

1.8 Ovens/furnaces and hearths

List of ovens by groups

N.B. The dates given in brackets are for the latest pottery found in the ovens. The actual date of the ovens may be later.

Group 1

F676	E725625	Type 2b: Keyhole	(Ro)
F677	E735631	Type 2b: Keyhole	(2nd–3rd cent. AD)
F678	E754655	Type 2a: Dumbbell	
F681	E750640	Type 2b: Keyhole	(Ro)
F682	E742645	Type 2a: Dumbbell	
F692	E741660	Type 4: Circular	
F699	E740636	Type 2b: Keyhole	(Ro)
F705	E75 65	Type 2c: Eight	(LIA–E Ro)

Group 2

F673	E755600	Type 2c: Eight	(Ro)
F674	E759608	Type 2c: Eight	
F675	E758583	Hearth Type 3: Circular	
F744	E740570	Hearth Type 3: Circular	

Group 3

F686	E738502	Type 1b: Keyhole	(3rd cent. AD)
F687A	E755468	Type 2c: Eight κ	(3rd cent.+ AD)
F687B	E747474	Type 2c: Eight μ	
F688	E736460	Type 2a: Dumbbell	(2nd cent. AD)
F689A	E744486	Type 2c: Eight κ	(1st cent. AD)
F689B	E739482	Type 2b: Keyhole μ	
F693	E733465	Type 2b: Keyhole	
F694	E730474	Type 2b/4: Keyhole/Circular	(2nd cent.+ AD)
F701	E772445	Type 2c: Eight	(1st cent. AD)
F703	E776457	Type 2a: Dumbbell	(E Ro)
F706	E733479	Type 2b/4: Keyhole/Circular	(LIA–E Ro)
F736	E736472	Type 2b: Keyhole	(E Ro)
F739	E740746	Type 2b: Keyhole	
F745	E733488	Unex	

Group 4

F716	E683517	Hearth Type 3: Circular	
F717	E670525	Type 2c: Eight	(3rd cent. AD)
F718	E677535	Type 2b: Keyhole	(E Ro)
F721	E674545	Type 2c: Eight	(Ro)
F725	E657517	Type 2c: Eight	(1st cent. AD)

Group 5

F713	E662645	Type 2c: Eight	(E Ro)
F714	E673660	Type 4: Circular	
F724	E674653	Type 2b: Keyhole	

Group 6

F737	E816550	Type 2b: ?Keyhole	(1st cent. AD)
F741	E830535	Hearth Type 2: Circular/chalk	

Isolated

F707/F720	E604575	Type 2c: Eight	(F707 – E Ro; F720 – AD 240–300)
F715	E777697	Type 2b: Keyhole	
F734	E817629	Type 4: Circular	

The lists of ovens within buildings 3 and 4 are given in the sections dealing with the buildings.

Descriptions of ovens

F673 (Group 2) Tr 1 E755600 Oven Type: 2c – Eight

		top	base	
Oven	Length:	0.86 m	0.5 m	
Stokehole	Width:	0.54 m	0.35 m	Depth: 0.13 m
		0.58 m	–	0.1 m

Aligned: NNE–SSW Isolated

Description: The overall form was not very clear because of a recent ploughmark cutting through it and causing the feature to be overcut. It was basically sub-oval or figure-of-eight-shaped with both halves taking the form of shallow rounded basins with gently sloping sides and dished base. There were areas of baking on the clay natural at the sides in the middle on east and west together with a semi-circle of burning on the surface to the clay immediately to the south of the oven.

Fill: (3) A thin lens of dark grey-black fine charcoal and ash with a little chalk and red baked clay grit occurred on the base at the north end only. [This represents cinders from firing the oven.]

(2) Over this was a layer of pale yellowish brown silty clay with chalk grit. [This was probably redeposited natural.]

(1) Infilling the remainder of the oven was a brown clayey soil containing a little small chalk and grit, rare small angular flints, fragments of red baked clay with patches of ash and charcoal. Close to the surface were fragments of clay tile including an *imbrex* and a slab of limestone roof slate c.150 mm. [Mix of material from oven cinders, superstructure and ?building debris from aisled hall.]

F674 (Group 2) Tr 1 E759608 Oven Type: 2c – Eight

		top	base	
	Length:	1.36 m	1.2 m	
Oven	Width:	0.54 m	0.4 m	Depth: 0.09 m
Flue/throat		0.26 m	0.14 m	0.06 m
Stokehole		0.45 m	0.34 m	0.06 m

Aligned: NW–SE Isolated

Description: The oven is figure-of-eight shape in plan, though it was originally described as dumbbell-shaped, so overcutting may have obscured its true shape. It consisted of a shallow dished bowl with flat base sloping up very slightly to the more irregular stokehole area on the south-east. Around the north side of the bowl the side was steep with the natural clay edge fired red-pink to a width and depth of 50 mm. Elsewhere the sides were very gently sloping. There was a little baking on the edge at the east side of the throat and additionally there was an area of baking of the clay on the south-west side of the oven and beyond its edge.

Fill: (1) It had a fill of dark grey-black fine charcoal and ash in a clay soil matrix containing small chalk and grit up to 20 mm and broken angular flints, some burnt up to 500 mm size. A fragment of sandstone occurred at the south end of the oven.

F676 (Group 1) Tr 1 E725625 Oven Type: 2b – Keyhole

		top	base	
	Length:	1.04 m	0.88 m	
Oven	Width:	0.46 m	0.4 m	Depth: 0.18 m
Flue		0.34 m	0.3 m	0.15 m
Stokehole		0.4 m	0.32 m	0.08 m

Aligned: NW–SE Isolated

Description: The circular oven bowl has steeply sloping–vertical walls and slightly dished base. The flue has a continuous gently sloping base flattening out towards the stokehole. The oven is unlined: the natural chalk and clay form the walls. The clay has been baked red to a depth of c.60 mm most intensely close to the edge and near the top around the bowl and flue, becoming

paler away from the edge and towards the base. There is a patch of baking on the oven floor in the centre and into the flue.

Fill: (1) The oven was filled with very dark grey ashy soil, cinders and fine charcoal, together with small rounded chalk grit and fragments up to 30 mm, a few angular flints 20–50 mm and fragments of red baked clay. Close to the floor there were distinct lenses of charcoal.

In the oven bowl was a concentration of clay tile (*tegulae*) and limestone roof slates. In the flue-stokehole area was a large fragment of clay *imbrex* on the surface. It is not clear whether these had formed part of the oven structure, but a number of pieces of sandstone, which had been burnt, may have been.

F677 (Group 1) Tr 1 E735631 Oven Type: 2c – Keyhole?

		top	base	
	Length:	c.1.5 m	1.16 m	
Oven	Width:	0.8 m	0.4 m	Depth: 0.2 m
Flue		0.25 m		0.07 m
Stokehole		0.4 m	0.32 m	0.07 m

Aligned: NW–SE Isolated

Description: The edges of this structure were hard to distinguish and had been disturbed by burrowing animals. On the north-east side it was overcut. Around the south-west side the walls are straight and vertical and the base is flat. Around the upper edge at the south-east end there are gently sloping sides and at the north-west end the small hollow that is apparently the stokehole area is surrounded by a substantial spread of baked or burnt clay up to 1.35 m wide by 0.5 m. This may have been an earlier burnt feature or an area of *in situ* burning of the natural clay subsoil. Time and conditions did not allow a full investigation of this area.

Fill: The oven was filled with a dark grey-black fill of ash and fine charcoal in a silty soil containing small fragments and grit of baked clay and a low density of subrounded chalk, 5–20 mm plus occasional charcoal fragments. In the top of the fill were some slabs of limestone, clay tile (*tegulae*), a large block of chalk and two large angular flint nodules 120–200 mm; also two iron nails. [The fill appears to be a mix of cinders from firing, fragments of superstructure and perhaps later building collapse debris in the top.]

F678 (Group 1) Tr 1 E754655 Oven Type: 2a – Dumbbell

		top	base	
	Length:	1.3 m	1.18 m	
Oven	Width:	0.46 m	0.3 m	Depth: 0.22 m
Flue/throat		0.26 m	0.14 m	0.21 m
Stokehole		0.5 m	0.3 m	0.16 m

Aligned: NE–SW Isolated

Description: The oven was cut into the natural clay subsoil, which served as the walls and floor of the oven base and required no further lining. It had a circular oven bowl with a narrow

opening into the flue, which was continuous with the stokehole. The base was flat and the walls steeply sloping or vertical. The clay natural was baked red around the sides of the oven bowl and flue, but not extending to the rear of the oven or the stokehole. The most intense burning occurred at the throat, where there was a crust of fired yellowish brown hard clay grading into bright red clay, which gradually paled into pinker clay extending up to 0.08–0.18 m from the oven wall. Vertically the effect of firing only extended about 50 mm below the ground surface.

Fill: (3) Across the base was a thin lens of brown clayey soil with chalk grit and rare lumps of burnt clay, but very little ash or charcoal. It probably represents material weathered off the oven walls.

(2) Over the throat/flue and extending into the stokehole area was a diffuse very dark grey-black lens of fine charcoal.

(1) Yellowish brown clayey soil discoloured grey by a dense admixture of ash and fine charcoal. It also contained a high density of chalk grit plus frequent small rounded chalk, small angular flints, some burnt and baked clay fragments. Within the oven bowl was a fragment of clay *imbrex*, a large flint c.120 mm and large limestone slabs, including one at the top, which was intensely burnt on one side. This may have been used as part of the oven structure possibly to close off the flue into the oven.

F681 (Group 1) Tr 1 E750640 Oven Type: 2c – Keyhole

		top	base	
Oven	Length:	1.34 m	1.2 m	
Flue/throat	Width:	0.45 m	–	Depth: 0.11 m
Stokehole		0.27 m	0.2 m	0.06 m
		0.32 m	0.23 m	0.05 m

Aligned: SSE–NNW Cut F705 and F682

Description: This feature was very shallow and because of the extensive burning in the area the attempt to section it effectively cut along its edge rather than bisecting its fill. It consists of a shallow circular dished oven bowl base (overcut into a clay fissure) with a narrow throat widening into an elongated stokehole area. Rather than being deliberately cut into the subsoil the shallow hollow may have formed from constant attrition during use, the oven itself having been constructed on the surface.

Fill: (1) The fill was a dark grey ashy soil containing much fine charcoal and fragments of red baked clay up to 30 mm, together with some chalk grit and small angular flints, some burnt. At the north end in the stokehole area there was a concentration of iron fragments (six nails), plus a potsherd and large charcoal twig fragment c.10 mm diameter.

F682 (Group 1) Tr 1 E742645 Oven Type: 2a – Dumbbell

		top	base	
Oven	Length:	>1.15 m	–	
Flue/throat	Width:	0.66 m	0.3 m	Depth: 0.09 m
Stokehole		0.34 m	0.24 m	0.08 m
		0.32 m	0.18 m	0.06 m

Aligned: SW–NE Cut by F681 and ?F705

Description: The overall form was difficult to discern during excavation because of the extensive burning surrounding this oven and the presence of other ovens nearby. It is classified as dumbbell; though apparently subrectangular in form there is some indication that it widened out at either end, rather asymmetrically on the south-west. The flue floor is flat and sides steeply sloping; the south-west end forms a shallow oval dished bowl with sides and base forming a continuous surface. There is a hint at the north-east end that the oven widened, but had mostly been cut away by F705 here. It is also possible that this feature in fact represents two intercutting ovens with what has been interpreted as the oven bowl representing one small oven aligned north-west–south-east and flue-stokehole being the second one.

Fill: (2) Much of the fill was a compacted mass of amorphous baked red and pink clay with grey ashy or charcoaly soil matrix. This would appear to be a mix of superstructure debris and cinders.

(1) Concentrated in two hollows one in the oven bowl and the larger in the flue was a dark grey ashy soil containing a high density of fine charcoal, together with baked clay fragments and chalk grit. Also in this layer were some limestone roof slates 30–110 mm and an iron nail.

F686 (Group 3)	Tr 1	E738502	Oven Type: 1b – Keyhole	
		top	base	
	Length:	1.5 m	1.0 m	
Oven	Width:	1.2 m	0.65 m	Depth: 0.18 m
Flue/throat		0.34 m	0.3 m	0.09 m
Stokehole		c.1.3 m	c.0.8 m	0.24 m

Aligned: NW–SE Cut F695 and ?F689

Description: The basic shape of the oven is keyhole shape, but this does not take into account any stokehole, the precise extent and shape of which were not identified. The oven itself was set within an oval cut and was constructed of subangular chalk blocks 50–150 mm set in a matrix of clay and mortar mixed with small chalk and flints (3). The flue wall and corner were formed of a large sandstone block 150 mm sq on the south side. On the north side the flue was lined by three large flint nodules 120–170 mm and similar sized limestone roof slates set in greyish brown silty clay soil (4). Some of the chalk near the wall edge on the south side and the sandstone block had altered colour as a result of the heat on their sides closest to the oven bowl and flue.

The inside of the oven base had been lined with a thick layer of clay daub (4). This appeared to have utilized the local natural clay with little alteration to it if any. It contained small chalk and flints, which may have occurred naturally in the clay. It had been baked pink for most of its thickness of 80 mm at the exposed surface and for most of its depth of 100 mm. A thin skim, about 10 mm thick, of this lining had been fired very hard to a pale yellowish brown colour. The same degree of firing had caused the same effect on the oven floor mainly at the front of the oven and in the flue. The oven floor was flat and formed by the surface of the natural: in the centre where chalk was exposed this had been burnt grey, but to the rear the clay floor had been baked red-pink. The effects of firing appeared to have penetrated 100–150 mm into the clay natural.

The extent of the stokehole was not precisely identified and distinguished from F695. It is possible that this north-east end of F695 was in fact the stokehole, which for an oven such as this could have been very large, judging by a similar example F240/258 at Houghton Down. The hollowing in the floor of F695 in front of the oven probably represents the base of the stokehole. In excavation the fill of the stokehole was also distinctive.

Fill: (1) The oven bowl and flue were filled with grey clay soil containing a moderate density of small chalk fragments and grit, plus occasional larger pieces of chalk and flint up to 60 mm. However the fill was dominated by several large blocks of mortar with a smooth rendered surface, limestone roof slabs and clay bricks all c.200 mm in size. It seems likely that this building debris was dumped in the oven after it became disused, though some of the material such as the clay bricks may have been built into the superstructure.

(5) (=F695/4 (382)) Infilling the stokehole area was a soft dark grey silty clay soil containing a high density of ash and concentrations of fine charcoal. A distinct lens of cinders with a few flints occurred on the base close to the oven flue, but above and beyond the fill was more soily and contained a scatter of small chalk and grit and a high density of occupation debris especially pottery, as well as mortar and shell.

F687A (Group 3) Tr 1 E755468 Oven Type: 2c – Eight

		top	base	
	Length:	>1.1 m	c.1.06 m	
Oven	Width:	0.55 m	0.45 m	Depth: 0.3 m
Flue/throat		0.3 m	0.25 m	0.19 m
Stokehole		0.52 m	0.32 m	0.15 m

Aligned: SE–NW Cut F687B

Description: The circular oven bowl had a rounded base curving into steeply sloping sides. On the north-west side there is a slight step into the flue, where the floor slopes gently upwards to the surface on the north-west cutting through the fill of F687B. The section appears to indicate that there was a second step from flue to stokehole, based on the line of the charcoal layer (3). It is possible a third oven existed between F687A and B.

The oven walls have been burnt around the top perimeter of the oven bowl to a thickness of 40–70 mm and a depth of 70 mm. The most intense heating had occurred on the walls at the junction of bowl and flue, where the natural clay had been fired pale yellowish brown. Away from this the baking decreased through intense orange-red to shades of yellowish red and pink. The least intense heating was at the rear of the bowl, though some flints embedded in the natural clay 50 mm from the edge had been burnt and shattered.

Fill: (2b) On the base of the flue was a very compact layer of amorphous lumps of reddish yellow-pink baked daub in a matrix of silty brown clay soil. This could represent an earlier oven or an earlier phase of use and relining of this oven.

(3) Over the base of the bowl and extending up the flue and into the stokehole was a layer of charcoal fragments c.10 mm in size in a matrix of dark grey ashy silt and charcoal dust with a little chalk grit and yellow clay mottles. [Cinders from firing.]

(2a) Large amorphous blocks of baked reddish yellow, pink, or yellow daub/clay very compacted in a soily matrix with occasional flints 70–100 mm and rounded chalk grit. [Collapsed superstructure of oven.]

(1) Large angular flint rubble 120–200 mm plus occasional rounded blocks of chalk 100–150 mm were tightly packed in yellowish brown silty clay containing a moderate density of small rounded chalk. [Demolished or collapsed oven superstructure.]

F687B (Group 3) Tr 1 E747474 Oven Type: 2c – Eight

		top	base	
Oven	Length:	0.98 m	0.8 m	Height: >0.15 m
	Width:	0.52 m	0.42 m	Depth: 0.27 m
Flue/throat		c.0.4 m	c.0.3 m	0.15 m
Stokehole		c.0.55 m	– m	0.02–0.15 m

Aligned: SE–NW Cut by F687A, ?cut F739

Description: The oven was probably figure-of-eight shape, though the form of the stokehole was not fully distinguished. The oven bowl was circular with a flat even base and steeply sloping–vertical sides. The collapsed block of daub from the upper wall on the north-east side indicates the oven stood at least 0.15 m above the surface of the natural. The floor of the flue and stokehole sloped gradually up towards the north.

There was extensive burning over most of the oven floor (only the chalk outcrops were not discoloured). The sides were also extensively burnt around the top to a thickness of 100–120 mm and a depth of 20–30 mm, increasing to the full depth towards the junction with the flue and up to the stokehole. The clay surface had been fired yellowish red on the base at the junction with the flue and around the south-west side of the bowl. Elsewhere it had been baked red or reddish yellow.

Fill: (2a) An unusual arrangement of objects, which may be regarded as a type of special deposit, was placed on the oven floor at the junction of bowl and flue. First a nail that had bent into a spiral (probably from the heat of the fire) had been placed on the floor and over this the base of a New Forest ware pot had been inverted over it. Finally on the pot had been placed a large chalk block 150 x 100 mm. The arrangement is visible in the section drawing.

(2) Infilling the flue was light brown clayey soil containing rounded chalk grit and small lumps up to 50 mm and small angular flints. Within this matrix were many large blocks of red baked daub and yellow unbaked clay. The top of this layer was delineated by a lens of red baked daub 10–20 mm thick and extending for 150 mm into the centre and for 250 mm along the side. [This appears to be the upper wall collapsed into the oven, but from its thickness was perhaps only the baked inner edge and not the full thickness of wall.]

(1) Infilling the main oven bowl was a dump of broken angular–subangular flints and nodules 60–160 mm, some slightly burnt concentrating in the lower half with angular chalk rubble 70–150 mm above, both set in a matrix of compact yellow grey clay soil with small rounded chalk and discrete lumps of burnt red clay. This layer extended up over the top of the flue fill with a number of very large chalk blocks 120–280 mm overlying layer 2.

F688 (Group 3) Tr 1 E736460 Oven Type: 2a – Dumbbell

		top	base	
	Length:	1.4 m	1.0 m	
Oven	Width:	0.5 m	0.3 m	Depth: 0.24 m
Flue/throat		0.4 m	0.2 m	0.23 m
Stokehole		0.48 m	0.32 m	0.16 m

Aligned: NE–SW Isolated, but cut L358

Description: The oven took the form of three interconnecting rounded scoops, narrowing slightly for the flue, but in general creating an overall linear shape. It was deepest in the centre with the base sloping up to the north-east end, but being slightly stepped at the south-west. The side walls were near vertical steeply sloping. The most intense heating had occurred in the centre along the walls and extending over the base at the point thought to be the junction of bowl and flue. There was no effect of heating at either end. It had mainly been baked yellowish red but with some intensely red areas on the south-east wall. It is possible that the centre area formed the main firing chamber of this feature and not one end.

Fill: (2) Infilling the lower half covering the oven floor was a dark grey clayey soil containing a high density of ash and fine charcoal especially in the centre of the oven, where there was a concentration of small charcoal fragments. The deposit also contained blocks of red baked clay and grit, small chalk and occasional angular flints *c.*70 mm. [Cinders from firing and fragments of superstructure.]

(1) Extending across the whole of the upper half was a well compacted yellowish or greyish brown clayey soil containing a low density of chalk grit, small angular flints 20–60 mm, some burnt and small amorphous fragments of pink baked daub and yellow clay.

F689A (Group 3) Tr 1 E744486 Oven Type: 2c – Eight

		top	base	
	Length:	<i>c.</i> 1.3 m	<i>c.</i> 1.1 m	
Oven	Width:	0.62 m	0.44 m	Depth: 0.4 m
Flue/throat		0.54 m	0.48 m	0.25 m
Stokehole		0.65 m	0.33 m	0.12 m

Aligned: NE–SW Cut F689B, ?cut by F686

Description: The oven was half sectioned with the north half left unexcavated; it may have intercut with another unexcavated burnt feature F745 on this side. It cut partly through natural clay and chalk and partly the fill of F695 and adjacent ovens. The oven was basically figure-of-eight-shaped: the bowl had a flat base and steep near-vertical straight sides, which narrowed at the junction with the stokehole. The floor sloped continuously upwards to the west joining in with the rounded hollow of the stokehole.

On the east and south the natural clay walls had been baked red around the upper edge to a thickness of 50–80 mm and a depth up to 200 mm. Around the north side clay walls had been constructed, apparently using the natural chalky clay available on site, above the surface of the

natural and had either formed free standing walls of the oven dome or clay lining where the oven cut through the fill of F695. The walls were 50–60 mm wide here and had been baked red.

Fill: (2) Over the base was a thick layer of charcoal fragments, fine charcoal and grey ash. The finer element concentrated in the flue-stokehole area, whilst larger charcoal fragments dominated in the oven bowl. The layer also contained fine chalk grit and small fragments of orange baked clay and burnt shattered flints up to 20 mm. [Cinders from firing.]

(1) Above the cinders was a mixed layer of angular flint nodules, 100–150 mm, rounded amorphous lumps of red baked clay up to 70 mm and small rounded chalk in a matrix of greyish yellow clayey soil mottled with light yellow dauby patches. At the west end a large slab of burnt limestone, 150 mm, rested on the slope of the stokehole and may have formed part of the oven structure. The upper part of this layer was a chalky soil with few inclusions, which had accumulated in the top of the hollow.

F689B (Group 3) Tr 1 E739482 Oven Type: 2b – Keyhole

		top	base	
	Length:	>0.84 m	>0.74 m	
Oven	Width:	c.0.6 m	0.58 x 0.52 m	Depth: 0.49 m

Aligned: ?SW–NE Cut by F689A, cut F739, ?F736

Description: Only the southern half of the oven was excavated; the north half probably intercut with other ovens that were not fully exposed. The stokehole probably lay to the north-east, but had been cut away by F689A. The oven bowl had a flat floor and steep/vertical straight sides on the south and south-west, which had been fired to a thickness of 50 mm. On the east the floor started to slope up and at the point where it probably joined with the flue the walls were baked a more intense red. The burning may relate however to F689A.

Fill: (4) Over the oven floor was a thick layer of fine black charcoal dust and ash mixed with charcoal fragments and containing rare chalk grit, fragments of red burnt clay, yellow daub and occasional burnt flints c.60 mm. The layer was more mixed at the west end becoming densely concentrated charcoal and ash to the east.

(3) Above the cinders, but confined to the west end was a layer of pale yellow daub with chalk grit temper forming amorphous lumps 20–50 mm and occasional small chalk in an ashy soil matrix. [Part of the collapsed superstructure.]

(2) Charcoal fragments and fine dust mixed with ash containing some chalk grit and burnt chalk grading up into fine grey ash with chalk grit and small burnt flints. [Undisturbed cinders from firing.]

(1) Red baked clay fragments up to 60 mm occurred in a matrix of greyish brown clayey soil containing a little small chalk and occasional chalk blocks c.50 mm, angular flints c.60 mm and burnt limestone slates c.80 mm.

(5) Cutting through the upper layers was a hollow slightly east of centre filled with fine light grey ashy soil with flecks of charcoal, chalk grit and red baked clay grit together with occasional chalk and flint 50–80 mm. [This layer appears to represent some sort of disturbance cutting through the oven. It may relate to one of the unexcavated features to the north.]

Layer 4 clearly represents the primary use of the oven. Layer 3 would appear to represent oven wall collapsed in after it went out of use. It could be interpreted however as a relining of the

oven with layer 2 representing a second phase of use. The nature of the layer is more in keeping with oven collapse and a better interpretation is that this oven was cut through by another that extended into the unexcavated area to the north layer 2 being the undisturbed cinders from the firing of that oven and layer 1 representing its collapsed superstructure. Layer 5 could indicate the presence of yet a third oven intruding from the north.

F692 (Group 1) Tr 1 E741660 Oven Type: 5 – Circular

		top	base	
Oven	Length:	0.58 m	0.44 m	
	Width:	0.54 m	0.44 m	Depth: 0.14 m

Aligned: NW–SE Isolated

Description: This feature took the form of a small circular basin-shaped hole with rounded base and vertical or steeply sloping sides. It was unlined and the natural clay around the edge had been discoloured by firing mainly around the eastern half. It had been fired to a deep red on the north side becoming paler and pinkish to the south. The baking formed a halo 50–120 mm wide encircling the rim and extending to a depth of 50–70 mm downwards. The floor was unbaked retaining its natural yellowish colour.

Fill: (2) In the lower half over the base was a layer of dark grey ash and fine charcoal in a matrix of yellow silty clay (largely discoloured by the ash). The top of the layer was defined by a lens of small chalk fragments 20–50 mm on the south thinning to a dribble of chalk grit on the north. This layer can be interpreted as cinders from firing the oven.

(1) Infilling the upper was a compressed structureless mass of pink baked clay containing small chalk, occasional burnt flints and lenses of grey ash and pale brown silt. This layer may indicate the presence of a clay superstructure that collapsed into the base.

F693 (Group 3) Tr 1 E733465 Oven Type: 2b – Keyhole

		top	base	
	Length:	0.75 m	0.5 m	
Oven	Width:	0.5 m	0.36 x 0.3 m	Depth: 0.25 m
Flue/throat		0.32 m	0.2 m	0.06 m

Aligned: SW–NE Below F695/1 (382), rel to F736 and F694 uncertain

Description: The oven, as it survived, consisted largely of an oval bowl with steeply angled sides and flat but irregular base. There was a little baking around the upper edges, most intensely on the south-east side; discoloration was usually only about 40 mm in thickness and depth. On the north-east side the base and side sloped up in the form of a ramp creating an asymmetric shape in plan and profile and suggesting the stokehole probably lay to the north-east. However it was not possible to establish in excavation whether the stokehole cut across the top of F736 or whether it had been cut away by that oven.

Fill: (4) Over the base was a thin lens of brown silty clay with rounded chalk grit. Above this was a layer of dark grey-black fine silty clay soil (3) containing a high density of ash and fine

charcoal together with charcoal fragments up to 15 mm and pieces of burnt clay 15–30 mm. [Cinders from firing.]

Infilling much of the upper half was a mass of structureless red and yellow daub tempered with chalk grit (2). The baked red material dominated in the upper part of the layer. Also present were small rounded chalk lumps and angular flints 10–30 mm. [Collapsed superstructure.]

(1) Filling the top of the hollow was a well compacted mixed deposit of pale brownish grey clayey soil with chalk grit, scattered charcoal fragments and pink baked clay. This had the appearance of general oven debris, which could have derived from the adjacent ovens and the general working area.

F694 (Group 3) Tr 1 E730474 Oven Type: 2/5 – KeyH/Circ.

		top	base	
Oven	Diameter:	0.7 m	0.5 x 0.4 m	Depth: 0.32 m
?Flue/throat		0.16 m	–	0.08 m

Aligned: NW–SE? ?Cut by F693, below F695

Description: The oven appears to take the form of a circular basin, but the possibility that it was originally one of the more linear forms is suggested by the more sloping wall on the south-east and the hollow adjacent, which could be the start of the flue and stokehole. The relationship with F693 is not at all certain, but F693 appears to cut the silts in the possible flue indicating it may also have removed all trace of a stokehole. Effectively all that survives is the oven bowl: this had a flat irregular base and steeply sloping sides. There was evidence of firing around the entire circuit of the walls except where chalk outcropped as opposed to clay. The temperature was insufficiently intense or prolonged to discolour the chalk except for a small area on the south-west side. The clay was discoloured red in a rim 50–60 mm thick on the surface and to a depth of 150 mm; the heating had been most intense on the south side, where the wall had been fired hard to a yellowish brown colour.

Fill: (2a) On the floor of the oven on the north-east side was the complete lower half of a pot placed upright on its base, inside which a large flint nodule had been placed. [Special deposit placed in the oven.]

(2) Covering the oven floor was a dark grey-black deposit of fine charcoal and ash in a matrix of dark brown clayey soil with rounded chalk grit and small fragments of baked clay, 5–30 mm. [Cinders from firing.]

(1) Very compact pale brown clayey silt with small subrounded chalk 5–40 mm and containing amorphous lumps of reddish baked clay, charcoal fragments and angular flints 60–100 mm. The layer became more soily with fewer inclusions towards the top.

F699 (Group 1) Tr 1 E740636 Oven Type: 2b – Keyhole

		top	base	
	Length:	0.66 m	0.52 m	
Oven	Width:	0.44 m	0.34 m	Depth: 0.1 m
Stokehole: SE		0.38 m	0.25 m	0.07 m
Stokehole: SW		0.3 m	0.16 m	0.09 m

Aligned: NW–SE; NE–SW ?Cut by F677; ?cut F682

Description: Prior to excavation this feature appeared to be a single circular or oval form, but subsequently it produced a trilobate form. This can perhaps be interpreted as a small keyhole-shaped oven, which in one phase had the stokehole facing south-east and in a second phase south-west. This may imply that any superstructure was easily portable and its position could be altered. The feature had sloping sides and a dished base cut into the natural clay, which had been baked slightly to a pinkish colour around the south-east side.

Fill: (1) Yellowish brown clayey silty soil containing rounded chalk grit and fragments up to 30 mm, discrete lumps of yellowish brown clay and rare small flints. It was discoloured grey by a high density of fine ash and charcoal. On the surface were a few fragments of limestone slabs 60 and 120 mm, both of which had been burnt.

F701	(Group 3)	Tr 1	E772445	Oven Type: 1c – Eight		
			top – outer	top – inner	base	
	Length:		2.35 m	1.66 m	1.64 m	
Oven	Width:		1.5 m	0.76 m	0.68 m	Depth: 0.22 m
Flue/throat				0.18 m	0.14 m	0.27 m
Stokehole		–		0.7 x 0.8 m	0.58 x 0.74 m	0.21 m

Aligned: SE–NW Isolated

Description: The oven itself was constructed in a pre-cut flat bottomed circular pit. The constructed oven walls were not removed so the full form and excavated shape of the pit is uncertain. The stokehole also appears to have been deliberately cut as a circular pit virtually equal in size to the oven bowl. There was an area encircling the stokehole 1.36 m in diameter, where the surface of the clay natural had been discoloured slightly by heating to a reddish colour and some of the chalk embedded in it had been burnt grey.

The walls of the oven (3) were between 0.3 and 0.42 m thick and were constructed of large flint nodules with deliberately knapped surfaces 120–200 mm in size. They were close set in a bedding of clay soil together with angular freshly quarried chalk blocks of similar size. There was smaller chalk 50–70 mm filling spaces between the larger stones. A very high proportion of the flints had been burnt and heat shattered, even those furthest from the inside wall edge. Curiously some closer to the interior appeared to be unaffected by the heat. Similarly much of the chalk had been turned grey.

The inner edge of the walls had been coated with a lining of daub (4). From its texture this was almost certainly made from the immediately local yellow clay, which contained a natural chalk component as a tempering agent. The lining was baked to varying degrees from pink to red and in areas fired to a very pale yellowish brown forming a hard crust of a few centimetres thickness. The oven floor utilized the same natural chalk marled silty clay, but in this position in the form of *in situ* natural. This had generally been fired to a reddish yellow–yellowish red colour with the most intense heating in the south-west quadrant. Small islands of chalk natural within the clay had not been discoloured grey on the base.

Fill: Both oven and stokehole contained very similar fill. Within the oven bowl was a single fill (1) of hard compacted pale brown-pink chalky structureless daub containing frequent angular flints and nodules 70–200 mm, several showing signs of burning and a few chalk blocks 50–90 mm, some also burnt. The fill of the stokehole (2) was very similar consisting of pale yellowish brown dauby clay, apparently unbaked, tempered with small chalk and containing occasional flint nodules c.150 mm and angular chalk blocks 60–120 mm. The throat was hard packed with a solid formless mass of pink-red baked dauby clay with chalk grit temper (much of it burnt grey).

F703 (Group 3) Tr 1 E776457 Oven Type: 2a – Dumbbell

		top	base	
Oven	Length:	1.4 m	0.96 m	Depth: 0.33 m 0.35 m 0.4 m
Flue/throat	Width:	0.42 m	0.24 m	
		0.3 m	0.16 m	
Stokehole		0.31 m	0.14 m	

Aligned: SE–NW Isolated

Description: In form this oven is very narrow throughout, with only slightest decrease in the centre to give the dumbbell shape. The base was flat, but rather uneven towards the north-west end and the sides were very steep and near vertical at the sides, but sloping at both ends though more so at the north-west end. The oven was cut through natural chalk marled clay and partly into the underlying chalk.

The clay of the walls at either side had been baked red gradually turning to pink with distance. On the east side discoloration occurred for 20–50 mm from the oven edge, but up to 100 mm on the west side.

Fill: (2) Filling almost all of the oven for its whole length was a single homogeneous fill of dark brownish grey clayey soil containing a high density of ash and fine charcoal. In addition there was frequent chalk grit and a scatter of small burnt chalk, angular flints, some burnt, 20–80 mm fragments of red baked clay and daub and occasional charcoal pieces. The charcoal and ash content increased towards the base.

(1) Across the top was a thin layer of greyish brown clayey soil with small rounded chalk, scattered angular flints 30–50 mm and a few pieces of red baked clay.

F705 (Group 1) Tr 1 E7565 Oven Type: 2c – Eight

		top	base	
Oven	Length:	1.1 m	0.9 m	Depth: 0.15 m 0.11 m
Stokehole	Width:	0.64 m	0.5 m	
		0.8 m	0.62 m	

Aligned: SE–NW Cut by F678, F681; ?cut F682

Description: This feature at first appeared as an amorphous circular area of baked clay and could only be properly defined to excavate after heavy rain allowed the fill to be distinguished from

surrounding areas of natural clay. Upon excavation it was found to consist of two conjoining circular basin-shaped hollows with sloping sides and flat or dished base. No flue or throat was present. The deeper and slightly narrower south-east end is thought to be the oven bowl, especially as *in situ* baking occurs around the southern half most distinctly around the south-west side with a little intense firing just surviving on the east. There was also an area of intense firing on the base situated fairly centrally.

Fill: (2) A mixed layer of fine charcoal and ash in silty clay soil occurred across the base. It also contained small fragments of charcoal fired red clay, small chalk and grit and angular, often burnt flints 15–50 mm. This appears to be cinders from the firing of the oven.

(1) Infilling the remainder of the oven was a compacted mass of amorphous structureless baked pink dauby clay in a soily matrix with ash and charcoal. Near the top there was a large slab of clay fired brown with a flat surface, which had probably formed part of the oven wall and near the edge a large block of burnt sandstone may also have formed part of the oven structure. Artefacts in the fill included a fragment of painted plaster, three nails and a fragment of clay tile.

F706 (Group 3) Tr 1 E733479 Oven Type: 2/5 – KeyH/Circ

		top	base	
Oven	Length:	>0.6 m	–	
	Width:	0.48 m	0.36 x 0.44 m	Depth: 0.33 m

Aligned: SSW–NNE? Below F695 (4), rel to other ovens uncertain

Description: The area exposed in excavation was the circular bowl of the oven; the stokehole area was not excavated, but had possibly been cut away or at least obscured by other ovens. The oven bowl had steep vertical sides and a rounded dished base. Where the oven had cut into the natural clay, this had been baked to varying degrees of red and pink up to a thickness of 120 mm, but where it cut the chalk natural it was largely unaffected by the heat with no significant discoloration. The floor was more lightly baked.

Fill: (2) In the base was a dark grey-black layer of fine charcoal and ash containing very rare rounded grit of chalk and orange baked clay. [Cinders from firing.]

(1) The upper fill of the oven was a formless mass of yellowish red daub tempered with chalk grit, areas of unbaked yellow daub with patches of grey ash between, occasional charcoal flecks and rare flint nodules up to 200 mm. [Collapsed superstructure of oven.]

F707 and F720 (Group –) Tr 1 E604575 Oven Type: 2c – Eight

		top	base	
Oven	Length:	0.64 m	0.55 m	
Flue/throat	Width:	0.6 m	0.52 m	Depth: 0.18 m
Stokehole (F720)		c.0.45 m	–	0.05 m
		1.25 x 0.75 m	0.3 m	0.1 m

Aligned: SE–NW Isolated

Description: F707 and F720 are regarded as forming two parts of a single structure. F707 was a circular basin-shaped feature with a flat floor and steeply sloping sides. The natural clay of the

walls had been baked around the southern half where it had discoloured red for a width of 30–40 mm from the edge and 60–90 mm deep down the sides. F720 was a roughly oval hollow also flat bottomed with steep sides. It had no obvious signs of burning, but possibly formed the stokehole for F707. Any detail of the throat area at the junction of the two features was obscured by overcutting, though the section indicates a step up from the oven bowl to the stokehole, with the throat/flue area being shallower than the adjacent sections.

Fill: (2) Over the base in the northern half was a thin black lens of charcoal fragments *c.*10 mm and flecks in fine ash.

(1) Filling the remainder of the hollow was a compact brownish grey clay soil containing a high density of small rounded chalk and grit up to 30 mm plus a few angular flints 50–60 mm, fragments of mortar, amorphous lumps of daub, clay tile and potsherds.

F720 (1) Filling the stokehole was a brownish grey soil mixed with a high content of ash and fine charcoal and containing a low density of chalk up to 20 mm, scattered larger blocks of chalk and flint 60–150 mm, limestone slates 80–130 mm, clay tile 80 mm, pottery and nails.

F713 (Group 5) Tr 1 E662645 Oven Type: 2c – Eight

		top	base	
	Length:	0.65 m	0.65 m	
Oven	Width:	0.38 m	0.3 m	Depth: 0.11 m
Flue/throat		0.4 m	0.28 m	0.11 m
Stokehole		0.38 m	0.26 m	0.09 m

Aligned: NE–SW Isolated

Description: Though essentially oval in plan there is a slight narrowing in the centre suggesting this was a small bipartite oven of figure of eight form. It had sloping sides and a flat slightly irregular base. No *in situ* burning was observed during planning, but was noted in the written record as occurring around the rim of the feature.

Fill: (2) Filling the lower half was a light yellowish brown clayey soil containing sparse weathered chalk up to 30 mm and a few rounded lumps of baked red clay.

(1) Above was a brown silty clay soil containing a moderate density of subangular chalk and a few flints, both up to 30 mm in size. There was also a small quantity of red baked clay and some ash.

F714 (Group 5) Tr 1 E673660 Oven Type: 3 – Circular

	top	base	
Length:	0.4 m	0.3 m	Depth: 0.08 m
Width:	0.36 m	0.2 m	
Diameter of <i>in situ</i> burning: 0.6 m			

Isolated

Description: The feature consisted of a small basin-shaped hollow with sloping sides and dished

base. This was encircled by an area of *in situ* burning on the surface of the natural clay enclosing it on the south and east sides creating a lunette shape around the feature. It would be possible to interpret this feature as a hearth rather than an oven, with the hollow being created by burning and wear from long use and cleaning.

Fill: (1) The fill was pale yellowish grey clayey soil with a fine grey ash component containing small subrounded chalk up to 30 mm and rare weathered flints up to 40 mm.

F715 (Group –) Tr 1 E777697 Oven Type: 2b – Keyhole

		top	base	
	Length:	1.16 m	1.05 m	
Oven	Width:	0.48 m	0.42 m	Depth: 0.15 m
Flue/throat		0.24 m	0.16 m	0.11 m
Stokehole		0.4 m	0.3 m	0.07 m

Aligned: NNW–SSE Isolated

Description: The tripartite dumbbell form in plan is most likely due to overcutting at the south end and it has therefore been classified as keyhole shape. The main oven bowl was sub-square with steep straight sides and a flat floor. The flue/throat narrowed southwards and had a continuously sloping floor, but in two steps.

Firing had occurred *in situ* around the walls of the bowl and on its base with sufficient intensity to turn the ridge of natural chalk grey as well as the clay red. The walls had been baked red-pink to a thickness of 30–40 mm and a depth of 50 mm. The most intense heat from the very red clay was at the junction of the bowl and throat, where it was 70 mm thick.

Fill: (2) A very thin black lens of fine charcoal and ash covered the floor of the bowl.

(1) Filling the rest of the oven were large blocks of pale creamy brown mortar or daub, chalk tempered, 90–140 mm in size, a few angular flints 60–70 mm and subrounded chalk c.45 mm set in a greyish brown clayey soil with chalk grit. This occurred in the oven bowl only. [This may be collapsed superstructure of the oven or building debris from the destruction of the aisled hall.]

(3) This layer occurred in the flue area only. It was a greyish brown clayey soil in blocky lumps containing small chalk 10–30 mm, angular flints 60–90 mm and rare fragments of red baked clay. In the supposed stokehole area this became extremely clayey suggesting the end of the feature had been overcut.

F717 (Group 4) Tr 1 E670525 Oven Type: 2c – Eight

		top	base	
	Length:	0.8 m	0.68 m	
Oven	Width:	0.56 m	0.46 m	Depth: 0.1 m
Flue/throat		0.3 m	0.2 m	0.09 m

Aligned: SW–NE Abuts F667

Description: Though basically oval there is a hint at figure of eight shape with the smaller circle of the eight to the north-east, though this area may be the flue/throat, whilst the stokehole lay beyond in the area occupied by F718. The main oven bowl lies to the south-west and had fairly steep sides and a flat base. The oven floor had been fired to form a hard crust of brown clay in the middle (partly excavated and visible in the section drawing), but baked red elsewhere; the chalk outcropping on the base had also been burnt grey. The walls had been baked red around the entire oven with the most intense reddening on the south side to a depth of 50 mm.

Fill: (1) The feature contained a single fill of brown clayey soil containing a low density of small rounded chalk up to 30 mm, small flints and fragments of limestone and a scatter of pieces of red baked clay. Some lenses of charcoal flecks and ash occurred close to the edge.

F718 (Group 4) Tr 1 E677535 Oven Type: 2b – Keyhole

		top	base	
Oven	Length:	1.38 m	1.0 m	
Flue/throat	Width:	0.76 m	0.5 m	Depth: 0.15 m
?Stokehole		0.56 m	0.48 m	0.08 m
		1.0 x 0.7 m	–	0 m

Aligned: NNW–SSE Cut F667

Description: The cut of the feature is closest in plan to pear-shape, having a circular oven bowl joining into a narrower oval hollow. However beyond this is an oval area of burning *in situ* on the surface of the natural, where the clay has been baked red and some outcropping chalk grey. This could indicate the area of a stokehole, but such burning is unusual in the stokehole and may represent the site of another hearth similar to F716 immediately to the south.

The main bowl had fairly steeply sloping sides and a flat slightly irregular base. There was a slight step up to the flue. The floor and side of the flue sloped up gradually shallowing to the south.

Fill: (1) The oven contained a single, heterogeneous fill. This was basically a light greyish brown clayey soil containing a low density of small chalk up to 20 mm and a few angular flints, some burnt, 30–60 mm. Within the oven bowl there was also a very high charcoal and ash content discolouring the fill with dark grey mottles; this gradually decreases towards the stokehole. In the flue there were several rounded lumps of red baked clay 10–25 mm and a small concentration of potsherds.

F721 (Group 4) Tr 1 E674545 Oven Type: 2c – Eight

		top	base	
Oven	Length:	0.9 m	0.68 m	
Flue/throat	Width:	0.42 m	0.23 m	Depth: 0.16 m
Stokehole		0.3 m	0.2 m	0.14 m
		0.34 m	0.22 m	0.13 m

Aligned: NNW–SSE Isolated

Description: The oven is formed of two round interconnecting hollows. The northernmost is the larger, forming a circular basin with gently sloping sides and flat floor. The southern lobe is smaller and oval, but similar in character. Baking of the natural clay occurred *in situ* across the sides and floor of the throat and continued a little way along the walls to the south. The clay had been reddened or turned pink to a thickness of 30–60 mm.

Fill: (1) The oven was filled with yellowish brown clayey soil containing a low density of small rounded chalk grit and red baked clay fragments concentrated in the north half. There was also more stone in the bowl and throat, mostly angular flint 30–70 mm but including flint nodules c.100 mm, burnt worn sandstone, limestone roof slate c.70 mm and clay tile 50 mm.

F724	(Group 5)	Tr 1	E674653	Oven Type: 2b – Keyhole
			top	base
		Length:	1.0 m	–
Oven		Width:	0.58 m	0.4 m
Flue/Stokehole			0.26 m	Depth: 0.25 m
				0.18–0.11 m

Aligned: NW–SE Isolated

Description: This keyhole-shaped feature had a distinct circular bowl at the north-west end with steeply sloping sides and flat base. The narrow throat/flue to the south-east had a sloping floor and sides forming a continuous ramp up to the surface. There was slight overcutting at the south-east end extending beyond the edge of the feature and of the base of the flue.

Intermittent *in situ* burning occurred around the north edge at the top, but most intense firing occurred on both sides at the junction of bowl and flue. The effect of the baking is about 40 mm thick and occurs up to 150 mm deep in the bowl and to 40 mm in the flue.

Fill: (2) Across the base, but concentrated mainly at the junction of oven bowl and flue was a black-very dark grey deposit of fine charcoal and ash with chalk flecks and red baked clay grit. [Cinders from firing.]

(3) Occurring at the south-east end of the flue/stokehole area was a greyish-yellowish brown soil with frequent chalk grit mottled with smears of ash and charcoal.

(1) Infilling the remaining hollow in the oven bowl was a yellowish brown clayey soil containing a high density of rounded–subrounded chalk up to 50 mm and a scatter of small flint gravel. There was a concentration of large angular flint nodules 80–110 mm on the base, some of which exhibited signs of burning.

F725	(Group 4)	Tr 1	E657517	Oven Type: 2c – Eight
			top	base
		Length:	0.86 m	0.66 m
Oven		Width:	0.4 m	0.25 m
Stokehole			0.33 m	0.24 m
				Depth: 0.13 m
				0.05 m

Aligned: NNW–SSE Isolated

Description: The oven was considerably overcut on the base and north end in excavating the first half. The deeper hollow lay to the south and this was presumably the oven bowl. It had a dished even base and sloping sides. There was a slight step up to the flue/stokehole and from that the base sloped gradually up the surface on the north. Patches of burning occurred *in situ* along the west wall, but this only became apparent after heavy rain suggesting the heating had not been very intense.

Fill: (2) Occurring in the flue and northern half of the bowl was a thick layer of ash and charcoal in a matrix of greyish brown clayey soil with black mottling and containing small grit of orange baked clay and a scatter of subrounded chalk and yellow clay lumps, both 5–25 mm. [Cinders.]

(1) Filling the hollow left in the bowl at the south end was a light brown chalky silty clay (having a daub-like texture) containing small chalk and grit and a few angular flints 20–60 mm. [?Collapsed superstructure.]

F734 (Group –) Tr 1 E817629 Oven Type: 5 – Circular

		top	base	
Oven	Length:	0.43 m	0.32 m	
Oven	Width:	0.37 m	0.24 m	Depth: 0.1 m

Aligned: – Isolated

Description: This feature took the form of a slightly subcircular basin cut into the natural with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. There was a little *in situ* baking on the top edge of the south-west side.

Fill: (2) In the south-east half was a greyish brown ashy soil containing occasional rounded chalk grit, flecks of charcoal and red baked clay. On the north-west side was a layer of black charcoal fragments 10–25 mm in a matrix of fine charcoal dust and brown clayey soil containing rare lumps of chalk 10–30 mm. [Both layers represent cinders from firing, but with more complete combustion in layer 2.]

F736 (Group 3) Tr 1 E736472 Oven Type: 2c? – Eight

		top	base	
Oven	Length:	0.92 m	0.75 m	
Oven	Width:	0.65 m	0.4 m	Depth: 0.32 m

Aligned: W–E Cut F739; other relationships obscure

Description: The oven as it survived was basically oval narrowing to the east, which was probably the position of the stokehole. The floor was curving and dished and the walls steeply sloping where they survived. The base was sloping up to the east, where it cut through F739. The walls were baked red along the south side to a thickness of about 100 mm with one area that was probably at the junction of flue and oven bowl fired to a light yellowish brown. A small area of red baked clay was observed on the north wall.

Fill: (2) In the base was a soft black fine charcoal and ash mixed with some grit of chalk and baked red clay together with small fragments of brown daub.

(1) Filling the upper half of the oven was a yellowish brown clayey soil containing small chalk fragments and grit, amorphous rounded lumps of red baked clay up to 100 mm, yellowish brown fired daub oven lining and angular flints 50–150 mm scattered throughout the fill. [Collapsed superstructure.]

F737 (Group 6) Tr 1 E816550

Oven Type: 2b – ?Keyhole

The complex is unexcavated, but probably represents two ovens. The overall size of the complex was 1.76 x 1.55 m. The features cut L438 to the north-east.

Oven A:

Length: c.1.2 m Width: bowl – 0.7 m; flue – 0.32 m

Aligned: NE–SW ?Cut by F637/B

Description: This was possibly a keyhole-shaped oven, with the bowl at the north-east end. There was some evidence of *in situ* burning of the natural clay on either side at the junction of flue and bowl and also around the sides of the bowl. At the north-east end an extensive area of red baked clay (1) had been exposed in cleaning and may have formed part of the floor of the oven.

Fill: (4) Within the area of the oven was a dark greyish brown clayey soil containing a high density of chalk grit and frequent subrounded chalk fragments c.15 mm, a moderate to high density of subangular flint gravel 25–40 mm and several flint nodules, frequently burnt, 70–120 mm; one nodule was 250 mm long. Scattered small charcoal fragments and flecks were most frequent towards the south-west in the putative flue, as well as small fragments of red baked clay.

Oven B:

Length: c.1.35 m Width: bowl – c.0.7 m; flue – c.0.35 m

Aligned: NW–SE Cut ?F737/A

Description: This oven was not so well defined, but appeared to lie at right angles to the other oven, with the flue to the south-east. The oven was surrounded on the south and east by an extensive yellow spread, which was formed of a structureless mass of light yellowish brown silty clay (1) containing chalk grit and angular flint gravel 15–35 mm. Towards the centre the clay had been baked red and possibly represented the position of the oven bowl.

Around the north-east margins a number of large flint nodules 100–170 mm (2) formed a roughly linear arrangement that could represent part of the oven wall.

Fill: (3) The fill of the oven was a crumbly brown clayey soil containing a low density of chalk grit and infrequent subangular chalk 10–50 mm, amorphous pieces of yellow and baked red-

pink daub 20–60 mm and occasional clay tile and potsherds. In the north-west half was a concentrated group of burnt shattered flints 30–80 mm.

F739 (Group 3) Tr 1 E740476 Oven Type: 2b? – Keyhole

		top	base	
	Length:	1.12 m	0.96 m	
Oven	Width:	0.4 m	0.34 m	Depth: 0.35 m
Flue/throat		0.26 m	0.2 m	0.2 m
Stokehole		c.0.32 m	–	0.15 m

Aligned: SSW–NNE Cut by F736, F689B and ?F687B

Description: The oven had an oval bowl narrowing to the throat/flue, which sloped up merging into the stokehole, which had been partly cut away by adjacent ovens. The floor was gently sloping throughout the length of the oven, but stepped up at the junction to the flue. The walls, where they survived on the south side, had been baked red.

Fill: (1) Most of the fill had been truncated by F736. The thin remnant that survived on the base consisted of small fragments of red baked clay 20–30 mm in a matrix of brownish grey ashy soil containing charcoal flecks, chalk grit and occasional flints, some burnt, c.60 mm. Embedded on the base of the stokehole there were several flint nodules c.120 mm.

F745 (Group 3) Tr 1 E733488 Oven Type: –

Unexcavated Width: c.1.1 m Cut by F695

Description: A semicircular area of red burnt clay and soil in which a large potsherd was embedded was delineated by a discontinuous line of angular flint nodules 100–150 mm and a single burnt fragment of sandstone. The oven cut may have extended below the unexcavated section of F695.

F747 Tr 3 K542504 Oven Type: 2b

Length: 1.40 m Width: 0.52 m

Aligned: W–E Unex Isolated Below ploughsoil

Description: This feature was roughly keyhole shape cut into the natural marl and chalk. *In situ* burning c.100 mm wide delineated the oven bowl at the west end.

The fill, which was not excavated, was composed of dark grey-black soil containing a high density of ash and charcoal, a moderate scatter of subangular chalk up to 50 mm and occasional flint, some burnt. At the east end were two limestone roof slates 120–150 mm, one of which was burnt and may have been part of the structure. Pottery (not recovered) was visible in the fill and a Cu A object (SF2297 a twisted bracelet/necklace fragment) was retained.

F777 Tr 3 K905542 Oven/Burnt feature Oven 2

		top	depth
Oven	Length:	0.90 m	
Bowl	Width:	0.50 m	0.09 m
Flue	Width:	0.42 m	0.05 m

Aligned: NNW–SSE Within building 4 Below ploughsoil

Description: Set at right angles at 0.15 m distant to the north wall F754 of building 4. Irregular oval scoop, possibly figure-of-eight-shaped, but first half was overcut and the remainder appeared to have many irregular hollows along its edge. Shallow dished profile. Irregularities may be a result of plough damage. The structure appears to have been open at the time of the building's collapse and no evidence suggested the presence of a superstructure. The natural clay had been burnt *in situ* around the southern half, mainly on the sides and to a lesser extent on the base.

Fill: (1) A thin layer of fine soft dark grey ash and charcoal containing sparse rounded small chalk with a number of broken burnt limestone roof slates 20–200 mm resting on it.

F778 Tr 3 K890528 Oven/Burnt feature Type 4

		top	depth
Oven	Length:	0.60 m	
Bowl	Width:	0.50 m	0.09 m

Aligned: NNW–SSE Isolated Within building 4 Below ploughsoil

Description: The feature lay 0.8 m from the north wall F754 of building 4. This was an oval basin-shaped oven with gently sloping sides and flat base. The natural clay had been burnt to a dark orange colour around the upper edges. [It appears from the fill that the oven was open at the time of collapse of building 4 roof and that the oven had no superstructure in place.]

Fill: (1) Fine powdery greyish brown soil containing sparse chalk grit up to 10 mm, common smears and fragments of charcoal and frequent burnt shattered limestone roof slates 40–100 mm.

F779 Tr 3 K821502 Oven Type: 2a – Dumbbell

		top	depth
Oven	Length:	1.36 m	
Bowl	Width:	0.62 m	0.19 m
Flue	Width:	0.26 m	0.16 m
Stokehole	Width:	0.54 m	0.13 m

Aligned: NNW–SSE Within building 4 Cut F754 Below ploughsoil

Description: This dumbbell-shaped feature was cut into the natural clay and set at right angles to north wall F754 of building 4, cutting it. It had sloping sides, steepest in the oven bowl, gentler

in the stokehole. The floor was flat, sloping very slightly up from oven bowl to flue; there was a slight raised lip between the floor of the flue and stokehole. *In situ* burning occurred along much of the east side extending from the oven bowl to stokehole, plus a small amount on the floor of the flue and on the west side of the oven bowl up to the junction with the flue. [The oven appears to have been open at the time of the destruction of building 4 and there is little evidence for any superstructure to the oven.]

Fill: (1) Greyish brown compact clayey soil containing a moderate density of small chalk up to 50 mm and grit, small fragments of broken limestone roof slates 30–60 mm and flints up to 80 mm. This occurred at the north end of the oven bowl only. A couple of large sherds of pottery lay against the side of the oven bowl, one set on edge. Fired clay sample [3418].

(2) Large flint nodules 150–230 mm and broken limestone roof slates, some burnt grey, 40–200 mm were densely packed in greyish brown clayey soil mixed with crushed and weathered chalk. [Wall and roof collapse debris.]

(3) Infilling the stokehole was a solid layer of ash and charcoal fragments mixed with small burnt flints, sparse chalk fragments and occasional lumps of burnt soil. [Cinders from firing of oven.] Fired clay sample [3392]; flotation sample [3462].

F782 Tr 3 K814461

Oven Type: 2b – Keyhole

		top	depth
Oven	Length:	1.08 m	
Bowl	Width:	0.48 m	0.16 m
Flue	Width:	0.40 m	0.14 m
Stokehole	Width:	0.32 m	0.08 m

Aligned: WSW–ENE
Below L446

Within building 4

?F853 – rel not visible

Cuts F855

Description: Keyhole-shaped feature cut into the natural clay with sloping sides, most steeply in the oven bowl, gently elsewhere. The base was dished with a continuous sloping floor from the bowl up to the lip of the stokehole. *In situ* burning occurred on all sides generally forming a halo of fired clay 50–100 mm wide. Some of the adjacent firing may have resulted from nearby ovens. A limestone roof slate was set into the north side of the oven bowl. [The presence of collapsed roofing debris of building 4 and grain from a loft area implies that this feature was more of a hearth in character than an oven, as all the evidence points to its being open with no superstructure present.]

Fill: (1) Fragmented and shattered burnt limestone (red and grey) roof slates 20–700 mm mixed with broken flints up to 120 mm were set in a dark grey–yellowish brown mottled soil containing a high density of crushed charcoal and charcoal fragments. [Collapsed roof structure (L446) slumped into top of oven.] Artefacts include SF2479 4 Fe nails.

(2) Pure dark grey ash with brown streaks containing rare subangular chalk 10–30 mm and chalk grit and scattered charcoal fragments. Forms a thick layer on the base of the stokehole, flue and front half of the oven bowl. Sampled for plant macrofossils/flotation [3250]–[3252]; [3460] [3461]. Charcoal [3384]. Fe nodule [3379]. Artefacts include SF2466 millstone, SF2467 five Fe nails.

(3) Charred grain compressed in dense charcoal-rich sediment containing large pieces of carbonized timber. The layer was thickest at the back of the oven bowl thinning to the east.

[This layer probably derives from the roof, equivalent to layer 451 elsewhere in building 4 and does not relate to the functioning of the oven.] Sampled for plant macrofossils [3247]–[3249].

F783 Tr 4 K812471

Oven Type: 2b – Keyhole

		top	depth
Oven	Length:	1.60 m	
Bowl	Width:	0.64 m	0.27 m
Flue	Width:	0.60 m	0.15 m
Stokehole	Width:	0.60 m	0.08 m

Aligned: WSW–ENE

Within building 4

Cut F855

Below L446

Description: At west end of building 4 at right angles to west wall about 1 m distant. Oval/keyhole-shaped feature cut into the natural clay. The sides were mostly gently sloping, but became slightly steeper at the sides of the oven bowl. The floor of the bowl was flat with a shallow step to the floor of the flue which formed a continuous gentle slope up through the stokehole to the ground surface. Extensive *in situ* burning occurred around the whole of the oven, especially to the north and east. The floor surface of the whole oven was extremely smooth and very highly fired, especially throughout the flue. There is no evidence of superstructure being present at the time building 4 was destroyed.

Fill: (1) Shattered burnt (grey) limestone roof slates up to 180 mm lying flat in horizontal lenses closely packed with thin lenses of dark soil containing a high density of carbonized grain and ash. [Collapsed roof and loft debris of building 4 – the grain is probably stored grain from a loft, not associated with the use of the oven.] Sampled for grain: [3240] [3242] – flue; [3241] [3243] [3244] – bowl. Artefacts recovered: SF2420 5 Fe nails; SF2480 4 Fe nails.

(2) A thin skim of greyish brown ash covered the base and lower sides of the feature. [This may either derive from the last firing of the oven or represent more fully combusted material from the destruction of the building.] Sampled for carbonized grain: [3245] – flue; [3246] – bowl; [3463] – may be double numbering for one of the preceding samples.

(3) [3389] Fired clay – no layer 3 recorded on site: this is probably a sample from *in situ* fired clay of the oven floor.

F786 Tr 4 L053673

Oven Type: 2

Oven	Length:	1.24 m
Bowl	Width:	0.60 m

Aligned: E–W

Unex

Within building 3

Cut F815/2

Below ploughsoil

Description: Without excavation it is uncertain whether this area of burnt debris is fill within an oven structure or a tip derived from an oven in the top of ditch F815.

Fill: Angular shattered burnt flint grit – 50 mm in size formed c.80% of the layer in a matrix of granular brown silty clay soil containing scattered charcoal 5–10 mm and small rounded chalk.

F790 Tr 4 L197686

Oven Type: 2c – Eight

		top	depth
Oven	Length:	1.40 m	
Bowl	Width:	0.62 m	0.13 m
Flue	Width:	0.30 m	0.12 m
Stokehole	Width:	0.58 m	0.15 m

Aligned: NW–SE Isolated Within building 3 Below ploughsoil

Description: Figure-of-eight structure cut into the natural chalk and marl and set at right angles to the north wall F802 of building 3 at a distance of 0.5 m. The sides were steeply angled and the base flat, though slightly undulating. *In situ* baking occurred around the sides of the firing chamber and flue. It did not extend to the back of the oven bowl or into the stokehole. Burning extended for a depth and thickness of 50–100 mm and was most intense at the upper edges of the walls and at the junction of flue and oven bowl.

Fill: (1) Rubbly layer of angular broken flints 50–140 mm, broken limestone roof slates 150–180 mm, some burnt, burnt sandstone blocks 80–220 mm, clay tile (*imbrex*) 70 mm in a brown clay soil with small chalk and grit. This was mainly concentrated in the oven bowl. A large block of burnt marl/daub lay in the top of the flue, possibly fallen superstructure. Artefacts included SF2423 8 Fe nails.

(2) Extending over the floor of the stokehole and flue and partly over the oven bowl was a dark grey ashy clay soil containing a very high density of ash and fine black charcoal dust, and frequent grit of burnt clay and daub.

F791 Tr 4 L212696

Oven Type: 2c – Eight

		top	depth
Oven	Length:	1.25 m	
Bowl	Width:	0.65 m	0.22 m
Flue	Width:	0.30 m	0.13 m
Stokehole	Width:	0.48 m	

Aligned: NW–SE Isolated Within building 3 Below ploughsoil

Description: Figure-of-eight feature cut into the natural chalk and marl. The walls of the bowl were near vertical and the base undulating; in the flue/stokehole the walls were shallower and sloping and the floor sloped continuously up from the bowl to the surface. *In situ* burning occurred around the walls of the firing chamber and flue extending slightly into the stokehole. Burning was most intense around the upper edges extending for 50–200 mm from the wall and burning of the adjacent natural was most extensive next to the flue and stokehole on the south-west.

Fill: (1) Dark brown clayey soil mixed with flints 30–200 mm, broken limestone roof slates 50–200 mm and grit of chalk and fired clay. Over the floor of the oven and towards the back of the bowl this increasingly becomes a lens of dark brown-black fine charcoal and ash with a little chalk grit.

(2) Small–medium chalk blocks tightly packed in a little brown silt matrix in area of

flue. Flotation sample [3255] taken.

(3) Light brown clayey silt mixed with a low density of chalk lumps up to 50 mm and grit and rare small flint. This was mostly confined to the stokehole area.

F792 Tr 4 L188724 Oven/Burnt feature Oven 2c

		top	base
Oven	Length:	1.20 m	
Bowl	Width:	0.50 m	0.20 m
Flue	Width:	0.44 m	0.08 m
Stokehole	Width:	0.58 m	0.13 m

Aligned: SE–NW Isolated Below ploughsoil

Description: Outside building 3 about 1 m to north figure-of-eight-shaped oven cut into natural chalk and marl. The sides of the oven bowl were steeply sloping, but more gentle in flue and stokehole. The base was dished creating two basin-shaped profiles in the oven bowl and stokehole separated by a raised lip between. *In situ* baking of the natural occurred around the back of the oven bowl and alongside the flue extending into the stokehole. The effect of firing occurred to a thickness of 60 mm and was most intense around the upper edge decreasing towards the oven floor.

Fill: (1) Light brown silt mixed with grey ash and fine charcoal contained a moderate density of coarse chalk grit and a scatter of small angular flints 10–20 mm.

(2) Light brown clayey silt mixed with a high density of grey ash and fine charcoal. Towards the back of the oven bowl charcoal fragments and ash dominated. It occurred within the oven bowl only. Sampled for flotation [3256] [3464].

(3) Light brown soil containing frequent subangular chalk blocks up to 50 mm, a few angular flints *c.*70 mm and angular flint grit 10–20 mm. This filled the stokehole area.

F795 Tr 4 L178720 Oven Type: 2c – Eight

		top	base
Oven	Length:	0.90 m	
Bowl	Width:	0.54 m	0.08 m
Flue	Width:	0.32 m	0.15 m

Aligned: ENE–WSW Isolated Below ploughsoil

Description: About 1.5 m north of building 3 lying parallel to the north wall F802. Roughly figure-of-eight shape feature cut into the natural chalk and marl; what survived was very shallow, effectively only the dished undulating base. There was very little evidence of *in situ* burning (probably because it was only the base surviving) though a trace of reddening survived around the sides of the oven bowl. The flue and stokehole were very indistinct, barely surviving.

Fill: (1) Light brown soil mixed with a moderate density of chalk grit up to 10 mm.

(2) Light brownish grey soil mixed with a low density of chalk grit up to 10 mm. Some ashy mottles.

F801 Tr 4 L301670

Oven Type: 2

		top	base
Oven	Length:	0.70 m	
Bowl	Width:	0.50 m	0.12 m
Flue	Width:	0.32 m	0.05 m

Aligned: WSW–ENE Isolated Below ploughsoil

Description: Lies outside building 3 about 0.3 m south of the south-east corner. Only one half was excavated and this was excessively overcut so its form and shape are not absolutely clear. The feature is roughly oval cut shallowly into chalk marl with a basin-shaped profile and shallow dished base and sides in the stokehole area. No *in situ* burning was observed.

Fill: (1) Dark grey ashy soil with blacker charcoal patches containing chalk grit, a few small flints 10–20 mm and red fired clay grit. [Cinders from final firing.] Sampled for flotation/charcoal [3285]. Artefacts include SF2511 stone rubber.

(2) Light brown soil containing a low density of chalk grit – 10 mm. [Probably natural – overcut.]

(3) Light brown chalky marl containing moderate density of subangular/ rounded chalk blocks c.70 mm and a few small flints. [Probably natural marl – overcut.]

F810 Tr 3 K821443

Oven Type: 2

		top	base
Oven	Length:	>0.38 m	
Bowl	Width:	0.45 m	0.20 m

Aligned: ?W–E Within building 4 Cut by F772 Below L451, L452

Description: Remnant of oven, probably of type 2 of which the east end (flue and stokehole) is presumed to be destroyed by pit F772. The remaining oven bowl has steeply sloping sides and a rounded dished base. *In situ* burning occurs around the sides, most prominently towards the junction with putative flue. Burning is also present on the adjacent walls of pit F772, but this may be a result of its fill of burning roof debris rather than the oven.

Fill: (1) Very compact dense dark red clay mixed with moderate density of subrounded chalk up to 20 mm and chalk grit. [Deliberate infill of oven following disuse, possibly partly utilizing demolished superstructure.] Sample of daub [3397].

(2) Infilling base of oven was a lens of pure ash overlying a layer of charcoal fragments and charcoal dust. [Cinders from final firing of oven.] Sampled for flotation [3458].

F817 Tr 3 K869475

Oven Type: 4

		top	base
Oven	Length:	1.90 m	
Bowl	Width:	0.70 m	0.18 m
Flue	Width:	0.60 m	

Stokehole Width: 0.80 m

Aligned: SW–NE Pre-dates F831 Within building 4 Below F816

Description: Lies roughly parallel to long axis of building 4 towards centre. Remnant of large oven of which the oven bowl is best preserved; this had sloping sides and flat base. It was probably dumbbell-shaped, but the flue and stokehole were rather amorphous having been obscured by the worn hollow F816. The oven fell into disuse before the destruction of the building, the area being trampled and backfilled, possibly with the superstructure of the oven. The base and sides of the oven showed little signs of burning.

Fill (1) Within the oven bowl was a dark greyish/reddish brown compacted clayey soil containing sparse small chalk, flint flakes up to 50 mm and concentrations of chalk grit; also incorporated were patches of light reddish yellow–red clay derived from the local natural.

(2) The fill of the flue and stokehole was not sectioned, but observed in excavation to consist of thin skims of ash and charcoal-rich soil compressed onto the natural clay.

F822 Tr 3 K834509

Oven Type: 2b – Keyhole

		top	base
Oven	Length:	0.66 m	
Bowl	Width:	0.40 m	0.13 m
Flue	Width:	0.20 m	0.09 m

Aligned: NNW–SSE Isolated Building 4 Below ploughsoil

Description: Small keyhole-shaped oven set at right angles against north wall F754 of building 4 cut into the natural clay with sloping sides and flat even base, sloping very slightly up from the back of the oven to the front of the flue, which steps up to the ground surface. The sides and floor of the oven and flue were burnt to a dark orange over most of its area, but most intensely at the junction of the two parts.

Fill: (1) Light reddish brown or pale yellow-brown rounded daub fragments 30–60 mm tightly packed with fine ashy soil between. The paler daub was mostly concentrated in the flue. [Demolished superstructure.] Notebook records daub samples retained; but no record of these in samples index. (Possibly discarded on site by specialist.)

(2) Charcoal fragments and ash mixed in a dark mottled clayey soil. [Cinders from firing of oven.]

F823 Tr 3 K861519

Oven Type: 1b – Keyhole

		top	base
Oven	Length:	1.36 m	
Bowl	Width:	0.44 m	0.25 m
Flue	Width:	0.20 m	0.08 m
Stokehole	Width:	0.34 m	0.09 m

Aligned: NNW–SSE Isolated Within building 4 Below ploughsoil

Description: This feature takes the form of a keyhole-shaped cut set at right angles to north wall F754 0.22 m distant. The oven bowl was circular with a deeper central cut, shadowed by a shallower ledge. This outer ledge was 0.7 m in diameter and 0.1 m deep. The sides of the bowl were sloping, most gently towards the front, where it joined into a narrow flue. This measured 0.3 m wide at its junction to the bowl narrowing to 0.16 m, where it met the stokehole. The flue had a course of knapped burnt flints tightly set along each side; a single flint surviving on the ledge around the oven bowl suggests this also held a flint base enclosing the oven bowl. [This implies a firmly constructed foundation to support some sort of superstructure.] There was intense burning on the base and sides of the flue, which extended along the sides of the stokehole and around the upper edge of the oven bowl.

Fill (1) Small rounded chalk 10–30 mm set in a matrix of crushed chalk and pale yellow chalky clay soil containing rare flints up to 80 mm. It was very hard and compacted infilling the top of the oven bowl. [Possibly material dumped to firm up trampled chalk floor over demolished oven.]

(2) Dense and compact brown clay soil containing moderate density of rounded chalk grit – 20 mm, plus occasional flints 30–50 mm, flecks of fired clay and a little pottery. Charcoal sample [3371]. Artefacts include SF2471 Fe nail.

(3) Soft fine grey ash and soil with brown mottles containing sparse chalk grit, lumps of baked marl, flecks of burnt clay and patches of charcoal. [Cinders from firing in base of oven bowl.] Sampled for flotation [3253] [3465].

F824 Tr 3 K844510

Oven Type: 2b – Keyhole

		top	depth
Oven	Length:	0.90 m	
Bowl	Width:	0.50 m	0.13 m
Flue	Width:	0.38 m	0.12 m

Aligned: ENE–WSW Isolated Within building 4 Below ploughsoil

Description: Small keyhole-shaped feature aligned parallel to north wall F754 of building 4, about 0.5 m distant. It had gently sloping sides and flat base cut into natural clay, which showed some signs of *in situ* burning, mainly around the east end. [The oven appears to have been deliberately demolished and infilled with daub from its superstructure.]

Fill: (1) Hard packed pale yellowish brown degraded daub with high chalk content. No sign of shape or structure could be discerned in the daub. [Rather than oven superstructure this may be cob or daub as used for the walls of building 4, packed into the top of the feature at the time of construction of the building.] Daub sample [3257] (9 fragments – 2000 g, 2 retained – possibly a block from oven wall/superstructure), [3306], [3307] (mostly degraded cob/marl with flecks of fired clay from base sides).

(2) Compact clayey soil discoloured to dark grey and brown by high ash and charcoal content. [Cinders from use of oven.] Flotation sample [3466].

F831 Tr 3 K868485

Oven Type: 2a – Dumbbell

		top	depth
Oven	Length:	2.10 m	
Bowl	Width:	0.66 m	0.35 m
Flue	Width:	0.52 m	0.16 m
Stokehole	Width:	0.70 m	0.12 m

Aligned: WSW–ENE Within building 4 ?Cut F816 Below L443, L446

Description: This dumbbell-shaped oven was cut into the natural clay, lying parallel to long axis towards centre of building 4. The oven bowl had sloping stepped sides and a rounded dished base. The flue and stokehole were much shallower with a flattish undulating base and sloping sides; there was a slight raised lip between the two. *In situ* burning occurred along the north walls of the oven bowl and flue and at the upper edges had been burnt to a dark red. [The presence of collapsed roofing throughout the fill suggests the ‘oven’ was open at the time and no superstructure was present.]

Fill: (1) Mixed brown soil with small chalk and grit up to 20 mm and high density of fragments of limestone roof slates 30–80 mm (equivalent to L443).

(2) Mottled dark grey/ dark yellowish brown mix of ash, clayey soil and daub fragments together with some subrounded chalk 10–40 mm and occasional flints up to 80 mm. Fragments of shattered limestone roof slates are embedded throughout. [3467] sampled for flotation.

F832 Tr 3 K914546

Oven Type: 2b – Keyhole

		top	depth
Oven	Length:	1.58 m	
Bowl	Width:	0.67 m	0.19 m
Flue	Width:	0.45 m	0.16 m
Stokehole	Width:	0.38 m	0.10 m

Aligned: NNW–SSE Isolated Within building 4 Below L446

Description: Keyhole-shaped feature cut into natural clay, set at right angles to and 0.1 m from north wall F754 of building 4. The oven bowl is circular with steeply sloping sides and flat base forming a very gentle continuous slope up through the elongated flue to the stokehole and ground surface. There is *in situ* burning of the natural clay walls as well as an arc of burning on the surface around the end of the flue/stokehole: this may indicate that the stokehole was in fact a wide shallow hollow, most of which has been destroyed (by ploughing etc.) – it may have been up to 1.2 m wide. A shallow shelf to the east of the flue may also represent part of the stoking area.

Fill: (1) Filling the entire length of the feature was a very light yellowish brown/white very degraded chalky daub/cob (fired clay sample of 3325 g [3305], [3394] possibly blocks of oven wall superstructure) mixed with unburnt fragments of limestone roof slate 50–250 mm in size, mostly lying flat plus a few large flints up to 180 mm. [This could be interpreted as demolished oven superstructure; however it is possibly building debris from collapsed wall and roof, which had fallen before the fire took hold of this section.] Artefacts: SF2462 Fe fixing; SF2461 2 Fe

nails.

(2) Dark grey ash mottled and streaked with brown soil containing very low density of small subangular chalk and grit; occasional fragments of charcoal in flue and stokehole area.

F833 Tr 4 L282715

Oven Type: 2

		top	depth
Oven	Length:		
Bowl	Width:	1.00 m	0.32 m
Flue	Width:	–	0.15 m
Stokehole	Width:	–	0.05 m

Uncertain rel. to F834 Within building 3 Cut F800 Below ploughsoil

Description: Initially regarded as an area of shallow quarrying related to F800 and not recognized as a burnt feature during excavation and initial recording; only during planning were attributes of a burnt feature noted in the unexcavated back half.

Fill: Grey soil (?ashy) with brown mottles containing scattered charcoal flecks and small sub-angular/rounded chalk grit – 20 mm and occasional small flints of similar size.

F834 Tr 4 L283708

Oven Type: 2c – Eight

		top	depth
Oven	Length:	>0.9 m	
Bowl	Width:	0.85 m	0.17 m
Flue	Width:		0.12 m

Aligned: ?N–S Uncertain relationships to F800, F833? Within building 3
?Cut F800 Below ploughsoil

Description: Circular feature cut into the natural chalky marl forming a basin-shaped hollow. *In situ* burning occurred as a narrow (20 mm) band on the east edge and around the south-west edge extending up to 50 mm wide. It is not clear whether F833 is part of the same structure, possibly the stokehole to F834, or whether it is a separate feature.

Fill: (1) Grey soil mixed with a low density of small chalk up to 20 mm and grit, plus occasional small flints 10–20 mm.

F837 Tr 3 K849445

Oven Type: 2c – Eight

		top	base
Oven	Length:	1.26 m	
Bowl	Width:	0.60 m	0.27 m
Flue	Width:	0.32 m	0.17 m
Stokehole	Width:	0.56 m	0.03 m

Aligned: SSE–NNW

Isolated

Within building 4

Below L453

Description: Figure-of-eight-shaped oven cut into the natural clay set at right angles and up against south wall F752 of building 4. It had steeply angled sides around bowl and flue and flat even floors with angled ramps forming a step up from one section of oven to another. *In situ* burning occurred along west side of oven bowl and at the junction with the flue extending down over the floor at the junction and into the flue. The east side was not exposed below L453 nor excavated.

Fill: (1) Mottled brown–light brown very clayey soil containing moderate density of subangular chalk up to 40 mm and chalk grit. Large blocks (up to 250 mm) of cob/daub occurred in the oven bowl together with limestone roof slates (some slightly burnt) up to 200 mm. Some of the slates are set on edge against the rear wall of the oven bowl suggesting they may relate to the oven structure. [Deliberate backfill.]

(2) Thin layer across the floor of the feature of brown–dark grey fine clayey soil mixed with a high ash content, occasional small rounded chalk, daub lumps and fragments of charcoal. [Cinders from final firing.] Sample of fired clay [3390] (mostly marl or degraded cob but with a couple of lumps of red baked daub, possibly from oven walls).

(3) Flotation sample [3468] – this was labelled (3) following the layer numbers in the section drawing, where L453 slumped into the oven was labelled 1, and those below 2 and 3. Therefore this sample is from the basal ash layer (2).

F838 Tr 3 K814440

Oven Type: 2b – Keyhole

		top	depth
Oven	Length:	0.94 m	
Bowl	Width:	0.40 m	0.16 m
Flue	Width:	0.36 m	0.17 m
Stokehole	Width:	0.30 m	0.03 m

Aligned: WSW–ENE

Within building 4

Cut F753

Below ploughsoil

Description: Oval/keyhole-shaped feature cut into natural clay and set at right angles to and right against west wall F753 of building 4. It has a basin-shaped profile with steep sides and a smooth even base forming a continuous slope up through the flue and stokehole to the surface. *In situ* burning occurs over the whole of the feature, both base and sides but with most intense reddening at the upper edges at junction of bowl and flue. [The presence of wall debris infilling most of the feature suggests this was in use at the time of the building's collapse and that the feature had no superstructure.]

Fill: (1) Large flints 150–320 mm in a light brown daub/cob matrix with a few baked red daub lumps filled most of the feature. [Collapsed debris from adjacent wall.]

(2) Over the base was a thin layer of fine greyish brown ash with brown mottles and streaked with black charcoal smears; it contained small fragments of chalk, burnt clay and charcoal. [Cinders from firing of feature.]

F839 Tr 3 K829475?

Oven Type: 2a

		top	depth
Oven	Length:	1.38 m	
Bowl	Width:	0.50 m	0.26 m
Flue	Width:	0.28 m	0.10 m
Stokehole	Width:	0.46 m	0.07 m

Aligned: NNW–SSE Isolated Within building 4 Below L451

Dumbbell-shaped feature cut into the natural clay in west end of building 4 aligned with its west wall. The north-west end has been seriously overcut and the area protruding asymmetrically to the north-west in plan (assuming the plan assigned this number is in fact the right one) may all represent overcut. The oven bowl was oval with a basin-shaped profile; the flue had steeply sloping sides and a flat base, which gradually sloped up to the stokehole. The natural clay was burnt around the sides of the oven wall. General burning on the ground surface to either side may have resulted from the general intensive use of the area for ovens (or possibly from the burning roof structure during the building's destruction).

Fill: (1) Dark grey/reddish brown mottled compact clayey soil containing sparse chalk grit and fragments up to 20 mm, frequent charcoal flecks and smears, pieces of red clay and yellowish daub and broken flints 30–80 mm. [A very mixed fill representing deliberate infill of the oven subsequently heavily trampled as it formed part of the dirt floor of the building.] SF2474 Fe bar.

(2) Degraded daub forming a solid mass or in the stokehole area lumps of daub compacted in a dirty clay soil. The daub was very pale yellow-brown with a high chalk content. The soil matrix was mixed with a high density of ash and charcoal. [Probably demolished superstructure.] Charcoal sample [3381]; fired clay sample [3393], [3172] (amorphous blocks of fabric C daub with impressions of large flints). SF2439 Fe nail.

(3) Infilling the base of the oven bowl was a solid layer of ash and charcoal fragments with a scatter of broken flints, daub lumps and burnt clay soil. The layer extended as a thin skim into the flue and stokehole where it was mainly ash or an ashy soil. Charcoal dominated in the rear half of the oven. Sample taken for flotation [3469].

F840 Tr 3 K846478?

Oven Type: 2b – Keyhole

		top	base
Oven	Length:	0.88 m	
Bowl	Width:	0.47 m	0.23 m
Flue	Width:	0.38 m	0.16 m
Stokehole	Width:	0.42 m	0.10 m

Aligned: WSW–ENE Isolated Within building 4 Below L471

Description: Keyhole-shaped feature cut into the natural clay/marl. The oven bowl had steeply sloping sides and a dished base. The floor of the flue and stokehole sloped up to the surfaces in a series of steps. *In situ* burning occurred around the upper edge of the oven at the junction of the oven bowl and flue up to a thickness of 40 mm.

Fill: (1) Dark brown clayey soil with grey and yellow mottles, very compacted and dense

containing sparse chalk grit, small flints 50–80 mm and flecks of charcoal. [Probably remnant of trampled clay floor L471 surfacing over the top of the oven.] SF2460 CuA coin.

(2) Blocks of soft crumbly yellowish brown daub in a layer of mixed clayey soil, small rounded chalk and grit, smears of charcoal and a limestone roof slate at the south-west end close to the rear wall of the oven bowl. [Collapsed superstructure.] Charcoal sample [3387]. Fired clay sample [3396] (amorphous blocks of fabric C daub).

(3) In the base of the oven bowl was a thick (80 mm) layer of charcoal fragments, which graded into finer soot and ash in the flue and stokehole.

F843 Tr 3 K805465

Oven Type: 2c – Eight

		top	depth
Oven	Length:	0.60 m	
Bowl	Width:	0.24 m	0.13 m
Flue	Width:	0.30 m	0.17 m

Aligned: S–N Isolated Within building 4 Below L451

Description: Small roughly figure-of-eight-shaped feature cut into the clay natural lying roughly parallel to west wall F753 of building 4. Faint burning occurred along the east edge turning the clay a pale orange colour; burning was totally absent on the west side. The feature had steep sides and a flat base, which stepped up at the west end. Shallow hollows occur around the sides suggesting possible wear or a more extensive feature originally. It is by no means certain that this was an oven. No cinders occurred in the base of the feature and the fill is more consistent with wall debris. It may in fact have been a feature associated with the construction of building 4 (scaffolding?) infilled with left-over wall materials.

Fill: (1) Large flint nodules and broken flints 100–230 mm were embedded in a mid yellowish brown fine clayey soil with sparse chalk grit and a low density of subangular chalk up to 40 mm.

F853 Tr 3 K826479?

Oven Type: 2a – Dumbbell

		top	base
Oven	Length:	1.06 m	
Bowl	Width:	0.60 m	0.30 m
Flue	Width:	0.24 m	0.18 m
Stokehole	Width:	0.30 m	0.14 m

Aligned: SSE–NNW Rel. to F782 – uncertain Within building 4 Below L471, L453

Description: It lies parallel to west wall F753 of building 4. The shape of the oven has been distorted by a subsoiler rut cutting through the oven bowl and the back half was not fully excavated. It appears to have been basically dumbbell-shaped with an oval oven bowl joining to a wide funnel-shaped flue, which narrowed dramatically towards a small circular stokehole. The oven bowl had steep sides and a dished base; the floor of the flue sloped up to join the dished stokehole. *In situ* burning occurred around the oven walls and extensively on the ground surface surrounding the stokehole. The latter may have resulted from either this or adjacent ovens.

Fill: (1) Very compact dark brown clayey soil containing a low–moderate density of subangular chalk up to 30 mm plus occasional flints up to 50 mm. Occasional lenses of ash or charcoal flecks. [Deliberate infill to level area.] SF2519 2 Fe nails.

(2) Thin lens of ash and charcoal fragments covering the floor of the oven bowl and over the more northerly slope of the flue floor. [Cinders from final firing]. In the oven bowl (and possibly in the stokehole) there was a thin lens of orange daub lumps 20–50 mm over the charcoal. [Collapsed oven superstructure.]

F854 Tr 3 K985512

Oven Type: 2b – Keyhole

		top	depth
Oven	Length:	1.15 m	
Bowl	Width:	0.50 m	0.25 m
Flue	Width:	0.40 m	0.18 m
Stokehole	Width:	0.36 m	0.12 m

Aligned: ENE–WSW Isolated Within building 4 Cut L451 Below L446

Description: Keyhole-shaped oven cut into natural chalk and marl situated in south-east corner of building 4 parallel to the south wall F752, 0.3 m away. It had steeply angled walls and the base was flat and stepped up between sections. *In situ* burning occurred along the north side of flue and oven and on the south side of the oven bowl (the gap between unaffected by heat apparently was chalk and probably required higher temperatures to discolour it). Burning also occurred on the floor of the bowl at the front and on the flue floor. It is not absolutely clear whether layer 2 is entirely building debris or partly oven superstructure: it is possible to argue that the oven had no superstructure from the available evidence.

Fill: (1) The top layer of burnt limestone roof slates was in effect L446 slumped into the hollow of the oven. SF2512 Fe nail.

(2) Pale yellow degraded daub/cob mixed with several angular large flints 100–120 mm and a small number of broken limestone roof slates 100–150 mm in greyish brown clayey soil streaked and flecked with ash, charcoal and burnt clay. [Probably a mixture of smashed oven superstructure (perhaps?) fallen wall and roof debris.]

(3) Occurring mainly in oven bowl but lapping up into the flue was a layer of ash with frequent charcoal flecks and fragments mixed with some mottled brown fine soil, containing sparse chalk grit and subangular chalk and flint 20–40 mm. [Cinders from final firing.]

F855 Tr 3 K815465

Oven Type: 2a? – dumbbell?

		top	depth
Oven	Length:	1.00 m	
Flue	Width:	0.36 m	0.18 m

Aligned: SSE–NNW Within building 4 Cut by F782, F783 Below L446

Description: The oven lay parallel to west wall F753 of building 4 1.4 m distant. Both ends of the oven have been cut away by later features thus rendering designation of oven type uncertain. There was little variation in width along its length, though the opening to the oven bowl may be

indicated on the north where the wall started to curve out. It was possibly similar to F678, F688 or F703 found in the 1998 excavation. Burning *in situ* of the natural clay was observed along the west wall of the oven; the east half was not excavated though general burning occurred on the ground surface to the east. The side was steeply angled and floor flat but gently undulating being slightly hollowed in the centre.

Fill: (1) Infilling most of the surviving oven was a thick layer of very compact dark yellowish brown clean clayey soil mixed with a high density of subangular chalk 10–40 mm plus a few small flints and rare charcoal flecks. [Deliberate infilling.]

(2) Thin lens of ash and charcoal fragments covering the floor of the oven. [Cinders from firing.]

F856 Tr 4 L260725

Oven Type: 2c – Eight

		top
Oven	Length:	1.50 m
Bowl	Width:	0.90 m
Flue	Width:	0.50 m
Stokehole	Width:	0.46 m

Aligned: NW–SE Isolated Within building 3 Below ploughsoil

Description: Unexcavated. The feature is cut at right angles to the north wall F802 of building 3 and set almost right up against it. Burning of the natural clay/marl occurred along the east side at the junction of oven bowl and flue. A block of red burnt clay within the oven bowl may have been either part of the oven floor exposed or collapsed superstructure. No record of fill.

F860 Tr 3 L171765

Oven Type: 2c – Eight

		top
Oven	Length:	0.80 m
Bowl	Width:	0.60 m

Aligned: S–N Isolated Below ploughsoil

Description: Unexcavated. Roughly oval area of burnt material delineated by *in situ* burning of the sides. Most intense burning turning the natural marl dark red occurred at the back of the oven bowl and at the front of the bowl close to the flue on the east side. Elsewhere around the bowl the sides had been baked pink. The flue/stokehole area did not appear to have been affected by the heat.

Fill: (1) Grey ash and charcoal including fragments up to 20 mm containing occasional angular flints, mostly *c.* 20 mm, but up to 100 mm and infrequent small chalk.

F867 Tr 3 K992529

Oven Type: 2 – Type uncertain

		top	base
Oven	Length:	1.08 m	
Bowl	Width:	0.30 m	0.10 m
Flue	Width:	0.22 m	

Aligned: ENE–WSW Within building 4 Cuts L453 Below L451

Description: Irregular linear feature cut into the chalk floor surface (L453) in the south-east corner of building 4 adjacent to south edge of corn drier F811. *In situ* burning occurred along part of the south edge up to 80 mm wide and the chalk along the whole of the north side was burnt at the surface. It had remnants of charcoal and burnt debris in it, but it appeared to have been filled largely by the burnt roof debris L451 (which was sampled here as [3352]).

F868 Tr 3 K930500

Oven Type: 2a? – Dumbbell?

		top	base
Oven	Length:	1.20 m	
Bowl	Width:	0.48 m	0.11 m
Flue	Width:	0.20 m	0.05 m
Stokehole	Width:	0.30 m	0.08 m

Aligned: E–W Isolated Building 4 Below L446

Description: Apart from the final plan no record was made of this feature during excavation thus rendering its function uncertain. It could be interpreted as two separate post-holes or scoops with an area of disturbance between. It consists of two circular basin-shaped hollows joined by an irregular linear slot joining the two. There was no obvious *in situ* burning, except on the ground surface running off to the north.

Fill: The eastern bowl was sealed by/filled with a patch of burnt roof slates, ash and charcoal (L446).

No other record of fill was made during the excavation.

F870 Tr 3 K820437

Oven Type: 2c – Eight

		top	
Oven	Length:	1.10 m	
Bowl	Width:	0.66 m	
Flue	Width:	0.40 m	
Stokehole	Width:	0.44 m	

Aligned: E–W Isolated Within building 4 Below L453

Description: The plan indicates this feature to be a figure-of-eight-shaped oven cut into the clay natural. The rim around the back of the oven bowl has been intensely burnt red to a thickness of 60 mm and also on the south side at the junction of oven bowl and flue. The flue and stokehole

are pointing to the wall F753 only 0.3 m away. Such lack of space may imply the oven pre-dated the building, but this would depend on the feature having to be approached from the west when in use.

Fill: The feature was not excavated but had been infilled with small chalk fragments 10–30 mm compacted in puddled chalk with several small burnt angular flints 30–80 mm. The surface of the chalk had been burnt suggesting the area may have served as a hearth at some point. [This fill probably represents deliberate infill of the earlier oven and came to serve as part of the chalk floor of building 4.]

Descriptions of hearths

F675 (Group 2) Tr 1 E758583 Hearth Type: 3 – Circular

Length: 0.84 m Width: 0.76 m Depth: –

Aligned – Isolated

Description: This feature is represented by a subcircular area of *in situ* burning of the surface of the clay natural. The clay was fired to a red colour, but flints occurring naturally in the clay did not appear to have been affected by the heat. In attempting to excavate this feature as an oven it was apparent that the clay had been discoloured to a depth of more than 50 mm.

Fill: There was no actual fill, but the area was partly overlain by a hard greyish brown clayey soil containing a little small chalk and grit and frequent angular flints 20–80 mm. This was probably a remnant of layer 350, rather than fill specifically associated with the feature.

F716 (Group 4) Tr 1 E683517 Hearth Type: 3 – Circular

Length: 1.05 m Width: 0.96 m Isolated

Description: This feature was a subcircular area of *in situ* burning on the surface of the natural clay. The clay had been baked red to over 50 mm depth with most intense firing in the centre. An outcrop of natural chalk within the area had barely been affected by the heat turning only the palest grey. Use and burning had produced a slight depression over the area.

F741 (Group 6) Tr 1 E830535 Hearth Type: 2 – Chalk/circ.

Length: 1.0 m Width: 0.94 m Depth: –

Aligned – Cut L438

Description: The hearth was circular and the surface even and flat or very slightly convex. It did not have an extremely well smoothed surface, but was slightly rough from its coarse texture. There was an area of *in situ* burning about 0.6 m in diameter in the centre, which resulted in the chalk turning to a medium–pale grey colour.

Fill: The upper surface was made of small rounded and sub-rounded chalk 10–30 mm with scattered angular flints 30–50 mm and rare broken nodules c.60 mm set in a matrix of soil and puddled chalky clay.

The feature was not sectioned so any evidence for a foundation layer was not observed.

F744 (Group 2) Tr 1 E740570 Hearth Type: 3 – Circular

Length: 0.9 m Width: 0.85 m Depth: –

Aligned – Isolated

Description: This roughly circular area of firing of the natural clay has turned the surface to a reddish colour, though more maroon and blackened in the centre. Also embedded in the clay were some burnt flints on the south-west side and burnt sandstone fragments on the north-east. The area probably represents the position of a hearth.

Fill: None, but the sandstone is non-local and must have been embedded in the clay accidentally or deliberately.

F770 Tr 4 L279305 Hearth Type: 3–5

Length: 0.76 m Width: 0.55 m Depth: 0.06 m

Aligned: NE–SW Cut F835, F850, F852 Above L463, L467 Below L455

Description: In its first form this appears to have been a shallow dished basin-shaped hole formed in the natural chalk marl, which had been burnt pink to a depth of 80 mm.

Fill: L468: Two square clay tiles/bricks (210 x 200 mm) set in chalky clay marl containing chalk grit and occasional small rounded chalk lumps up to 25 mm were burnt *in situ* to a red/reddish brown colour. The tiles formed the main surface together with some large sherds of pottery laid flat and a flint nodule with its knapped flat face placed uppermost to form part of the surface. On the east side a clay tile had been set on edge as a form of kerb.

Below L468 over the surface of the burnt natural marl in the original hollow was a remnant of dark grey soil mixed with a high density of ash and charcoal. [This appears to be cinders from an early phase in the use of the hearth prior to resurfacing.]

F789 Tr 4 L164665 Hearth Type: 3

Diam: 0.7 m Depth: 0.1 m

Aligned: SSE–NNW Within building 3, above F815, below ploughsoil

Description: An area of *in situ* baking/burning of the natural clay marl and the fill in the top of ditch F815 has turned the clay red. There appears to be no genuine structure created.

Fill: (1) Mix of brown clay with chalk grit, occasional small angular flints and some soil originally yellowish brown in colour, but baked red over most of the area. Possible remnants of surface.