

1 STRUCTURES

1.1 Building 1: The aisled hall

List of constituent features and layers

The structure

F650	SE wall foundation	contains L351
F651	SW wall foundation	contains L355
F652	NW wall foundation	contains L353
F653	NE wall foundation	contains L356
F654	Inner SW wall foundation	contains L357

F669	SE wall (on F650)
F670	SW wall (on F651)
F671	NW wall (on F652)

Post-holes of north aisle:	F655	E750700
	F656	E722676
	F657	E698652
	F658	E672630
	F659	E647605
	F660	E620582
	F661	E593559
	F712	E567535

Post-holes of south aisle:	F662	E796650
	F663	E771627
	F664	E742601
	F665	E715580
	F666	E688558
	F667	E663533
	F668	E636510
	F711	E608487

Miscellaneous features within hall

F683	E630603	Rectangular Roman pit
F702	E610460	Flint foundation structure
F742	E576452	Mortar base = L392

Ovens within hall

Group 1

F676	E725625	Type 2b: Keyhole
F677	E735631	Type 2b: Keyhole
F678	E754655	Type 2a: Dumbbell
F681	E750640	Type 2b: Keyhole
F682	E742645	Type 2a: Dumbbell
F692	E741660	Type 4: Circular
F699	E740636	Type 2b: Keyhole
F705	E75 65	Type 2c: Eight

Group 2

F673	E755600	Type 2c: Eight
F674	E759608	Type 2c: Eight
F675	E758583	Hearth Type 3: Circular
F744	E740570	Hearth Type 3: Circular

Group 4

F716	E683517	Hearth Type 3: Circular
F717	E670525	Type 2c: Eight
F718	E677535	Type 2b: Keyhole
F721	E674545	Type 2c: Eight
F725	E657517	Type 2c: Eight

Group 5

F713	E662645	Type 2c: Eight
F714	E673660	Type 4: Circular
F724	E674653	Type 2b: Keyhole

Isolated

F707/F720	E604575	Type 2c: Eight
F715	E777697	Type 2b: Keyhole
F734	E817629	Type 4: Circular

Layers within hall

L350	Base of ploughsoil in hall
L352	Base of ploughsoil to N. of hall
L358	Base of ploughsoil to S. of hall
L359	Building collapse over F679/680
L360	Fallen roof slabs over F679/680
L361	Building collapse over F679/680
L362	Building collapse over F672/F700
L363	Building debris in SW corner of hall
L364	Flint gravel surface
L365	Flint cobbled surface
L366	Chalk spread
L367	Chalk and soil dump

L372	Building debris
L376	Flint patch
L377	Building debris
L387	Base of ploughsoil between walls F651 and F654
L388	Chalk spread
L389	Flint surface in SW bay
L390	Building debris
L391	Building debris
L402	Chalk spread
L403	Cobbled surface
L408/419	Base of ploughsoil in cutting 13
L409	Building debris
L421/432	Occupation in shallow hollow

Catalogue of structural features

The walls

F650 and F669 The south-east wall

Length: 33.4 m Width: 0.85–1.0 m Depth: 0.06–0.15 m

The wall is set in a foundation trench, F650, which has a square-cut profile formed by a flat base and straight vertical sides. Laid in the trench was a footing of rounded chalk lumps 5–30 mm well compacted in a matrix of greyish-brown silt and puddled chalk (354). At its north end this footing was cut through the top of the fill of F635: here the footing was deeper up to 0.3? m and included several large flint nodules packed into the basic chalk material.

Set on this footing was the wall, F669, of which only three small remnants and a somewhat longer section at the south-west end survived. Only one course of the actual wall survived in these sections. It was constructed of flint nodules mostly 60–150 mm in size tending to the larger end of the spectrum more frequently, together with occasional larger blocks up to 250 mm. The flints were set in a matrix of yellowish-brown chalky mortar. Remnants of this mortar overlying the chalk footing were present especially to the north-east, but occurred intermittently throughout its length. The wall survived in lengths 0.8–1.8 m long. It had a total width of 0.9 m.

The wall had been largely robbed out by activity at the beginning of the twentieth century AD. Infilling the robber trench was a grey silty soil (351) containing a moderate density of rounded chalk *c.*10 mm and a few broken flints mixed with yellow gritty mortar and containing scattered broken limestone roof slates *c.*100 mm long. Pottery from the robber trench was assigned to the first to early second centuries AD.

F651 and F670 The south-west wall

Length: 14.75 m Width: 0.8–0.92 m; 0.95–1.0 m Depth:

The foundation trench F651 for the wall had straight vertical walls, but the floor was not exposed.

On the base of the foundation trench was the chalk footing, visible for length of about 2.5 m only at the north-west end. It was composed of compacted chalk lumps 5–35 mm in a matrix of greyish-orange gritty silt (355).

Immediately on the chalk footing was a thin layer of gritty yellow mortar mixed with small chalk and grit. Set into this mortar at the south-east end was the first course of flint walling, F670, surviving for about 5.5 m. It was composed of flint nodules 100–200 mm laid in yellow mortar mixed with a few rounded chalk pieces mostly grit and up to 25 mm. This formed an integral structure bonded with F669.

F652 and F671 The north-west wall

Length: 33 m Width: 0.72–0.85 m Depth: 0.17 m

The foundation trench F652 had a rectangular cross section with straight vertical sides and a flat slightly undulating base.

Set in the trench was the wall footing (353), which consisted of rammed and highly compacted freshly quarried angular chalk lumps, 15–40 mm in puddled chalk and light greyish-brown silt.

A small remnant (1.15 m long) of the lowest course of wall, F671, survived about halfway along the outer edge of the foundation trench. It consisted of a single course of dressed flint nodules 150–200 mm close set in a greyish-yellow mortar containing small rounded chalk 5–25 mm. Occasional intermittent patches of this mortar survived elsewhere over the wall footing.

F653 The north-east wall

Length: 14.75 m Width: 1.4–1.7 m Depth: –

The foundation trench was cut with straight edges. It was not sectioned so no area of the base and sides was exposed.

The trench held the wall footing (356), which was formed of clean, freshly quarried angular chalk lumps 15–35 mm together with occasional broken flints *c.*30 mm compacted in light brown silt and puddled chalk. The surface of the footing was smooth and even, but none of the actual wall survived.

F654 The south-west wall (phase 2)

Length: 13 m Width: 1.4–1.68 m Depth: 0.13 m

The foundation trench, F654, was straight-sided but widened around the two post-holes F711 and F712.

In the base of the trench was a foundation of flint nodules, 70–200 mm in size occasionally up to 270 mm together with broken limestone slabs 90–180 mm closely set in yellowish-brown/grey mortar mixed with chalk grit (430, 433). The layer is generally one stone thick and the density of flint decreased towards wall F652 to the north-west. The flint foundations were covered by the wall footing, a bed of angular chalk lumps 20–60 mm packed in fine chalk grit and puddled chalk (357) which provided the flat even surface on which the walls would have been constructed. None of the actual wall survived.

The post pits

All the post-holes were sealed by L350 and were isolated unless indicated otherwise below.

F655 E750700

Post pit: Length: 1.85 m Width: 1.5 m
Post void: Length: 0.6 m Width: 0.55 m Depth: 0.32 m

The post-hole was sub-oval in shape. Only the post void, which was square in plan, was excavated.

Fill: The post void was filled with a mix of greyish-yellow mortar with chalk grit and large chalk and flint blocks 100–150 mm (2). There was a patch of burnt material 0.2 m square close to the base.

Across the base of the post-hole below the post void were two courses of broken flints 60–100 mm close set in yellowish-grey mortary soil (3). The packing (4) around the void consisted of broken flint nodules 70–230 mm sparsely set in yellowish-brown gritty mortar and soil mix containing sub-angular/-rounded chalk up to 60 mm. This layer was visible in the side of the void, where at least three flint courses separated by lenses of reddish-brown clay soil could be seen.

F656 E722676

Post pit: Length: 1.84 m Width: 1.42 m
Post void: Length: 0.65 m Width: 0.52 m Depth: 0.33 m

The post-hole was oval in plan with a rectangular post void placed asymmetrically to the east side.

Fill: The post void was filled with compact yellowish-grey mortar mixed with brownish-yellow clay soil containing frequent chalk up to 150 mm and some flints 80–120 mm (2).

The void was packed around with flint nodules (3) ranging from 60–200 mm close set in a yellowish-grey mortar matrix, becoming more soily lower down.

F657 E698652

Post pit:	Length: 1.52 m	Width: 1.46 m	
Post void:	Length: 0.58 m	Width: 0.54 m	Depth: 0.34 m

The post-hole was subcircular in plan, with a rectangular void placed off-centre towards the south-east. The void walls were straight and vertical and the base flat.

Fill: The void was filled with brownish-grey soil (2) containing a scatter of small chalk, common broken flints 60–100 mm and frequent limestone roof slabs.

Across the base of the void were flint nodules set in a brown clayey soil (4), which appears to be an artificial layer to level the base or provide a hard pad for the post. The packing surrounding the void consisted of close-set flint nodules 65–200 mm, rarely up to 250 mm in a clay soil (3) at the surface. In the sides of the void courses of flints appeared to alternate with lenses of yellowish-brown clay soil.

F658 E672630

Post pit:	Length: 1.8 m	Width: 1.4 m	
Post void:	Length: 0.68 m	Width: 0.66 m	Depth: 0.4 m

The exact edge of the post pit was not clear, but generally from the packing it appears to be oval/sub-oval in plan with an almost square void placed close to the south-east edge of the post-hole. The walls of the void were straight and vertical at the base, but flared out towards the top. The floor of the post-hole sloped from south-east to north-west.

Fill: The void was filled with a silty clay soil containing a high density of limestone roof slates plus a number of flint blocks (2). Over the base of the void were scattered angular flints c.100 mm or less pressed into the brown clay surface below. The packing surrounding the void was tightly spaced broken flint blocks 90–150 mm generally, less frequently up to 210 mm (3). From the void walls these appear to be laid in four courses interleaving with layers of reddish-brown clay soil.

F659 E647605

Post pit:	Length: 1.66 m	Width: 1.56 m	
Post void:	Length: 0.62 m	Width: 0.58 m	Depth: 0.42 m

The post-hole was subcircular or oval in shape, with the rectangular post void placed asymmetrically to the south-east. The void walls were vertical around the northern sides, but slightly sloping around the southern sides. The base of the void was slightly dished and inclined to the north.

Fill: The post void contained a greyish-brown soil (2) containing fairly frequent flint nodules [possibly eroded packing] and a high density of broken limestone roof slates.

The packing consisted largely of large angular flint nodules 120–180 mm close set (except where pulled up by recent ploughing) in brown clayey soil (3). In the sides of the void fewer flints were visible below and a moderate quantity of chalk was also present.

F660 E620582

Post pit:	Length: 1.7 m	Width: 1.6 m	
Post void:	Length: 0.7 m	Width: 0.5 m	Depth: 0.37 m

The post-hole was subcircular or pentagonal in shape with the void placed asymmetrically to the south-east. The post void was rectangular with straight vertical sides on the north-east and south-west sides; on the north-west it was sloping but on the south-east it was more irregular and some of the flint packing may have fallen out.

Fill: Across the floor of the post pit flint nodules 80–100 mm in size had been close set in reddish-brown clay (4) to form a footing for the post. The post void was filled with greyish-brown clayey silt (2) containing a very high density of limestone roof slates and a few flint nodules.

The packing (3) surrounding the void was not excavated but observed in the walls of the void. It consisted of angular flint nodules 100–180 mm plus a small number up to 300 mm laid in three courses *c.*100 mm thick alternating with a thin layer of reddish-brown clay soil.

F661 E593559

Post pit:	Length: 1.55 m	Width: 1.45 m	
Post void:	Length: 0.6 m	Width: 0.54 m	Depth: 0.39 m

The post pit was circular with the post void set off-centre towards the south-east. The post void was rectangular with the sides straight and steeply angled and the base slightly dished.

Fill: The floor of the void was formed of brown silty clay with frequent small chalk, presumably part of the natural into which the pit was cut. The void itself was filled with greyish-brown silty soil (2) containing infrequent flint nodules and a moderate to high density of limestone roof slates, plus a little occupation debris.

The packing (3) surrounding the void was composed of broken flint nodules 60–100 mm plus a moderate quantity *c.*150–180 mm set in three courses 50–70 mm thick alternating with layers of reddish-brown clay soil about 60 mm thick. The flints were not densely packed.

F662 E796650

Post pit:	Length: 1.8 m	Width: 1.5 m	
Post void:	Length: 0.56–0.6 m	Width: 0.52–0.6 m	Depth: 0.3–0.39 m

The post-hole was subcircular (tear-drop) in shape with the void that was trapezoidal in plan placed fairly centrally. The void walls were straight and vertical or steeply sloping. The base was flat.

Fill: The floor of the void divided into two halves: one half was covered in yellow mortar and the other with small-medium chalk lumps in greyish-brown silty clay. These appeared to be artificial deposits, but were not excavated. The void was filled with compact yellowish-grey mortar (2) containing several large chalk blocks and flint nodules 100–300 mm together with rare limestone fragments.

The packing was composed of flint blocks 100–180 mm (3), which occurred in variable concentrations on the surface. In the sides of the void two courses of flint were visible in the upper half of the post-hole packed around with clay soil and chalk. In the lower half any coursing was not apparent and brown clay soil with chalk fragments dominated.

F663 E771627

Post pit:	Length: 1.8 m	Width: 1.48 m	
Post void:	Length: 0.7 m	Width: 0.56 m	Depth: 0.3–0.45 m

The post pit was oval with straight edges on the east and south, with the void centrally placed. The post void was rectangular with straight and steep or vertical sides, but slightly more sloping on the south-east, where it may have been overcut or eroded.

Fill: The floor of the void had a distinct slope resulting in 0.11 m difference in depth from the south-east to the north-west side. The south-east half had been covered by two large limestone roof slabs (3) 0.25–0.35 m long laid flat. The slabs were cracked probably from the pressure of the post on them.

The post void was filled with a hard compact yellowish-grey gritty mortar containing scattered flint blocks 80–120 mm and a few chalk blocks of similar size. There were also rare limestone fragments and little occupation material.

The packing (4) was composed of flint nodules 100–150 mm set in yellowish-grey mortar with lumps of chalk 15–30 mm. The flints were close set around the north-west side but sparse elsewhere. In the side of the void traces of three flint courses were visible, alternating with layers of reddish-brown clay soil.

F664 E742601

Post pit:	Length: 2.05 m	Width: 1.54 m	
Post void:	Length: 0.66 m	Width: 0.54 m	Depth: 0.38 m

The post pit was an irregular sub-oval shape in plan with the post void placed fairly centrally. The void was rectangular with straight vertical sides and the floor was flat, but slightly sloping. The floor appears to be formed by the natural yellowish-brown silty clay with chalk fragments.

Fill: The void was filled with greyish-brown clayey silt (2) containing moderate to low density of flint nodules and pieces of limestone roof slates, but little occupation debris.

The packing (3) was broken flints 60–120 mm and larger nodules up to 180 mm close set in a brown clayey soil on the north and north-east, but more dispersed towards the south. Two courses of large flints were visible in the side of the void alternating with layers of reddish-brown clayey soil.

F665 E715580

Post pit:	Length: 1.72 m	Width: 1.56 m	
Post void:	Length: 0.5 m	Width: 0.45 m	Depth: 0.39 m

The post-hole was sub-trapezoidal in plan with the post void set slightly towards the south-east. The post void was rectangular and had a flat base and steep vertical sides except on the south-east side where some of the flint packing may have fallen out.

Fill: The post void was filled with greyish-brown clayey silty soil containing occasional broken flints and a low density of broken limestone slates (2). The base of the void was formed by the natural clay and chalk marl cut by the post-hole.

The packing (3) was formed of three or four courses of flints alternating with layers of reddish-brown clay soil with small chalk. Across the top of the post-hole the flint nodules measured 60–240 mm, most tending to the larger end of the range. They were close set on the south and east, but sparser on the north and west.

F666 E688558

Post pit:	Length: 2.2 m	Width: 1.65 m	
Post void:	Length: 0.58 m	Width: 0.58 m	Depth: 0.45 m

Below L350. Cut L403.

The post pit was an irregular sub-oval shape in plan with the void placed fairly centrally. The void was square with a flat even base, sloping slightly towards the south-east and straight near vertical sides.

Fill: In the base of the post void was a layer of light grey friable silty soil (3) containing occasional flint nodules 100–120 mm and rare rounded chalk up to 100 mm. The upper half was filled by a friable dark grey soil containing a low density of broken limestone slate fragments 100–250 mm, rare flint nodules and small rounded chalk.

Surrounding the void was packing of densely packed flint nodules 80–200 mm, occasionally 250 mm, set in reddish-brown clayey soil containing scattered small chalk 5–25 mm. The lower packing visible in the walls of the void was dominated by the soil matrix with a much lower density of flints than at the surface.

F667 E663553

Post pit: Length: 2.3 m Width: 1.7 m
Post void: Length: 0.68 m Width: 0.54 m Depth: 0.48 m

Below L 350. Cut by F717, F718.

The post pit was an irregular sub-oval-pear shape in plan with the post void placed centrally. The post void was rectangular with a flat base and steeply sloping, generally very straight sides.

Fill: The void was filled with grey silty soil (2) containing scattered flint nodules and a moderate quantity of broken limestone roof slates.

The packing consisted of flint nodules 80–180 mm in size with a few up to 280 mm close packed on the north and west sides, but more dispersed around the other sides. They were set in a dark reddish-brown clayey soil. In the walls of the void three courses of flints mostly 60–80 mm thick were visible alternating with layers of brown clay soil.

F668 E636510

Post pit: Length: 1.7 m Width: 1.6 m
Post void: Length: 0.6 m Width: 0.54 m, base 0.41 m Depth: 0.48 m

Below L350; packing below L364, L366. Cut L403.

This was the only post-hole in which some of the packing was excavated: in this case the post-hole was half sectioned, but the second half was not excavated. The post pit was rounded oval or subcircular in shape with a flat undulating base and straight steeply sloping or vertical sides, as were the walls of the void. The post void was rectangular in plan.

Fill: The post void was filled with a greyish-brown silty soil (2) containing a scatter of broken flints and a moderate density of broken limestone roof slates.

The packing (3) consisted of alternating diffuse lenses of flints and soil. The flint nodules were angular, 80–150 mm laid horizontally separated by lenses, 40–80 mm thick, of dark brown clayey soil containing a low density of small rounded chalk up to 30 mm size. About four flint horizons may be discerned. These alternating lenses were most distinct on the south-east side, whereas on the north-west the lenses were not so clearly defined. The uppermost horizon of flints which sealed the post-hole consisted of angular nodules 50–80 mm mostly with a few up to 180 mm, closely packed in a matrix of reddish-brown clayey soil, the same material as formed the alternate lenses. A little occupation debris in the form of potsherds and clay tile fragments were noted.

F711 E608487

Void Length: top: 0.72 m, base: 0.57 m Width: top: 0.62 m, base: 0.53 m
Depth: 0.48 m

The post pit was not exposed: any packing was obscured by the construction of the wall F654 and layer 357 sealed any packing and post pit. The post void itself cut through the wall construction, which was apparently built around the post. The post void was rectangular with straight vertical walls and a flat base.

Fill: The post void was filled with grey silty soil (1) mixed with a low density of small chalk up to 20 mm and a moderate density of broken flints 60–100 mm.

Possible packing was visible in the walls of the void in the form of flint nodules 50–100 mm arranged in up to four horizons alternating with bands of brown clayey soil up to 60 mm thick.

F712 E567535

Void Length: top: 0.7 m, base: 0.44 m Width: top: 0.52 m, base: 0.33 m
Depth: 0.47 m

The post pit was not exposed being sealed below L357 of wall F654. The post void cut through this layer. The void was rectangular; it had a flat slightly uneven base and straight steeply sloping sides.

Fill: The void was filled with yellowish-grey soil (1) containing mortar grit, small rounded chalk and a few flints 60–100 mm.

Broken flint nodules 60–110 mm visible in the lower sides of the void suggest packing was present similar to the other post-holes.

Other features and structures

F702 E610460

Length: 2.4 m Width: 2.0 m

Below L350. Butts F650, F651. ?Abutted by F654. Above F679/680.

This structure was rectangular constructed in the corner formed by walls F650 and F651 and extending as far as the later phase cross wall F654. It probably pre-dates the construction of F654 and may have been an attempt to consolidate the corner of the original hall over the ditch. Alternatively it may have formed a foundation to support some type of structure in the corner of the hall.

It was constructed of flint blocks 70–140 mm loosely compacted and set in reddish-brown clayey soil together with some limestone roof slabs 90–200 mm (2). To either side of the

flints and probably originally packed over them was loosely compacted subangular-subrounded chalk 5–30 mm with rare blocks up to 90 mm set in puddled chalk or light greyish-brown soil with frequent yellowish mortar grit and scattered limestone fragments (1).

F742 E576452

Length: 2.5 m Width: 0.7 m Depth: 0.15 m

This linear feature was constructed against the south-west wall of the aisled hall at its southern corner, running alongside the wall over the top of ditch F679/680. It does not appear to extend beyond the area of ditch and quarries on which it is constructed. It may have been built as some sort of buttress or support for this corner.

It took the form of a line of large flint nodules *c.*150–200 mm placed directly alongside the wall F651/F670. These were shadowed on their south-west by a band of mortar (L392) 0.5 m wide set in a shallow slot. It consisted of small angular flints and chalk blocks *c.*50–70 mm, some burnt set in yellowish-brown chalky mortar.

Other Features within the Aisled Hall which are not an integral part of the structure are described in other sections as appropriate (pits, ovens, post-holes).