

1.5 The aisled hall

Walls/robber trenches: phase 1

F1067 A78-A88-A79-A89 Terrace for A.H. Phase: Roman
Below L720 Cut by F1035, F1121, F1065 Cuts natural chalk

Length: 22 m Width: 12 m Depth: 0.34 m (max.)

Description: Rectangular terrace aligned NW–SE created by cutting into the natural clay and chalk on the east side with concomitant dumping of chalk rubble and chalk marl in the western half. This resulted in a level area on which the aisled hall was constructed. The eastern edge of the terrace was steeply sloping, but had been disturbed by the extensive badger sett (F1078). The original north edge had probably been removed during the cutting of the drainage gully F1035.

Fill: Following excavation and robbing of the aisled hall, the terrace was largely filled with nineteenth century deposits (720, 732, 733, 730, 735), which were largely excavated by machine.

F1068 A750980-A692934 Wall foundation of A.H. Phase: Roman
Below L741, L742 Cut by F1135 Above F1091

Length: *c.*7.0 m Width: 1.0 m Depth: – m

Description: The wall foundations of the aisled hall had almost all been destroyed apart from the very base of the mortar footing surviving as a thin intermittent lens along the northern line of the wall.

Fill: (1) The footing was composed of light yellowish-brown chalky marl cob mixed with chalk grit and small rounded chalk up to 25 mm plus occasional angular flints 30–80 mm. (2) Along the north edge there were remnants of a layer of chalky yellow marl with chalk grit containing lumps of real hardened light brown mortar 10–30 mm, scattered chalk blocks *c.*60 mm, flints *c.*100 mm and small chippings of limestone and greensand 20–30 mm. [This has the appearance of building debris packed alongside the wall foundation between the wall and original edge of the terrace (F1067). A similar layer of flints, greensand and limestone chippings in cob and mortar was visible on the south side of F1068 below the unexcavated layers (774 and 793).

F1091 A659919-A708863- Robber/foundation trench Phase: Roman
A720695

Below L732, L733, L737, L741, Cut by F1092, F1122, Cuts L789, L739
L742 F1135

Length: 8.1 m Width: 0.8–0.92 m Depth: 0.2 m

Description: Linear trench aligned NW–SE, turning at a right angle at its north end and running for a further 1.4 m. It had a flat base and steeply sloping sides. It ended in a square-cut terminal on the south. [Originally marked the position of the wall of the aisled hall, but may not have been actually cut as a foundation trench, but formed by the dumping of floor make-up layers against the edge of the wall foundation, which was subsequently robbed in the nineteenth century.]

Fill: (1) Yellowish-brown clay mixed with stone rubble, limestone slabs and building debris. [Robbing debris: essentially the same material as 733 and 742.]

F1148 A752796-A738818 Foundation trench Phase: Roman
Cut by F1149, F1156 Cuts L792, F1163, L788

Length: 2.0 m Width: 0.82 m Depth: 0.17 m

Ph 1275 A785805

Below 748

Cut by F1150

Cuts 779

Width: 0.5 m Depth: 0.15 m

Description: Sub-square feature but with some irregularities around the edges, with flat base and sloping sides.

Fill: (1) Yellowish-brown clayey soil mixed with frequent chalk grit and subangular chalk up to 50 mm and occasional broken flints 50–60 mm. Around the edge of the post-hole were remnants of packing in the form of flints up to 200 mm and greensand 100–150 mm.

Ph 1276 A764840

Below ?

Cut by F1075

Phase: Roman

Cuts 792/784

Width: 0.6 m Depth: 0.17 m

Description: Subrectangular cut for post pad of aisled hall half destroyed by Georgian foundation trench F1075. It has a flat base and steeply sloping sides. No record of fill, or site description, but in index is described as (Georgian) suggesting the fill may have been excavated during the museum construction and backfilled with Georgian material.

*Walls/robber trenches: phases 2 and 3***F1145** A795835-A812843

Foundation trench

Phase: Roman – phase 2

Below L732 or L735

Cut by F1061, F1075

Cuts L791

Length: 6.8 m Width: 0.48–0.86 m Depth: 0.2 m

Description: Linear trench with flat base and straight sides aligned NE–SW forming an internal wall foundation within the aisled hall. The east end appears to be narrower and more irregular for a distance of 2.2 m and it is possible that there was a doorway situated at this point – the narrower trench holding a timber doorsill or the wall was extended with a narrower partition inserted to infill the gap. This trench continues the line of F1149 further to the west, but the two being separated by a further gap of about 1.5 m at the west end of F1145.

Fill: (1) Pinkish-brown clay mixed with large quantities of small chalk and angular flints up to 60 mm and puddled chalk and marl.

F1149 A755805-A779821

Foundation/robber trench

Phase: Roman – phase 3

Below L767

Cut by Ph 1221

Cuts L759, L778, F1161,
Ph 1280

Length: 4.2 m Width: 0.63–1.0 m Depth: c.0.1 m

Description: Rectilinear trench aligned N–S continuing the line of the wall F1156. It had a flat base and steep sides and formed a right angle at the north end with F1150. The one number has been used to denote both the original foundation trench and subsequent robber trench following the same limits. The relationship of F1161 to the original wall foundation must remain uncertain.

Fill: (1) Greyish/yellowish-brown crumbly clayey soil containing a low density of chalk grit, small chalk pieces 20–30 mm, flints up to 120 mm and fragments of limestone roof slab. [The trench is for the wall which blocked the doorway of period 2 in period 3.]

F1150 A807780-A783814

Foundation/robber trench

Phase: Roman – phase 2

Below L767

Cut by Ph 1221/F1062,
Ph 1222

Cuts L779, ?Ph 1275

Length: 6.0 m Width: 0.65 m Depth: 0.16 m

Description: Linear trench aligned E–W with straight sides and flat base. It joined at right angles with F1149 and F1157. There is some indication from the plan that this trench represented the robbed out line of the walls, which had been set in a slightly wider foundation trench with clay packed along the north edge of the wall.

Fill: No record.

F1156 A743795 Wall footing Phase: Roman – phase 2
Below L767 Cut by Ph 1224 Cuts ?

Length: 2.15 m Width: 1.0 m Height: one course

Description: This short length of extant wall foundation was the only section to survive robbing from the whole of the aisled hall. This more southerly extension appears to have been thicker than the foundation continuing to the north, possibly because of additional support necessary for the hall roof in relation to the extension. It was constructed of roughly shaped flints c.180–200 mm long selected for the exterior faces with slightly smaller flints 80–150 mm forming the core. The flints were set in a matrix of clayey soil mixed with crushed chalk and mortar.

F1161 A766814 Hollow/post-hole base Phase: Roman
Cut by F1149 Cuts 779 Rel to L759/L778 could not be determined

Length: 0.74 m Width: 0.7 m Depth: 0.1 m

Description: Subrectangular shallow hollow with rounded corners, flat base and sloping sides.

Fill: (1) Yellowish-brown clayey soil containing a high density of chalk grit and a scatter of small subrounded/subangular chalk 10–30 mm and occasional flints and sandstone fragments up to 60 mm.

Ovens within the aisled hall

Corn drier

F1083 A814907 Corn drier Type: Small dumb-bell
Below L732 Cuts F1067 (natural)

Part of the same structure as F1093, F1102

Diameter of drying chamber: 0.72 m Width of flue: base 0.44 m, top 0.8 m

Depth: 0.57 m

Description: This feature number was assigned to the end of the corn drier, which formed the narrow firing chamber/flue and the circular oven area below the drying chamber. The base was flat and even, but very slightly dished, probably from wear. The sides were even and steeply sloping or near vertical. Within the flue the chalk had been burnt grey across the base and up the sides to a height of 0.2 m. In the circular oven the chalk was not burnt but sooting of the walls occurred up to 0.18 m height. A smaller semicircular hollow at the top on the east side may represent a flue for the hot air to circulate through the drying chamber opposite to F1093. Encircling the top of the oven was a small ledge measuring 70 mm deep and 100–130 mm wide: during excavation several flint nodules c.150–200 mm were found resting in this ledge set in mortar and probably represent the edge of the floor of the drying chamber above the oven.

Fill: (3) A thin lens of grey ash and fine charcoal occurred across the base; its full extent and thickness were not noted in detail, nor was it sampled. Two burnt flints appear to have rested

on or sunk into the ash and had probably fallen from the overlying floor of the drying chamber.

(2) Overlying the ash were tips of yellow-orange marl containing angular flint nodules up to 120 mm, fragments of mortar and lenses of crushed 'mortar' (or cob) probably deriving from the demolished superstructure. Samples: 4074 Charcoal.

(1) Loose packed greyish-brown silty soil containing a moderate density of angular flints up to 80 mm, limestone slabs up to 100 mm and chalk up to 30 mm interleaving with lenses or tips of crushed 'mortar' and small chalk. Samples: 4117, 4142 Slag.

[The on-site assessment of the fill was that it was probably Georgian backfill. However it is clear that there is some undisturbed material – (3) and it is possible the layers above this represent the original infill suggesting the superstructure of the corn drier was demolished. Alternatively the fill could be the corn drier fill disturbed partially during the Georgian/Victorian activities.]

F1093 A816897

Flue of corn drier

Below L732

Part of F1083 and F1102

Cuts natural

Length: 1.05 m Width: 0.56–0.2 m Depth: 0.3–0.05 m

Description: This took the form of a sloping rectangular slot on the west side of the drying chamber F1083, curving up to form a shallow rounded gully on the chalk surface. It appears to have served as a flue for the hot air to escape from the firing chamber or to circulate over the top of the drying chamber of the corn drier. Where it cut through natural clay/marl, this had been fired red, but the chalk had not been discoloured.

F1102 A809912

Stoking chamber of
corn drier

Phase: Roman

Below L732

Cuts F1067 (natural)

Part of F1083 and F1093

Rel to F1096 not apparent

Length: 1.34 m Width: 1.1 m Depth: 0.6 m

Description: This northern end of the corn drier formed the stoking chamber: it was essentially rectangular 0.9 by 0.6 m at the base with a step or ledge to the rear 0.76 by 0.2 m and 0.33 m deep. At the west corner the side slopes up forming a sort of chute and may originally have formed a series of steps out of the chamber.

Fill: (3) Filling the base and sloping up the western side was a yellowish/greyish-brown silty clay soil mixed with crushed 'mortar' and chalk grit and containing a scatter of limestone slabs 100–130 mm, angular flint 20–40 mm and chalk grit. Some of the stone appears to form tip lines. [Deliberate tips.]

(2) Thin grey lens of ash with a little mortar formed a tip within layer 1.

(1) The upper half of the feature was filled with loosely packed yellowish-brown silty clay soil containing pockets of crushed 'mortar' and chalk and frequent stone, including limestone slabs 80–100 mm, angular flints 20–50 mm and mortar fragments *c.*50 mm. [Deliberate tips probably continuous with layer 1 of F1083.]

Ovens

F1076 A736849

Stokehole

Oven Type: 2a

Below L732, L733

Cuts L760, L788

Part of F1104

Aligned N–S

Length of oven (with
F1104): 2.3 m

Diameter: 1.0 m Depth: 0.11 m

Description: This feature forms one end of a dumb-bell-shaped oven. It takes the form of a shallow subcircular depression with sides gently sloping to a flat base. On the south side there was a deeper oval pocket measuring 0.54 x 0.4 m and 0.19 m deep, which may have resulted from over cutting. This end of the overall feature is more likely to be the stokehole, though the evidence is lacking to verify this.

Fill: (1) Yellowish-brown silty clay soil mixed with chalk grit and crushed 'mortar' and containing small rounded chalk and angular flint 30–50 mm. [Possibly deliberate infill to level feature to floor surface.]

F1104 A745856	Oven and firing chamber	Oven Type: 2a
Below L732, L733	Cuts L760, L788, L789	Part of F1076
Aligned N–S	Length of oven (with F1076): 2.3 m	

Length: 1.3 m Width of oven bowl: 0.9 m Width of flue: 0.52 m Depth: 0.1 m

Description: Shallow irregular sub-oval hollow with flat base and straight steep sides. It narrows towards the south to form a straight parallel-sided firing chamber, which joins with the stokehole F1076.

Fill: (1) Light yellowish/creamy-brown silty clay soil mixed with a high density of chalk grit and rare small rounded chalk and angular flint 20–40 mm. [Essentially the same material as the fill of F1076.]

F1079 A722884	Firing chamber and stokehole	Oven Type: 2b
Below L733	Cuts L760, L790	Part of F1105
Aligned E–W	Length of oven (with F1105): 1.8 m	

Length: 1.2 m Width: 0.4 m Depth: 0.18 m

Description: Subrectangular feature forming the south end and flue of an oven. It had a flat base and steeply angled sides with some *in situ* burning on the surfaces. There is no separate stokehole.

Fill: (2) Dark grey-black ash and fine charcoal in a matrix of silty clay soil mixed with chalk grit and rare burnt flint *c.*60 mm formed a thin lens but not continuous with that in F1105. [Cinders from firing.]

(1) Chalk and flint rubble 70–90 mm mixed with crushed 'mortar', chalk and flint grit in a silty clay soil filled the upper area. [Deliberate infill reconstituting floor surface.]

F1105 A721891	Oven bowl	Oven Type: 2b
Below L733	Cuts L760 and L790	Cuts F1106
Rel to F1107 not recorded	Part of F1079	
Aligned E–W	Length of oven (with F1079): 1.8 m	

Length: 0.8 m Width: 0.6 m Depth: 0.19 m

Description: Oval feature forming the main chamber of a small oven (together with F1079). The base is slightly worn and hollowed and the sides vertical. There is *in situ* burning over the base and on the sides at the junction with F1079.

Fill: (3) Over the base was a thin lens of ash and fine charcoal with occasional fragments of burnt clay and frequent flints (?burnt) up to 70 mm. Samples: 4070, 4178, 4180 Flotation.

(2) Over this was yellowish-brown silty clay mixed with crushed 'mortar', burnt clay grit and frequent flint and chalk 20–60 mm. [Deliberate infill including oven debris.] Samples: 4158 Slag.

(1) Yellowish–brown clay with scattered angular flints, burnt clay flecks, chalk and flint grit. [Tip of soil.] Samples: 4121 Slag. [The oven appears to have been filled in with a series of deliberate tips starting with the oven bowl progressing along to the stokehole.]

F1080 A738894	Oven	Type 2b
Below L732, L733	Cuts L760, ?F1133	Rel to F1103 unclear
Aligned NE–SW	Length of whole oven: ?1.8 m (or 2.35 m)	

Length of oven bowl: 0.7 m Width of oven bowl: 0.55 m Width of flue: 0.4 m

Depth of oven bowl : 0.15 m Depth of flue: 0.1 m

Description: Keyhole- (or possibly dumb-bell-) shaped oven: it is not clear whether it ends before F1103, or whether F1103 has cut through its north-east end. The whole feature is fairly shallow, with a flat slightly undulating base and sloping sides. The main oven bowl occurs at the south-west end, is oval in shape and had burning around its sides and across the base discolouring both chalk and marl natural. The main firing chamber was in the narrower flue leading north-eastwards from the oven bowl. It is unclear whether this oven included the whole of this linear channel as far as the rounded terminal at the north-east end or whether a second oven intercut with it: F1103 would represent the second oven.

Fill: (2) Across the base of the firing chamber was a thin lens of fine grey ash. This did not extend into the oven bowl. [Cinders from firing.]

(1) Greyish-brown silty clay soil mixed with small rounded chalk and mortar, plus occasional small angular flints, some burnt up to 40 mm. A concentration of cob fragments, some burnt, up to 100 mm, limestone slabs up to 150 mm and angular flints were concentrated in the middle over layer 2. [Demolished superstructure and remade floor.]

Samples: 4177 Flotation. [It is unclear whether this was the original fill or later backfill.]

F1133 (1) = fill of F1080.

Small finds: 3342 Iron object.

F1089 A748915	Oven	Type 2a
Below L732	Cuts L760, L773, L793–4	Part of F1098
Aligned E–W	Length of oven: 1.74 m	

Length of oven bowl: 0.86m Width of oven bowl: 0.54 m Depth of oven bowl: 0.25 m

Width of flue: 0.4 m Depth of flue 0.2 m

Description: Keyhole-shaped in plan with oval oven bowl to north leading into narrower linear flue or firing chamber to the south, which in turn leads into the stokehole (F1098). The bowl had a dished base and steeply sloping sides, whilst the flue had a flat base and steep straight sides. The chalk base and clay marl sides of the flue were intensely burnt and this continued around the sides of the bowl and extending onto the adjacent surface of layer 760. A stake-hole c.0.3 m to the south-west of the flue may relate to the superstructure or use of the oven.

Fill: (2) Across the base was a thin lens of ash and charcoal, thickening towards the rear of the oven. [Cinders from firing.] Samples: 4179 Flotation.

(1) Infilling the majority of the feature was a layer of chalk rubble compacted in puddled chalk with fragments of burnt clay. A stack of limestone slabs (possibly part of the oven superstructure) occurred to one side and a large greensand block 330 x 210 mm against the north edge. [Deliberate infill to reform the floor surface, possibly including material from the oven superstructure.] Samples: 4150 Charcoal.

F1098 A753908 Stokehole of oven (F1089) Type 2a
Below L732 Cuts L760, L773 Part of F1089
Aligned E–W
Length: 0.95 m Width: 0.94 m Depth: 0.2 m
Description: Square-cut feature with rounded corners, dished base and sloping sides.
Fill: (2) Thin lens of ash and fine charcoal over the base, continuous with that in F1089. [Cinders from firing.]
(1) Greyish-brown silty clay containing frequent chalk grit and occasional angular flint grit, rare fragments of mortar and slabs of limestone.

F1090 A741918 Oven Type 2a
Below L720, L732/L741 Cuts L760, L793
Aligned E–W Length: 1.34 m
Width of oven bowl: 0.64 m Width of flue: 0.33 m Width of stokehole: 0.65 m
Depth of oven bowl: 0.24 m Depth of flue: 0.28 m Depth of stokehole: 0.12 m
Description: Dumb-bell-shaped, aligned roughly with adjacent oven F1089/F1098. The oven bowl was subcircular with straight vertical sides and curving dished base. It leads into a narrow parallel-sided flue with steeply sloping straight sides and flat base. This stepped up into the shallower circular stokehole with sloping base and sides. There was burning along the south side of the stokehole and a small area confined to the rear wall of the oven bowl and the adjacent ground surface. A stake-hole *c.*60 mm diameter x 180 mm deep occurred at the junction of flue and stokehole on the north side.
Fill: (2) Over the base was a lens of burnt debris. [Cinders from firing.] Sample for flotation 4138.
(1) Yellowish-brown silty clay soil containing frequent chalk grit and scattered burnt flint, fragments of daub and cob. Thin diffuse lenses of small chalk 10–20 mm and grit formed a number of fine tip lines. In the stokehole was a short lens of ash, but this appears to form one of the tip lines within layer 1, so probably represents clearance of ash from an adjacent functioning oven or cinders cleaned from the surrounding floor surface. [This appears to represent deliberate infill of the oven following disuse.] Samples: 4138 Flotation.

F1097 A777911 Oven type 4/Hearth type 3b
Below L732 or L735 Cuts L773
Length: 0.35 m Width: 0.3 m Depth: 0.06m
Description: Shallow dished oval hollow with *in situ* burning around its north-west side and extending up to 0.2 m beyond its edge. It possibly formed the base of a small hearth or circular oven (or the deepest part of an oblong oven if the nineteenth century robbing destroyed later floor levels.)
Fill: (1) Yellowish-brown silty clay mixed with crushed ‘mortar’ and chalk grit and containing a few small angular flints.

F1103 A753895 Oven or hollow? Type 2c?
Below L732 Cuts L760 Rel to F1080 unclear
Aligned SW–NE
Length: ?0.95 m Width: 0.38–0.42 m Depth: 0.06–0.12 m
Description: It is unclear whether this scoop represents part of a recut oven or just another of the many amorphous small hollows present. The divide between this feature and F1080 is unclear and whether any of the *in situ* burning at the south-west end related to this oven or only to F1080. It had the form of a small irregular oval hollow with flat base and sloping

sides (distorted in plan by overcutting). It may in fact have been the north-east end of F1080 though this would create an extremely long oven.

Fill: (1) Orange-brown clayey soil containing a moderate density of small stone including angular flint, rounded chalk, mortar lumps and limestone slabs, all 5–40 mm.

F1107 A714886

Oven/Hearth

Oven type 4/
Hearth type 3b
Cuts L790

Below L733

Cut by F1105/F1079

Length: 1.02 m Width: 0.8 m Depth: 0.13 m

Description: Subcircular basin-shaped feature with gently sloping sides forming continuous surface with dished base; the shape of the base is rather irregular in plan. No *in situ* burning was observed, but the fill suggests this was an oven or hearth base. It could represent the stokehole of an oven that has been cut away by F1105: this would account for the cinders and the lack of burning.

Fill: (2) Across the base was a thin layer of ash and charcoal mixed with a little chalk grit and small angular flints up to 30 mm. Samples: 4161, 4165 Flotation.

(1) Filling the remainder of the feature was a mixed deposit of subrounded chalk 10–40 mm, puddled chalk and angular flints and broken nodules 30–70 mm in a matrix of greyish- brown silty clay. [Deliberate infill to reconstitute floor surface of hall.]

F1127 A715916

Oven

Type 2

Below L742

Cuts L760, L789

Aligned N–S

Length: 2.3 m

Width of oven: 0.94 m Width of stokehole: 0.6 m

Depth of oven: 0.4 m Depth of stokehole: 0.07 m

Description: Sub-oval hollow with squared end to the south; the sides varied from steeply sloping to a more gentle angle on the west. The base was dished with a continuously sloping slightly stepped ramp out to the north ending in a shallow fairly small stokehole. There was evidence of *in situ* burning of the upper edges along the south and east sides, which had turned the marl red and across the centre of the feature this extended down and across the base, discolouring the chalk grey in addition to the marl. This central area had been worn into a shallow hollow from cleaning out and represents the main firing chamber. The feature appears to have been excavated and backfilled during nineteenth century activity.

Fill: (2) Reddish-brown clay mixed with a low density of chalk and angular flint 20–40 mm. [Tip of burnt clay, possibly from over cutting north edge in nineteenth century excavation.]

(1) Greyish/yellowish-brown silty clay loosely packed with frequent flint nodules up to 180 mm, limestone slabs up to 140 mm, scattered mortar fragments and small chalk. [Deliberate backfill from nineteenth century excavation of feature.] Samples: 4144 Slag.

F1133 A744888

Oven

Type 2b

Below L732/L733

Cut by ?F1080

Cuts L760

Length: 1.3 m Width: 0.7 m (0.36–0.5 m flue/stokehole) Depth: 0.12 m

Description: Keyhole-shaped oven with the wider oven bowl at the north end. It has a flat base and sloping sides; there was a little evidence of *in situ* burning observed on the floor of the oven bowl and flue.

Fill: (3) Over the base of the oven bowl was a thin lens of ash and fine charcoal with sparse rounded chalk up to 20 mm and rare chips of burnt flint and grit of burnt clay. [Cinders from firing.]

(2) Greyish-brown clayey soil with yellow mottles, small lenses/smears of ash and containing sparse rounded chalk 10–20 mm and occasional subangular chalk and flint up to 80 mm. [Deliberate infill.] Samples: 4181 Flotation.

Layer 1 is really fill of F1080. (1) Small finds: 3342 Iron Object.

F1137 A827885

Oven

Type 2c

Below L732

Cuts natural

Aligned N–S

Length: 1.02 m

Width of oven: 0.56 m Width of flue/stokehole: 0.38 m

Depth of oven: 0.08 m Depth of flue/stokehole: 0.05 m

Description: Figure-of-eight-shaped feature formed of two shallow hollows with sloping sides and dished base.

Fill: (1) Light greyish-yellow clay soil flecked and streaked with pale grey ash and degraded cob. A patch of puddled chalk, probably a remnant of floor surface, has been packed over the west end. Samples: 4182 Flotation.

F1144 A738934

Oven

Type 2

Below L732 or L741

Cuts L760

Cut by ?F1099

Aligned N–S

Length: 1.2 m Width: 0.5 m Depth: 0.13 m

Description: Oval hollow with straight angled sides and gently curved dished base. Base slopes gradually to surface at the north end suggesting this end is the stokehole. It is possible the stokehole has been partly obscured/removed by F1099. Some *in situ* burning was noted on the north-west side and base suggesting this was the firing chamber and the stokehole was beyond in the area of F1153. There was also a circular patch of burning on the adjacent floor surface (760) to the south-west.

Fill: (1) Greyish-brown clayey soil containing fragments of puddled chalk and chalk marl plus occasional small flints. A slab of limestone 200 mm long sloped in on the north side. A thin lens of ash and charcoal occurred across the base at the south end.

Artefacts: plaster, Fe nail.

F1153 A750940

Complex of four ovens

Types ?2c

Below F1100

Cuts L773

A: Length: 1.04 m Width of oven bowl: 0.48 Width of flue: 0.4 m Depth: 0.2 m

B: Length: 1.08 m Width: 0.5 m Depth: 0.12 m

C: Length: >0.3 m Width: 0.44 m Depth: 0.03 m

D: Length: >0.82 m Width: 0.58 m Depth: 0.09 m

Description: This area was originally regarded as a single feature, but it became apparent in planning that there were at least two ovens (A and B) clearly present and probably remnants of two others – C and D). The two best preserved (A and B) are similar in shape and size forming small oval-figure-of-eight-shaped bases, aligned W–E lying side by side, slightly offset, both with areas of *in situ* burning, which was much more intense and extensive in B. The area of intense burning to the west of A has been designated as oven C: this area is surrounded by a halo of over cutting, but it is assumed to have formed the base of the main firing chamber of a shallower oven that has been partly cut away by A and probably following the same alignment. To the east of oven B there was another area of intense *in situ* burning, which is interpreted as the base of a fourth oven, though the extent of the burning may indicate this oven was aligned NE–SW at an angle to the others, and had possibly been cut by F1099.

Fill: F1153A (2) Patches of dark grey-black silty clay mixed with ash and charcoal containing small chalk, angular flint and burnt clay fragments. [Cinders covering oven base.] Samples: 4164 Flotation.

(1) Over the rest of the complex the fill was essentially the same as F1154 (see below).

F1154 A742956 Complex of two ovens Type 2a

Below F1100 Cuts L773

A: Length: 1.5 m Width: 0.7, 0.5, 0.74 m Depth: 0.3, 0.25 m

B: Length: >1.3 m Width: >0.4 m Depth: 0.11, 0.09 m

Description: This comprises two oven bases on the same W–E alignment lying parallel. Their inter-relationship is unclear as they were not differentiated on site and in the drawn section it is not possible to distinguish whether F1100 is at this point a different feature to the eastern oven. Both ovens were dumb-bell-shaped in plan with small patches of *in situ* burning occurring on their sides. The burning occurs towards the east ends and centre, suggesting the main oven bowl was to the east and stokehole to the west, though this would have left very little space between the stokehole and the west wall of the aisled hall. However the profile shape suggests the stokehole was to the east as might be expected.

Fill: (2) Across the base was a thin lens of ash.

(1) Filling the rest of the feature was a dark brown silty clay mixed with puddled chalk and marl containing chalk grit, small angular flints and fragments of cob or marl. [Deliberate infill to level the disused feature.]

Small finds: 3380, 3381, 3382 Iron objects.

Layers within the main hall: phases 1–3

(listed in layer number order: for relationships see the matrix)

760 Chalk spread Phase: Roman

Relationships: Below 732–3, 735, Above 791, ?788

741–2, 774

Description: Angular chalk blocks 10–50 mm compacted in hard crushed and puddled chalk together with a few rare angular flints 25–50 mm. The surface was extremely smooth, worn and well trampled especially in the area between F1090, F1098, F1080, F1106 and F1127. Areas of the surface had been burnt grey between F1098 and F1080. To the south of this the layer is missing the hard flat surface and is generally more uneven and undulating with a greater number of irregularities and shallow hollows. [Deliberately laid floor surface.] Not excavated. Thickness: 0.1 m.

Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

772 Chalk surface Phase: Roman

Relationships: Below 732, 735 Above 773

Description: Small discontinuous patches of trampled chalk spread composed of small angular chalk mostly 5–20 mm, but up to 50 mm compacted very hard in puddled chalk. It has a smooth trampled surface. One oval patch has a limestone slab fragment 90 x 70 mm set in it lying flat possibly to form a small post pad. Some patches have more yellow chalky marl in the matrix and one burnt patch over 794 had several angular burnt flints 30–80 mm compressed into the chalk. [Deliberate deposit laid to form floor surface and subsequently well trampled: it may always have been patchy if it was repairing worn hollows and therefore all patches may not be precisely contemporaneous in their deposition, though all are broadly so.] Thickness: 0.01 m.

Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

773 Brown marl surface

Phase: Roman

Relationships: Below 732, 735, Above 774
772, 794

Description: Spread of brownish-yellow chalky marl containing a high density of chalk grit, occasional fragments of burnt clay and scattered angular flint 20–30 mm, forming discontinuous patches. It had a very hard compact surface. [Trampled floor surface.] Thickness: 0.04 m.

Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

774 Cream marl spread

Phase: Roman

Relationships: Below 732, 735, Above 760
772, 773

Description: Very hard compact yellowish-brown chalk marl deposit containing a high density of chalk grit, forming a discontinuous layer with some patches retaining a smooth trampled surface. [Deliberate deposit forming floor surface.] This layer was not excavated and was largely covered by layers 772 and 773, but it was visible in the edges of features cutting through it. Thickness: 0.05 m.

Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

785 Brown chalky soil

Phase: Roman

Relationships: Uncertain Above ?natural Equivalent to 784/792

Description: Brown clayey soil with darker grey mottles mixed with a high density of chalk grit, frequent small subrounded pieces 10–25 mm, sparse angular flints, flint grit and occasional charcoal flecks. [Possibly remnants of original soil/subsoil trampled and churned up in the south quadrant of the aisled hall possibly representing an area of more intense wear or disturbance in the area of a potential doorway.]

This appeared to occupy a subrectangular hollow between F1145 and F1149; however, this appeared to be more manufactured than real.

Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

788 Chalk in soil

Phase: Roman

Relationships: Below F1167, Above 791
F1076, F1104; 760

Description: Small subangular chalk blocks, mostly 10–30 mm with a few up to 45 mm compacted in a matrix of puddled chalk and light brown marly soil. It contained infrequent angular flints 30–90 mm. It was hard and compacted with a slightly domed irregular undulating surface, which appears to be fairly worn. Set within this was a horse skull (F1167). [Deliberate dump of material forming levelling deposit for terrace and serving as floor surface during the use of the aisled hall.] Unexcavated. Thickness: c.0.15 m.

Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

789 Chalk and flints in marl

Phase: Roman

Relationships: Below 797, 788 Above 791

Description: Small subangular chalk, mostly 10–25 mm, rarely up to 60 mm together with frequent angular flints and broken nodules 30–150 mm, with the larger sizes predominating packed hard in a matrix of yellow marl and puddled chalk. Towards the north-west there was a greater quantity of soil mixed with the marl. An area had been subjected to *in situ* burning turning the marl red and some of the chalk grey with charcoal fragments and ash trampled into the surface. The surface was generally uneven, but became smoother towards the south.

[Deliberate tips of material to form make-up to create a level terrace for the aisled hall and subsequently serving as the floor surface with greatest wear closest to the entrance. *In situ* burning probably resulted from use of adjacent ovens.] Unexcavated.

Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

790 Chalk and flints

Phase: Roman

Relationships: Below 788?

Cut by F1107

Above unex

Uncertain with 789

Description: Subangular chalk blocks 10–50 mm and angular flints 20–80 mm plus some larger chalk and flint blocks up to 120 mm were well compacted in puddled chalk. [Dumped layer, either forming part of the primary make-up to level the building terrace or could possibly be a later tip of material infilling a worn hollow.] Not excavated and as a result relationship to adjacent layer uncertain.

Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

791 Chalky marl and soil

Phase: Roman

Relationships: Below 760, 788,

Above natural

?Equivalent to 792

789; F1145, F1081, F1074

Description: Greyish-brown clayey soil with patches of yellowish-brown marl containing a low density of subrounded chalk 5–20 mm and occasional flints 30–80 mm together with scattered fragments of burnt chalk, limestone, greensand and clay tile. It extends between F1081 and F1145, where there are remnants of a black charcoaly soil layer over the surface, as well as patches of puddled chalk, very thin or dispersed and also some patches of thicker more compacted puddled chalk with small flints and chalk lumps. The same soil exists to the south of F1145 where there is a more extensive black charcoal lens over the surface. In the side of F1106 this soil layer contained a high density of greensand fragments. [This layer could be remnants of the original soil trampled and churned up and mixed with construction debris.] Unexcavated: The layer was not extensively exposed but was visible in the sides of many features cut through it in the west quadrant of the aisled hall.

Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

792 Chalky soil

Phase: Roman

Relationships: Below 785

Above natural

?Equivalent to 791

Description: Light medium greyish-brown clayey soil mixed with a high density of small rounded-subrounded chalk 10–50 mm, grit and a low density of angular flints 20–120 mm. The layer appears to thicken to the west. [Possibly remnants of original soil/subsoil trampled and churned up in the south quadrant of the aisled hall.] Thickness: c.0.02–0.1 m.

Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

793 Mortar

Phase: Roman

Relationships: Below F1090;

Above 760

?L794

Description: Small spread of pale greyish-yellowish hard lime mortar containing a high density of coarse angular flint grit 5–10 mm and a lesser quantity of more rounded chalk grit plus a few lumps up to 15 mm and occasional clay tile grit. Where it has been burnt around the edge of F1090 it has turned a greyish-pink. It occurs in the area between F1090, F1127, F1106 with possibly some patches east of F1089. [Excess mortar from construction activity spread to form a part of the floor surface.]

Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

794 Charcoal

Phase: Roman

Relationships: Below L772 Above L773; ?L793

Description: Thin lens of fine charcoal dust and grey ash mixed into a dark brown soil matrix flecked with fine chalk. The main extent lies between F1089 and F1099, but equivalent thin black lenses underlie all the small discrete patches of chalk (772) and it is likely that the layer was originally more continuous and extensive. [Occupation layer trampled over original floor surface consisting of cinders and trampled soil.]

Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

796 Chalky soil

Phase: Roman/?19th C

Relationships: Below 797 Above 797

Description: Chalky soil with mortar fragments.

Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

797 Chalk and flints in puddled chalk

Phase: Roman

Relationships: Below 760 Above ~

Description: Medium-sized chalk and flints in puddled chalk. [Part of floor or make-up layers for floor of aisled hall.] Unexcavated.

Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

Post-holes within the main hall: phases 1–3

Ph 1229 A785909

Below 732, 735 Cut F1096

Width: 0.94 m Depth: 0.2 m

Description: Small irregular oval hollow with dished profile and a deeper, conical pocket on the east side, which may have formed a stake-hole.

Fill: (1) Slightly compacted light yellowish-brown clay mixed with chalk and mortar grit and lumps up to 30 mm with two pieces of limestone slab c.150 mm lying flat on the surface. Subsequent excavation showed this formed a hollow in the top of F1096.

Ph 1230 A798932

Below 732/735

Diameter: 0.4 m Depth: 0.1 m

Description: Irregular sub-square hollow with slightly V-shaped profile. [Post-hole base.]

Fill: (1) Dark brown slightly clayey soil containing a moderate density of chalk grit and sparse rounded lumps up to 30 mm with rare larger chalk and flint up to 60 mm.

Ph 1233 A780887

Below 732/735

Width: 0.8 m Depth: 0.02 m

Description: Very shallow irregular subrectangular hollow. [Most probably an area of wear on the floor.]

Fill (1) Crushed mortar and chalk grit in yellowish-brown clay. [Trampled dirt floor.]

Ph 1234 A779894

Below 732/735

Length: 0.7 m Width: 0.4 m Depth: 0.03 m

Description: Irregular, subrectangular scoop, with a deeper hollow to the east. [?Post-hole base, recut.]

Fill: (1) Yellowish-brown silty clay containing a low density of chalk grit and fragments up to 20 mm and rare charcoal fleck.

Ph 1235 A786886

Below 732/735

Description: Shallow hollow/worn area in floor surface.

Ph 1239 A824933

Below 732

Length: 0.62 m Width 0.39 m Depth 0.2 m

Description: Shallow irregular depression against the east edge of the terrace for the aisled hall [probably animal disturbance rather than feature.]

Fill: (1) Dark brown clayey soil containing a low density of chalk grit and sparse rounded chalk 10–40 mm and rare weathered flints up to 40 mm and flecks of red fired clay.

Ph 1268 A789977

Below 732

Diameter 0.18 m Depth: 0.08 m

Description: Small shallow bowl-shaped hollow.

Fill: Brown clayey soil containing a high density of chalk grit, traces of degraded mortar and rare weathered chalk and flint up to 40 mm.

Ph 1269 A791970

Below 732

Diameter 0.25 x 0.2 m Depth: 0.09 m

Description: Small bowl-shaped post-hole, evenly cut and squarish in plan.

Fill: (1) Light brown clayey soil mixed with much degraded mortar, frequent chalk grit and one mortar lump 50 mm.

Ph 1270 A795963 Not a post-hole – irregular natural hollow.

Ph 1271 A799956

Below 732

Diameter: 0.22 m Depth: 0.06 m

Description: Small shallow circular hollow with bowl-shaped profile.

Fill: (1) Greyish-brown clayey soil flecked and mottled with degraded mortar containing a moderate density of chalk grit, sparse rounded chalk up to 30 mm and rare worn lumps of fired clay c.10 mm.

Ph 1272 A794955

Below 732

Diameter 0.24 m Depth: 0.1 m

Description: Small even sub-square post-hole.

Fill: (1) Light brown clayey soil mixed with crushed pale creamy brown mortar containing rounded chalk 20–30 mm and frequent chalk grit. Resting against the south-west side was a limestone slab 140 mm. Finds: flanged flagon rim.

Ph 1274 A686940

Below 753/755

?Cut/cut by F1135

Diameter: 0.6 x 0.52 m Depth: 0.31 m

Description: Oval post-hole with rounded bowl-shaped profile.

Fill: (1) Angular flint nodules 80–200 mm fairly close packed set in dark greyish-brown silty clay soil mixed with small chalk and grit and mortar fragments c.30–40 mm.

F1097 A777911

Oven/Hearth

Phase: Roman

Below L732 or L735

Cuts L773

Length: 0.35 m Width: 0.3 m Depth: 0.06m

Description: Shallow dished oval hollow with *in situ* burning around its north-west side and extending up to 0.2 m beyond its edge. It possibly formed the base of a small hearth.

Fill: (1) Yellowish-brown silty clay mixed with crushed ‘mortar’ and chalk grit and containing a few small angular flints.

F1137 A827885

Oven

Phase: Roman

Below L732

Cuts natural

Length: 1.02 m Width: 0.38 m and 0.56 m Depth: 0.05 m and 0.08 m

Description: Figure-of-eight-shaped feature formed of two shallow hollows with sloping sides and dished base.

Fill: (1) Light greyish-yellow clay soil flecked and streaked with pale grey ash and degraded cob. A patch of puddled chalk, probably a remnant of floor surface, has been packed over the west end. Samples: 4182 Flotation.

Layers and features relating to rooms 1–3

(for relationship see matrix)

Phase 1

782 Chalk and soil

Phase: Roman

Relationships: Below 781; F1075 Above 784

Description: Dark yellowish-brown crumbly clayey soil containing a moderate density of small subangular weathered chalk 20–50 mm, chalk grit and flints 60–100 mm. It also contained sparse fragments of pottery, clay tile and charcoal. The surface was very compacted and trampled. [Floor surface, possibly patching in worn hollow within the aisled hall.] It covers an area of 1.2 x 1.15 m in the internal angle formed by the north-west corner of F1075.

Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

784 Clay soil

Phase: Roman

Relationships: Below 778; F1075, Above natural

Equivalent to 792

F1149

Description: Very compacted brown clayey soil contained a low density of chalk grit and subangular chalk up to 60 mm, a sparse scatter of flint nodules and weathered flint mostly 40–50 mm, but up to 100 mm and frequent greensand chippings 20–80 mm, the latter most common towards the base of the layer. [Trampled surface with debris from construction

phase.] Occurs in the area bounded by the north-west corner of F1075, and F1149/F1145.
Thickness: 0.03–0.05 m.
Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

795 Charcoal Phase: Roman
Relationships: Below ? Above 791
Description: Thin lens of fine charcoal [occupation layer]. Unexcavated.
Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

Phase 2

759 Charcoal and cinders Phase: Roman
Relationships: Below 748; F1149, Above 776 ?Equivalent to 778
F1061

Description: Dark grey/yellowish-grey ashy soil mixed with a high density of charcoal and smeared and streaked with chalk, clay and ‘cob’ occurring as thin discontinuous lenses. It contained many fragments of slag, iron fragments and hammer scale. The layer is concentrated around pit F1141 and is at its thickest here. [Smithing debris arising from manufacturing of iron objects around the smithing hearth.]

The charcoal lenses over 791 to the east and north could be remnants of the same layer extending beyond F1075, which has truncated the two areas. Thickness: 0.02–0.05 m.
Small Finds: 3375 Fe object. Samples: 4185 Slag; 4134 Flotation. Artefacts: ~

769 Soil with burnt debris Phase: Roman
Relationships: Below 768 Above 781
Description: Yellowish/greyish-brown fine compacted clayey soil containing a moderate density of chalk grit and small rounded pieces up to 30 mm streaked with patches of charcoal and ash and containing occasional discrete lenses of red fired clay and small burnt flints 30–40 mm. [Soil accumulation/trample with occupation debris.] Thickness: 0.03–0.05 m.
Small Finds: 3379 Pb object. Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

776 Mortar and flints Phase: Roman
Relationships: Below 748, 759 Above 779
Description: Small irregular patch 1.35 x 1.1 m in area of mortar composed of crushed compacted chalk and marl/cob, pale brown in colour into which were compressed several flint nodules and broken flints 60–120 mm. [May be debris from a localized structural repair.] Extends over an area 1.7 x 1.5 m. Not excavated.
Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

778 Occupation spread Phase: Roman
Relationships: Below 775; F1149 Above 784 Equivalent to 759
Description: Spread of blackish-grey charcoal-rich soil identical in character to (759) to the east of F1149. It covered an area c.3.0 x 1.5 m and was thickest alongside F1149, thinning and becoming dispersed to the west and north. The surface was very compacted. [Spread of debris from smithing activity.] Occurs within the area bounded by F1149, F1148 and F1075 and up to F1155.
Small Finds: ~ Samples: 4184 Slag. Artefacts: ~

779 Trampled clay and chalk

Phase: Roman

Relationships: Below 776 and 787 Above natural

Equivalent to 792 and 784 but not necessarily contemporary

Description: Crushed puddled chalk mixed with yellowish-brown clay or clayey soil with scattered flints, greensand and limestone trampled into the surface with a flat surface uppermost. There were some small concentrations of flints as if remnants of a cobbled surface. The surface of the layer was smooth, even and trampled gently undulating from worn hollows in the surface. [This appears to have served as a floor surface, possibly formed by trampling the surface of the terrace, churning up the natural chalk and clay and incorporating additional material, possibly with the deliberate addition of flints to firm up the surface or areas of acute wear.] This surface relates to the occupation of room 3 before the mosaic was laid.

Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

781 Chalk spread

Phase: Roman

Relationships: Below 769; F1149, Above 782, 784

F1145

Description: Very compacted layer of small subangular-rounded chalk mostly 10–40 mm in size in pale yellowish-brown very clayey soil mixed with a moderate density of chalk grit and containing sparse broken flints 40–80 mm. [Floor surface for room 2.] Occurs in the area bounded by the north-west corner of F1075, and F1149/F1145. Thickness: 0.08–0.1 m.

Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

787 Chalk dump

Phase: Roman

Relationships: Below 759

Above 779

Description: Small sub-oval patch of chalk forming a distinct raised dome in profile, measuring 0.95 x 1.05 m in area. It was composed of small subrounded lumps of chalk 5–30 mm plus several small angular flints 15–40 mm compacted hard in puddled chalk, very clean and white. Fragments of charcoal were compressed into the surface derived from F1141, immediately adjacent, but not incorporated within the deposit. [This has the appearance of a dump of chalk, very possibly the spoil derived from the excavation of F1141 and not moved any further than necessary.] Not excavated. Thickness: 0.1 m.

Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

F1141 A780775

Smithing hearth

Phase: Roman

Below L748

Cuts L779, natural

Contemporary with 759

Length: 1.0 m Width: 0.78 m Depth: 0.18 m

Description: Oval basin-shaped hollow with even sloping sides and gently rounded base. The profile is slightly asymmetric with the deepest hollow slightly off-centre.

Fill: (3) Compressed onto the base and up the sides was a thin layer of black crushed charcoal and ash, which stained the natural chalk.

(2) Filling the lower part of the hollow was a dark mottled yellowish/greyish-brown fine soil mixed with large quantities of ash, charcoal, burnt flints 60–120 mm, hammer scale and slag fragments up to 150 mm; also occasional burnt chalk and fired clay fragments were present. Samples: 4174 Slag; 4196 Flotation.

(1) In the top forming an arc across the centre was a band of very soft densely packed, crumbly chalk with a large flint block 180 x 250 mm placed in the centre. [Layers 2 and 3 were effectively continuous with 759 around the hearth.] Samples: 4139 Slag.

F1145 A795835-A812843 Foundation trench Phase: Roman – phase 2
Below L732 or L735 Cut by F1061, F1075 Cuts L791

Length: 6.8 m Width: 0.48–0.86 m Depth: 0.2 m

Description: Linear trench with flat base and straight sides aligned NE–SW forming an internal wall foundation within the aisled hall. The east end appears to be narrower and more irregular for a distance of 2.2 m and it is possible that there was a doorway situated at this point – the narrower trench holding a timber doorsill or the wall was extended with a narrower partition inserted to infill the gap. This trench continues the line of F1149 further to the west, but the two being separated by a further gap of about 1.5 m at the west end of F1145.

Fill: (1) Pinkish-brown clay mixed with large quantities of small chalk and angular flints up to 60 mm and puddled chalk and marl.

F1161 A766814 Hollow/Ph base Phase: Roman
Cut by F1149 Cuts 779

Relationship to L759/L778 could not be determined

Length: 0.74 m Width: 0.7 m Depth: 0.1 m

Description: Subrectangular shallow hollow with rounded corners, flat base and sloping sides.

Fill: (1) Yellowish-brown clayey soil containing a high density of chalk grit and a scatter of small subrounded/subangular chalk 10–30 mm and occasional flints and sandstone fragments up to 60 mm.

Ph 1280 A764808 Cut by F1149 Cuts 779
Below 759

Length: 0.25 m Width: 0.21 m Depth: 0.1 m

Description: Small oval bowl-shaped post-hole.

Fill: (1) Light brown marl with small rounded chalk *c.* 10 mm, flecks and smears of charcoal and angular broken flint in centre.

(2) Pale brown chalky marl.

(3) Well compacted rounded chalk lumps 10–20 mm in pale brown marl matrix.

Ph 1281 A792816 Cuts 792
Below 781

Diameter: 0.23 m Depth: 0.2 m

Description: Circular post-hole with steep even sides and flat base.

Fill: (1) Across the top was a layer of brown soil containing a scatter of chalk grit and rounded lumps 10–20 mm; along the base of the layer were a few charcoal flecks and a sherd of pottery.

(2) Yellowish-brown clay merging to clayey soil mixed with a high density of chalk grit and rounded fragments up to 20 mm [redeposited natural].

Ph 1282 A793823 Cuts 792
Below 781

Diameter: 0.18 m Depth: 0.17 m

Description: Shallow circular feature with bowl-shaped profile.

Fill: (1) Soil with chalk grit and containing a flint 70 mm and a fragment of iron/slag 30 mm.

(2) Angular chalk lumps up to 50 mm and grit in clay.

Ph 1283 A799825

Below 781

Cuts 792

Width: 0.18 m Depth: 0.04 m

Description: Sub-square shallow hollow with dished profile.

Fill: (1) Soil with chalk grit up to 15 mm and flecks of charcoal and slag.

Ph 1284 A797822

Below 781

Cuts 792

Diameter: 0.27 m Depth: 0.06 m

Description: Shallow oval hollow with dished profile.

Fill: Soil with chalk grit up to 10 mm and flecks of charcoal and slag.

Phase 3

748 Chalk make-up

Phase: Roman, period 3

Relationships: Below 749

Above 759, F1141

Description: Subangular chalk mostly 10–50 mm, more rarely up to 80 mm set in a matrix of chalk grit mixed in light yellowish-brown soil; scattered through the layer were sparse flint nodules *c.*100 mm. The surface was very compacted. It lies within the south room of the aisled hall and its extent is defined by the foundation trenches F1140, F1149, F1150, F1157. [Deliberate dump of clean fresh (?quarried) chalk intended as a foundation for the tessellated pavement.] Thickness: 0.1–0.18 m.

Small Finds: 3336–7, 3374 Fe objects; 3373 Pb object. Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

749 Pink mortar

Phase: Roman, period 3

Relationships: Below 750

Above 748

Description: Dark yellowish-brown clayey soil with a very gritty texture created by inclusions of tile-flecked mortar, the tile grit and dust giving the pink colouration. In places it is set on a bed of small broken flint nodules 40–80 mm. On the surface of the layer survive patches of thin white mortar with impressions of tesserae. [Mortar bedding/foundation layer for tesserae much fragmented and weathered.] Thickness: 0.03–0.08 m.

Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

750 Mosaic: tesserae

Phase: Roman, period 3

Relationships: Below 727

Above 749

Description: Small area of mosaic floor constructed of red clay tile (10–20 mm) and white limestone (25–30 mm) tesserae, with a single row of small white tesserae 10 x10 mm, set on a hard white cement. Greyish-brown clay had subsequently filtered between the tesserae. This small surviving patch of mosaic 0.65 x 0.65 m in area formed part of the border of the original mosaic. [Floor surface.]

Following an attempt to lift the tesserae in a single block, they were in fact removed and numbered individually. Thickness: 10–20 mm.

Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: Tesserae.

764 Chalk spread

Phase: Roman

Relationships: Below 767; F1061, Above 770

?Equivalent to 768

F1075

Description: Patches of trampled chalk composed of chalk fragments, grit to 60 mm with rare small flints densely packed in powdered chalk with virtually no soil content. [Probably

remnants or repairs to successive chalk floors within the southern end of the aisled hall.]
Thickness: 0.04 m.
Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

768 Chalk spread

Phase: Roman

Relationships: Below 767 Above 769

Description: Discontinuous chalk spread and patches composed of rounded chalk up to 50 mm compressed in light yellowish-brown clayey soil mixed with dense chalk grit; occasional lumps of marl/cob were also present. [Very worn trampled chalk floor surface.] Thickness: 0.05 m.

Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

770 Silty soil

Phase: Roman

Relationships: Below 764 Above 771, 775

Description: Yellowish-brown fine clayey soil mixed with low-moderate density of small rounded chalk grit and fragments up to 20 mm, occasional small flints and rare charcoal flecks. [Soil accumulation possibly in worn hollow.] Thickness: 0.03 m.

Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

771 Chalk spread

Phase: Roman

Relationships: Below 770, F1075, F1149 Above 775

Description: Thick compacted spread composed largely of puddled, crushed chalk containing scattered rounded chalk lumps 10–30 mm plus occasional more angular blocks up to 60 mm and scattered rare flints 20–60 mm compressed into the chalk. In some areas the layer contained a higher proportion of dark yellowish-brown soil/marl. [Worn and trampled floor surface.] Thickness: 0.05–0.1 m.

Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

775 Stone tip

Phase: Roman, period 3

Relationships: Below 770, 771 Above 782, 784, 792,
Ph 1276

Description: Thick layer composed of flint fragments and nodules, pieces of greensand and limestone slab, some clearly reused roof slates, laid horizontally and very worn. In the more easterly part the flints were mixed with a lot of mortar with little other stone. Part was also composed of greensand chippings in greensand dust. The deposit lay in the area bounded by F1061, F1148, F1149 and Ph 1276. [This appears to consist of a series of tips of building debris, mainly construction waste or left over or broken building materials that served as a floor surface at the time when the mosaic was laid in room 3.] Thickness: 0.15–0.18 m.

Small Finds: 3390 Fe object. Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

F1139 A772782

Hollow/post-hole

Phase: Georgian?/
Roman?

Below L748

Cuts L759?

Length: 0.64 m Width: 0.54 m Depth: 0.28 m

Description: Irregular oval basin-shaped hollow with sloping sides narrowing to squarish, rounded base. Toolmarks were visible in the soft natural of the sides.

Fill: (1) Forming a level band across the top was a layer of soft weathered chalk in puddled chalk and grit with occasional flints 20–40 mm. [?Floor make-up to level hole.]

(2) Infilling the base was a very loose light yellowish-brown crumbly clayey soil containing weathered chalk 10–30 mm, occasional flints 60–100 mm and frequent small tesserae.

F1149 A755805-A779821
Below L767

Foundation/robber trench
Cut by Ph 1221

Phase: Roman, phase 3
Cuts L759, L778, F1161,
Ph 1280

Length: 4.2 m Width: 0.63–1.0 m Depth: *c.*0.1 m

Description: Rectilinear trench aligned N–S continuing the line of the wall F1156. It had a flat base and steep sides and formed a right angle at the north end with F1150. The one number has been used to denote both the original foundation trench and subsequent robber trench following the same limits. The relationship of F1161 to the original wall foundation must remain uncertain.

Fill: (1) Greyish-yellowish brown crumbly clayey soil containing a low density of chalk grit, small chalk pieces 20–30 mm, flints up to 120 mm and fragments of limestone roof slab. [The trench is for the wall which blocked the doorway of period 2 in period 3.]

F1155 A772833
Below L764

Hollow/?hearth
Cuts L771, L775

Phase: Roman, phase 3?

Length: 0.7 m Width: 0.7 m Depth: 0.09 m

Description: Shallow oval/circular hollow with a flat base and sloping sides. It had possibly been worn rather than deliberately cut. There was burning around its upper edge on the east side, but was not noted elsewhere. It had possibly served as a hearth during the construction phase of this wing of the aisled hall.

Fill: (1) Dark yellowish-brown fine clayey soil mixed with frequent chalk grit and small rounded lumps up to 50 mm, plus occasional flints *c.*40 mm and a fragment of limestone slab was set at an angle against the west edge.