

## 1.2 The early burial and the ritual shaft

### *The early grave, F1111*

**F1111** A826713 Grave Phase: Late Iron Age/  
C1 AD

Below L720 Cuts L723

Length: 1.05 m Width: 0.5 m Depth: 0.06 m

Description: Subrectangular cut, aligned E–W, with straight sides and rounded ends. Only the very base of the feature survived.

Fill: (1) The remains of a skeleton, badly damaged by ploughing, had been placed in the grave lying N–S with the head to the south. It lay on its back with the arms folded across the waist. Only the torso survived, part of the arms and fragments of skull and teeth. A copper alloy Late La T<sup>ne</sup> brooch (Sf 3301) lay close to the right clavicle, and green staining from a bronze object on the left clavicle suggests it was one of a pair. The brooch dates to the early first century AD.

The little soil of the fill remaining around the skeleton was a light orange-grey silty soil, containing a low density of subangular-subrounded chalk grit and rare flints 25 mm.

### *The amorphous feature, F1114*

**F1114** A838728 Hollow Phase: Uncertain

Below L720 Cuts L723

Length: 0.74 m Width: 0.64 m Depth: 0.06 m

Description: Irregular shallow circular hollow with dished profile. It could possibly be the hollow from a small shrub or tree root.

Fill: (1) Orange-brown silty soil containing rare subangular-subrounded chalk *c.*10 mm and rare flints *c.*15 mm. A fragment of long bone was also present. Small finds: 3311 Copper alloy object.

### *The shaft, F1112*

**F1112** A895744 Ritual shaft Phase: Late Iron Age?

Below L720 Cut by F1124, ?F1136 Cuts ?F1060

Rel to F1164 unclear

Length: 1.7 m Width: 1.4 m Depth: 2.8 m

Description: This feature was a subrectangular cut, slightly longer on its NE–SW axis. It had straight vertical sides, splaying out slightly in the upper half on the south side. The base was flat with a slight step down to the south-west. It was cut through solid chalk apart from its upper 0.3–0.8 m, where it intercut with other features on all sides. There was extensive disturbance from badger runs around the upper edges of the feature. The size, character and fill is strongly comparable to similar features found at Grateley and regarded as ritual shafts. It is not a normal Iron Age storage pit, though containing the same types of layers and special deposits.

Fill: {B<sup>o</sup>} (9) Deliberate dumps of mottled light brownish/yellowish-grey ash, interspersed with lenses of chalk grit or small subangular lumps up to 50 mm [which appear to be eroded lenses from the walls] with scattered larger chalk blocks 100–150 mm and more frequent flint nodules of the same size, but some up to 300 mm. The surface of many of the large blocks appeared to have reacted with the hot ash resulting in a concretion over the surface. An iron

nail had been curled into a spiral, an effect of intense heat suggesting the reuse of structural timbers as fuel. A thin horizontal lens of charcoal ran across the surface of the lowest ash tip. [D11] Samples: 4195 Burnt material, 4073 Flotation.

{1°} (8a) An angled lens of subangular chalk 20–100 mm, including some burnt chalk and occasional flints, loosely packed with chalk grit between and a little ash filtered down sloped in mainly from the north-east. [Natural erosion – chalk shatter.] [N23]

(8) Brownish-grey ash mixed with some brown clay soil, with a mixed and mottled appearance containing flint and chalk *c.*30 mm, but including a few large chalk blocks up to 100 mm and flint nodules up to 250 mm (these had the same coating as in 9). [D11] Samples: 4147 Burnt debris/organic, 4194 Burnt material; 4193 Insect; 4071 Flotation.

(8b) Slightly off-centre to the south-west was a special deposit of horse/cattle long bones, most lying at a steep angle of rest sloping down towards the north-west, over 8, where it was mounded up against the south-west side. Some of the bones may originally have been articulated, possibly representing joints of meat. [R71] At the same level close to the east wall was a partial horn core, which had fly/maggot cases surviving inside at the head end. [R38]

(7a) Loose packed rounded chalk rubble up to 50 mm and grit in a matrix of light brown soil probably filtered down from above.

(7) Dark brown clayey soil with some more ashy patches containing a low density of subangular chalk up to 60 mm, small angular flints 30–100 mm, some burnt and scattered charcoal. A diffuse lens of small chalk and flints ran through the layer on the south side.

{2°} (6) Brown clayey soil containing subangular chalk up to 40 mm, flint gravel and flint nodules up to 200 mm. Most of the stone concentrated as a distinct lens defining the base of the layer. [D18]

(5) Angled deliberate tips of dark brown clayey soil containing a low density of small chalk grit, alternating with lenses of subangular chalk 10–30 mm [mostly tip lines, but at least one of eroded chalk] and angular flint 20–50 mm and large flint nodules up to 240 mm rolled into the centre. An articulated cat skeleton or skull only lay on these flints off centre in the south-east quadrant. A horse mandible lay at an angle of rest parallel to the layer slope at roughly the same stratigraphic level as the cat, but upslope from it and closer to the south wall. [D18, R39, R37]

(4) Above this was a fairly thick uniform layer of dark brown clayey soil containing a low density of small chalk up to 20 mm, sometimes forming short discontinuous lenses or tip lines following the angle of the layer. A horse jaw bone (without teeth – suggesting curation elsewhere for some time) was placed within the layer in the north-east quadrant lying flat close to the wall. [D01, R39]

(4a) A thicker more distinct lens of chalk and flint rubble defined the top of the layer forming a sharp boundary to layer 3. [D03]

{3°} (3) Deliberate tips of dark brown clayey soil containing frequent subrectangular chalk up to 60 mm and flint rubble 30–120 mm. Some of the stone concentrates into distinct lenses and tips of chalk grit or chalk and flint gravel with larger rubble up to 150 mm rolled into the central hollow. Occupation debris in the form of pottery, bone, clay tile, stone roof slating, charcoal, burnt flints and daub was common. [D18] Small finds: 3331 Ceramic, 3387 Ceramic; 3296 Copper alloy; 3307 Iron, 3308 Iron, 3330 Iron, 3341 Iron. Samples: 4129 Slag.

(2) Dark brown stiff clay soil containing very sparse chalk and scattered flint nodules 150–200 mm and angular broken flints 20–80 mm. [D20] Small finds: 3383 Iron, 3384 Iron; 3385 Stone. Samples: 4186 Slag.

(1) Dark brown stiff, compact clay soil containing a moderate density of angular broken flints up to 150 mm, occasional nodules up to 210 mm, burnt flints, charcoal and pottery. This layer extends across the top of F1136 and is continuous with the upper fill of F1164. [Possibly a combination of deliberate infill and natural soil accumulation.] [D20/N28] Small finds: 3376 Copper alloy; 3286 Iron, 3329 Iron, 3386 Iron; 3328 Lead; 3356 Stone. [All the tertiary layers are probably associated with the later quarrying of F1136.]

### *The quarries*

**F1136** A895755  
Below L720

Quarry pit  
Cuts ?F1112

Phase: Roman  
Rel to F1060 unclear

Length: 1.48 m Width: 1.35 m Base: 0.4 x 0.28 m Depth: 1.44 m

Description: Rounded oval hollow with steep near vertical sides or undercut barrel-shaped profile, where they survive on the north, disturbed or destroyed elsewhere from badger runs or intercutting with F1112. It has a rounded bowl-shaped base. The general character of this feature suggests it was some sort of quarry. What was unclear in excavation was whether the quarrying was started from the edge of F1112 when the shaft was partly filled or whether F1112 cut through an area of earlier quarrying. The pottery found in F1136 would indicate it to be the later feature. This feature is surrounded by badger runs isolating it and destroying or obscuring relationships to adjacent features.

Fill: (5a) Infilling the basal hollow was a loosely packed deposit of subangular chalk rubble up to 70 mm with a little light greyish-brown dusty soil matrix. [This appears to be quarry waste.]

(4) Subangular chalk 40–50 mm plus occasional flints *c.*50 mm loosely packed in light greyish-brown silty soil mixed with a high density of chalk grit. [Natural erosion.]

(3) Brown clayey soil containing a low density of small chalk and grit, rare flints and charcoal. Across the middle of this layer was a distinct stonier lens of subangular chalk 10–60 mm with a few flints of similar size and occasional nodules *c.*100 mm. The top of the layer was defined by a thin discontinuous lens of subangular flints 20–50 mm and chalk grit. [Spreads of quarry waste.] Samples: 4190 Slag.

(5b) Eroded chalk shatter against north wall of quarry. At the base of this layer resting on 3 was about half a pot (C3–C4 AD), together with fragments of bone, mortaria (?New Forest ware) and fragments of red fired daub *c.*50–60 mm. Samples: 4191 Slag; 4183 Soil inside pot.

(2) Brown clayey soil containing rare small subrounded chalk up to 30 mm and grit and scattered flints. The top of the layer is defined by a thin lens of chalk grit containing occasional small angular flint 10–20 mm: this continues over the lip of the quarry into F1112, where it is continuous with the stony lens at the top of layer 3 in the ritual shaft. [Deliberate tip.] Samples: 4189 Slag.

(1) Dark brown clayey soil containing scattered angular flints 20–100 mm and resting on the base of the layer close to the north edge was a large block of burnt daub 70 mm thick x 300 mm long, probably part of a demolished oven dumped in the top of the quarry together with some smaller blocks of daub, a fragment of limestone slab and charcoal fragments. This layer is continuous with layer 1 of F1112 and F1164. [Some deliberate infill combined with natural soil accumulation.]

**F1060** A920745 Quarry hollow Phase: ?Iron Age/Roman  
Below L720, L744 Cut by F1136, ?F1112

Length: >1.5 m Width: >1.4 m Depth: >1.1 m

Description: Large irregular lobed quarry hollow; overall shape obscured by extensive disturbance from badger runs all around southern half and northern half obscured by layer 744. The relationship to F1112 is uncertain, as though in the section F1112 appears to cut F1060, it must be borne in mind that the upper fill of F1112 more properly belongs to F1136. The fill is similar to F1109 and F1164 and so this feature may be part of a much larger quarry complex obscured by layer 744.

Fill: (4) The lowest layer partly exposed was a greyish-brown soil containing a moderate density of chalk up to 40 mm plus rare block up to 150 mm and occasional flints *c.*50 mm.

(3) Light brown silty soil containing subangular chalk generally 5–60 mm. The layer is composed of a series of tips and dumps with some chalk shatter against the west edge, and tips dominated by chalk separated by more soily deposits with a chalky clay/marl lens demarcating the top of the layer.

(2) Brown silty soil containing a moderate density of subangular chalk up to 70 mm, frequent chalk grit and scattered angular flints and nodules 30–200 mm. The stone density was variable with smaller chalk and grit concentrating into chalkier lenses sometimes with a more clayey soil matrix and an uppermost more diffuse lens of larger rubbly chalk. Essentially this layer is composed of a series of separate tips or spreads [probably of quarrying waste].

(1) Brown silty clay soil mixed with chalk grit, rare charcoal and containing subangular chalk 20–70 mm and few flints mostly concentrated into more chalky lenses alternating with more soily lenses sloping from west to east. [Series of tips of quarry waste.] Small finds: 3203 Copper alloy Langton Down brooch (first half C1 AD).

**F1164** A900722 Quarry pit Phase: ?Iron Age/Roman  
Below L720, ?L744 Cuts L1112? Rel to F1060 and F1112  
obscure

Length: 1.8 m Width: 1.5 m Depth: > 0.56 m

Description: Oval-subcircular feature cut through natural chalk, but with a lot of badger disturbance around its north half obscuring relationships. It had steeply sloping-vertical sides; the base was not exposed, as only the upper 0.56 m was excavated. It is unclear whether this feature relates to an earlier phase of quarrying represented by F1060, or to the later Roman quarry F1136.

Fill: (2) Around the southern edge showing in plan as a lunate layer was a layer of large subangular chalk blocks 40–150 mm, plus occasional flints up to 60 mm in light brown chalky clay soil mixed with a high density of chalk grit and small chalk *c.*10 mm. As far as could be judged this appeared to be a steeply inclined deposit and may have been a tip of quarry waste, though chalk shatter cannot be ruled out.

(1) Brown clayey soil containing a low-moderate density of small subangular-subrounded chalk 10–40 mm and frequent grit. Scattered through this soil with moderate frequency were large angular flints and chalk blocks 60–120 mm. Within this layer had been placed two long bones and a horse hoof, possibly representing a special deposit. Layer 1 of F1112–F1136 extended across the top of this feature.