

## 1.9 Late graves

- F1064** A925806 Grave Phase: ?Late Roman/  
Saxon
- Below L720 Cuts L723, F1066  
Length: 1.4 m Width: 0.65 m Depth: 0.36–0.55 m  
Description: Subrectangular cut aligned E–W, with rounded ends and straight vertical sides. The central part of the burial was severely disturbed by badger runs following the base of the ditch F1066, superficially giving the impression that the ditch may have cut through and post-dated the grave.  
Fill: (1) The body had been laid on its left side with the head at the west end of the grave. The legs were flexed, the left more tightly than the right. The mandible, torso, arms and pelvis were all missing, as a result of the badger disturbance.  
Covering the skeleton and filling the grave was a greyish-brown silty soil containing a low density of chalk grit and small broken flints and rare charcoal fragments. Small finds: 3332 Iron object. Samples: 4104 Slag.
- F1065** A908820 Grave Phase: ?Late Roman  
Below L720 Cut by F1134, F1125 Cuts L723, ?F1066  
Length: >1.7 m Width: c.0.8 m Depth: 0.31 m  
Description: Subrectangular cut, aligned E–W, with a rounded corner on the south-east, but only part of the east and south edges survived in recognizable form. The grave was aligned E–W, but the west end had been entirely removed by nineteenth century disturbance (F1125). It lay 0.8 m to the west of F1064 and on the same alignment.  
Fill: (1) The body of an adult had been laid on its back with the head to the west end of the grave with the lower arms folded across the lower torso. The skeleton survived from the waist down with the lower arms, a few of the lower vertebrae, pelvis and both legs extended. A copper alloy buckle was found close to the pelvis, probably from a belt round the waist. Small finds: 3295 Copper alloy buckle; 3259 Iron object.  
(729) Covering the body was a deposit of stone rubble, predominantly flint nodules 90–180 mm together with broken limestone roof slabs 120–300 mm and a fragment of red sandstone 100 mm were set in a matrix of greyish-brown silty soil containing rounded chalk grit and rare fragments of red fired clay.
- F1072** A925796 Grave Phase: ?Late Roman/  
Saxon
- Below L720 Cuts L723, F1066  
Length: 1.38 m Width: 0.48 m Depth: 0.37 m  
Description: Subrectangular cut aligned E–W with sloping rounded ends and straight vertical sides. It lay parallel to F1064, slightly offset about 0.5 m to the south. Though this grave only cuts the southern edge of F1066, the skeleton was very fragmentary, also disturbed by the badger runs.  
Fill: (1) The body appeared to have been laid on its left side, with the head placed at the west end and with legs slightly flexed. The skeleton was very fragmentary with most of the right arm present, the lower half of the left arm, one clavicle, part of the sacrum and several leg bones. The skull and bulk of the thorax is missing. On site the skeleton was thought to be that of a child of about 5 years age.  
Covering the skeleton was a greyish-brown silty soil containing a low-moderate density of rounded chalk and grit up to 15 mm, plus a few flints 15–30 mm. Small finds: 3239 Iron object.

**F1099** A750931

Brick structure/Grave

Phase: sub-  
Roman/Georgian

Below L732, L741

Cuts L773, F1144, F1153

Cut feature: Length: 2.0 m Width: 0.8 m Depth: 0.12 m

Brick structure: Length: 1.8 m Width: 0.74–0.24 m

Description: This feature comprises the original grave and possibly an earlier cut and the later Georgian surround. The base of the grave cut or earlier feature survived as a subrectangular hollow with a series of rounded hollows, steeply sloping sides and an irregular undulating base. What survives may represent an oven at the south-east end and the straighter edge of the grave cut to the north-west. The later structure comprised a trapezoidal coffin-shaped alignment of 16 bricks (all measured *c.*230 x 70 x 100 mm) set on edge end to end to form a kerb outlining a skeleton. At the narrowest (south-east) end by the feet the alignment had been closed by two fragments of limestone slab set on edge. Several large flint nodules *c.*120 mm along the outer edge of the bricks on the north and south-west sides may have been packing to hold the bricks in place.

The burial: The burial was partly articulated, but had clearly suffered from some disturbance. It lay on its back, in an extended position, possibly with the legs crossed at the ankles. The lower legs from the knees down were articulated, but little of the feet remained undisturbed. The torso consisting of arms, shoulder blades, ribs and vertebrae were also articulated. However the upper legs (femurs) and pelvis had been displaced and laid diagonally across the lower part of the torso. The skull was completely missing.

Fill: (1) The skeleton was surrounded by yellowish-brown silty clay soil mixed with large quantities of crushed 'mortar' and a moderate density of grit, chalk and angular flint 30–40 mm. Small finds: 3334 Iron object.

(2) A lens of charcoal and ash partly underlay layer 1 towards the south-east end.

Discussion: This complex of features appears to be composed of a small figure-of-eight-shaped oven (F1099 a), which contained layer 2. This was subsequently cut by the original grave cut (F1099 b) which contained an extended burial surrounded by layer 1. This burial was exposed during the Georgian excavations, when a brick structure (F1099 c) was constructed around it and it appears to have been on display for some time, while the museum was open. The skull, if originally present, was possibly removed when first exposed as the position of the bricks at the north-west end do not allow sufficient space for a skull. The legs may have become displaced at the same time or later whilst the grave was open or during refilling.

**F1124** A870750

Grave

Phase: Late/post Roman

Below L720

Cuts F1112

Length: 2.5 m Width: 0.8 m Depth: 0.5 m

Description: Rectangular cut, aligned roughly E–W, had rounded ends, straight vertical sides and flat or slightly hollowed base. A badger run had tunnelled across the centre of the grave, resulting in damage to the skeleton. The grave appears to have been cut rather longer than was necessary for the size of body with the head 0.5 m from the end and the feet about the same from the opposite end. The skeleton as found extended over about 1.8 m.

Fill: (2) The body (Brian) appears to have been laid on its back with the head to the west and turned (or slumped over) onto its right side to face south. The whole of the thorax was missing apart from one clavicle. Parts of the forearms survived and appeared to be folded across the lower abdomen. The legs were extended, crossed at the ankle, right over left. An iron blade lay alongside the femur of the right leg. Small finds: 3360 Iron object.

(1) At the east end there was a lower lens of clayey soil containing a low density of chalk and flint 20–40 mm, rare charcoal and a limestone slab fragment 50 mm. Above this and throughout the rest of the grave there was a uniform fill covering the body of brown clayey soil containing a moderate density of subangular-subrounded chalk 5–40 mm, scattered angular flints *c.*25 mm and rare larger broken flints *c.*80 mm, one burnt. The chalk tended to concentrate in diffuse tip lines sloping from north down to south. [Essentially a homogeneous deliberate fill with individual tip lines reflecting the process.] Small finds: 3314, 3350 Iron objects. Samples: 4112 Slag.

**F1162** A900780

Grave

Phase: Late Roman?

Below L720

Cuts L723

Length: 1.97 m Width: 0.68–0.55 m Depth: 0.12–0.26 m

Description: Rectangular grave cut, with slightly rounded corners, steeply sloping sides and flat, slightly dished base. It was aligned E–W, narrowing slightly towards the east end.

Fill: The body was laid on its back lying with the head to the west end. The skull was turned to face north with the chin resting on the left shoulder. The right arm was stretched out straight along his side. The left arm was bent at the elbow so the forearm was laid over the abdomen. A coin was found in the pelvis area close to the left hand. The legs were extended straight out and a nail lay between the lower legs, just below the knees. A flint scraper was found to the left of the left humerus. This may have been deliberately placed with the body. The body was complete, though the skull had suffered some damage.

(1) Covering the body was a compact brown clayey soil containing a moderate density of subangular-subrounded chalk up to 30 mm in size, rather fewer angular flints up to 80 mm and flint nodules 150–200 mm. The fill was fairly uniform, but with a greater density of chalk around the head, and in excavation was difficult to differentiate from the adjacent natural, suggesting that the spoil dug out to form the grave was rapidly redeposited without the addition of any extraneous material. Finds from the lower fill were labelled (2) separating them from the uppermost spit, so as to ensure clear separation of artefacts associated with the burial from material that might include material from the ploughsoil. However this does not imply any physical variation in the fill of the grave.