

### 1.3 The early quarries

- F1071** A791592 Pit or Quarry Phase: ?Early Roman or earlier  
Below L724 Cut by F1063 Cuts natural  
Length: >1.3 m Base: >0.6 m Depth: 0.6 m  
Description: Basin-shaped hollow with curving sloping sides and dished-flat base partly exposed in the side of cutting 1 of ditch F1063. Its full length was not visible and it was not visible in plan being obscured by the soil layer 724. It was most probably some sort of a quarry.  
Fill: (1) Over the base was a fairly thin layer (0.1 m thick) of greyish-brown silty clay soil containing a little rounded chalk grit, rare angular flints 10–30 mm, charcoal fragments and some lumps of natural marl. [Natural silting layer.]  
(2) Sloping down the east side was a layer of rounded-subrounded chalk mostly 10–30 mm but frequently up to 60 mm set in a matrix of greyish-brown chalky silt soil. The chalk tended to be larger and more rubbly towards the toe of the layer. Occasional small angular flints 10–30 mm were present and also occasional burnt flints and charcoal fragments. [Deliberate tip.]  
(1) Filling the central hollow and forming the bulk of the fill towards the western end was a reddish-brown silty clay soil containing a moderate density of subangular chalk 15–40 mm, angular flints of the same size and rare charcoal fragments. The stones sometimes formed clumps or short diffuse lenses, indicating the layer was formed of a series of deliberate tips and dumps.
- F1109** A963724 Quarry hollow Phase: Early Roman or earlier  
Below L720, L744 Cut by F1066, F1082 Same as F1110  
Cuts natural  
Length: c.4.5 m Width: c.3.0 m Depth: 1.28 m  
Description: Extensive, irregular-shaped feature with steeply sloping-vertical sides, partly excavated, but base only exposed where excavated in F1082 cutting 1. The full extent of the feature was not traced as it was obscured by the lower ploughsoil (744)  
Fill: (1) The fill throughout the feature was very uniform, composed of light yellowish-brown silty soil mixed with a high density of chalk grit and rounded chalk c.10 mm evenly dispersed throughout together with a scatter of larger subangular chalk 50–80 mm, angular flints 40–60 mm, flint nodules 110 mm and rare fragments of bone.
- F1110** A983733 Quarry Phase: Early Roman or earlier  
Below L720 Part of F1109  
Length: 0.55 m Width: 0.52 m Depth: >0.5 m  
Description: An irregular rounded feature extending north from F1109. It is probably part of the same quarrying.  
Fill: (1) Yellowish-grey silty soil containing scattered subangular chalk 10–30 mm and rare flint up to 80 mm.

**F1166** A933704

Quarry pit

Phase: Iron Age or Early Roman

Below L720, L744

Cut by F1063

Width: *c.*1.4 m base-*c.*1.0 m Depth: ?*c.*1.1 m

Description: This presumed area of quarrying was cut by the terminal of the ditch F1063 and was visible in the side and base of the ditch. None of the fill was excavated and the base was not exposed, although probing suggested the fill continued for another 0.16 m below the ditch base. At the top it had a wide sloping side, but towards the base becoming straighter and more vertical.

Fill: (2) In the narrower basal section was a dark yellowish-brown clayey soil containing a moderate density of chalk grit and small subrounded chalk 15–25 mm and a few scattered large flint nodules 110–150 mm.

(1) Infilling the upper part was a light brown chalky marl soil mixed with a high density of chalk grit and subangular-subrounded lumps up to 50 mm evenly dispersed throughout the layer. The layer contained a scatter of large angular broken flint nodules 80–130 mm and rare small angular flints *c.*30 mm. This fill was very similar in character to the fills of F1060 and F1109 suggesting these features may all have been interconnected, but obscured by the overlying soil layer 744.