1.9 **Ditches**

List of ditches

F672	E712771–E709725	Roman, contemporary with building 1
F679/F680	E673434–E450480	Roman: pre-building 1
F700	E690710–E708722	Roman, contemporary with building 1
F710	E980400	Late Iron Age banjo enclosure
F722a + b	E360525	Late Iron Age: recut in earlier Roman period
F746	K600500	Roman
F749	K908383–K830405	Late Iron Age, linear (= F756)
F750	K826362–K783450	Roman enclosure (= F751)
F751	K783450–K600300	Roman enclosure (= F750)
F756	K809414–	Late Iron Age, linear (= F749)
F762	K838364–K818404	Roman, contemporary with building 4
F766	L019734–L100700	Late Iron Age banjo enclosure
F775	L233692–L286615	Late Iron Age linear
F815	L100600–L000600	Late Iron Age linear

Descriptions of the ditches

F672 E712770–E712715

Length exposed: 5.5 m Depth: 1.04 m
Width: top – 2.32–2.42 m, base – 0.37–0.4 m

This ditch ran north–south, turning to the south-west at the aisled hall to run alongside its wall. This section was separately numbered as F700 and is described separately below. F690, an irregular linear hollow cut into the two ditches at their junction, may represent a shallow recut. F672 had a V-shaped profile with a wide flat base and steeply sloping sides at the base (70°–75°) splaying out to a shallower angle at the top (50°). The top edge of the ditch is cut through variable deposits of natural clay and chalk marl, while the base is cut through chalk, these variations being reflected in the fill of the ditch.

In the base of the ditch was a primary deposit of greyish brown silty clay (7) with small rounded chalk and rare baked clay fragments. Over this were thicker eroded deposits (6) infilling the lower third of the ditch and varying according to the adjacent geology along the lip of the ditch. This included subangular chalk 10–50 mm in yellow chalky clay, or alternating bands of these two components, weathered chalk grit lenses or eroded brown clay. Overlying these naturally accumulated layers was a deposit of yellowish brown clay soil (5) containing small subangular chalk, frequent flints and nodules, faced flints and limestone roof slates. The remainder of the ditch contained similar fill consisting of a matrix of yellowish brown clayey soil with a moderate density of small–medium chalk and grit, charcoal flecks together with increasing quantities of building debris in the form of limestone roof slates, faced flint blocks, clay roof tile and mortar fragments (3), (2), (1) = L362.

F690 E720720

Length: 2.6 m Width: top 1.6 m, base 1.0 m Depth: 0.9 m

This elongated sub-oval hollow was cut into the top of ditches F672 and F700 at their junction. The sides sloped at an angle of about 45°, but became slightly steeper around the north-east side, where it also shelved down into a deeper conical base. This may be some sort of recut of the ditch, but it is very small and confined in area in comparison.

The fill consisted of a lowest layer of greyish brown clayey soil with darker mottling from ash and charcoal and much occupation debris. On the base of the cone were large limestone roof slates placed flat and also on the west side was a concentration of roof slates, building stone and flints and eroded clay lenses at the side (2). Around the north side were limestone roof slates lying at a steep angle against the sides in an eroded mix of clay and soil from the ditch fill (3). Equivalent to the eroded lenses interleaving with (2). Within the fill was a deposit of a large fragment of almost half a pot.

Across the top was a mixed dark brown clayey soil with small chalk and grit containing frequent limestone roof slates, also pennant sandstone fragments, and occasional groups of large flints *c*.250 mm close to and deriving from the adjacent wall, together with much artefactual and occupation debris (1). This is a mixture of deliberate tips of rubbish and material eroded or collapsed off the adjacent aisled hall.

F700 E690710–E708722

Length: 3.2 m Width: top 1.5 m, base 0.12–0.2 m Depth: 0.86 m

This section of ditch had a V-shaped profile with a narrow flat base and straight steeply sloping sides. It was uneroded, but the profile was asymmetric the sides being steeper on the south-east at an angle of about 70° compared to about 50° on the north-west. It has a rounded terminal at the south-west end.

This section of ditch appears to be a continuation of F672 as it turns to run alongside the aisled hall for a few metres. However it is slightly smaller and may indicate that the ditch was recut and in one phase possibly stopped as a butt end against the wall of the hall and in another phase turned.

Fill: (3) The base was filled with a very compact yellowish brown clay with a greyish tinge containing a high density of chalk grit and small subrounded chalk fragments. There were also infrequent broken flints and limestone slates.

(2) Above was a fairly well compacted yellowish brown clay soil also containing a high density of small chalk and grit, densest on the south-east side, together with scattered broken flint nodules 70–120 mm and fragments of limestone roof slates.

(1) Infilling the upper half were large flint nodules 150–250 mm, broken limestone roof slates 120–200 mm, plus small fragments of limestone and clay tile in a matrix of yellow clayey soil with a high density of small subrounded chalk and grit. Across the top was a grey ashy lens with some charcoal and much chalk and tile grit.

F710 E980400

Length exposed: 5.5 m; excavated 4.0 m Depth: 0.98 m
Width: top: 1.25–1.3 m, base: 0.15 m

This ditch has a narrow V-shaped profile with a flat base and steeply sloping sides splaying out slightly towards the top, accounted for by slight erosion of the upper edges.

The fill consisted almost entirely of naturally formed deposits. In the base was a sticky orange brown clay containing a little small weathered chalk (5), forming a layer of primary weathering of clay from the lip of the ditch. Above this was a slightly more substantial layer of subangular chalk shatter up to 60 mm with occasional flints in a matrix of brown silty clay and chalk grit (4). Infilling the central third of the ditch and forming the secondary fill was a thick layer of light brown silty clay (3) containing a moderate density of subrounded chalk up to 30 mm and rare flints, charcoal fragments and potsherds. Forming the tertiary fill in the top of the ditch was a light brown clayey soil (2) with a moderate density of small and medium subangular chalk, plus occasional charcoal fragments. A lens of small chalk fragments demarcated the base of the layer. In the very top of the ditch was a deliberate tip of dark grey ash and burnt flints with flecks of chalk and burnt clay (1).

F722 E360525

Length: 2 m excavated Depth: phase 1 – 1.1–1.14 m; phase 2 – 1.16–1.24 m
Base width: phase 1 – > 0.6 m; phase 2 – 0.5–0.6 m Top width: phase 2 – 3.44 m

This ditch had a V-shaped profile with a wide flat base and sloping sides at an angle of about 50°, in the early phase, but at a gentler angle of about 40° in the later phase. The north-west side in both phases was not quite as steep as the south-east.

The later phase ditch (phase 2) had removed almost all trace of the early phase except for its base and some of its fill in the basal angle on the east side.

The fill of the early ditch survived in the eastern basal angle. On the base was a yellowish brown clayey silt with small chalk grit (6), over which lay a yellowish brown silty clay (5) containing much chalk grit and eroded lenses of small weathered chalk fragments. These layers formed the lowest section of the primary fill; all later fill had been removed by the recut second phase ditch.

Covering the base was a primary fill of yellowish brown clayey silt with chalk grit and small chalk fragments (4), becoming chalkier to the north, which had eroded from the ditch sides. Over this were further eroded deposits of angular–subangular chalk flints 60–100 mm in a yellowish brown silt-clay matrix (2). In the hollow formed by these deposits was a deliberate tip of large angular broken flint nodules, limestone roof tiles and large animal bones in a yellowish brown clayey soil matrix (3). The large quantity of animal bone may have been articulated, possibly forming a special deposit in the ditch. The upper half of the ditch was filled by a very thick homogeneous dark brown humic clayey soil (1) containing a low density of small chalk, scattered flints and stone roof tiles. This is probably a natural accumulation of soil formed over a long period of time.

F679/F680 E673434–E450480

Length exposed: 23 m; *c*.70% excavated Depth: 0.83 m (E) – 1.25 m (W)
Width: top – 1.5 m (E) – 3.15 m (W); base – 0.32–0.46 m

The ditch has a flat base and straight sloping sides at an angle of about 45°, where this has not been removed by later quarrying. Much of the upper part has been truncated by quarrying, but some evidence of erosion of the sides survives in places.

General summary of fill

In the western half of the ditch there was a small initial layer of eroded silt and clay on the base or weathered small chalk. Above this and filling the lowest quarter-third of the ditch throughout its length was a mainly natural accumulation of material eroded from the ditch sides – chalky clay, shattered or weathered chalk, soil washes or mixtures of these. Rarely was there much evidence of deliberate activity or tips.

In many sections the fill above this was truncated by quarries, but elsewhere it was dominated by deliberate infill in some areas, natural in others, or a mix of these.

The upper fill nearly always consisted of deliberate tips of soil, occupation debris or chalk spreads. Similar deposits occurred both over the quarries and truncated ditch suggesting the same infilling episode applied to both features. For most of its exposed length the ditch was sealed by a layer of collapsed building debris from the aisled hall (361)/(391).

Cutting 8 Sections 1 and 2

Width: top – 3.15–2.8 m; base – 0.35–0.6 m Depth: 1.15–1.19 m

At this point the ditch had a wide V-shaped profile with gently to moderately sloping sides at an angle of 35°–50°, merging into a dished/flat base. The profile is slightly asymmetric, which may suggest the ditch had been recut.

The fill:
B° (6) – (418) On the base of section 2 was a thin brown clayey silt [primary silt].
1° (5) This was overlain by weathered or eroded chalk 10–50 mm in brown silty clay extending along the whole cutting.
(4) – (414) Yellowish brown clay silt containing a low density of chalk grit, small weathered chalk fragments and rare angular flints *c*.30 mm may represent the primary deposits in the recut ditch and probably eroded from the upper edge, where cut through natural clay. [Phase: Roman]
2° (3) – (413) Brown clayey silt containing a moderate density of subangular chalk up to 40 mm, occasional angular flints 60–140 mm with chalkier tip lines and a lens of charcoal infilled the central third of the ditch. [Phase: Roman]
3° (2) – (410) Very pale brown chalky clayey silt mixed with subrounded chalk 10–40 mm and grit, scattered angular flints 30–80 mm filled the upper third of the ditch in section 1, but thinned eastwards and in section 2 was overlain by L409. [Phase: Roman]
(1) – (409) A brown clayey soil containing a low density of small subangular chalk, plus occasional flint nodules, limestone roof slates and oyster shell.

Across the top of the ditch was a spread of building debris, not differentiated from 409, consisting of faced flint nodules, large slabs of limestone roof slates, oyster shell and occupation debris.

Cutting 1 Sections C and D

Width: top – *c*.2.45 m; base – 0.35–0.4 m Depth: 1.15–1.25 m

Most of the upper profile has been truncated by quarrying (F696, F697, F698). The base is flat or slightly dished with rounded angles to the walls, which slope at an angle of about 45°–50° and are generally straight. The ditch had probably not completely filled prior to quarrying.

B° (400) Over the base was a primary layer of eroded small weathered chalk mixed with orange brown clay.
1° (375) Over this was an eroded layer of angular chalk rubble 10–50 mm set in light orange brown silty clay soil, plus occasional flints *c*.30 mm; towards the west (section 3) frequent charcoal fragments up to 40 mm occurred, some forming distinct thin tip lines. [Phase: 1st–2nd cent. AD]

The layers above this infilled both the ditch and areas of adjacent quarrying and are technically part of the quarry fill. It is probable that quarrying of the ditch edge commenced before the ditch had filled much beyond that recorded above, suggesting little if any fill had been truncated.

Cutting 4 Sections 5 and 6

Width: top – not preserved; base – 0.25–0.34 m Depth: 0.98–1.07 m

The base was flat or slightly dished and sides straight and moderately sloping, cut away in the upper half by quarrying. The upper half to two-thirds had been removed by later quarrying. On the south side where the sides were apparently unaffected or less so by quarrying, they appear to splay out more suggesting erosion of the upper edges.

B° (405) On the base was an orange brown clayey soil containing a moderate density of subangular chalk up to 30 mm and grit, rare large stones 40–90 mm including some flints, which eroded from the top edges of the ditch.
1° (404) Above infilling the lower third of the ditch was subangular chalk mostly 10–40 mm and grit in a matrix of light yellowish brown clay with occasional small angular flints; the chalk increased in density eastwards.

The layers above this infill both the later quarries and the upper half of the ditch.

Cutting 3 Section 7

Width: top – 1.93 m; base – 0.25 m Depth: 0.99 m

The ditch at this point had a flat base with even sloping sides, steeper on the north than the south and showing little sign of erosion.

1°–2° (381) Filling the lower half of the ditch was an orange brown silty clay soil containing chalk grit in the lowest lens, above this a more rubbly loose packed lens of angular chalk mostly 20–40 mm, but up to 80 mm with occasional flints up to 120 mm; finally there was a more soily layer with the top defined by a lens of chalk and flints similar to the lower one. These layers were probably a combination of eroded material and deliberate tips. [Phase: early 2nd cent. AD]

2° (380) Across the middle of the ditch was a deliberate tip of occupation debris consisting of dark grey ash with flecks and fragments of charcoal up to 20 mm and much artefactual material especially pottery, animal bone, oyster shell and burnt flint. [Phase: AD 240+, but much 2nd cent. AD material.]

3° (379) In the top of the ditch was a loose grey clayey silt soil containing a moderate density of chalk grit and in the upper half frequent stones including chalk 10–50 mm, flints up to 80 mm and fragments of limestone roof slate 40–110 mm, together with occasional pottery and charcoal. [Phase: AD270+, but much 1st–early 2nd cent. AD material.]

(378) Sealing the top of the ditch was a layer of angular chalk fragments up to 50 mm trampled into a light chalky clay soil matrix mixed with much chalk grit. [Phase: 2nd–3rd cent. AD]

Cutting 2 *Section 8*

Width: top – not preserved; base – 0.2 m Depth: 0.84 m

The ditch had a rounded base curving continuously into sloping sides, somewhat steeper on the south and rather uneven on the north. The upper part had been truncated by quarries, F684 and F685.

1° (395) In the lowest third of the ditch was a layer of light brown clayey soil containing a moderate to high quantity of angular chalk 10–50 mm and grit.

Cutting 7 *Section 9*

Width: top – *c.*1.5 m; base – 0.3 m Depth: 0.83 m

The base is flat but slightly irregular with straight sloping sides at an angle of about 45°–50°. The fill was excavated as a single layer (395), but from the section drawing can be subdivided.

1° Light brown clayey soil containing a moderate density of chalk grit and angular fragments 30–70 mm.

2° Light brown clayey soil alternating with stonier lenses – in the middle large flints 100–120 mm, limestone fragments and bone and defining its top a compact lens of chalk grit.

3° Filling the upper half of the ditch was a light brown clayey soil with chalk grit and a moderate density of angular chalk fragments 10–40 mm, flints up to 120 mm, together with scattered bone, pottery, shell and charcoal.

F746 Tr 3 K600500 Ditch Enclosure Unex

Diameter: *c.*15.5 m Width: 3.00 m Base: ~ Depth: ~ Isolated

Description: A circular or horseshoe-shaped enclosure ditch as revealed on the geophysical surveys. Only a two metre wide strip was exposed in the excavation and only a little of the top fill was removed to define it and expose the upper edges sloping at a shallow angle.

Fill: Only part of the upper fill was excavated to a depth of 0.2 m. This was a dark brown clayey soil containing a high density of chalk grit and small pieces up to 40 mm size. Towards the centre of the ditch were a number of large angular flints *c.*120 mm plus occasional burnt limestone roof slate fragments, clay tile and pottery. A tip of ash and burnt stone was observed within the layer towards the west and a tip of yellowish clay marl by the north-east edge.

F749 and **F756** Tr 3 K809414–K908383–K830405 Ditch Linear

	F749 (west) = F756		F749 (east)
Length:	8.50 m	13 m	10 m
Width:	1.16–1.6 m	0.68 –0.82 m	1.12–1.6 m
Base:	0.56–0.7 m	~	0.52–0.68 m
Depth:	0.76–0.97 m	~	0.98–1.0 m

Rels: Cut by ph 1093, ph1140, F748, F750/F751, F773, F776 Aligned: WNW–ESE

Description: Two cuttings (*c.*40%) were excavated fully in the east section of the ditch and the top 0.2 m of the cutting exposing its terminal. Three cuttings roughly totalling 6 m in length were excavated in the western section of F749 (*c.*70%). F756, which formed the west end of F749 beyond the intervening quarry F748 was not excavated at all. The ditch divided into two parts with the two terminals separated by an intervening baulk of unexcavated chalk natural 0.5 m wide. The western terminal was fully excavated and proved to be square cut and rectangular in shape at the base but becoming slightly more rounded to the top. The eastern terminal was similar in character at the top, but was not fully excavated. Throughout the lengths both parts remained very similar in size and profile. Both had wide flat bases sharply angled to steep straight near vertical sides (*c.*85°) splaying out only very slightly close to the top edges to *c.*60° on average.

Fill of eastern length (cuttings 1–5):

1° 2/4 In the more easterly cutting the lowest fill was a dark brown soil containing scattered angular flints 20–50 mm and charcoal and a high density of chalk grit with occasional larger blocks up to 40 mm concentrating into chalkier horizons [natural silting with some eroded weathered chalk].

4/6 Similar fill continued westwards becoming more clayey and with a lower density of chalk.

4/5 Above this was a deliberate tip of charcoal fragments forming a thin lens over a dump of daub mixed with ash.

2° 2/3 Natural weathering and silting continued with the accumulation of light brown silty soil containing a high density of coarse chalk grit with rare blocks up to 50 mm, mostly concentrated in chalkier horizons.

4/4 Westwards there was more variation: the brown clayey soil ranged from very low densities of chalk concentrated as a few small lenses to much higher densities dominating the layer as thick lenses, subangular chalk grit and small fragments with larger rubble, mainly angular flints 80–120 mm, rolled to the centre of the layer.

3° 2/2 The upper fill comprised layers of brown silty soil containing a moderate density of chalk mostly grit but with blocks up to 90 mm with increasing chalk and flint rubble 60–80 mm, occupation debris and charcoal towards the west end of the cutting. Above the soil (2/1) was darker with a much lower density of stones apart from a stony horizon of chalk rubble and grit across the surface.

4/3 In the westerly cutting a light brown silty soil mixed with a high density of chalk grit interleaved with distinct lenses of small subangular chalk fragments 5–25 mm with larger flint rubble up to 120 mm dominating the centre. Above similar deposits continued (4/2) followed finally by deposit in the hollow in the top of the ditch fill of brownish grey silty soil (4/1), with further distinct horizons of angular chalk up to 25 mm with larger chalk and flint rubble up to 150 mm sparsely scattered towards the base of the layer.

Fill of western length (cuttings 6–11):

1° Close to the terminal on the ditch base was a thin layer of orange brown clay with small chalk and grit (6/6), but elsewhere the sequence started with subrounded chalk and grit up to 50 mm in a matrix of pale brown chalky clay silt (8/6, 10/6) and equivalent to a similar chalk layer (6/5) over the initial clay layer in the terminal. Over these deposits was a more mixed layer varying from dark brown clay to lighter brown clayey silt containing moderate densities of small subrounded–subangular chalk up to 50 mm and grit plus rare angular flints up to 90 mm (6/4, 8/5, 10/5). Near the terminal this layer contained a tip of ash and charcoal. [All of these layers developed as a result of natural weathering of the ditch sides with the chalk weathering first in general followed by collapse of clay or clayey soil along the lip of the ditch.]

2° The secondary fill was more varied with some parts exhibiting clear cut layers of dark brown clay with little chalk and flint (8/4) alternating with distinct horizons of weathered small chalk and grit with some larger blocks of chalk and flint rolled to the centre in a light brown silty clay matrix (8/3). Elsewhere lenses were more diffuse and the layers more mixed, sometimes with the addition of deliberate tips of burnt debris (6/3) within them. In cutting 10 there were well defined thin lenses of small weathered chalk and grit separated by horizons of light brown silty clay (10/4, 10/3). Probably at the base of 10/3 in one of the soily horizons had been placed a special deposit of a ?cattle mandible and pelvis placed close together in the centre of the ditch with some blocks of chalk 50–80 mm and large potsherds packed around and between them.

3° The upper ditch fill was dominated by thick accumulations of brown or orange brown clayey silty soil containing low densities of small stones, either chalk or flint, up to 30 mm and sparse examples of charcoal or burnt flint (6/2, 8/2, 10/2). The topmost layer was generally similar but with greater concentrations of subangular stones, chalk and flint, some burnt, up to 60 mm (6/1, 8/1, 10/1). In cutting 10 a special deposit of a complete dog skeleton had been placed stretched out along the south side. Superficially it appeared to lie in layer 1, but in the section drawing the skull appeared to be at the interface of layers 2 and 3 and as the body was recorded as being lower than the skull it is likely it was placed on the sloping surface of layer 3 and covered by 2.

F750 Tr 3 K826362–K783450 Ditch Linear – Enclosure

Length: within excavation – 9.70 m; total 20 m Width: 1.7 m Base: 0.25–0.36 m
Depth: 0.73–0.85 m
Rels: s.a. F751 Cuts F749 Cut by F774, F762, F773

Description: A continuous six metre length was excavated leaving the southernmost cutting and the north end up to the corner with F751 unexcavated. The ditch had a wide V-shaped profile with a wide flat base and even sloping sides of 50° to the base with little or no erosion in evidence. The ditch was aligned NW–SE and at the north end formed a right angled corner with F751, which was continuous with it. Pottery dated from the first to third century AD, including one New Forest colour coated sherd dated to AD 270+.

Fill: **1°** 2/8 Over the base at the south end was a compact light brown silt containing a low density of small sub-angular/-rounded chalk and grit up to 30 mm and rare charcoal flecks. Northwards this was equivalent to 2/3, a compact light brown silt with much chalk grit and moderate amounts of larger chalk up to 30 mm plus occasional flints forming stonier horizons.

4/7 This became a dark brown clayey silty soil containing frequent chalk up to 35 mm, rare small angular flints and charcoal fragments at the northern extent. [Natural silting and erosion.]

2° 2/7 Reddish brown silty soil containing a moderate density of subangular chalk up to 30 mm and small angular flints forming some diffuse stonier horizons. In the central section of the ditch there appears to have been a phase of quarrying (F774) between the secondary and tertiary fills.

4/6 To the north the fill was less stony being a very pale brown chalky silty soil with moderate densities of chalk, mostly coarse grit, less commonly up to 30 mm and rare angular flints 20–60 mm plus occasional charcoal.

3° 2/6 In the upper half of the ditch there was a brown silty soil containing subangular chalk *c*.20 mm and grit with rare burnt chalk and charcoal flecks.

4/5 Northwards this became paler in colour containing a high density of chalk grit with scattered small chalk 10–30 mm, rare angular flints 80–180 mm in the base of the layer and occasional charcoal.

F751 Tr 3 K783450–K600360 Ditch Linear – Enclosure

Length: within excavation – 22.0 m; total – 30 m Width: 1.65 m Base: 0.2–0.4 m
Depth: 0.72–0.78 m
Rels: Cut by F771, F776, ?F748 s.a. F750 Cut F749 Below L442, F773

Description: Two 2-m long cuttings were excavated across this ditch (*c*.18% of the length within the excavation). It had a V-shaped profile with a wide flat or slightly dished base and straight sloping sides at an angle of 50°–60° splaying out in the upper half to 40°. Pottery dated from the first to fourth century AD.

Fill: **1°** 2/4 and 4/3 Light–medium orange brown silty clay soil contained a moderate density of subangular chalk 20–30 mm, some forming diffuse lenses, and scattered subangular flints 20–40 mm and rare charcoal. [Primary soil accumulation and weathering.]

2° 2/5 and 4/2 Light brown–orange brown silty clayey soil contained variable amounts of chalk tending to increase westwards; the subangular chalk was mostly 10–30 mm and grit, but some up to 70 mm and mixed with occasional subangular flints *c*.20 mm and charcoal fragments. [Mix of deliberate tips.]

3° 4/1 Genuine ditch fill only survived in the west cutting [4] not further east where quarrying had taken place. The fill comprised light brown silty soil virtually stone-free in its upper horizon [natural soil development] which was separated by a thin lens of small angular

flints and subangular chalk 10–40 mm [?result of worm sorting of soil horizon above] from the lowest soily horizon containing frequent charcoal and other occupation debris [deliberate tip].

F762 Tr 3 K838364–K818404 Ditch Linear – Drainage

Length: 4.90 m Width: 1.00 m Base: ~ Depth: 0.41 m
Rels: Cuts F750 Cut by F773

Description: The ditch runs straight from the south-west corner of building 4 on a SSE–NNW alignment. Its full length is not revealed in the geophysical survey, apparently masked by F750. It possibly functioned as a drainage ditch to take run-off from building 4. It had a wide V-shaped profile with rounded dished base and splayed sides sloping at an angle of *c.*40°. The ditch terminal at its north end by the corner of building 4 was rounded and seemingly narrower and shallower than most of the ditch, possibly because of greater truncation here by F773. Pottery from the ditch was dated to the third century AD.

Fill: (2) Brown silty soil containing subangular chalk 10–20 mm and grit in moderate density plus occasional small flints 10–25 mm. Towards the south end some slabs of limestone roof slates 50–80 mm were visible towards the lower half of the fill. [Natural silting without erosion of ditch sides.]

F766 Tr 4 L019734–L100700 Ditch Banjo enclosure

Length: 15.00 m Width: 1.30 m Base: 0.25–0.5 m Depth: 0.7–1.18 m
Rels: Uncertain with F767, F814 Cut by ph 1122–1125; F797, F788

Description: Three 2-m wide cuttings were excavated across the ditch, one of which exposed the ditch's east terminal. Though there was some variation along its length, the basic profile was V-shaped with a narrow flat base and steep, in places near vertical sides (*c.*70°–85°) with the sides splaying out in the upper half at angles of 50°–70°.

Fill: There was considerable variation along the length of the ditch and each cutting is described separately.
Cutting 3: The primary fill was a chalky brown clayey soil (6) containing a moderate density of subangular chalk up to 50 mm, scattered angular flints 10–40 mm and rare charcoal. Above this the secondary fill consisted of deliberately placed layers of brown or greyish brown silty soil with ashy lenses and prolific of charcoal together with moderate densities of small rounded chalk and grit, a few small angular flints and some red baked clay (5, 3). Within these layers had been placed a series of special deposits consisting mainly of animal mandibles and skull fragments, long bones (much of it cattle/horse size) and many large sherds of broken pottery, representing at least three broken pots. These deposits appeared to be confined largely to this cutting covering a length of about 1.65 m. Above this the tertiary fill began with a fairly thin layer of chalk grit and light brown marl containing a few larger pieces of chalk and flint *c.*20 mm and scattered charcoal. This could represent erosion from the ditch sides or possibly herald the start of quarrying with waste debris dumped in the partly filled ditch. Where the ditch had not been truncated by quarrying the remainder was filled with a thick layer of greyish brown soil containing a moderate density of chalk up to 30 mm

plus occasional burnt chalk, small flints and charcoal flecks.
Cutting 5: Only the primary and part of the secondary fill survived, as the upper half of the ditch was completely truncated by quarrying (F788). On the base at the east end of the cutting was a layer of chalk blocks 10–40 mm mixed with light brown chalky marl with some darker brown clay patches and rare small flints (5). Forming the bulk of the primary fill was a brown chalky clayey silt containing a moderate–low density of small chalk up to 25 mm and grit plus a scatter of angular flints 20–80 mm (4). Above this the secondary fill was represented by a mixed layer of chalk grit and marl with frequent subangular chalk up to 40 mm, sparse flint, charcoal fragments and some pottery (3). This layer is possibly associated with the start of quarrying and may represent waste debris (possibly equivalent to 3/4).
Cutting 8: In the base was a fairly thick layer of compact dark brown clayey silt containing frequent subangular chalk 5–25 mm plus a few small flints (5). This was followed by a fairly thick layer of greyish brown clayey soil containing a high density of subangular chalk 5–25 mm, frequent flints *c*.40 mm together with some occupation debris in the form of charcoal and bone. Above the secondary fill was represented by an orange brown clayey soil containing a moderate density of subangular/subrounded chalk up to 50 mm and frequent grit plus occasional small flints *c*.20 mm and scattered charcoal (3). Any ditch fill above this had been truncated by the quarry F814.

F775 Tr 4 L233692–L286615 Ditch Linear

Length: 9.70 m Width: 0.7–1.04 m Base: 0.28–0.42 m Depth: 0.52–0.75
Rels: Cut by F807, F802 Aligned: NW–SE

Description: The ditch had a flat or very slightly dished base; rounded hollows at its north end were probably natural irregularities in the chalk, possibly the base of involutions excavated with the ditch fill. The sides were steep or near vertical (80°–85°) in the lower half, but widening and splaying out in the upper half to an angle of 50°–65°. This was largely a result of natural erosion, but defining the ditch sides was very difficult because of the similarity of the fill to the adjacent natural. The north terminal lay within the excavation at a distance of 7.5 m from the terminal of F815, with which it may have been contemporary. The terminal took the form of a simple rounded end. The ditch was cut through pockets of clay along its lip, chalky clay marl for most of its depth with solid chalk only in the base.

Fill: There was a fair consistency of fill along its length, especially for the lower layers. the numbering of the separate cuttings is correlated on the accompanying matrix.
1° The lowest layer over the base of the ditch was a thin brown clayey soil containing a moderate density of chalk grit and small subrounded chalk up to 25 mm and rare flints *c*.20 mm. Very occasionally larger flints up to 100 mm, burnt flints or blocks of marl were noted (2/5, 4/4, 5/3). Above this was another fairly thin layer composed of light brown or yellowish brown clayey chalk marl containing varying density of chalk grit, subangular chalk *c*.20 mm and occasional angular flints 30–70 mm (2/4, 4/3, 5/2). In the terminal this twofold division was not obvious and the lower half was filled with a clayey soil with small chalk and flints containing diffuse lenses of marl. [Both these layers represent natural erosion from the ditch sides – initially from the clay pockets or clay soil at the lip of the ditch, followed by erosion of the marl-filled involutions: variations along the length of the ditch reflected localized changes in the geology.]
2° In the southerly cuttings there then accumulated a layer of brownish grey clayey silty soil (4/2) containing a moderately high density of chalk grit with lesser amounts of

subangular–subrounded chalk 10–30 mm plus occasional subangular flints 20–40 mm, some burnt and blocks of marl. A similar deposit occurred to the north (2/3), but contained more chalk and flint *c*.20–50 mm giving a loose rubbly texture in the centre as well as there being a tip of tightly packed subangular chalk 50–60 mm at the top of the horizon. Above this was a tip of dark brown silty clay soil mixed with chalk grit and containing scattered burnt debris including burnt chalk, fired orange clay grit, charcoal fragments and grey ashy mottles (2/2, 1/2).

3° At the north end the fill was similar to the preceding tips consisting of greyish brown clayey soil with frequent chalk grit, scattered small subrounded chalk, some burnt, 10–40 mm, sparse angular flints 30–60 mm and frequent artefacts or in the terminal more burnt debris as noted above (2/1, 1/2). At the south end the fill was basically similar but without the occupation debris apart from sporadic burnt flints and charcoal fragments (3/1, 4/1).

F815 Tr 4 L100600–L000600 Ditch Linear

Length: 14.40 m Width: 0.45–0.75 m Base: 0.2–0.3 m Depth: 0.29–0.32 m; cutting 2 – 0.56 m
Rels: Cut by ph 1121, F802, F808, F789, F786

Description: Straight linear small ditch aligned WNW–ESE, the eastern terminal lying within the excavation. It was flat bottomed with steeply sloping sides. The terminal was straight cut and rectangular at its base, but rounded at the top. There was a gap of 7 m between the terminal and that of F775, with which it may have been contemporary.

Fill: The fill remained consistent throughout its length (cuttings 1–6), except for that in the terminal, which is described separately. In the lower half was a layer of brown clayey soil (2) containing a low density of small chalk, mostly grit but some larger pieces up to 20 mm and angular flints *c*.20 mm occasionally burnt. Above this was a stonier layer of brown clayey soil (1) containing a moderate density of sub-angular/-rounded chalk 10–20 mm and much grit plus frequent angular flints 10–60 mm. Over cutting 2 (unexcavated) was a layer of burnt flints and charcoal, recorded as F786.

In the terminal (F815/7) the lowest half was filled with a horizontal layer of brown very clayey soil (3) containing a low density of chalk grit and scattered angular flints 20–100 mm, some burnt. (This could be equivalent to layer 2 in the other cuttings, though it was generally more clayey.) Overlying this was a deliberate tip of dark grey ash (2) with fine black mottling from charcoal flecks. It contained orange baked clay grit and chalk grit and rare angular flints 10–40 mm and subrounded chalk *c*.30 mm. It had been spread as a horizontal layer ending a short distance from the ditch terminal. Above this also deliberately laid horizontally was a spread of subangular chalk rubble (1)10–80 mm tightly packed in a matrix of chalk grit and yellowish brown soily clay. Over the top of the cutting was a brown clayey soil containing a high density of chalk grit and a few subangular flints up to 30 mm plus a few blocks of chalk marl. Over the terminal this had been burnt red *in situ* by a later hearth (F789).