

## 1.6 Stratigraphy and features outside the aisled hall to the north and north-west of the building

### *The porch post pads*

**F1168** A705840 Post pad Phase: Roman  
Below L762 Above ~ Equivalent to Ph 1279  
Diameter: 1.04 m Depth: ~ m  
Description: Circular construction of broken flint nodules 50–120 mm packed in a matrix of whitish-grey puddled chalk mixed with chalk grit and subrounded chalk blocks 14–50 mm. In the centre the surface was smoother and slightly hollowed.

**Ph 1279** A722814  
Below 777 Cut by Ph 1277, Ph 1278, Cuts 786  
F1075 Same as F1163  
Width: 0.84 m Unexcavated  
Description: An area of very hard compacted puddled chalk with angular flints 40–120 mm set in the surface mostly concentrated in patches on the south and west. The overall shape of this feature is not clear though it was presumed to form a pair with F1168. [It is more likely to have formed a post pad, rather than a post-hole.]

### *The drainage gully*

**F1135** A758994-A648916- Drainage Ditch Phase: Roman  
A650826  
Below L720, L751 and L736 Cuts L757, F1067  
Length: 26 m Width: 1.0–1.9 m Depth: 0.25–0.36 m  
Description: Linear gully running NE–SW alongside the north-west wall of the aisled hall and turning south at the west corner of the hall. In this section the gully became wider (*c.*2.5 m) and shallower with a gently dished profile in contrast to the flat base and steep straight side alongside the building. The wall (F1068) probably formed the south edge of the gully in this section and this gully appears to have been excavated at a later stage than the construction of the aisled hall.  
Fill: (752)–(756), (758), (736) Where the gully extended beyond the building the fill was predominantly brown silty clay containing a little chalk and flint grit and small stones up to 40 mm forming discontinuous thin lenses. This was overlain by layers 758 and 736.

### *Associated stratigraphy*

(in layer number order: for relationship see matrix)

**733** Yellowish-brown clayey soil with limestone slabs Phase: Roman  
Relationships: Below 720, 728 Above L737 Equivalent to L738  
Description: Yellowish-brown clayey soil containing large quantities of broken limestone slabs, mostly 30–150 mm lying flat with a few fragments of broken brick 20–40 mm in the upper horizon set in a matrix of yellowish–brown clayey soil containing grit, a scatter of chalk and angular flint 30–50 mm and rare flint nodules *c.*150 mm. Thickness: 0.15 m.  
Small Finds: 3225 Copper alloy coin; 3258 Fe object; 3358 Stone object. Samples: 4092  
Slag. Artefacts: ~

**737** Clay with rubble and limestone slabs Phase: Roman  
Relationships: Below 720 Above 738 Equivalent to 733  
Description: Yellowish-brown clay with rubble and limestone slabs 150–200 mm, plus occasional fragments of greensand. It lay as a discrete spread running N–S within gully F1135. [Spread of building debris. It is not clear (from site records) whether the limestone slabs were waste debris from roof construction or broken roof slating following disuse of the building.] Thickness: 0.1 m.  
Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

**738** Silty soil Phase: Roman  
Relationships: Below 737 Above 739  
Description: Silty clay soil containing a low-moderate quantity of crushed chalk formed a thin deposit over cobbled surface. Thickness: 0.02–0.04 m.  
Small Finds: 3288 Copper alloy object; 3260–1, 3315–6 Copper alloy coins; 3255–6, 3292 Fe objects; large part of a post-medieval glass bottle. Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

**739** Flint gravel/cobbles Phase: Roman  
Relationships: Below 733, 738, Above 762 Equivalent to 757  
758  
Description: Small flint gravel, pebbles and cobbles, angular-rounded, averaging 30–60 mm, increasing in size to the northern extent where they measured 50–100 mm, very densely packed. Interspersed were occasional fragments of limestone slab, larger flint nodules and patches of small rounded chalk and grit. Any soil matrix has probably filtered down from overlying soil layers. [Worn trampled surface. Deliberately laid surface forming firm, level surface outside main entrance of the aisled hall and forming a path round to the north-east corner.] Not excavated. Thickness: c.0.05–0.1 m.  
Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

**742** Limestone slabs and flint rubble in clay Phase: Roman  
Relationships: Below 720 Above 738 Equivalent to 737  
Description: Large angular flint nodules c.150–380 mm over limestone chippings in a clay matrix.  
Small Finds: 3345, 3362–3, 3377 Fe objects. Samples: 4120 furnace lining; 4088 Slag.  
Artefacts: ~

**747** Rubble and pottery Phase: Roman  
Relationships: Below 720, ?741 Above 751, 757, F1135  
Description: Layer of occupation (midden) debris, containing a large amount of pottery and flint rubble set in a dark brown clayey soil. [Occupation accumulation or tip of rubbish/midden debris.] The relationship of this layer to 741 was not clear, but it is most likely to underlie 741. Thickness: 0.05 m.  
Small Finds: 3306 CuA object. Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

**751** Chalk tip Phase: Roman  
Relationships: Below 720, 747 Above 752, F1135  
Description: Discontinuous patches of small rounded chalk lumps 30–40 mm and crushed chalk trampled over the top of layers in F1135 and adjacent natural. [Deliberate spread/tips trampled over cobbled surfaces.] Thickness: 0.03–0.04 m.  
Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

- 752** Limestone slabs Phase: Roman  
 Relationships: Below 720, 747, Above 753, F1135 Within F1135  
 742, 751  
 Description: Angular fragments of limestone slab ranging in size from 20–340 mm, generally lying fairly horizontally or at a slight angle, set in a matrix of greyish–brown silty clay mixed with small chalk and grit. The layer forms a linear deposit running along the north side of the aisled hall within gully F1135. Over a 10.2 m length of this layer a minimum of 92 buckets of limestone was recorded (59 buckets from 4.2 m length, but only 33 buckets from a 6 m length dug by BWC suggesting he counted under 50 per cent in his area!). This represents a minimum of 1840 kg of waste stone (There could have been as much as 2865 kg.) [Deliberate tip of limestone debris, which appears to be waste material from the preparation of the roof slating together with broken slabs.] Thickness: 0.08 m.  
 Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~
- 753** Mortar and chalk with flint rubble Phase: Roman  
 Relationships: Below 752 Above 754, 755 Within F1135  
 Description: Discontinuous linear deposit of crushed mortar and mortar fragments, broken flint nodules *c.*60–70 mm, small chalk fragments and grit set in a matrix of yellowish-brown chalky clay soil or marl. [Tips of building debris along north side of hall.]  
 Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~
- 754** Dark brown clay soil Phase: Roman  
 Relationships: Below 720, 751, Above 755 Within F1135  
 753  
 Description: Loose dark brown clayey soil containing a low density of small rounded chalk *c.*20 mm and scattered angular flints 20 mm. A number of rodent bones found in it may indicate the presence of animal burrows running through it. Thickness: 0.21 m.  
 Small Finds: ~ Samples: 4146 Shell; 4077–8 Rodent bone. Artefacts: ~
- 755** Yellowish-brown clay with flint nodules Phase: Roman  
 Relationships: Below 753, 754 Above F1135 base Within F1135  
 Description: Loose yellowish-brown silty clay containing a low density of flint nodules 50–120 mm, scattered rounded chalk 20–30 mm and fragments of degraded marl. [Redeposited natural: it is not clear whether this is a deliberate tip or material eroded in from the north edge of the gully.] Thickness: 0.14 m.  
 Small Finds: 3351, 3364 Fe object. Samples: 4125 Slag; 4075 Rodent bone. Artefacts: ~
- 756** Chalk spread Phase: Roman  
 Relationships: Below 720, 747 Above 752 Within F1135  
 Equivalent to 751  
 Description: Discontinuous spread of small rounded chalk pieces 5–40 mm densely packed in the core area with occasional flint nodules *c.*140 mm, fragments of limestone slab 60–140 mm, becoming more dispersed and scattered towards the margins. [Deliberate tip of chalk with worn trampled surface.] Thickness: 30–40 mm.  
 Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~
- 757** Dispersed flint surface Phase: Roman  
 Relationships: Below F1135, 747, Above natural Equivalent to 739  
 756

Description: Spread of small dispersed flint nodules and broken flints 30–100 mm trampled into the surface of the natural clay soil. [Trampled surface; stone content more fortuitous than deliberate.] Thickness: 0.07 m.

Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

**758** Flint nodules

Phase: Roman

Relationships: Below 738

Above 739, 761, 755,  
F1135

Description: Spread of large flint nodules, irregular and most unshaped, 120–200 mm, tightly packed within the core area from the north-west corner to the door of the aisled hall, but becoming dispersed towards the margins to the north and west and over F1135, where it diverges from the building running to the east. The layer follows the natural slope of the ground. [Spread of flint nodules, probably building materials surplus to requirements for construction of hall used to level and firm up area west of the entrance.] A limited section through the layer was excavated only.

Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

**761** Limestone slabs

Phase: Roman

Relationships: Below 758

Above 739

Description: Discontinuous spread of broken limestone roof slabs, 80–290 mm lying flat in a silty clay soil matrix with dispersed flint nodules, though these could really be part of 758. In some areas small fragments of chalk and mortar have been trampled between the rubble. [Most of the slabs are quite large suggesting they may be broken tiles resulting during construction and dumped by the builders (in their normal manner) rather than roofing falling off during the final decay of the building.]

Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~

**762** Brown chalky soil

Phase: Roman

Relationships: Below 738

Above natural

Description: Light-mid brown silty clay soil with distinct crumb structure mixed with chalk grit and containing a moderate density of subrounded chalk up to 50 mm, unevenly distributed with denser patches, especially along the north-east edge, which may demarcate the edge of a slot (?doorsill) cutting it. It also contains frequent broken flint nodules 20–130 mm and common limestone slab fragments and chippings 30–120 mm. The base where visible in the edge of F1075 was uneven and appeared to overlie the natural chalk. [Deliberate deposit to level area forming trampled surface in front of entrance to aisled hall.]

Not excavated. Thickness: 0.08–0.14 m.

Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~