

AREA D

Area D was located in the north-west corner of general Area A1 (Fig. General 0). The surface geology of the northern part was largely brickearth over gravel, to the south is a band of gravel and then brickearth again. (Photos). While there was a good deal of intercutting throughout the area, stratified deposits increased southwards, particularly on the southern brickearth. This southern end of Area D was also lower-lying and retained surface water due to the presence of the brickearth geology.

Overall, through the life of the settlement, Area D marked a transitional land-use zone, between the hinterland of Area W to the north and the core of the settlement to the south. Evidence of occupation activity in Area D was markedly less concentrated than to the south and east, but the area was still relatively intensively used in most periods.

Summary of phasing:

Period:	Sub-period	Description:	Period / date:
I		-	MIA/LIA transition
II	a	'Unstructured' activity	LPRIA
	b	Regular enclosure & occupation	Roman transition
III	a	Enclosure refurbishment	?earliest Roman
	b	Replacement of enclosure and surfacing	early Roman
	c	Replacement of major boundaries	second century
IV		Continuance of boundaries	third century
V		Continuance of southern boundaries	fourth century

PERIOD I:

There is no evidence for activity of this period in Area D.

PERIOD II: (Fig. D1)

The Period II ditches defined two sub-phases of activity, the earlier rather less regular than the later. The lack of chronological definition among many of the late Iron Age pits means that it is not possible to extend this sub-division to all of these features with any degree of certainty.

In Area D, the definition of Period II A rests upon single ditch 25024, so little can be said about the nature of this earlier phase of LPRIA land-use. However, the late Iron Age to early Roman transition (Period II B) was clearly a period of dynamic and profound change representing extensive reorganisation of land division, including a reorientation of its ditches through some 30 degrees.

Even in change, these two sub-phases shared traits that hint at a thread of continuity. In particular, ditches 25020 and 25024 emanate from more or less the same point and may hint that the occupation evidence represented solely by the Period II building (Building 15) has a longer history than is evident. Equally, the point at which ditch 25019 turns west can be seen to correspond with the northern extent of 25024, albeit running on a different line.

Reorientation of the new land enclosure system was by no means comprehensive; the minor ditches along the northern edge of Area D retained the essentially north-south alignment of Period IIa ditch 25024. Significantly, their southern extents coincided with the northern end of 25024, and with the northern curvature of ditch 25019, which reinforces the impression of this location as a boundary area (literally a watershed?). This apparent division was also marked by the northern limit of Period II A ditch 25036 in Area E. While the Period II B features to the south of this 'boundary' displayed a change of orientation which was probably primarily influenced by the topography of gravel terracing, the northern ditches continued to take their alignment from the palaeochannel (further north still), running at right-angles to it.

The Period II B land divisions clearly displayed a move to large, rectilinear enclosures. Given their location on this area of poorly draining terrace, it is unlikely that they were used for cereal cultivation. The parallel, channelling nature of the major NNW-SSE aligned ditches suggests a pastoral function with buildings, most probably dwellings, located at a key node where the network of fields and paddocks met the settlement proper.

Most of the pottery from features of Phase II in Area D cannot be dated more closely than 'Late Iron Age', but some pits can definitely be assigned pre-Conquest dates, so these are grouped here, while others are more firmly mid-first century and are grouped in sub-phase B. Those which cannot be definitely located in either of these periods are consequently not sub-phased.

Sub-phase II A

This sub-division of the late Iron Age settlement comprises those features deemed to that pre-date the more formal rectilinear land division pattern of Period IIb. Indeed, most of its components date to the first century BC. North-south linear 25024 represents the earliest division of the LIA landscape in Area D. It formed part of the same system as did ditches 25036 in Area E, 25241 in Area F and 25045 in Area G. Possible association with ditch 25098, in Area Q, is very speculative. Structurally, only the ditch need be assigned to the early sub-phase; however, where datable, a number of pits of similar date can be included.

Ditch 25024 (segs. 9094, 9409, 9486, 9514, 9798, 9967, 9970) (Fig. D2)

A relatively slight, irregular, ditch line running roughly north-south, ranging from 0.5-1.05m wide and c.0.12-0.23m deep. Though partially obscured by a pit at its north end, it had an irregular, bulbous, terminal. The ditch displayed various wiggles and changes of course along its northern stretch, perhaps even actively avoiding pit 9194. It was cut by various large circular pits along its length and was truncated by all ditches that crossed its path. Substantial portions of this feature had either been removed or masked by later features and deposits, but it was possible to trace it for 76m to its likely terminal, immediately south of ditch segment 9514, which was again removed by a large pit 9540. A shorter length of ditch, 9798, probably constituted a southward continuation of this boundary. The ditch fills contained only small amounts of undiagnostic late Iron Age pottery, together with a triangular loomweight fragment, other pieces of baked clay/daub and traces of animal bone. The Late Iron Age pottery would not look out of place alongside the earlier of the pit assemblages (segment 9798 even contained some MIA sherds).

On stratigraphic grounds this is one of the earliest features in this area. Associated ditch 25241, in Area F, clearly predated the first road surfaces. It is perhaps significant that there seems to be a regular tendency for large round pits to cut it, particularly at its terminals. This seems to establish the trend for a peripheral location for pits even in the earliest phases of occupation.

Ditch 25024

9409	Pottery fabrics MICW, GROG
9486	Pottery fabric GROG
9514	Pottery fabrics GROG MICW
9798	Pottery fabric GROG

All but segments 9967 and 9970 of this ditch contained small quantities of pottery. The absence of Roman pottery suggests a Late Iron Age date for in-filling. Handmade forms and the presence of sand-tempered Iron Age pottery may date the feature to the mid 1st century BC.

Gully 25231 (segs. 9689, 9776) (Fig. D3)

Located off the south end of ditch 25024, slight gully 25231 underlay the gravel surfaces associated with Building 15. This was very fragmentary, and only clear at its western terminal, which has the same irregular bulbous, almost pit-like, look of other such features in the area. It ran ENE-WSW for at least 5m. It is postulated that it represented the southern side of an enclosure marked by parallel ditches 25024 and 25045, the latter located in Area G. The gap between 25231 and 25024 was 7m to 8m. Most of the pottery from segment 9689 is 1st century BC or early 1st AD, clearly within the earlier part of Phase II. The later sherds could have been introduced during any one of several later episodes of cutting and levelling in the area.

9689	Samian cup f27 (CGSW) Amphora Dr.1 (AITAF) Other pottery jar <i>Cam</i> 254 (ESH), beaker <i>Cam</i> 112 (TR), fabric NGWFS
9776	Pottery fabrics COLB GROG

The range of forms and fabrics recovered, including Dressel 1 amphora, suggests that this feature passed out of use by the end of the 1st century BC. However, the samian in 9689 and Colchester buff ware in 9776 suggest continued accumulation up to the end of the 1st century AD.

Pits 8001, 8004, 8013, 9034, 9060, 9062, 9081, 9097, 9124, 9158, 9194, 9279, 9351, 9535, 9611, 9649 (Fig. D4)

With the exceptions of 9351 and 9611, and the two smallest examples (9279, 9649), all of these pits were located at the northern extreme of the excavated area. They formed a distinct cluster around the line of the notional unmarked boundary which extended from the terminus of ditch 25024 along the extrapolated line from the corner of later ditch 25019. Most were of modest size (1.5 to 2m across) and among the smaller of the LIA pits in Area D. They contained little imported pottery and only occasional fragments of briquetage, baked clay and loomweight. Largest pit 9351 was over 3m across, but was almost certainly several intercut features in reality.

Also of significance were the locations of pits 8001 and 9611, each at the terminus of a ditch. 8001 marks the northern end of ditch 25024, while 9611 may be seen to mark the end of ditch 25020, at a point not very far from the southern end of 25024. Indeed, if 25024's southern projection has been wrongly extrapolated, 9611 could itself easily be its southern terminal. Pit 9611 had by far the largest finds assemblage of the pits of this phase, though 8001 contained nothing special. Pit 9351 similarly occupied a position close by the terminus of ditch 25019, although as it appears to be earlier than that ditch this may be a coincidence.

Fill sequences were varied, though in the main comprising brown-grey sandy silts. The larger pits, such as 8001, 9158, 9351 contained relatively complex sequences.

Period II A pits

8001	Pottery platter <i>Cam</i> 1 (TN[M]), beaker H (THORN)
8004	Pottery platter <i>Cam</i> 2 (TN), beaker H (NGWFS CGMIC TR)
8013	Arretine fabric ITSW Amphora Dr.1 (AITAL) Other pottery jar <i>Cam</i> 254 (ESH)
9034	Amphora Dr.1 (AITAG) Other pottery fabric GROG
9060	Pottery fabrics GROG MICW
9062	Amphora Dr.1/Dr.2-4 (AITAL) Other pottery beaker <i>Cam</i> 112 (TR)

9081	Amphora Dr.1 (AITAG) Other pottery jar <i>Cam 254</i> (ESH)
9097	Amphora Dr.1 (AITAF) Other pottery fabric GROG
9124	Pottery jar <i>Cam 229</i> (GROG), fabrics MICW BSW
9158	Amphora Dr.1 (AITAG) Other pottery fabric GROG
9279	Amphora Dr.2-4 (AITAL) Other pottery fabric GROG
9351	Amphoras Dr.1 (AITAL AITAG) Dr.2-4 (AITAL) Other pottery jar <i>Cam 254</i> (ESH), fabrics TR GROG
9611 KPG	Arretine fabric ITSW Amphoras Dr.1 (AITAL) Dr.2-4 (AITAL AWINC) Other pottery platters <i>Cam 1</i> (TN[M]) <i>Cam 2</i> (TR) <i>Cam 4</i> (TR), cup <i>Cam 56</i> (TR), beakers <i>Cam 82</i> (TR) <i>Cam 102</i> (CGMIC) <i>Cam 112</i> (TR), flagon <i>Cam 165</i> (CGFCS), fabric NGWFS
9649	Pottery fabric TR

These features contained imported Gallo-Belgic pottery or Dressel 1 amphora sherds, dating deposition from the late 1st century BC to the early 1st century AD. This date is supported by large quantities of grog-tempered pottery, mostly recovered from pits 9034 and 9611. Sherds of Roman pottery recovered from the top fill of 9611 and from 9124 suggest that these pits continued to accumulate material up to the middle of the 1st century AD, but probably after the main period of their filling.

Period II B

A rectilinear enclosure system was imposed upon the landscape in the earlier 1st century AD. This seems to fall into two distinct sets of linear features defining separate zones of land-use.

Covering all but the northern extremes of Area D, ditches 25016 and 25017 represent the central elements of a NNW-SSE and ENE-WSW aligned system and form the right-angled corner of an enclosure. Ditch 25030, though offset slightly, must have been an integral part of this. A continuation of this system to its west is denoted by ditch 25020, which ran parallel. The space between these systems may delineate a narrow trackway, or could have been space for a small bank and/or hedge. The enclosure system did not share the same alignment as Road 1. This may be an indication that it predated the imposition of the road, though it could simply be a product of distance; later ditches in Area D, which cannot pre-date the roads, also paid no heed to the road alignment. The impression is that this area marked a 'half-way zone' between the ordered core of the settlement and the surrounding fields of the hinterland.

A cluster of structural remains coincided with a gap in the enclosure ditches at the south end of Area D. These features clearly denote settlement activity in the form of a rectilinear building (Building 15), associated hearths, gullies, fencelines and other miscellaneous features, including some of the Period II pits. This is interpreted as a dwelling area located at a strategic access point in the enclosure system. The parallel and channelling nature of the boundaries suggests that the enclosures were principally used for pastoral farming.

The second set of enclosure features was located on the northern peripheries of Area D. These lesser ditches formed another rectilinear pattern but created smaller land divisions, not related to the system to the south. These shared the same basic axis as the earlier system of ditches 25024/25036, a roughly north-south alignment, predicated on the line of the water channel which ran east to west, some 40-50m north of the excavated area. Their south ends appear to align on an unmarked boundary which is also hinted at by the curving north end of 25019. The influence of this unmarked line can still be detected into Period III.

Ditches 25016 and 25017 (segs. 8223, 9234, 9238, 9268, 9342, 9347, 9965 and 9462, 9496) (Fig. D5)

25016 and 25017 were two ditches defining the north and west limits of a large rectilinear enclosure. 25016 had a rounded terminal at its southern end. From this, the ditch ran northward on a NW-SE alignment for a distance of 24m and then turned eastwards through 90°. This NE-SW return was recorded over a distance of 32m, beyond which it could not be traced. However, the pre-excavation plan hints that it continued at least as far as the corner of another right-angled enclosure

ditch 25039 (see Area F), which may have truncated it; although the two enclosures are well matched and seem to belong together. Ditch 25016 varied in width between 0.8-1.35m and 0.13-0.36m in depth, perhaps as a result of variable depth of machining. It contained a single fill throughout and showed no sign of recutting. Where it had a relationship with other features it was always the earlier (except for the Period IIa ditch 25024). Some later material seems to have intruded into the top fills of both segments.

Ditch 25017 was a continuation of the same enclosure boundary, beginning c.4m SE of the southern end of 25016. As it was some 28m long, an enclosure of at least 36m x 57m can therefore be defined. However, this was a broader and deeper cut, particularly at its southern end where it was as much as 3.5m wide and 1.1m deep. It seems to have been recut a number of times. Though heavily truncated by its Period III replacement (ditch 25028), it clearly had a terminal at its south end and suggestions of another at its north.

While there are clearly differences in the dimensions of these two ditches, they were well aligned on one another. If the 4m gap between them constituted a real point of access, it is worth noting that it was located more or less at the midpoint of the enclosure perimeter as exposed. Differences in dimensions and variations in both artefactual content and dating may suggest that 25017 was more frequently cleaned out, perhaps because activity in general was more intensive at the southern end of this enclosure, nearer the occupied areas.

Ditch 25016

8223	Pottery fabrics GRS GROG
9234	Pottery fabric GROG
9342	Amphora Dr.1 (AITAL) Other pottery fabric GROG
9347	Pottery fabrics GROG GRS MICW

All ditch segments, except 9238, 9268 and 9965, contained small quantities of pottery. Though generally Late Iron Age in character, the presence of sandy grey ware in 8223 and 9347 suggests that deposition may have continued into the Roman period.

Ditch 25017

9462	Pottery fabrics COLB TR BSW GROG
9496	Samian platter f18 (SGSW), cup f27 (SGSW) Amphora <i>Salazon</i> (ASALA) Other pottery platters <i>Cam</i> 2 (TRCG) EF22 (TN[M]), dish B7 (BSW), jars G4 (GROG) G16 (GRS) G19 (BSW) G20 (BSW GRF) G22.1 (GRS) G23 (GRS) <i>Cam</i> 254 (ESH), beaker H1 (GRS), flagon J (VRW CGFCS)

The large amount of pottery recovered from this feature dates deposition to the mid 1st century AD. Both segments contained residual pottery, notably a high proportion of Gallo-Belgic platters dating to the earlier part of the 1st century. Segment 9462 also contained an intrusive 4th century coin.

Ditch 25030 (segs. 9552, 9554, 9711, 9721, 9724, 9857, 9942, 9944) (Fig. D6)

25030 was a narrow, NE-SW aligned linear feature with an irregular terminal at its northern end. It was clearly traced for a distance of 29m before becoming obscured by intercutting features and overlying stratigraphy at its southern end. In addition, a further part of it was noted in the edge of later pit 9750, 9m to the SE; so increasing the total length to 38m. Much of this ditch was overlain by a Period III gravel surface (9603) which was not wholly removed during excavation. Finds from it are restricted to animal bone and undiagnostic LIA pottery only.

This feature ran parallel to 25017, 5m to its east, and was presumably an integral element of the enclosure system. The ditch was similar in terms of size (0.6-1.0, wide and 0.13-0.30m deep) and content to 25016 and terminated at its north end parallel with where 25016 began.

The spatial arrangement of these three features (25016, 25017, 25030) suggests three scenarios:

- All three ditches were contemporary in conception.
- Ditches 25016 and 25030 formed the original layout with 25017 either an addition or a replacement of 25030.

- 25030 and 25020 formed a sub-phase between current sub-phases IIa and IIb.

The first of these scenarios is preferred, with the apparently oversized and uncharacteristic 25017 being the result of the cleaning and perpetuating of a ditch which was originally similar to the others. This supposition is supported by the narrowing of the end of the ditch, which may be a reflection of its original width. The positioning of ditch 25030, within the main enclosure and directly in front of an entrance into it, suggests a channelling function with a gateway allowing livestock either to be herded down the side of the enclosure or allowed access to the main enclosure.

Ditch 25030

9554	Pottery fabric GROG
9711	Pottery fabric GROG
9721	Pottery fabric GROG

This ditch is dated primarily by its place in the layout of the land division. There is nothing in the pottery assemblage that allows a closer resolution within the LIA.

Ditches 25019 and 25020 (segs. 9020, 9249, 9250 and 9220, 9240, 9319, 9451, 9584, 9646) (Fig. D7)

Ditches 25019 and 25020 apparently represent two phases of the same boundary. The earlier of the two was a slight gully/ditch 25020, some 0.1-0.2m deep, which widened towards its south end from 0.3m to as much as 1.25m. It ran on a NW-SE alignment, parallel with enclosure ditches 25016, 25017 and 25030, offset by 2.5m to their west. Though substantial parts of this ditch were removed by later features or masked by unexcavated deposits, it is likely that segment 9584 constituted its southern end where it curved away from the main enclosure. Ditch 25020 probably defined the edge of an enclosure that extended off to the west, with the 2.5m space between it and ditches 25016 and 25017 providing a trackway used to move livestock around a series of fields.

The northern continuation of 25020 was removed by 25019, a more substantial ditch which emerged from the NW edge of excavation and rapidly curved around into a straight course which again ran on a NW-SE alignment down to a rounded, slightly irregular and bulbous, terminal. This feature was c.30m long, as exposed, and averaged 1.0m wide and c.0.5m deep. While a single cut was identified at its north-west end in segment 9020, the southern end clearly displayed the presence of a recut 9250. It is significant that ditch 25019 terminated alongside the corner of enclosure ditch 25016, leaving a gap of only 3m as a point of access between enclosures. Ditch 25019 is therefore seen as a direct replacement of 25020, constituting a relatively minor modification to the existing system of land division.

The point at which 25019 began to curve off its NNW-SSE line coincided reasonably well with the southernmost extent of the rectilinear system (25001 *etc.*) which extended northwards out of the site. It seems that there was a definite separation between settlement and hinterland at this point.

Ditch 25019

9020	Pottery jars <i>Cam</i> 256 (GROG) <i>Cam</i> 258 (GROG)
9249	Amphora Dr.1 (AITAF) Other pottery fabrics GRS GRF COLB
9250	Pottery platter <i>Cam</i> 33 (GROG)

This feature, containing mostly grog-tempered pottery, is likely to date to the late 1st century BC, a date strongly supported by the amphora evidence. The small amount of Roman wares within the top fill of segment 9249 suggests that the feature continued to accumulate material up to the middle of the 1st century AD.

Ditch 25020

9240	Pottery fabric GROG
9319	Pottery fabrics GROG GRS
9451	Amphora Dr.1 (AITAL AITAG) Other pottery fabrics GROG GRS MICW

9646	Amphora Dr.1 (AITAF) Other pottery beaker EF193 (TR), fabrics CGFCS GROG GRF
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The small quantities of Roman wares within predominantly grog-tempered assemblages suggest that this feature continued to attract material up to the middle of the 1st century AD. By this time, the single sherd of Central Gaulish fine creamed-slipped ware in segment 9646 and the Dressel 1 amphora were probably residual.

Building 15 (9675, 9687, 9690, 9718, 9727, 9729, 9759, 9768, 9788, 9948, 9950, 9952, 9954) **and associated structures 7-9** (9604 and 9836 and 9945, 9557) (Fig. D8)

A group of postholes and slots forming part of a rectilinear structure was located in the SW of Area D. Parts of at least of two sides of the structure were represented, indicating a building in excess of 8m long and 5m wide with a possible small square addition at its northernmost corner. The south side of the building had been removed by later ditches. This structure had a similar alignment to the adjacent Period II B enclosure and was located at the southern end of ditch 25017. It is very likely that building and enclosure were contemporary. This is perhaps emphasized by the shape of the terminal of ditch 25017 which seems not to have been subsequently widened, in response to the square addition to the northern corner of the building. There were other, unphased, post- and stake-holes in the vicinity of this building which cannot easily be incorporated into the plan of this structure but may well constitute further occupation activity in its vicinity. Judging by the location and perpetuation of points of access and apparent livestock management features built into the enclosure system in this vicinity, these occupation remains carried a central significance in the design of this layout. [Note its likely continuation into post-conquest late 1st cent](#)

Structures 7, 8 and 9 comprise various sections of narrow, straight or slightly curving, slots that were located in the immediate vicinity of Building 15. All contained single fills with no post- or stake-holes present within them. All extended away from the walls of the building and are presumed to be the foundations of associated fence lines.

Building 15

9690	Pottery fabric GROG
9768	Pottery fabric GROG

Few post-holes and beamslots contained dating evidence. Pottery was meagre in quantity, but consistent with a Late Iron Age date.

Gravel surfaces 9233, 9386, 9490, 9589, 9601, 9636, 9717, 9722, 9744, 9753, 9761 (Fig. D8)

The principal area of gravel surfacing was located in the vicinity of Building 15. Deposit 9589 was a large expanse of gravel which had been truncated by machine at its northern and eastern edges and by later ditches to the south, but survived across an area of c.8.2 x 5.6m. It was laid upon a deposit of brickearth. Although it was not established if the brickearth itself was a deliberate deposit on top of similar natural deposits, it is likely that this was a deliberately raised area on which the building stood. Certainly, the gravel surface overlay Period II A features (e.g., gully 25231). Further vestiges of this same surface were recorded some 5m to the northwest but patches elsewhere in Area D were probably unassociated.

The exact extent of all this surfacing is undetermined. The minimalist position is to see the area occupied by the building as raised and surfaced, with an area extending out to the east (to its front?) and northward, up the 'corridor' between ditches 25020 and 25017. However, it is possible that a very much wider expanse could have been surfaced.

9490	Pottery fabric STOR
9601	Pottery dish B1 (GROG), bowl <i>Cam</i> 210 (GROG), fabric GRS
9717	Samian cup f27g (SGSW) Other pottery jar <i>Cam</i> 220 (GROG), flagon J3.2 (MWSRS)
9761	Pottery jar <i>Cam</i> 254 (ESH GROG), fabrics BSW GRS

These deposits yielded little dating evidence, although the pottery that was recovered is dated reasonably well. The presence of early Roman flagons, supported by grog-tempered wares provides a mid to late 1st century AD date. This assemblage may represent a mixture of material included at the time of creation of the surface, and later material incorporated into it during use.

Miscellaneous gullies: 25001 (seg. 9085), **25004** (seg. 9168), **25005** (seg. 9173), **25014** (seg. 9870), **25232** (seg. 9095), **25233** (seg. 9175), **25234** (seg. 9074) (Fig. D9)

Seven short gullies were located across the northern part of Area D. Varying from 4.4m to 9m long and 0.4-1.2m wide, all were basically short and wide with shallow depths and flat bases. Although these features superficially seem rather scattered and individually isolated, they do show a degree of patterning and divide into N-S and E-W aligned groups. Those aligned N-S (*i.e.*, 9168, 9085 and 9870) were located roughly 17m apart. Similarly, 9074, 9095 and 9133/9175 were 5.5 to 6m apart.

Though most were truncated by later features, it is likely that they defined a regular layout of minor plot divisions. Gully segment 9175 contained a minor recut or structural slot, 9173. Similar features occurred further east across the northern peripheries of Areas E (8121) and G (25114). These collectively formed a set of narrow land plots which probably extended northward up to the edge of the palaeochannel which ran through Area B. The existence of an unmarked but definite boundary between this zone of small plots and a zone of larger enclosures to the south has already been suggested above.

Miscellaneous gullies

9074	Pottery fabric BSW
9095	Pottery platter A2 (GROG), bowl EF67 (GROG), beaker <i>Cam</i> 118 (GROG), fabric NKG
9175	Pottery jar <i>Cam</i> 254 (ESH), fabric GROG
9085	Pottery fabric GROG
9168	Samian fabric SGSW Other pottery beaker <i>Cam</i> 112 (TR)
9173	Amphora Dr.1 (AITAB) Other pottery jar <i>Cam</i> 255 (ESH), fabric GROG

The presence of Dressel 1 amphora sherds and samian, supported by predominant quantities of grog-tempered ware, provides a late 1st century BC to mid 1st century AD date range for deposition. It is possible there may be some chronological distinctions amongst the gullies in this group, but it seems more probable that all were in use and passed out of use together.

Pits 9037, 9195, 9230, 9466, 9540, 9792, 9801, 9847 (Fig. D10)

Not many of the late Iron Age pits can definitely be assigned to this later sub-phase (*i.e.*, earlier/mid first century). There seems to be no particular pattern to their distribution and they were fairly evenly spread across all the locations that had late Iron Age pits. It may be significant that none was found east of the major enclosure ditches 25019 and 25020, but then this was true of all the Period II pitting.

The ceramics from of these pits seem to represent a truly transitional phase in the pottery of the first century (*e.g.* 9230). They uniformly yielded more pottery than the earlier pits, so they may be significant assemblages for the study of this transition, sometimes with apparent progression within the fill sequences of individual pits (*e.g.* 9195, 9540, 9792, 9801).

9195	Pottery jar G23 (GRS) <i>Cam</i> 254 (ESH), beaker H7 (NGWFS)
9230 KPG	Amphora Dr.2-4 (AITAL) Other pottery bowl EF73 (GROG), beaker <i>Cam</i> 112 (TR)
9466	Pottery platter <i>Cam</i> 2 (TN), fabric BSW
9540	Amphora Dr.2-4 (ABSAN) Other pottery bowl-jar E6.2 (GROG), flagon EF200 (CGFCS), fabric MICW
9792	Arretine fabric ITSW Samian fabric SGSW Amphora Dr.2-4 (AITAL) Other pottery cup <i>Cam</i> 56 (TN)
9801	Amphora Dr.1 (AITAE) Other pottery fabric GROG
9847	Samian fabric SGSW

These features contained pottery that dates from the early to mid 1st century AD. This range is supported by large quantities of grog-tempered pottery recovered from most features. Pits 9792 and 9847, from which samian was recovered, were among the latest to have been filled.

General Period II Pits (*i.e.*, not sub-phased)

9036, 9084, 9111, 9115, 9142, 9144, 9151, 9258, 9260, 9262, 9445, 9471, 9518, 9521, 9543, 9550, 9657, 9786, 9846, 9971

The Period II pits were large and circular, generally being 2m-3m across. Those to the north of the enclosure ditches 25016/25017 seemed more apt to be intercutting whereas elsewhere in Area D they were more dispersed. Overall, frequency of pitting and the degree of intercutting were relatively low compared to other areas of the site (e.g. Areas K-N). There was an apparently greater tendency for pits of late Iron Age date to occur to the north and west (*i.e.*, outside) of the enclosure ditches 25016/25017. Whether or not there was a real zone of pitting along this northern edge of the site is debatable. Pits were relatively easily discerned in this location because of the lack of later stratification and overlying deposits in this area and because they were generally cut into clean orange brickearth. The true nature of pitting in the south of the area may simply have been obscured by later developments and unexcavated overlying deposits.

Artefact assemblages are dominated by grog-tempered pottery and baked clay and metalwork are generally rare, though pit 9084 contained loomweight fragments. The occasional presence of small quantities of Roman brick and tile may emphasise the transitional nature of some of these pits.

General Period II pits

9111	Amphora Dr.2-4 (ABSAN) Other pottery jar G8.1 (BSW), beakers <i>Cam</i> 113 (NGWFS), fabric TR
9258	Pottery jar <i>Cam</i> 254 (ESH), fabric GROG
9471	Pottery jars <i>Cam</i> 254 (ESH) EF78 (MICW) EF108 (GROG)

Most of the pottery consists of grog-tempered and sand-tempered coarse wares, which cannot be closely dated. The pits that contained these fabrics only are not included in the table above. The pottery from 9111, 9258 and 9471 provide a date range of late 1st century BC to mid 1st century AD. Several pits (9115, 9151, 9518) also contained a few sherds in Roman fabrics. Pits 9111 and 9471 contained clearly intrusive samian sherds of 2nd and 3rd century date.

PERIOD III (Fig. D11)

In Area D, Period III comprises three phases of activity. The earliest, in the mid- to late first century, displays essential continuity from Period IIb with changes to the old system of enclosure being limited to modifications resulting in the simplification of the ditch arrangements and of the 'herding tracks'.

The late 1st or early 2nd century saw a more substantial replacement of the old pattern of land division. The major line marked by the NNW-SSE ditches throughout Periods IIb and IIIa was abandoned in favour of an eastward shift, although the NNW-SSE alignment was retained. The new enclosures, marked by more substantial ditches, contain subdivisions and areas of gravel surfacing. Although Period IIb Building 15 probably no longer existed beyond the end of the 1st century, a timber-lined well 9421 suggests that there was still occupation in the vicinity. There were, however, no dated structural features and few pits to support this. While these changes may have been locally significant, essential continuity in the broader pattern of settlement layout is maintained, with the location of the main boundaries only slightly shifted.

Finally, all the major boundaries were replaced during the course of the 2nd century AD, again without significant overall change to the pattern of land division. The boundary ditches of this phase were substantial and long-lived. Ditches of both Periods III B and III C display a tendency to accumulate a greater amount of material over a longer period of time at their southern ends compared to the north. This may suggest that occupation activity became concentrated towards the centre of the site from the 2nd century AD onwards. It is possible that the boundary marked by 25034 and 25035 and, later, by 25015 defined the northern limit of the settlement's core (i.e. Central Zone) in this and later periods.

The Period III pits were relatively numerous, but nearly all fell into the latest sub-phase. As with those of Period II, it is unclear if their apparent north-west concentration, particularly in Period III C, is real or a product of excavation bias. Artefact assemblages from these pits are generally large and relatively varied. Tile was notable due to its sudden presence in large quantity from the mid 2nd century AD onwards.

Period IIIa (later 1st century AD)

Period IIIa was characterized by continued use of the enclosures and occupation of Period IIb. By the start of this period the late Iron Age enclosure ditches had largely silted up, with just a few of the deeper terminals continuing to accumulate material. However, additions and renovations to this layout seem only to be piecemeal suggesting that these boundaries were still visible and probably active as barriers - perhaps now represented by hedges which had grown alongside (or even in) them.

The western side of the Period IIb enclosure system was perpetuated and replaced by ditches 25018 and 25028. The latter was cut directly into a stretch of the earlier enclosure boundary. Both seem to have begun filling fairly rapidly, and both required subsequent recutting. Some of the filling took place in the first century, but at least parts of these ditches must still have been open in the early second. There is less evidence that the east side of the enclosure boundary (i.e. 25039 in Area F) was also still in use; it was certainly not actively maintained.

The occupation activity at the south end of Area D continued into this period with Building 15 and some of the posited fences still standing. The re-established boundary ditch continued to run up to, and respect, these structures. The absence of pits assigned to this sub-phase may be simply **due to chance**. However, there are only two pits in this area in sub-phase IIIb as well, so perhaps the idea of a real absence can be entertained.

Ditch 25028 (segs. 9349, 9765, 9875, 9880, 9925, 9919) (Fig. D5)

Broad ditch 25028 was cut into the top of the silted-up west side of the Period IIb enclosure ditches, 25016 and 25017, thus re-establishing this boundary. It followed the whole length of 25017 and overlay the southern end of 25016, notably cutting off the 4m gap in the former arrangement. 25028 was at its most substantial towards either end, reaching a maximum width of 3.3m and a depth of 0.7m. Minor recuts were recorded within the ditch, showing that it was maintained for some time before its final infilling around the end of the first century.

Ditch 25028

9349	Samian platter f18 (SGSW) Other pottery bowl C1 (COLB), jars G17 (GRS) G19 (BSW) G20 (BSW) G23.1 (BSW)
9765	Pottery dish B7 (BSW), jar G19 (BSW), flagon J3 (COLB)
9875	Pottery fabrics GROG GRS BSW NKG
9925	Samian cup f27 (SGSW) Other pottery bowl <i>Cam</i> 51 (TN[M]), mortarium D2 (COLBM), jar G19 (GRS)

The pottery recovered from these segments, while not including many forms that can be closely dated, can be placed within the second half of the 1st century AD. Dressel 1 amphora sherds recovered from 9349 are residual by this time.

Ditch 25018 (segs. 9018, 9050, 9213) (Fig. D12)

Ditch 25018 was also a replacement of an earlier element of the ditched enclosure 25016/25017. However, instead of re-establishing the silted former ditch 25019, this new ditch was shifted slightly to the east in order that its southern terminal align itself with 25028. A new, wider gap of some 21m was established between them. Together, 25018 and 25028 constituted a simplification of the Period IIb system of land division. It was more or less a direct replacement, with 25028 cut into the top of 25017 for much of its length. Though offset slightly to the east, 25018 was similarly a replacement of 25019, the curve of which it closely mirrors. It is speculated that the later ditch perhaps converged with its predecessor further to the west, beyond the limit of excavation.

9018	Samian bowl f29 (SGSW) Other pottery fabrics NKG GRS COLB GROG
9213 KPG	Amphora <i>salazon</i> (ASALA) Other pottery bowl EF57 (GRF), jars G19 (GRF) G20.1 (BSW) EF126 (STOR) EF178 (STOR), flagon J (COLB)

Ditch segment 9213 yielded a large quantity of pottery (Key Pottery Group 15). This was predominantly grog-tempered, but also comprised a smaller amount, though varied range of Roman pottery, dating deposition to the second half of the 1st century AD.

Ditch 25026 (segs. 9113, 9117, 9119, 9122, 9318, 9380, 9406, 9575, 9629, 9867, 9975) (Fig. D13)

It seems likely that Ditch 25026 (discussed more fully in Period IIIb, below) began its life in this sub-phase, as it was probably at least partly contemporaneous with 25018/25028. As it appears to have had at least three phases of cutting/recutting, it seems reasonable to push its original construction back to IIIa. Only segment 9318, however, yielded pottery earlier than IIIb.

Ditch 25026

9113	Pottery jar G5 (GRS) G22.1 (GRS)
9117	Pottery fabrics BSW GROG
9119	Samian bowl f37 (SGSW) Other pottery bowl C29 (BSW), beaker <i>Cam</i> 115 (GROG), fabric NKG
9122	Samian bowl f37 (CGSW) Other pottery beaker H6 (NKG)
9380	Samian platters f15/17 (SGSW) f18 (SGSW) Other pottery beaker H1.6 (VRB)
9406	Pottery fabrics GRS GROG BSW
9575	Samian bowl f36 or f42 (CGSW) Other pottery dish B1 (GRS)
9629	Samian cup f24 (SGSW) Other pottery dish B1 (BSW) jar G5.4 (BSW) G8.1 (BSW) G23 (GRS)
9867	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW
9975	Pottery fabric STOR

Only small quantities of pottery were recovered from most ditch segments. Consequently, much of it cannot be dated closely. However, the Roman pottery, supported by grog-tempered ware in 9117, 9119 and 9406, is consistent with a mid to late 1st century date, although the majority of in-filling is likely to have occurred during the early 2nd century.

Pit 9218

9218, a near circular pit of 1.9m diameter and 0.38m depth, was possibly the earliest Roman pit. Its small size and circularity set it apart from other Period II late Iron Age pits as much as from those of the late 1st century AD onwards. It had a far greater volume and range of pottery (Key Pottery Group 16) than any other mid-first century feature in this area. Its location alongside the terminal of ditch 25018 may be significant.

Pit 9218

9218 KPG	Samian platters f15/17 (SGSW) f15/17R or f18R (SGSW) f18 (SGSW), bowls f29 (SGSW) f30 (SGSW), cups f27 (SGSW) Ritt.8 (SGSW) Other pottery platter <i>Cam</i> 13 (TN), bowl EF64 (GRF), mortarium <i>Cam</i> 191 (IBUFM), jar EF131 (GROG), beakers H1 (BSW GRF GROG) H7.1 (TR), fabric TRCG Brooches Colchester B (SF1553, SF3281)
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The large number of samian forms present, and the brooches, provide a date of AD50-70.

Period IIIb

To a degree, this sub-phase, comprising features of the early second century, also displays aspects of continuity, in that ditch 25028 followed the line of Period IIb ditches 25016/25017 and ditch 25026 also ran parallel. However, new boundary ditch 25026 clearly signalled a discarding of the E-W cross division marking the northern limit of the old enclosure, as it continued 25m further north. It is likely that the two broad ditches (*i.e.* 25026 and 25018/25028) were associated, at least for a time, and that the area between them was surfaced with gravel, creating a much broader driveway, track or simply yard, between the two enclosures.

Although there is no evidence of the continued use of the Period II B-III A structures at the southern end of Area D (*i.e.* Building 15 *et al*), there is a hint of a continuing occupation in the form of well 9421. This location seems to retain its boundary/entrance function, with the creation of ditches 25035 and 25034 to mark the southern boundaries of enclosures either side of ditch 25026.

Ditch 25026 (segs. 9113, 9117, 9119, 9122, 9318, 9380, 9406, 9575, 9629, 9867, 9975) (Fig. D13) Substantial ditch 25026 ran parallel to 25028, the latter surviving into this sub-phase. Up to 3.0m wide and 0.58m deep, it was found to be a single cut along most of its length. A terminal was identified at its northern end, which broadly coincided with where earlier boundary ditch 25018 curved off to the west (as did its predecessor 25019). Within the northern terminal two minor recuts were recorded. No southern terminal was identified for this feature but it was exposed for a distance of over 80m before becoming lost beneath later pits and silt layers which were not excavated. It is likely that it extended as far as east-west ditch 25035.

Along its length, 25026 displayed a varying pattern of depositional activity. At its northern end artefact assemblages are relatively small and limited in range with only small quantities of pottery, tile and animal bone present. Artefact assemblages are larger and more varied from the southern parts of the ditch, which seem to have remained open longer and accumulated a more varied range of materials. This supports the idea that the south of Area D was within the occupied zone of the settlement while the north of the area was already reaching into the hinterland.

This was the earliest ditch to display no direct link to the Period IIb enclosure represented by ditches 25016 and 25017. Instead, it cut across this old system and, equally, remained uninfluenced by the curvature of ditches 25018 and 25019. Although it resisted such earlier influences, it is probable that this ditch was established while the Period IIIa ditches 25018 and 25028 were still open or at least visible. For much of its exposed length, it ran parallel to them, at a distance of approximately 11m to their east. It is also significant that it terminated at the same

northward extent as the point at which 25018 curved off its line, a point already noted as having been a significant (but unmarked) boundary. It is interesting to note that this idea is again observed (in IIIc) influencing the curve of ditch 25021, long after 25018 must have been filled. (See Period IIIa for dating evidence table)

Ditch 25029 (segs. 9359, 9411) (Fig. D14)

25029 was a minor ditch which, running on a WSW-ENE alignment, was positioned at right angles to 25026. While its westward extent was not defined, its eastern terminal allowed a 4m gap between itself and the major boundary. With a width of only 1.0m and a depth of 0.4m, it is likely that this ditch was a subdivision within the large enclosure lying to the west of 25026.

Ditch 25029

9411	Samian fabrics CGSW SGSW Amphora Dr.2-4 (ABSAN) Other pottery dish B1 (BSW)
9359	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW Coin Denarius, illegible (SF3271) early 3rd century?

A relatively large pottery assemblage was recovered from this ditch, although providing a somewhat tentative early Roman date.

Ditch 25034 (segs. 9700, 9709, 9888, 9741) (Fig. D15)

25034 was the end of a NE-SW aligned ditch, largely removed by Period V-VI ditch 25031. It was cut through period IIb gravel surface 9589 and had, itself, removed all traces of the south side of the Building 15. The ditch terminus was originally interpreted as being truncated by pit 9741/9888, but this was itself probably part of the terminal, with the recutting constituting cleaning and maintenance.

25034 formed the southern boundary of an enclosure extending off to the west of 25028 and, along with 25035, defined a narrow point of access across this.

Ditch 25034

9700	Samian bowl f37 (CGSW) Other pottery fabrics BSW GROG GRS
9741	Samian dish f18/31 (CGSW) Other pottery jar G19.2 (BSW), fabric NKG
9888	Pottery dish B2/B4 (BSW), fabric COLB

Ditch 25034 yielded only small quantities of pottery that cannot be closely dated. The G19 jar in segment 9741 dates from the mid 1st to early 2nd century AD, a date with which much of the remaining pottery agrees. A dish in 9888 suggests that part of the ditch may have been in-filled at the later end of the range.

Ditch 25035 (segs. 9581, 9606, 9648) (Fig. D15)

25035 was a shallow curving gully/ditch at the southern end of Area D. It ran for some 12m, rising up to a broad, shallow terminal at its south end and being removed by the Period IIIc ditch, 25015, to the east.

Its corner, though obscured by later ditch 25031, occurs on the same NW-SE line as ditch 25028, forming an 8m-wide entrance between them. Within this gap, post-hole 9606 is tentatively identified as being a part of this entrance. It stands out as a large and otherwise isolated structural feature equidistant between the two ditches and it is possible that these were contemporary for a while, before 25028 passed out of use. Ditch 25035 was essentially an eastward continuation of ditch 25034. Together, they permit a 2m-wide gap, with the shallow curving terminal of the former functioning either as a drain or as a funnelling device, controlling the passage of livestock between the enclosures on either side.

It is postulated that 25035 originally extended eastwards, possibly as far as Road 1, forming the south side of the enclosure which lay to the east of 25028, but had largely been removed by its Periods IIIc-IV successor boundary 25015.

Ditch 25035

9581	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW
9606	Samian dish f18/31 or 31 (CGSW) Other pottery dish B2/B4 (BB2)
9648	Samian bowl f36 (CGSW) Other pottery dish B2/B4 (BSW), jar G24 (GRS) Coin unidentified ?late small bronze (SF4922)

The pottery recovered from these features cannot be dated closely. However, the presence of dishes in post-hole 9606 and in 9648 (and probably the coin) is consistent with a mid 2nd to mid 3rd century AD date for the final disuse of the feature.

Well 9421 (Fig. D16)

9421 was the 2.7 x 2.4m, slightly oval, construction cut of a timber-lined well. It was cut through the fills of ditches 25017 and 25028 to a depth of c.1.97m (reaching 0.81m OD). A simple timber box-lining, a little under 1.0m square, was centrally placed in the cut and clean blue-grey clay 9887, was used as packing around it. The well lining, constructed of tangentially-sawn oak boards jointed with single dovetails, survived to a height of five courses ([ref. to R. Darrah's wood report](#)). A dendrochronological date range of AD67-135 was obtained from this structure ([Ref. Hillam](#)).

The first deposit within the well shaft was a grey brown humic silt (9895), c. 0.73m deep. It contained a complete cow's skull together with scapulae and vertebrae, the handle of a large glass vessel, a complete greyware jar and leather fragments including a complete shoe sole (SF6630) ([ref. Friendship-Taylor](#)). Possible structured deposition is speculated for the presence of these objects at the bottom of the well.

Above was a 0.14m thick deposit of orangey brown peaty silt (9894) containing lots of sticks and twigs with occasional finds of pot and bone.

(9879) was a 0.45m grey brown clayey silt on top of (9894); its excavation yielded a wooden lathe-turned object (SF6615) probably a furniture fitting ([ref.](#)), and more leather fragments (SF6616), along with 3.8kg of pottery, tile, briquetage, bone, and organic material. The overlying deposit, (9498), though originally recorded as separate, was in fact the non-waterlogged portion of the same. It yielded an extraordinary 51kg of pottery, more than half of the well's total assemblage.

Above this, deposits (9459, 9479, 9457, 9442) appear to be post-abandonment fills, their clay component probably being derived from the slumping of the construction backfill (9887) following the disintegration of the upper well planks. (9459) and (9479) were black-brown fills containing abundant pottery, tile and some baked clay/daub and slag. (9457 and 9442) were lesser deposits of gravelly silt accumulated in the slump hollow which formed in the well cone.

9421	Samian dish f31 (CGSW EGSW), bowls f37 (CGSW) Curle 23 (CGSW), cup f33 (CGSW) Other pottery dishes B1 (GRF) B2 (GRS), bowl C23 (GRF), mortaria D1 (COLBM) D3 (COLBM) D4 (COLBM) D11 (COLBM), jar G9 (GRS), beaker H22.1 (COLC), fabric NVC
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On stratigraphic grounds, construction of the well can be no earlier than the 2nd century AD. This is confirmed by the dendrochronology of the lining timbers giving a date of AD135/6, or just after, for their felling ([link to dendro report](#)). The use, disuse and backfill deposits of the well shaft are all broadly dated to the 2nd century too. The condition of the pottery was generally poor, and few closely dated forms were identified. However, the presence of mortaria, supported by a Colchester colour-coated beaker, suggests that principal filling occurred during the second half of the 2nd century AD. Nene Valley colour-coated ware sherds recovered from upper fills suggest that deposition continued into the 3rd century.

Gravel surfaces: 9523, 9524, 9525, 9560, 9561, 9563, 9570, 9571, 9602, 9603, 9626, 9644, 9645, 9661, 9676, 9699, 9706, 9708, 9738, 9739, 9752, 9808, 9918 (Fig. D11)

A number of patches, both large and small, of surfacing were mainly confined between ditches 25026 and 25028. They survived as very thin layers of pebbles, preserved best where pressed into the surface of the underlying brickearth. Occasionally they were found to be two or three layers

thick. Cumulatively, they attest to a surface, or series of surfaces, which covered an area in excess of 60m, possibly as much as 80m north-south by 20m east-west.

Those surfaces lying between the ditches (9523, 9524, 9525, 9626), were the best preserved and clearly sealed Period II features (e.g., ditch 25030). The relationship between surfaces and other ditches was often difficult to establish, because the surfaces rarely physically reached the ditch edges. This made it difficult to ascertain whether the ditches cut the surfaces or the surfaces ran up to the ditch edges. It seems that the latter may be more likely and the extent of this gravelling was probably defined by the ditch lines, allowing them to be contemporary. The most northerly recorded extent of these deposits was excavated as 9644 and 9645. It was not established whether this surface continued to the south beyond its point of truncation by later ditch 25015.

Various gravelly silt layers lay on top of or sandwiched between these gravel surfaces, presumably representing degraded surfacing or use-accumulation and perhaps hint that there were several phases of surfaces, or at least repairs. Investigation into the presence of surfaces to the east of ditch 25026 was extremely limited, only being undertaken where segments were excavated through the ditch itself. Only one fragment of a possible surface, a gravel-rich clay-silt (9563) overlying brickearth, was identified in this location.

This apparently linear deposit of laid gravel was recognized early on in the fieldwork and regarded as a possible road surface, an interpretation reinforced by the idea that the ditches running either side were roadside ditches. However, it is likely that its linear aspect is misleading, as the parallel enclosure ditches bias the way in which the gravel surfaces are viewed. While an extension to the west seems unlikely (the few fragments of surface here all look earlier), it is by no means certain that they did not continue further to the east - very little excavation was undertaken beyond ditch 25026, it acting as the eastern limit of Area D. Indeed, none of the supposed limits of this deposit are certain. While deposits such as 9626, 9644 and possibly 9601 suggest an edge just east of ditches 25016/25017, other evidence points to a further eastward continuation. Layers 9602 and 9603 seem to be cut by this ditch and may well equate with gravel surfaces along its opposite side, such as 9636 and 9671. Also, there is no clear edge at the gap/entrance to the south of this same ditch with further small patches continuing from 9601 on the east through to 9671 on the west side. It is probable that the gravel surfaces either side of this boundary were separate entities, with those to the west closely associated with occupation remains (Building 15) inside their own enclosure. Similarly on the east side of the gravel surfacing, 9525 suggests a real edge was present, but 9603 and 9918 were cut by ditch 25021.

However, even if we do not call this surface a road, if we allow that the ditches were primarily designed to channel the movement of livestock between enclosures, the purpose of such an arrangement must have been as a path or droveway.

Dating is somewhat problematical. As is the case elsewhere, the surfaces themselves are rarely datable in their own right. Very few yielded any artefacts and those that were retrieved must be regarded as possibly either residual at the time of construction, or impressed into the surface later and so effectively intrusive. Stratigraphic associations are really the only reliable indicators. In a few cases, particularly at the south end, there is indication of a late first century date. On the whole, mid-2nd century AD is likely for the majority, and it remains quite likely there may be more than one episode represented, even after separating these from the mid-first century surfaces in Period II.

9525	Samian bowl f37 (EGSW) Other pottery dishes B1 (GRS) B2/B4 (GRS)
9563	Pottery jar G24.2 (RET)
9602	Pottery mortarium D1 (COLBM)
9644	Samian bowl f46 (CGSW) Other pottery dishes B3 (BSW) B2/B4 (BSW) beaker H35 (GRS)
9645	Coin undated small bronze, ?late (SF4921)

9661	Pottery dish B2/B4 (GRS)
9752	Samian dish f18/31 (CGSW), bowl f36 (CGSW), cup f33 (CGSW) Other pottery fabrics GRS BSW NKG

Generally, small quantities of pottery were recovered from these deposits. Layer 9644 produced a folded beaker, which dates to the first half of the 3rd century AD. This is the latest pottery; the remainder carries a broader date range, dating from the mid 2nd century. There was some residual pottery, notably Dressel 1 and *Salazon* amphora sherds from 9525 and 9644 respectively.

Pits 9044, 9774

Few pits attributable to Period IIIb have been identified. Pit 9044 was a roughly circular cut of 3m diameter and 0.4m depth, with steep sides and flat base. Its single fill contained small quantities of pottery, tile and animal bone. It is possible that pit 9044 was deliberately located off the end of contemporary ditch 25026, though it is perhaps too speculative to suggest that 9774 was located alongside the presumed eastward continuation of ditch 9581.

Period III b pits

9044	Pottery beaker H1 (BSW), flagon J3.2 (COLB)
9774	Pottery jars G19 (BSW), fabric COLC

While the sherd of Colchester colour-coated ware within 9774 is the latest piece, probably dating to the first half of the 2nd century AD, the remaining pottery does not continue beyond the early 2nd century AD, and could well be confined to the late 1st century AD. A late 1st to early 2nd century AD infilling date is suggested.

Period IIIc

The Period IIIb ditches passed out of use in the early 2nd century. Phase IIIc thus extends from the early to the mid second century. Ditch 25026 was directly replaced by another, 25021, which was cut along the western edge of the earlier boundary - except at its northern end where it veered off further to the NW. This departure from the former line may have created an 'extra space' which was immediately filled by a series of parallel slots and pits: the majority of Area D's earlier 2nd century pits were located here. This peripheral area was also used as a burial ground for a small group of cremations inserted into the top of large pit 9391, itself cut into the earlier boundary ditch.

While southern boundary ditch 25034 may have continued into this phase, the less substantial 25035 was replaced by a bigger ditch 25015, offset further east to create an access point between enclosures. This ditch extended east through Area F to the edge of Road 1.

Ditch 25021 (segments 9067, 9204, 9251, 9325, 9367, 9405, 9476, 9520, 9529) (Fig. D13)

Ditch 25021 was a substantial and extensive linear feature running across the whole of Area D. Clearly a direct replacement of the Period IIIb ditch 25026, this new boundary was cut along the western edge of its predecessor for much of its exposed length. Curiously, at the northern end of the area, it curved to a more WNW-ESE course (slightly less markedly so than the earlier ditches 25018 and 25019 at roughly the same point northwards). This suggests all these phases of land division shared a common basic orientation and function, even if shifting slightly over time.

At its north end it extended beyond the limit of excavation while to the south its course was obscured within a mass of brown-grey silt deposits, pits and other ditches which were not extensively investigated. Its deviation from the line of 25026, although roughly in keeping with the line of earlier ditch 25018 and the posited 'unmarked boundary' around this point, may also be significant. It seems to mark off the area of the cremation burials and the parallel slots, moving them significantly to the 'outside'. All the pits at this end of the site are also on the same side ('outside', as viewed from the core of the site) of this boundary. While the area in question was perhaps already regarded as 'outside' before now, the division seems much more clear-cut given the alteration in line between ditches 25026 and 25021.

However, it may be presumed that 25021 continued southward at least as far as 23035 and its Period IIIc successor 25015. There does not appear to be any entrance gap at the junction of these ditches, which would mark a significant change from earlier periods in this vicinity and must be presumed to be related to the fact that there was no longer occupation at this spot. However, the exact southern extent was not clearly defined and it is just possible that 25021 did stop at about the location of pit 9750.

The ditch fills become increasingly artefactually rich toward the southern end of 25021, with pottery and CBM increasingly common, together with slag, glass and worked stone. There is little doubt it was originally cut in the mid second century, but it may have remained in use (perhaps recut or at least cleaned out) up to the end of the third century. No other features encroached upon it.

There appears to have been a further episode of filling in the late fourth century, probably unrelated to the use life of the ditch, perhaps for levelling or dumping.

9067	Samian dishes 18/31 (CGSW) f31 (CGSW) Other pottery dish B7 (BSW), beaker H2 (GRF)
9204	Samian bowl f38 (CGSW) Other pottery cup F cf. Young 1977 type C112-117 (OXRC), beaker H34/H35 (BSW), fabrics LESTA COLC
9251	Samian dishes f31 (CGSW) f31R (CGSW), cup f33 (CGSW COLSW) Other pottery dishes B3 (BSW) B7 (BSW), mortarium D11 (EAM), jar G29.1 (BSW), beaker H (CGRHN)
9325	Samian fabrics CGSW EGSW Other pottery dishes B1 (GRS) B2/B4 (BB2) B6 (GRS), bowl-jar E1.1 (BSW), jar G23 (GRS), beaker H6 (GRF), fabrics OXRC LSH NKG NVC
9367	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW
9405	Pottery jar G9.1 (BSW), fabric COLC
9476	Samian dish f31R (CGSW) Other pottery dishes B1 (BSW) B2/B4 (BSW)
9520	Samian dishes f31 (CGSW EGSW) Ludowici Tg (CGSW), bowl Curle 15 or 23 (CGSW), cup f33 (CGSW) Other pottery dishes B2 (GRS) B6 (GRS, RET), jar G27 (LSH), fabrics COLC NVC

The pottery from segments 9067, 9251 and 9405 is predominantly 2nd century in date. Contemporary pottery was also recovered from segments 9204, 9325 and 9520, but in addition to late 4th century wares, principally Oxford colour-coated and late shell-tempered wares. However, this material was collected from the upper or top fills, suggesting that, while much of the ditch was in-filled during the 2nd century, final (unrelated) episodes occurred during the later 4th century.

Ditch 25015 (sections 9303, 9434, 9772) (Fig. D19)

25015 was a curvilinear section of ditch at the south extreme of Area D. It formed the rounded corner of a substantial ditch marking the boundary of a rectilinear enclosure / land division, which ran on a N-S / E-W alignment. It ran into the edge of excavation to the south and clearly continued eastwards, into Area F. Generally, it was c.1.6m wide and between 0.4m and 0.8m deep, though it was substantially bigger at its corner, at 3.1m wide and 0.8m deep. 25015 cut both ditch 25035 and the Period IIb gravel surfaces .

25015 was a more substantial replacement of 25035. Judging by its shape and position it would seem to be a direct replacement with the modification of a slight eastward shift of c.4m, possibly to create a new, wider, access at this junction of the enclosure system between itself and the terminal of 25034. Running along what is presumed to be the same line as its predecessor, the creation of this ditch signalled a continuation and reinforcement of the boundary nature of this vicinity. This ditch may have extended across adjacent Area F, right up to a terminus at the side of Road 1, but was later largely truncated by later ?recut ditch 25027.

Similar to 25021, its fills yielded a range of finds of varying dates along its length. This variation in 2nd to mid 3rd pottery dates from one slot to another may attest to it being open for some time and being filled gradually/*ad hoc*.

Ditch 25015

9303	Samian dish f31 (CGSW), bowls f36 (CGSW) f37 (CGSW) f38 (CGSW), cup f33 (CGSW) Other pottery dishes B1 (BSW) B3 (BSW) B4 (GRS) B5.1 (BB1), jar G5.4 (GRS), beaker H34/H35 (COLC), fabrics NVC EGRHN
9434	Samian dish f31 (EGSW), bowl f36 (CGSW) Other pottery dishes B1.2 (BSW) B4 (BSW), jar G5.6 (GRS), beakers H20 (COLC) H (EGRHN), flagon J3 (COLB)
9772	Samian dishes f31 (CGSW) f31R (CGSW), cup f33 (CGSW) Other pottery mortarium D11 (COLBM), beaker H cf. Symonds 1992 Gp34 (EGRHN), fabrics COLC NVC

The presence of Colchester colour-coated ware in all three segments in association with B2/B4 dishes suggests that the ditch fell out of use by the end of the 2nd century AD. Filling is likely to have continued into the 3rd century, as evidenced by the presence of Nene Valley and East Gaulish Rhenish ware products. A single sherd of late shell-tempered ware in 9772 and dated to the late 4th century is probably intrusive.

Structure 40: Parallel slots 25000 (segs. 9070, 9078), **25022** (segs. 9076, 9090), **25023** (segs. 9086, 9102, 9105), **25235** (segs. 9138, 9132)

A series of four short parallel gullies or slots, running NNW-SSE, located toward the north-west corner of Area D. They were equally spaced at around 0.6-0.8m apart, cut into natural brickearth, with near-vertical sides and flat bottoms. Slots 25000 and 25023 were of similar length at c.8m. 25235, though truncated by later slot 25025, is likely to have been of similar length. The relative shortness of 25022 seems deliberate, judging by the clear definition of its terminals, rather than being due to truncation. All these slots averaged 0.8m in width and a depth of 0.2-0.35m, though their northern ends tended to be shallower than the southern.

The slots contained single fills which varied by feature, from grey-brown to black-brown silty clays. Finds were present throughout in varying, though generally small, quantities. These invariably included pottery, usually a small amount of cbm or daub or briquetage (sometimes all three), and the odd nail. Soil sampling of those slots with particularly dark fills established that this was due to a high charcoal content but, other than a few tiny animal bone fragments, no ecofacts were extracted.

Interpretation is difficult as the four slots are not obviously related to anything else in the vicinity. It is possible that they represent the remains of a structure or they may have been horticultural trenches; though there is no ecofactual evidence to support the latter. Their fills would seem to be rubbish deposits of early 2nd century AD date. It may be speculated that, whatever their function, their location was the result of the using up of a space created by the westward shift of the boundary from the position of ditch 25026 to that of ditch 25021, in Period IIIb. It is also tempting to try to relate these to the nearby cremation burials.

Parallel slots 25000, 25022, 2502, 25235

9070	Samian dish 18/31 or 31 (CGSW), bowl f37 (CGSW) Other pottery dish B2/B4 (BSW), jars G17 (BSW) G19 (GRS NKG) G23 (GRS BSW) G24 (GRS)
9076	Samian platter f18 (SGSW)
9090	Samian fabric SGSW Other pottery bowl C cf. Monaghan 1987 type 7A2 (NKG)
9086	Pottery fabrics NKG BSW
9102	Pottery dish B4 (BSW), jar G23 (BSW GRF), flagon J3 (COLB)
9105	Pottery fabrics GROG BSW
9138	Pottery dishes B2/B4 (GRS) B7 (BSW), jar G19 (GRS)
9132	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS

Segments 9090, 9070 and 9102 produced large amounts of pottery dating to the early 2nd century. The remaining pottery is consistent with this date, although the samian platter in 9076 is residual.

Slot 25025 (Segs. 9107, 9134, 9155) (Fig. D20)

25025 was a longer and thinner slot which overlay the most easterly of the four parallel slot features, 25235. While it could be interpreted simply as a replacement of 25235 it was on a slightly different alignment and would seem to suggest that this was a more significant change, though not

unrelated, which took place after the four parallel slots had passed out of use. No obvious function suggests itself, although the foundation of a screening fence may be possible.

Slot 25024

9107	Samian fabric CGSW Other pottery jar G19/G20 (GRS)
9155	Samian dish f18/31R (CGSW)

A small amount of pottery was recovered from segments 9107 and 9155 and comprised largely undiagnostic and abraded sherds. However, it is consistent with an early to mid 2nd century AD date range.

Cremations 9329, 9665, 9927 and 9928 (Figs. D20 & D22)

A group of four cremation burials were inserted into the top of large pit(s) 9391/9630, itself cut into the fills of the Period IIIb boundary ditch 25026.

Burial pit 9665 contained an assemblage of two jars and a beaker. One of the jars contained c.1300g of cremated human bone (Sample 426).

Burial pit 9927 was a sub-rectangular cut containing a single jar that contained 1120g of cremated bone (Sample 362) and nine iron nails.

Burial pit 9928 was a small oval cut containing a single jar that contained 750g of cremated bone (Sample 360) and a single nail.

9329 was an unurned cremation burial in an elongated oval pit. The dark, burnt, fill (Sample 384) yielded a small quantity of burnt bone which was concentrated at the north end of the cut.

Together, these four cremation burials constitute a small group apparently deliberately inserted into the soft fills of a large pit. The position of the in-filled pit was presumably evident at the time of the interments. However, it may be argued that it was the continuing peripheral nature of this vicinity, over redundant ditch 25026 and alongside ditch 25021, which was the dominant factor governing their location. These features (particularly 9927, 9928) had been disturbed by deep wheel ruts during stripping of the site.

Period IIIc cremation burials

9329	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS GROG
9665	Pottery beaker H1 (BSW), fabrics NKG GRS
9927	Pottery fabric GRS
9928	Pottery beaker H (BSW), fabric GRS

Much of the pottery recovered from these features was fragmentary and consequently cannot be closely dated. Some of it, notably the grog-tempered ware, is almost certainly residual. These features are best dated by their stratigraphic relationships, cut into a pit that cut into the defunct ditch 25026, and by the presumed association with contemporary ditch 25021.

?Pit 9366 (Fig. D20)

Another feature which may be part of this cremation-related activity was triangular 'pit' 9366 of mid-2nd century AD date. It measured 1.96m long and 0.5m deep. At the least, it is geographically related, in that it takes advantage of the same newly created space. It is tempting to speculate that it had a pyre-related function, but its contents do not support this. Its finds included a Millstone Grit quern and a little pottery but nothing else of note.

9366	Samian dish 18/31 or 31 (CGSW) Other pottery dish B4 (BB2), jar G5 (GRS), fabric NKG
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Most of the pottery was recovered from the top fill and is consistent with a 2nd century date.

Pits 9007/9170, 9014, 9015, 9029, 9165, 9189, 9270, 9275, 9358, 9594, 9595, 9391/9630/9663, 9633, 9635, 9750 (Fig. D23)

The Period IIIc pits are clearly more numerous than those of sub-phases a and b. As noted above, the artefact assemblages from these later pits tend to be larger and more varied, including significant quantities of building materials such as tile. The majority were large and oval to irregular in plan, averaging 3-4m at their widest extent and surviving to depths of between 0.4 and 0.8m. Generally of mid 2nd century date, some of those listed might run into the later second.

Some, such as 9007 and 9391 were recut. A few were cut into the tops of significantly earlier features, the locations of which may have still been visible at the time (e.g. 9015). Large pit 9630/9391/9663 was cut into the defunct Period IIIb ditch 25026 and contained a number of successive recuts as well as the four cremations 9329, 9665, 9927 and 9928. The smaller examples of these Period IIIc pits, such as 9165 and 9270, tend to be isolated.

9358 was a pronounced oval 2m long and 1.3m wide. It was relatively deep at 0.8m with near vertical sides and a flat base. It had remnants of what appeared to be a lining of tile fragments across its bottom and around the sides, suggesting that this was not merely a rubbish pit. It seems to have been deliberately backfilled with silty gravel before being reused in Period IV (see 9243). This reuse has made interpretation of the original function impossible.

9014, an oval cut, 2.3 x 2.3m and 0.41m deep, contained two near-complete vessels (one dish and one jar) within its upper fills probably representing a structured deposit - perhaps some sort of closure rite. Given its location on the edge of site, it is possible that the feature was, in fact, a ditch terminal.

9007	Samian dishes f18/31R or f31R (EGSW) f31 (CGSW), bowl f36 (CGSW), cup f33 (CGSW) Other pottery dishes B1 (GRS) B3 (GRS) B2/B4 (BSW), mortarium D1 (BUFM), fabrics COLC EGRHN
9014	Samian dish f18/31 or f31 (CGSW) f31 (CGSW), cup f33 (CGSW) Other pottery dishes B1 (GRS) B2/B4 (GRS), jar G5.5 (GRS), beaker H20 (COLC), fabric NVC
9015	Samian dish f18/31 (CGSW), bowl f30 or f37 (CGSW), cup f33 (CGSW) Other pottery dishes B1 (BSW) B2/B4 (GRS), jars G5.5 (GRS) G36 (GRS) G29.1 (BSW)
9029 KPG	Samian dishes f18/31 or 31 (CGSW) f31 (CGSW) f32 (EGSW) f79 (CGSW), cups f27 (COLSW) f33 (CGSW) Other pottery dishes B3 (GRS) B4.2 (BB2), mortarium D1.2 (GRSWSM), jars G5.5 (GRS) G19 (GRS BSW) G20 (GRS) G22 (GRS) G23 (GRS) G29.1 (BSW), beakers H5 (NKG) H7 (GRS) H20 (COLC)
9165	Pottery jar G5.4 (GRS)
9270	Samian dish f31 (CGSW) Other pottery dish B2/B4 (BSW), jars G5.4 (GRS) G23.3 (STOR)
9358	Samian fabric CGSW Other pottery jars G5.4 (BSW) G19/G20 (GRS), fabric NKG
9391	Samian cup f33 (COLSW) Other pottery jar G3 (GRS)
9594	Samian dish f32 (EGSW) Other pottery platter A2 (BSW)
9750	Samian dishes f18/31R (COLSW) f31 (EGSW), bowls f37 (CGSW) Curle 11 (CGSW) Other pottery dishes B2/B4 (GRS) B3 (GRS), bowl C16 (GRS), mortarium D1 (BUFM), beaker H20 (COLC)

Pottery was recovered from the majority of pits, often in large quantities. Generally, it is consistently 2nd century AD in date. Pits 9007 and 9014 were perhaps among the latest to be filled. The presence of East Gaulish Rhenish ware and Nene Valley colour-coated ware suggests that some features continued to accumulate material until the early 3rd century. Some pits contained residual pottery, such as 9750. **The pottery from 9594 and 9391 might also be wholly residual.**

Non sub-phased hearths 9369, 9404, 9506, 9573 (Fig. D24)

These features cannot be dated sufficiently closely to place them into sub-phases and, indeed, can only tentatively be assigned to Period III. Elsewhere on site, most hearths (where dated) tend to be of this date. Burnt deposit 9369 was a collection of cracked and reddened stones on top of the brickhearth. Not obviously in a cut, they could conceivably have lined the bottom of a hearth that had been severely truncated. 9404 was a similar burnt flint feature but contained within a very shallow cut. 9506 was a storage jar oven, the jar of which (9447) contained stones which may indicate a hot-stone method of cooking was used. 9573 was a similar storage jar oven, minus the stones. Although

not obviously associated with anything else, it was cut into the top of ditch 25028, and so must have been late 1st century or later.

It is probably significant that all of these hearths, apart from 9573, were located to the west of the ditches 25028 and 25016. To some extent, this may be a product of selective excavation, but equally the hearths themselves were generally targeted and the vicinities around them investigated as likely locations of occupation activity. However, given the uncertain dating, it is impossible to link these firmly with structural features.

PERIOD IV (Fig. D25)

No new ditches were established in this mid-Roman period. The major Period IIIc ditch 25021 and curving ditch 25015, both survived in a deep enough state to continue receiving infill containing artefacts of this date. Apart from this, and a few pits, there is little evidence for activity in this area of the site. It is possible that there was a continuing southward and eastward shift or contraction of activity. It is difficult to speculate about the nature of land-use. Although the greater parts of the boundary features appear to be infilled by this period, it is possible that they were still marked by hedges and that the essence of the Period IIIc enclosure pattern remained in place. The Period IV material in the upper fills of the southern parts of the ditches may be the result of rubbish disposal, from an occupation area to the south, along the edge of the enclosure and at the foot of a hedge. It seems difficult to avoid the conclusion that the area was largely out of domestic occupation use by the late second century, although a predominantly agricultural use may well have persisted. It may be significant that virtually all the pits of this period lay to the east of ditch 25021.

Gully 25032 (segs. 9566, 9576, 9597, 9767) & recut 25033 (segs. 9564, 9591, 9598) (Fig. D26)

A gently curving gully approximately 1.0-1.1m wide and around 0.45m deep, with a single fill. The northern end was not located, as it was lost within intercutting pits 9801 and 9846, though is presumed to have ended above them. A rounded terminal was located at its south end. This gully was at least 5.5m long. Its shallower recut followed exactly the same line but extended further southwards, beyond the edge of excavation. In all, this recut was c.7m long, as excavated. No other features, such as post-holes, were found within either of these gullies. They nevertheless probably attest to some structure in this location, which had previously been the site of Building 15. Such a building would, again, be on the edge of the residential area.

Gully 25032

9767	Samian bowl f36 (CGSW) Other pottery mortarium D1 (VRWM), fabric COLC
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This feature contained small amounts of pottery of mixed date. Segment 9593 yielded residual pottery dating to the mid to late 1st century AD. The pottery recovered from segment 9767 dates to the 2nd century AD.

Gully 25032

9598	Samian dish f18/31 or 31 (CGSW), bowl f30 or 37 (CGSW) Other pottery dishes B1 (BSW GRS) B2/B4 (GRF BSW) B3 (BSW GRF), mortarium D11 (BUFM), jar G5.5 (GRS), beaker H (NVC COLC CGRHN)
9591	Samian dishes f18/31 or 31 (CGSW) f31R (CGSW), bowl Curle 23 (CGSW) Other pottery dishes B2 (GRS) B4 (GRF), beaker H34 (BSW), fabric COLC

Segment 9598 produced pottery of mixed date, including a small proportion of residual Late Iron Age grog and shell tempered fabrics. The remainder from this segment and the pottery from 9591 can be dated to the late 2nd or early 3rd century AD.

Pits 9038, 9100, 9201, 9243, 9363, 9384, 9464, 9974 (Fig. D27)

There is no obvious patterning in the distribution of mid Roman pits, although the fact that they were mostly located to the east of the Period IIIc ditch 25021 and associated features may be significant. This ditch continued to receive material during this period and most probably continued to function as a boundary throughout IV and perhaps into Period V.

The Period IV pits varied in size and shape, though generally all had large and varied finds assemblages which included metalwork and glass along with quantities of pottery and tile.

Period IV pits

9038	Samian dishes f18/31 (CGSW) f31 (CGSW) f18/31R (CGSW, EGSW) 31R (CGSW, EGSW), bowls f36 (CGSW) f37 (CGSW) Curle 21 (CGSW), cup f33 (CGSW) Other pottery dishes B1 (GRS) B2 (GRF), mortarium D2 (BUFM), jar G5.4 (BSW), fabric HAX Coin As, Antoninus Pius (SF1539) 154-155
9100	Samian fabric CGSW Other pottery fabrics BSW BUFM

9201	Samian dish f31 (CGSW), bowl f37 (CGSW) Other pottery dish B3.2 (GRS), jars G5.4 (BSW) G5.5 (GRS) G5.6 (GRS) G24.1 (BSW), fabric COLC
9243	Samian fabric CGSW Other pottery jar G5.4 (BSW) G24 (GRS), beaker H21 (COLC)
9363	Samian dish 31R (CGSW) Other pottery mortarium D1 (COLBM), jar G9 (GRS)
9464	Samian dish f31 (CGSW) Other pottery dishes B1 (BSW) B2/B4 (BSW) B3 (GRF), fabric HAX NVC

The pottery evidence provides a mid 2nd to early 3rd century date range for most episodes of filling. This is supported by the presence of a coin in 9038. There is some residual pottery, notably Dressel 1 amphora sherds, which date to the late 1st century BC.

PERIOD V (Fig. D28)

Evidence of late Roman activity was restricted to the south end of Area D. The Period IIIc ditch 25015 continued to accumulate material in its top, as did the south end of 25021; though it is perhaps unlikely that either still functioned as boundaries by this time. The only new boundary feature was ditch 25031 which seems to perpetuate the east-west land division which had been in place since Period III. The only other feature accompanying this ditch was pit 9651. Again, the vast majority of area was basically empty, reinforcing the notion that 25015 (and now 25031) marked the limit of the settlement in this direction.

Ditch 25031 (segs. 9381, 9812) (Figs. D15, D29)

25031 was a WSW-ENE aligned ditch some 11m long (as exposed) and 1.35m wide. It overlay and ran within the confines of earlier ditches 25034 and 9581. It had a rounded terminal at its eastern end and displayed a minor kink or ‘dog-leg’.

25031 seems to have deliberately re-established the old boundary. However, this was not simply a reinstatement, but clearly modified the boundary arrangement. The small gap between earlier ditches 25034 and 25035 was blocked and a new one established just to the east between its terminal and the corner of 25015. 25015 may therefore be presumed to survive this late in some form (*i.e.*, it may be more or less dysfunctional as a ditch but still have a boundary significance – especially if flanked by a hedge?). Dating is something of a problem, and a life spanning Periods IV-VI is quite possible. Certainly, this line seems to have been marked somehow throughout this time.

Ditch 25031

9381	Pottery dish B5.3 (LSH), bowl C (OXRC), mortarium D7 cf. Young 1977 type WC7 (OXSWM)
9812	Samian dish f31R (CGSW), bowl f37 (CGSW) Other pottery beaker H35 (RED), fabrics COLC NVC

Ditch segment 9381 yielded late 4th century forms and fabrics. In contrast, segment 9812 contained earlier pottery, dating to the first half or the mid 3rd century AD.

Pit 9651

9651 was the only excavated pit of late Roman date in Area D. It was a small circular cut 0.86m diameter and 0.37m deep. Its finds were entirely unremarkable, comprising pottery, animal bone, tile and two iron nails.

Pit 9651

9651	Pottery bowl C8 (RED), bowl-jar E5 (GRS), beaker H39 (GRS)
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The pottery recovered from this feature is likely to date to the first half of the 4th century. The pit contained Central Gaulish samian ware bowls and B3 and B2/B4 dishes, which are probably residual by this time; the Dressel 1 amphora and handmade grog-tempered ware also present certainly are.

PERIOD VI

No features of *latest* Roman or early Saxon date have been identified in Area D. The only evidence for depositional activity is the continued accumulation of late 4th century pottery within ditch 25031. The conclusion must be that the apparent trend in contraction of occupation activity throughout the 3rd and 4th centuries was not reversed and that this ditch, perhaps along with 25027 in Area F, was the northern limit of the greater part of latest Roman settlement activity.

Noting the range of Period VI activity elsewhere across the site, it is perhaps inconceivable that no use of this area was made. Although no occupation occurred, it seems reasonable to assume that the vicinity was at least used as pasture.