

1.4 The southern rectangular enclosure

Ditch F1063

F1063 A940710–A620564 Enclosure ditch Phase: Roman
Below L722, L736 Cuts L724, F1071, F1166

Length: 40 m Width: top – 1.48–1.95 m; base – 0.3–0.55 m Depth: 0.77–1.1 m

Description: Length of linear ditch which forms the north-west side of a rectilinear enclosure lying to the south of the villa. This length is aligned roughly NNE–SSW for most of its length, but at the north end turns to run NNW for the last 10 m ending in a rounded terminal. In general the ditch had a V-shaped profile with a narrow flat base. A total of five 2 m wide cuttings at intervals of 2 m, 4 m and 8 m.

Cutting 1 Width: top – 1.48–1.63 m; base – 0.36 m Depth: 0.95 m

Fill: {1°} (4) Primary fill across the base and running up the ditch sides of pale brown clayey soil mixed with a high density of weathered chalk up to 50 mm and grit together with occasional broken flints and nodules up to 80 mm. [Natural erosion products.]

(5) Very dark brown clayey loam soil containing subangular-rounded chalk 10–40 mm and occasional small flints up to 60 mm. This layer occurred across the base and up the north side only adjacent to F1071. [Natural erosion of fill of F1071, cut by ditch.]

{2°} (3) A thick deposit (0.3–0.5 m) of orange-brown/dark greyish-brown compact clayey soil mixed with a high density of broken flints and flint nodules 20–250 mm in size. Subangular-rounded chalk up to 40 mm and grit was sparse. A moderate quantity of occupation debris in the form of pottery, Fe objects, slag, burnt flint and charcoal was scattered throughout the deposit. [Deliberate infill of flint rubble and occupation debris.]
Small finds: 3310 Iron rod.

{3°} (2) Dark brown clayey soil, mottled orange and grey containing an uneven scatter of rounded chalk 10–20 mm, broken flints 20–60 mm and occasional flint nodules up to 120 mm plus a moderate density of burnt debris in the form of charcoal, burnt flints, slag and fired orange clay and a scatter of other occupation debris (pottery, bone, Fe objects). [Deliberate tip of occupation debris.]
Small finds: 3213 Iron strip.

(1) Filling the uppermost hollow was a compact brown clayey soil containing a low density of subangular chalk 10–40 mm, sparse angular flint 30–50 mm, rarely up to 120 mm and very little occupation material. [Deliberate infill of freshly quarried stony soil to level ditch top.]
Small finds: 3250, 3251 Flint tools; 3237 Iron tool.

Samples: /1 (1) 4100 Slag; (2) 4101 Slag; 4068 Soil; (3) 4105 Slag.

Cutting 2 Width: top – 1.65–1.95 m; base – 0.3–0.55 m Depth: 0.98 m

The layering in the two sections is not exactly the same and so the numbering was not always equivalent. The section letter is added after the layer number where necessary for clarity.

Fill: {1°} (4)C On the base and sloping up the west side was a layer of subangular chalk up to 30 mm and grit in a matrix of sticky brown clay soil. This occurred at the west end of the cutting, but did not extend the full length. [Natural erosion from ditch sides and lip.]

(4) Overlying the base at the east end was a layer of subangular-rounded chalk up to 50 mm and flint nodules 50–130 mm in a brown clay soil. There was a distinct chalky tip line demarcating the top of this layer sloping down the north-west side. [Deliberate tip thrown in from the north-west side.]
Samples: /2 (4) 4115 Slag.

{2°} (3) Compact dark brown clay soil containing sparse subangular chalk up to 40 mm and moderate quantity of broken flints 20–100 mm, some burnt and rare nodules up to 120 mm, plus a few charcoal flecks. The layer appears to slope down from north to south along the

length of the ditch. [Deliberate tip thrown in from the north-west side, as it extends further up this side of the ditch.]

{3°} (2) Light brown clayey soil containing a high density of chalk grit and small rounded pieces up to 25 mm; there were occasional larger chalk blocks up to 90 mm and flints up to 70 mm, plus occasional charcoal flecks. [Deliberate tip of chalky soil infilling much of the upper part of the ditch for some distance visible in the unexcavated areas to either side of the cutting delineating the ditch.] Small finds: 3268 Ceramic pottery grafitto; 3252 Flint tool.

(1) Light brown clayey soil with fine crumb structure, containing a low density of subangular chalk and flints up to 25 mm, but with the flint increasing in density and size (30–70 mm) towards the north. [Natural soil and silt accumulation eroded into ditch top from surrounding soils.] Small finds: 3209 Copper alloy brooch fragment; 3254 Stone rotary quern fragment.

Cutting 3 Width: top – 1.55–1.85 m; base – 0.3–0.35 m Depth: 1.1 m

Fill: {1°} (4) In the ditch base and extending up the west side was a compact dark brown clay soil containing frequent subangular chalk mostly up to 30 mm and a low density of broken flints up to 70 mm. [Possibly soil and clay eroded from lip of ditch.]

{2°} (3) At the north end of the cutting there was a distinct tip sloping in from the west edge composed of chalk 10–50 mm with a few flints 30–80 mm, which had rolled to the lowest point against the east side of the ditch. Above this lens the main bulk of this layer was dark brown soil containing a moderate density of subangular chalk up to 50 mm and broken flints up to 50 mm, lumps of natural clay and occasional charcoal flecks. Small finds: 3219 Iron ?knife, 3220 Iron fragment, 3227 Iron object.

{3°} (2) Compact dark brown clay soil containing frequent charcoal flecks, occasional pottery and slag, a moderate density of broken flints 20–70 mm and a low density of subangular chalk up to 35 mm. [Deliberate tip of occupation debris.]

(1) Brown clayey soil with fine crumb structure containing a low density of chalk up to 20 mm and broken flints 25–30 mm, plus occasional charcoal flecks, pottery and slag. Small finds: 3214 Iron strip, 3215 Iron object, 3216 Iron bar; 3244 Whetstone.

Samples: /3 (1) 4109 Slag; (2) 4153 Charcoal; (2) 4110; (3) 4111 Slag; (4) 4116 Slag.

Cutting 4 (Terminal) Width: top – 1.85 m; base – 0.44 m Depth: 0.77 m (terminal) – 0.9 m

Fill: {1°} (4) Dark brown clayey soil containing a low density of subangular chalk 5–25 mm, some forming diffuse lenses or tip lines and angular flints 30–80 mm together with a few very large nodules one 350 x 250 mm. [Combination of natural silting from soil washed in from surface and erosion of fill of F1166.] Small finds: 3234 Iron tool; 3269 Whetstone.

{2°} (3) Compact dark brown clay soil containing frequent subangular chalk up to 25 mm and grit, evenly spread throughout and frequent angular flint and nodules up to 120 mm, plus a scatter of occupation debris including pottery, bone, burnt flint, slag and charcoal. This formed a horizontal layer lengthwise thinning towards the terminal. [Deliberate tip of occupation and rubbly soil.] Small finds: 3238 Iron object.

{3°} (2) Dark brown clayey soil containing a fairly low concentration of subangular chalk up to 30 mm and slightly more angular flint 20–80 mm, plus a scatter of charcoal, pottery and bone. [Probably a natural accumulation of soil washed in from surrounding surfaces.]

(1) = (722) Dark brown clayey soil containing a moderate density of angular flints 20–70 mm and some larger nodules, a very low density of chalk, mostly grit with a few pieces up to 30 mm, and sparse charcoal, fired clay flecks and burnt flints. [Natural soil accumulation.] Small finds: 3228, 3229 Iron fragments.

Samples: /4 (1) 4098 Slag; (2) 4102 Slag.

Cutting 5 Width: top – 1.68 m; base – 0.3–0.35 m Depth: 1.0 m

Fill: {1°} (3) Light brown fine clayey soil mixed with a very high density of chalk grit and small subangular-rounded chalk up to 80 mm and containing a few rare flints 50–100 mm. This filled the lower third of the ditch. [Largely a result of natural erosion of marl and weathered chalk exposed in the ditch sides.]

{2°} (2) Angular flints and flint nodules 40–200 mm, rarely up to 250 mm densely packed in a brown clayey soil with a low density of chalk grit and subangular chalk 10–60 mm. This almost fills the upper half of the ditch. [Deliberate dump of redeposited natural clay with flints and subsoil.] Samples: (2) 4103 Slag.

{3°} (1) Dense brown crumbly clay soil containing very sparse chalk and a low density of broken flints 30–70 mm and flint nodules 60–160 mm. The layer is very thin to the east thickening to the west. [Natural soil accumulation in top of ditch.]

Ditch F1082

F1082 B000700–B016602

Enclosure Ditch

Phase: Roman

Below L720, L721

Cut by F1066

Equivalent to F1063

Cuts F1109

Length: 11.1 m Width: top – 2.1 m; base – 0.3 m Depth: 0.85 m

Description: Linear ditch aligned WNW–ESE with a V-shaped profile sloping into a narrow flat base. The terminal at the north-west end appears to have been rounded but was seriously disturbed by badger runs and was difficult to trace through the fill of F1109. In addition F1066 had been cut to run into the end of the partly silted ditch to drain run-off away from the aisled hall.

Fill: *Cutting 1*/(3) Filling the base was an orange-brown clay soil containing a low density of rounded chalk up to 10 mm, occasionally 40 mm, rare flints *c.*40 mm and rare charcoal fragments. Small finds: 3303 Copper alloy fragment; 3264 Iron buckle, 3267 Iron object. Samples: 4107 Slag.

(1) Filling the upper half was a layer of orange-brown clayey soil containing a low density of rounded chalk grit and lumps up to 20 mm and frequent angular flints 30–70 mm, and rare burnt flints, fired clay fragments and charcoal. Small finds: 3275 Iron strip.

(2) Infilling the hollow in the ditch top along its south-west side was a brown clayey soil containing a low density of round chalk up to 10 mm, occasional angular flints 20–60 mm and occasional charcoal flecks.

Cutting 2/(4) Infilling the base was a brown clayey soil containing a moderate density of subrounded chalk *c.*5–30 mm and rare flints up to 50 mm.

(3) Orange-brown clayey soil containing a moderate-high density of rounded chalk 5–20 mm and frequent flint nodules and gravel 40–130 mm with rare fragments of fired clay and charcoal. The stone density decreased to the north-west end of the ditch. Samples: 4108 Slag.

(1) Infilling the upper part of the ditch was a brown clay soil containing a high density of subangular flints 20–100 mm and a moderate density of rounded chalk grit. [The lower layers may represent predominantly deliberate infill of the ditch.] Small finds: 3357 ?Whetstone fragment.

(2) This layer infilled a hollow in the fill along the west side of the ditch top. It was an orange/greyish-brown silty soil containing a moderate density of rounded chalk *c.*10 mm in size together with fewer flints *c.*25 mm. [Layer 2 in both cuttings may represent the silting of the hollow following recutting or clearance of the top of the ditch associated with the cutting of F1066.] The uppermost hollow across the whole ditch was filled by layer 721.

Stratigraphy

- 722** Soil and bone Phase: Uncertain
Relationships: Below 720 Above F1063
Equivalent to F1063/4 (1) and above 744
Description: Yellowish-brown silty clay soil with much bone. [Deliberate tip of bone.] This layer was observed during machining and though subsequently regarded as fill of F1063, it is somewhat different in character to the ditch fill and may in fact have been in the entrance to the enclosure rather than over the ditch itself representing the upper part of 744.
Small Finds: ~ Samples: 4079 Slag.
- 723** Subsoil Phase: Recent
Relationships: Below 720 Above natural
Description: Subsoil: no detailed description – however the ploughsoil overlay a much more clayey and flinty subsoil here compared to the south and west.
Primarily assigned so the finds from cleaning could be allocated to a broad area.
Small Finds: 3192, 3197 Copper alloy coins, 3198 Copper alloy object; 3248–9 Flint tool; 3199 Fe object, three Fe nails and one hobnail. Samples: 4080 Slag.
- 724** Subsoil Phase: Recent
Relationships: Below 720 Above 721, 722, 744–6
Description: Material from cleaning at interface of ploughsoil and subsoil: light orange-brown silty soil containing a low density of rounded chalk 10–30 mm and sparse broken flint 25–40 mm, plus scattered occupation debris including pottery and bone. [Natural subsoil.]
Primarily assigned so the finds from cleaning could be allocated to a broad area.
Small Finds: 3206 Copper alloy object, two Fe nails and one hobnail. Samples: 4081 Slag.
- 744** Yellow-brown silty soil Phase: Roman?
Relationships: Below 722, 724, Above 746
745
Description: Yellowish-brown silty clay soil contained a moderate quantity of flint 20–40 mm, rounded chalk 5–15 mm and frequent broken and degraded animal bone. [Deliberate tip of bone within soil accumulation in the entrance to the subrectangular enclosure.] The layer occurred in the narrow entrance area between ditches F1082 and F1063 of the subrectangular enclosure. Thickness: 0.15 m.
Small Finds: 3293 Fe object. Samples: 4089 Slag. Artefacts: ~
- 745** Chalk spread Phase: Roman?
Relationships: Below 724 Above 744
Description: Small crescent-shaped spread of subangular chalk rubble 10–40 mm in a matrix of yellowish-brown silty soil containing rare flints up to 40 mm. [Possibly a tip of material within an area of wear or disturbance in the entrance to the enclosure between ditches F1082 and F1063.] Covers an area 1.6 x 0.4 m. Thickness: 0.05 m.
Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~
- 746** Brown clay soil Phase: Roman
Relationships: Below 724, 745, Above natural
744
Description: Yellowish-brown silty clay soil containing a low density of small rounded chalk grit and occasional flint *c.*15 mm. [Probably natural deposits churned up and disturbed in

entrance to the enclosure.] Occurred in the narrow entrance area between ditches F1082 and F1063 of the subrectangular enclosure. It was exposed only in the base of the cutting excavated between the ditches. Thickness: 0.1 m.

Small Finds: ~ Samples: ~ Artefacts: ~