

1.8 The fenced enclosure to the south of the aisled hall

Fences

F1069 A750597-A867613 Fence/boundary line Phase: Roman
Below L720 Cuts L724

Forms part of enclosure with F1070 and F1159

Length: 12 m Width: 0.2–0.3 m Depth: 0.22 m

Description: Linear feature aligned WSW–ENE, slightly sinuous and irregular. When originally exposed the feature showed as a line of flint nodules and broken flints, sometimes intermittent. It runs parallel to PL2, lying about 3 m south of the posts. A short length was sectioned and it could be seen in section to be flat bottomed and with near vertical straight sides.

Fill: (1) The slot was filled with flint nodules ranging from generally 50–100 mm, but up to 150 mm, in some areas densely concentrated, and set in a matrix of orange-brown silty soil. In section there was a thin lens of chalk grit over the base, overlain by brown silty soil with a little chalk grit and small angular flints *c.*20 mm. Larger angular flints 60–80 mm were more densely packed in the top and down the south side in the same soil matrix. [The flints may represent packing slumped into the slot following the decay of a timber fence.]

F1070 A922719-A867613 Fence/boundary line Phase: Roman
Below L720 Cuts L724

Forms part of enclosure with F1069 and F1159

Length: 12.3 m Width: 0.2–0.35 m Depth: ~ m (unexcavated)

Description: Linear feature aligned NE–SW discontinuous in places and slightly sinuous. It forms the eastern boundary of a trapezoidal enclosure together with F1069 and F1159. It runs parallel to PL3 lying about 3 m to the east of the post-holes. No part of the feature was excavated. The feature probably represents the position of a timber fence.

Fill: (1) The feature appeared in plan as a line of flint nodules 50–100 mm, rarely up to 180 mm with smaller flints or rounded chalk packed between in places set in a matrix of orange-brown silty soil. The flints occurred in variable densities sometimes closely packed, but in some sections diffuse or almost absent. [The flints possibly represent packing originally set alongside the timbers of the fence.]

F1159 A748670-A745600 Fence/boundary line Phase: Roman
Below L720 Cuts L724, L780

Length: 9.0 m Width: 0.75–1.5 m Depth: ~ m (unexcavated)

Description: This feature appeared to form the western boundary of a trapezoidal enclosure, which on the south and east was formed by a shallow slot. This western boundary aligned roughly NW–SE did not appear to have been formed by any deliberately cut feature nor deliberately made structure. It was delineated by a sharp linear eastern boundary between layer 780 and F1159, where the two were separated by a distinct band of clean soil, but the western edge was more diffuse, very irregular and sinuous. This may be a result of ploughing dragging flints from the feature downslope to disperse them over a wider area than was originally the case. The feature was not excavated to test whether there was any form of cut feature underlying the flint layer, which defined it.

Fill: The layer was composed of angular broken flint nodules varying from 25–120 mm, though the majority were *c.*50–80 mm, plus rare burnt flints, tile fragments and rare small rounded chalk. [Interpretation and conclusions of the precise character of this feature are difficult: although some sort of boundary, there was no obvious structure to it. A possible

interpretation is that an earlier field lynchet was utilized for this side of the enclosure. However the very well defined eastern edge suggests there was some sort of physical structure here such as a timber fence.]

Layers

731 Dark soil with charcoal and artefacts Phase: Roman

Relationships: Below 726, 727 Above 780

Description: Dark soil with charcoal and artefacts: dark greyish-brown clayey soil containing a low density of chalk grit, small chalk lumps and scattered angular flints 20–80 mm, rare flecks of charcoal and burnt clay. A number of limestone slabs 120–230 mm were lying flat close by and a piece of slag or marcasite 40 mm was embedded in the soil. [Occupation spread.]

Most of this layer was excavated during the cleaning and definition of post-holes 1254–6 and no record of its full extent and characteristics were made then. The description was based on a small surviving patch between Phs 1254 and 1255.

Small Finds: 3236 Copper alloy object; 3212 Fe object. Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

780 Flint gravel spread Phase: Roman

Relationships: Below 731 Above ?natural

Description: Angular flint gravel mostly averaging 20–60 mm, but with some smaller fragments and grit and a moderate quantity of larger angular flints, nodules and broken nodules up to 180 mm plus a few small concentrations of rounded chalk 10–30 mm. The layer was at its densest immediately west of Phs 1254–5 and tended to run N–S parallel with F1159. A small patch of very tightly packed cobbles occurred along the south edge of Ph 1259. Rare burnt shattered flints and potsherds were also visible in the layer. The stones were set in a matrix of brown clayey-marly soil mixed with chalk grit (very similar to 736). [Possibly a remnant of gravelled surface or path at the edge of the fenced enclosure.] Not excavated.

Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

Post-holes

Ph 1244 A878674 PL3

Below 720 Cuts natural

Diameter: 0.44 m Unexcavated

Description: Roughly circular setting of angular broken flint nodules c.60–100 mm plus one 200 mm; gap in centre may represent area of post void.

Ph 1245 A869658 PL3

Below 720 Cuts natural

Width: 0.5 x 0.34 m Unexcavated

Description: Roughly oval area partly delineated by some broken flint nodules 60–120 mm and darker soil.

Ph 1246 A877654

Below 720 Cuts natural

Diameters of 0.44 m, 0.3 m and 0.58 m

Description: Unexcavated complex comprising up to three intercutting post-holes possibly. Three roughly circular areas indicated on plan, two areas of darker soil one with a clay tile

fragment embedded in it and the other with a piece of limestone slab; the third separating these was distinguished by a more chalky soil.

Ph 1247 A839640

PL2

Below 720

Cuts natural

Diameter: 0.5 m Unexcavated

Description: Roughly circular setting of angular flint nodules 100–160 mm with smaller flints and chalk *c.*50 mm infilling spaces between nodules.

Ph 1248 A802637

PL2

Below 720

Cuts natural

Diameter: 0.46 m Unexcavated

Description: Subcircular setting of closely packed angular broken flint nodules 50–140 mm.

Ph 1249 A820637

PL2

Below 720

Cuts natural

Diameter: 0.34 m Unexcavated

Description: Circular dished hollow, very shallow with two flints *c.*100 mm set within it.

Ph 1250 A783634

PL1B/PL2

Below 720

Cuts natural

Diameter: 0.54 m Unexcavated

Description: Circular setting of angular flint nodules 80–140 mm, including one burnt flint with more densely packed chalk and flints *c.*50 mm between on the south-west side.

Ph 1251 A767633

PL1A/PL2

Below 726

Cuts 780

Width: 0.42 m Unexcavated

Description: Irregular subcircular setting of broken flint nodules 50–120 mm, including one burnt, fairly close packed.

Ph 1252 A768639

PL1A

Below 726

Cuts 780

Width: 0.76 x 0.54 m Unexcavated

Description: Roughly oval setting of close-packed flint nodules 120–200 mm with some smaller flints and chalk between. A gap towards the west side may indicate the position of a post void *c.*120 mm wide.

Ph 1253 A779657

PL1B

Below 720, 726

Cuts 780

Length: 0.68 m Width: 0.5 m Unexcavated

Description: Oval setting of abraded flint nodules 60–140 mm together with small rounded chalk lumps 5–30 mm resting in a reddish-brown silty clay soil.

Ph 1254 A768659

PL1A

Below 720, 726

Cuts 780 and ?731

Length: 0.7 m Width: 0.52 m Unexcavated

Description: Oval setting of close-packed angular flint nodules 80–160 mm in reddish-brown clay soil with a few small chalk lumps and a fragment of clay tile.

Ph 1255 A766673 PL1A
Below 720, 726 Cuts 780
Length: 0.75 m Width: 0.7 m Unexcavated
Description: Roughly circular setting of large flint nodules 100–240 mm fairly closely set in reddish-brown clay soil. A fragment of limestone slab 70 mm was also present. A gap in the flints 160 mm wide in the north part may indicate the position of a post void.

Ph 1256 A774678 PL1B
Below 720, 726 Cuts 780
Length: 0.65 m Width: 0.4 m Unexcavated
Roughly oval setting of flints with an arc of four c.80–130 mm delineating the southern extent and a single block 180 mm marking the northern extent. These were set in a reddish-brown clay soil containing small angular flints up to 40 mm.

Ph 1257 A766690 PL1A
Below 720, 726 Cut by F1075 Cuts natural?
Rel to Ph 1258 unclear
Width: 0.8 x 0.6 m Unexcavated
Description: Oval setting of angular flint nodules 80–180 mm close set in reddish-brown clay soil with small rounded chalk.

Ph 1258 A768694 PL1B
Below 720, 726 Cuts natural? Rel to Ph 1257 unclear
Width: 0.5 m Unexcavated
Description: Roughly oval setting of angular flint nodules, mostly 50–100 mm, but with a couple larger 150–200 mm set in clay soil and more dispersed than the adjacent post-hole 1257.

Ph 1259 A859644 PL3
Below 720, 726? Cuts natural?
Diameter: 0.52 m
Description: Circular area of darker soil with concentration of flint nodules 80–140 mm dispersed within the soil.

Ph 1263 A759729 PL1A Phase: Roman
Below 720 Cut by Ph 1238 Cuts 765
Diameter: 0.75 m Depth: 0.09 m
Description: Roughly circular shallow feature.
Fill: (1) Large flint nodules 100–220 mm tightly packed set in a light brown soil containing a little chalk grit and fragments up to 15 mm.

Ph 1266 A762710 PL1A
Below 720 Cut by F1075 Cuts 765
Rel to F1065 unclear Unexcavated
Length: 0.46 m Width: 0.4 m No obvious cut
Description: Arrangement of large abraded flint nodules 90–200 mm closely set in an orange-brown silty clay soil. They appear to encircle a gap on the east side, which may indicate a post void c.0.15 m wide.