eye)!

Fill: (1) Dark brownish grey clayey soil contained a scatter of flint gravel 2–50 mm.

(2) Around the west edge of the feature was a yellowish brown clayey silt containing rounded chalk grit, slightly puddled [probably a resulted of trampling].

F763 Tr 3 K868615 Hollow/scoop Simple

Length: 2.20 m Width: >1.3 m Depth: 0.12 m Isolated

Description: Shallow subrounded feature, the southern half exposed in trench 3. Dished profile with slight shelf on the west. The hollow was probably a result of wear or trample. Situated to north of building 4.

Fill: (1) The uppermost fill was a thin layer of dark grey ash with occasional charcoal flecks mixed with light yellowish brown clay marl grit and small chalk grit.

(2) Light greyish yellow silty soil containing a moderate–high density of chalk grit and a scatter of smaller subrounded fragments 10–25 mm.

(3) Partly below layer 2 and infilling the western shelf was a dark reddish brown clay soil containing a moderate density of small flints 10–25 mm and chalk grit.

F765 Tr 3 K863574 Hollow/scoop Simple

Length: 2.30 m Width: 1.40 m Depth: 0.06 m Isolated

Description: Very shallow slightly dished hollow. It probably resulted from trample or wear. Situated to north of building 4.

Fill: (1) Brown very clayey soil mixed with a high density of gritty chalk marl and a scatter of subangular flints up to 30 mm.

F773 Tr 3 K812400 Hollow/scoop Simple

Length: 5.00 m Depth: 0.24 m
Cuts F749, F750, F762, F752, F753 Below F752/F753 (building 4)

Description: Shallow ?subrectangular hollow formed over the top of the infilled ditches to the south and west of the south-west corner of building 4. It is more than just subsidence in the top of the ditches as the fill extends over different ditches. The hollow may have resulted from wear, if for example paths converged to skirt around the corner of building 4 or a hollow was worn in the soft sediments of the ditches from rain dripping off the corner of the roof.

Fill: (1) The upper fill (=L442) comprised collapsed building debris: mostly large angular flints *c.*150 mm, some burnt in a matrix of brown crumbly silty soil and yellow clay marl/mortar mixed with subangular chalk grit. This and the layer below are probably equivalent to F751/2 (2), though the layers themselves do not appear to be continuous.

(2) Layer of limestone roof slates, some burnt, *c.*120–370 mm and generally lying horizontally in a very sparse matrix of brown clay soil.

(3) The basal layer was an orange brown sticky clay soil and contained a moderate density of small chalk and grit and a low density of small angular flint. The base of the layer was delineated by a lens of angular flints up to 70 mm.

F794 Tr 4 L149719 Hollow/scoop Simple

Length: 1.90 m Width: 1.60 m Depth: 0.18 m Isolated

Description: Irregular-shaped hollow consisting of a series of small scoops (though this is not apparent in the final plan) the full extent of which was not defined. [This may represent a general area of wear and trample to the north of building 3 comparable with those outside building 4.] Probably seriously overcut.

Fill: (1) Grey ashy soil containing a little subangular chalk grit.

(2) Light brown soil mixed with angular chalk up to 30 mm and grit. (The fill appears to have merged into pockets of natural chalk marl possibly because trample and wear would be more acute in the areas of marl or soliflucted chalk resulting in no distinct boundaries between natural and the feature.)

F798 Tr 4 L229769 Hollow/scoop Simple Unex

Length: 0.68 m Width: 0.53 m Isolated

Description: Small sub-oval feature, which could be a small scoop, post-hole or oven/ hearth base.

Fill: (1) Brown clayey soil containing a low density of small chalk and grit, rare angular flints *c.*20 mm, some fragments of burnt chalk 40–60 mm and a potsherd.

F807 Tr 4 L298623 Hollow/scoop Simple

Length: 2.00 m Width: >1.2 m Depth: 0.30 m F775

Description: Sub-oval hollow partly exposed by the south baulk of trench 4, but mostly left unexcavated. It appeared to be fairly deep, where cut into ditch F775, but rather shallow and ill-defined at its east edge, where it cut into chalk marl and clay. It may represent quarrying out from the edge of the ditch or it may be a quite separate later feature: insufficient was excavated to be clear.

Fill: (F755/5 4) Dark brown clay containing a low density of chalk grit and angular fragments 10–15 mm and a distinctive scatter of angular shattered burnt flints *c.*50 mm and unburnt flints 20–60 mm; occasional flecks and fragments of charcoal.

Across the top was a distinct stonier horizon of chalk and flint fragments 15–70 mm in a marly brown clay with chalk grit.

F809 Tr 3 K970540 Hollow/pit/quarry Simple

Length: 2.60 m Width: 1.60 m Depth: 0.30 m
Within building 4 Cuts F811, F812, L444 Below L450

Description: A shallow subrectangular hollow cut into L444 with vaguely defined sloping sides and flattish base. The function of the hollow was not clear, but may have originated from robbing of flints from the top of the corn drier F811.

Fill: Dark brown clayey soil contained sparse chalk grit and small weathered pieces 10–30 mm, occasional fragments, largely unburnt, of limestone roof slate and rare flint nodules 150–200 mm. Much animal bone was also present (however many of the finds from this were labelled L445 as this feature was not initially distinguished as a separate context during excavation).

L450: Partly covering the south-west and west area of the hollow was a spread of densely packed flint nodules, 80–250 mm, some roughly shaped, in a loose brown soil. Scattered isolated flints occurred over the rest of the hollow.

F816 Tr 3 K875475 Hollow/scoop Simple

Length: 2.90 m Width: 2.30 m Depth: 0.07 m
Within building 4 Cuts F817 Cut by ?F831, ?F842 Below L446

Description: Shallow irregular sub-oval hollow, probably formed as a result of wear and trample around the oven F817, which was subsequently demolished and replaced by F831. The fill can be regarded as equivalent to layers 452/471, which formed part of the floor of building 4.

Fill: (1) Mixed layer comprising dark brown fine clayey soil mottled with grey ash and containing small chalk, charcoal, burnt clay flecks and a moderate scatter of small flint nodules up to 120 mm and fairly dense limestone slate fragments 10–80 mm. [The fill was partly or even largely derived from oven F817, which had become trampled down and compacted to form part of the floor surface of building 4.]

F830 Tr 4 L189812 Hollow/scoop Simple

Width: 0.44 m Depth: 0.15 m Isolated

Description: Only partly exposed beside north baulk of trench 4. Part of what appears to be a small rounded irregular scoop cutting into the chalk marl. It had sloping sides and a flat base. It was at first thought to be the opposing terminal of the banjo enclosure ditch, but it is very insignificant by comparison to the terminal of F766.

Fill: (1) Brown soil containing a low density of chalk grit up to 10 mm.

F842 Tr 3 K880466 Hollow/scoop Simple

Length: 0.90 m Width: 0.80 m Depth: 0.26 m
Rel uncertain – ?later than building 4 Within building 4 Cuts L453, ?L446, ?L443, F816

Description: Circular bowl-shaped hollow, over-cut on north side. Sloping sides continuous with rounded narrow base – almost a conical profile.

Fill: (1) Across the top was a layer of dark brown loamy clay soil, mottled and streaked by dark grey ash and charcoal, patches of yellowish degraded clayey cob and lumps of red raw clay; it contained frequent charcoal, sparse flint 40–60 mm, subangular chalk 10–30 mm and burnt broken limestone fragments up to 120 mm.

(2) Below (1) infilling most of the hollow was a clean yellowish brown clayey soil containing a moderate density of chalk grit, but otherwise virtually no stone.

F857 Tr 4 L337773 Hollow/scoop Simple Unex

Length: 1.25 m Width: >0.3 m Cut by F803

Description: Sub-oval hollow of which the west part had been destroyed by F803 (east wall

of building 3).

Fill: (1) Dark brown clayey soil containing a low density of rounded chalk 10–15 mm and grit, angular flint grit and gravel, rounded chert pebbles 25–80 mm plus scattered occupation debris in the form of charcoal, potsherds and clay tile.

F863 Tr 3 K683364–K693360 Hollow/pit: simple unex

Length: 2.76 m Width: 1.80 m Depth: 0.15 m Cut by ph 1087

Description: The main part of this feature was circular, but a bi/tri-lobate extension to the south-east could represent separate features (post-holes or oven) or they may be subsidiary scoops extending out from a small quarry.

Fill: Brown clayey soil containing a low density of rounded chalk 5–15 mm, scattered angular flints 20–70 mm grading into orange brown clay on the base, visible in the sides of ph 1057. Scattered potsherds observed in the fill.

F864 Tr 3 K709395 Hollow/pit: simple unex

Length: 0.82 m Width: 0.80 m Isolated

Description: Small circular feature, most likely a large post-hole from its size or possibly a small pit or burnt feature. It could form a pair with F865 if a post-hole. The presence of burnt material in the fill is suggestive of a possible oven/hearth though no *in situ* burning of the natural was observed.

Fill: Dark brown clayey soil containing scattered charcoal and frequent small angular flints 20–40 mm, some burnt and flint grit.

F865 Tr 3 K709383 Hollow/pit: simple unex

Length: 0.80 m Width: >0.13 m Cut by ph 1089

Description: Small circular feature, most likely a large post-hole from its size, though it could be a small pit or burnt feature. The presence of burnt material in the fill is suggestive of a possible oven/hearth though no *in situ* burning of the natural was observed.

Fill: Brown clay mixed with a fairly high density of angular flints 20–80 mm, plus moderately frequent charcoal fragments and flecks and rare burnt chalk. The clay fill was becoming darker and more charcoaly with depth as exposed in the sides and base of ph 1089.

F866 Tr 3 K778359 Hollow/pit: simple unex

Length: 1.42 m Width: >0.36 m Isolated Within PL9/10 building

Description: Large oval feature of which only a chord across the north edge was exposed in the excavation. Possibly a pit or discrete hollow.

Fill: Small worn rounded-subrounded chalk 10–40 mm set in a matrix of puddled chalk and chalk grit.