

AREA E

INTRODUCTION

Area E was located on the northern periphery of Area A1, immediately east of Area D. Convenient north-to-south ditch lines largely defined its extent; hence its tapering south section. Some features, particularly east-to-west ditches, extended into the adjacent Areas, and Area E could really be viewed as an integral part of Areas D and F. All three areas contained similar features and shared similar patterns of development through time. As with Area D, features were cut directly into natural gravel and brickearth at the north end, while feature definition became less distinct southwards where stratified silt deposits were widespread.

Area E's development mirrored that of Area D quite closely, with ditches marking elements of the same land division systems, and a similar distribution of isolated pits, contrasting with the clusters of pits seen in most of the rest of the site. This area seems to have been as peripheral to the settlement as D (on Fig.D1).

Summary of phasing:

Period:	Sub-period	Description:	Period / date:
I		-	MIA/LIA transition
II	a	'Unstructured' activity	LIA/Roman transition
	b	Early enclosure, occupation and burial	
III		Larger enclosures and occupation?	Early Roman
IV		Southward shift, marginalisation of area	Mid Roman
V		Odd activity, inc. human parts in pits	Late Roman
VI		Scattered activity, mainly pits	Latest Rom/Saxon trans.
VII		-	

PERIOD I:

No features of this date have been identified.

PERIOD II (Fig. D1)

No separable phases of activity were evident during the late Iron Age and transitional period in this area; largely due to the lack of intercutting boundary features. A subdivision of sorts has been arrived at by inference from the neighbouring areas, since the defining stratigraphic relationships occur where Area E linear features continued into adjacent Area F or displayed similar sequences to those noted for the Period II A and II B enclosure features in Area D. However, Area E features evidently played a part in a land division system that clearly predated the road layout and transitional period modification of the landscape in neighbouring areas. Thus a II A sub-phase has been created here that spans the late 1st century BC to early 1st century AD, even though there is no clearly-defined II B to follow it. However, most of the pits would probably be regarded as being in the transition-period sub-phase if they occurred in neighbouring areas.

Sub-phase II A (late 1st cent. BC to early 1st cent. AD)

As in Area D, little more than a single ditch system represented this LPRIA phase. Ditch 25036 was probably contemporary with similar ditches 25024 in Area D and 25241 in Area F. The recut series of ditches 25236/25237/25238 appear to have related to the same scheme. Running broadly parallel, approximately 20-24m apart, these defined the earliest phase of land division in this vicinity of the

site. Isolated cremation burial 8177 was the only feature representative of the very end of the 1st century AD to early 1st century AD activity in this area. It was probably contemporary with the Area W cremation activity.

Ditch 25036 (segs. 8096, 8147, 8205, 8159) (Fig. E1)

Ditch 25036 was one of only a few recognisably late 1st century BC features in Area E. Varying between only 0.75-1.2m wide and up to 0.4m deep, it ran on a roughly north-to-south line for at least 40m. Terminals were not identified at either end, though it is probable that its north end terminated below Period VI feature 25212. 'Slot' 8159 was most probably a misconstrued part of this ditch. The course of this shallow ditch was irregular, particularly at its north end, and was reminiscent of ditch 25024 in Area D. Its single fill contained pottery and small amounts of animal bone only.

Ditch 25036

8096	Pottery fabrics MICW GROG
8147	Pottery fabrics MICW GROG
8205	Pottery fabric GROG
8159	Pottery fabrics MICW GROG

These ditch segments contained small quantities of pottery in both grog- and sand-tempered fabrics, indicating a date early in the Late Iron Age sequence.

Ditches 25236, 25237, 25238 (respectively segs. 8212, 8210 and 8208) (Fig. E2)

This sequence of recut ditches described a NNW-SSE aligned boundary, which progressively moved slightly westward(?) with each recutting episode. The individual cuts were of similar width, depth and alignment. This sequence of ditches was exposed over a 14m length, but was obscured by unexcavated silts elsewhere. Ditch 25236 was the earliest, being replaced by 25237 on a slightly different line, before being recut as 25238. It is likely that this was a fairly rapid sequence of events. The latest ditch 25238 was still early by comparison with Period II features elsewhere, and as the line suggests an association with 25036 and other ditches, all of these appear to belong in the early part of Period II. No terminals were located and, while it is likely that this boundary extended northward beyond the limit of Area A1, they cannot have continued far to the south. It is likely that this ditch stopped short of the pits clustered at the terminal of the later enclosure ditch 25039, in Area F.

Only the latest recut, segment 8208 contained a significant artefact assemblage, including a potin coin (SF6841), hand-made grog-tempered pottery of pre-conquest date, and briquetage.

Ditch 25236, 25237, 25238

8208	Pottery fabric GROG Coin Potin fragment (SF6871)
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This ditch section contained handmade grog-tempered pottery, which may indicate a date early in the Late Iron Age sequence. The coin fragment provides a mid 1st century BC date.

Cremation burial 8177 (Fig. E3)

8177 was a poorly-defined oval shaped feature cut into natural brickearth. Originally recorded as being *sealed* by the brickearth, it is possible that the upper portion of the feature and its silt/sand fill were instead truncated by later reworking of the upper part of the brickearth. The pit contained an assemblage of a cremation vessel and three ancillary vessels, all of early to mid 1st century AD date. Within the cinerary urn was brooch-and-chain ensemble SF7019 (ref. to brooch report). Any other accompaniment to the burial had not survived—there were only minute fragments of animal bone to hint that other items may have been present. Overlying deposits had been stripped by machine and this process had smashed and heavily truncated the main vessel (8169), although it still contained cremated bone in its fill. The three ancillary vessels (8171, 8173 and 8175) lay to its east. They were in good condition but vessel 8169 was partially burnt both internally and externally.

This seemingly isolated cremation burial was found only after machine removal of an area of the 'reworked' brickearth horizon and hints that other late Iron Age features, possibly including further burials, may have remained undetected in this area.

Cremation 8177

8177	Pottery bowl EF44 (GROG), jars EF159 (GROG) EF160 (GROG) Brooch La Tene III (SF7019)
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This cremation contained four grog-tempered vessels, dating to the Late Iron Age. The fill of the cremation urn contained parts of an iron brooch-and-ring ensemble with a possible date range of late 1st century BC to early 1st century AD.

Sub-phase II B (mid-1st century AD)

Only Slot 8121 can be assigned to this sub-phase, on the basis that it appears to be part of the same layout as similar features in Area D, along with the majority of the Late Iron Age pits.

Slot 8121

Feature 8121 was a 3.6m length of small ditch, which extended beyond the northern limit of excavation. At 0.55m wide and 0.25m deep, it had a NNW-SSE alignment and a rounded terminal at its south end. It is possible that this was another of the north-to-south ditch/gullies which occurred along the northern edge of Area D (25001, etc.), defining a series of strip plots which extended northwards to the palaeochannel in Area B in sub-phase II B.

Slot 8121

8120	Pottery fabrics GROG GRS
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Very little dating evidence was recovered, but an early Roman date is possible.

Period II features, not sub-phased

For the majority of the discrete features such as pits and gullies dated to Period II, further chronological distinction is not possible. The small number of generally disparate features involved does not allow spatial consideration in relation to one another or to the few boundary features in this area. These Period II features could therefore belong to either of the above sub-periods.

Miscellaneous slots 25213 (seg. 8085, 8103, 8185), 25109 (seg.8136), 25239 (segs. 8244, 9273)

Other slots, gullies or minor ditches of late Iron Age date occurred within Area E. 25213 and 25109 were intercutting, curving, ditches which could only be partially traced. The earlier, 25109, was a 4m-long ditch fragment. 25213 was 1.0-1.4m wide and 0.4m deep, its 9m length displaying an irregular curve. These remain uninterpreted. No finds were recovered from the earlier feature, but 25213 contained a small amount of GRS pottery along with grog-tempered, perhaps indicating that this feature was open as late as the mid 1st century AD. As such, it is likely that it was contemporary with the Period IIb features. Similar tantalising hints of rounded enclosures were also encountered in Area G to the east, where they may be of later 1st century BC date.

25239 was a 7m-long fragment of a straight, minor ditch or gully. Running on an ENE-WSW alignment, it was 0.65m wide and 0.3m deep. Though a rounded terminal was identified at its west end, later pitting removed its eastwards extent. It is possible that this ditch, which ran parallel to Area D ditch 25016, 8m to its south, constituted a subdivision within the enclosure, perhaps even originally adjoining 25039 to its east. **Are any of these really worth a mention? Likewise 8121 above?**

Ditch 25213 (8085, 8103, 8185)

8085	Samian fabric SGSW Other pottery fabrics GRS GROG
8185	Pottery jar G1 (GROG), fabrics BSW GRS
8103	Pottery fabrics GRS GROG

This feature contained pottery in both grog-tempered and Roman fabrics, indicating an early Roman date. There was a small amount of residual prehistoric (MIA) pottery also present.

Ditch/gully 25239

8244	Pottery fabric GROG
9273	Pottery fabric GROG

This feature contained a small quantity of grog-tempered pottery dating to the Late Iron Age.

Pits 8012, 8017, 8019, 8026, 8041, 8054, 8062, 8112, 8164, 8225, 8257, 8264, 8266, 8274, 8282, 8285, 10014 (Fig. E4)

The pits fall into three categories based on size and shape; large and rounded pits over 2m diameter, *e.g.*, 8012, 8026, 8257, 8266, 8274 and 8282; small and rounded pits under 1.5m diameter, *e.g.*, 8019, 8164 and 8225; and rectangular pits, *e.g.*, 8264 and 10014. However, such subdivisions had no spatial correlation, except that there may have been a tendency for the larger pits to occur towards the north end of Area E. This suggests that these pits were located following the same logic as those of Period II in Area D.

Predictably, the larger pits tended to have had more complex fill sequences and larger finds assemblages. Their finds mainly comprised pottery and animal bone, but also daub and briquetage. Sieving recovered very small amounts of burnt animal bone from most pits. It is likely this combination of large feature size and finds assemblages indicates that the larger pits were used for rubbish disposal. Pit 8012 was an anomaly amongst these larger pits. Roughly circular, at 2.2m diameter and depth in excess of 0.85m, it contained three pottery-rich fills. While this appeared to be a rubbish pit, it was subsequently cut by smaller oval pit 8017, at its centre. 8017 had a single pottery-rich fill and seemed to be a smaller deliberate recut of the original feature. 8012 also contained a copper alloy brooch fragment (SF1349).

The smaller pits may have had a different function, at least before being backfilled, but no clear evidence for any specific purpose can be attested. On the whole they lacked the quantity and range of finds, though 8019 was an exception with its large amount of pottery, briquetage, bone and, perhaps significantly, 40g of tile spall fragments.

Only two of the early pits in Area E had rectangular plans. 8264 was 1.2m long and 0.7m wide, though slightly irregular, while 10014 was smaller but more regular at 1.65m x 1.0m. Though betraying no association with one another, both contained relatively large amounts of pottery compared to their shallow depths. 10014 also contained a substantial quantity of daub. These were clearly very different from the other pits of this period and it is postulated that they represent the latest, transitional period, pitting. All contained early to mid 1st century AD finds and some may have continued to receive material into the post-conquest period.

Period II pits

8012	Arretine platter (ITSW) Amphora Dr.1/Dr.2-4 (AITAH) Other pottery fabrics GROG BSW TN
8017	Amphora Dr.1/Dr.2-4 (AITAL) Other pottery bowl EF47 (GROG), fabrics ESH NGWF
8019	Amphora Beltran 1 (ASALA) Other pottery beakers <i>Cam</i> 113 (NGWFS) <i>Cam</i> 112 (TR), fabrics GRS GROG
8026 KPG	Samian fabric SGSW Amphoras Dr.2-4 (AITAL) <i>salazon</i> (ASALA) Other pottery platter <i>Cam</i> 2 (TN) EF16 (GROG), bowl EF72 (GROG), jars <i>Cam</i> 254 (ESH) EF146 (GROG) EF179 (GROG), beakers <i>Cam</i> 112 (TR) <i>Cam</i> 113 (NGWF) H7 (GRS), fabrics NGWF CGFCS
8112	Pottery fabric GROG
8164	Pottery fabrics GROG GRS
8225	Pottery fabrics GROG ESH
8257	Pottery fabrics GROG COLB
8264	Pottery jars EF123 (GROG) EF141 (GROG), fabric GRS
8266	Pottery jar G5.1 (GROG), fabrics BSW GRS NGWFS
8274	Amphora Dr.1/Dr.2-4 (AITAL) Other pottery jar G3.2 (GROG), fabrics ESH GRS
8282	Amphoras Dr.2-4 (AITAL) Beltran 1 (ASALA) Other pottery platters <i>Cam</i> 5 (TR) EF6 (GROG), bowl EF28 (GROG), jar EF133 (GROG), fabrics CGMIC NGWF CGFCS
10014	Samian bowl f29 (SGSW) Other pottery fabrics GROG GRS

These pits contained a range of fabrics and forms dating to the second quarter of the 1st century AD. Also present in most contexts are Roman sherds in small quantities.

PERIOD III: (Fig D?)

No sub-phases can be discerned within the early Roman features of Area E. This is mainly due to the lack of major features, particularly boundary ditches. Only a single early Roman ditch, 25037, occurred within the Area. It seemed to relate to land-use alongside the palaeochannel rather than to activity to the south and was probably associated with rectilinear Building 37, well 8188 and a number of rubbish pits. The early Roman use of the southern part of Area E is unclear, the evidence being restricted to a small number of pits only.

Well 8188 (Fig. E5)

Pit 8188 was the slightly oval construction cut of a timber-lined well. It was cut through natural brickearth and into gravel to a depth of 2.09m (reaching to 0.75m OD). The cut contained a centrally-positioned timber box lining c.1.15m square. It survived below the present watertable to a height of three planks. The planks were tangentially-sawn oak, averaging 0.26m wide and jointed with single dovetails at either end. Corner braces survived on the two upper surviving courses. In addition, vertical posts had been inserted at two corners to help support the structure. Construction cut 8188 was back-filled around the well lining with a clay deposit that contained several lenses of gravel and occasional finds. Dendrochronological analysis of the timber lining has given a felling date of winter AD159-160 (ref.). The mid/late 2nd-century pottery collected from the construction backfill is therefore of a comparable date. A parallel for the insertion of 'retaining posts' may be found in Well 4162 at near by Chigborough Farm (Wallis and Waughman 1998, 94), although this was late 3rd to early 4th century.

The well shaft contained a sequence of waterlogged fills. Primary fill 8196 was a peaty clay containing wood fragments and animal bone, though little else in the way of cultural debris. Two notable wooden artefacts were retrieved from this deposit; 'sword' (SF2758) and 'spatula blade' (SF7603) (ref to specialist report?). Above, was a sequence of organic and clayey silt accumulations. The top deposit (8167) included slumped clay lining, indicating the well's disuse and deterioration of the timbers. Lastly, a substantial clay-silt deposit (8094), possibly a deliberate infill of rubbish, filled the remaining void of the disused well. This contained significantly more finds (nails, and other iron objects, 2 coins (one illegible sestertius, one AE3 of House of Constantine probably intrusive from the ditch above, or just arriving when the feature was already filled), lava quern, glass fragments, a sharpening stone, 7kg of brick and 6kg of tile, 4kg of bone and 600 sherds of pottery). Although dating evidence was sparse for the primary fills, the disuse and backfill deposits supply a late 2nd to early 3rd century date. It is evident that the well did not remain in use for very long, probably less than 50 years.

**Well 8188:
construction**

8188	Pottery dish B4.2 (BSW), jars G24 (BSW) G29 (BSW), beaker H20 (COLC)
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The pottery recovered dates the construction of the well to the mid to late 2nd century.

Disuse/backfilling

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Late 2nd /early 3rd centuries

Ditch 25037 (segs. 8035, 8119)

25037 was an apparently isolated, north-south aligned ditch, 0.6m wide and under 0.3m deep. Although cut by substantial later Roman pits, it was traced for a distance of 24m and a terminal at its south end identified. Its fill contained mid-to-late-2nd century AD pottery, and 1.4kg of tile. The contrary alignment of this ditch to all other Roman features in the vicinity makes its interpretation difficult. Its line alone suggests it might relate better to the Period II b system, rather than anything so late. However, the location of its south end at least suggests that it could fit in to the pattern of land division which existed across the Northern Zone in this period.

Gully 25037 (8035, 8119)

8035	Pottery jar G20 (GRS), fabric BB1
8119	Pottery dish B4.2 (GRS), beaker H6 (NKG), fabrics GRS RET

The pottery recovered from both sections of gully provides a mid to late 2nd century date. There is a quantity of residual grog-tempered pottery present.

Building 37: 8064, 8069, 8071, 8075, 8082, 8090, 8100, 8105, 8109, 8117, 8129, 8131, 8133 (Fig. E6)

A collection of shallow stakeholes, postholes and slots all excavated along the north edge of Area E. Together, these represented a marked concentration of structural features that exhibited a degree of patterning on north-to-south and east-to-west alignments. These features possibly constituted the remains of a single building alongside gully 25037 to the west.

Though none of these features produced decent quantities of dating material, either singly or collectively, the 54g of tile spall in 8082, taken with the pottery, may suggest a Roman date for all.

Building 37

8075	Pottery fabric BSW
8090	Pottery fabric GROG
8105	Pottery fabric GRS
8131	Pottery fabric GRS
8133	Pottery fabric GRS

Few of the contexts associated with this building produced pottery. Dating evidence is inconclusive, but most of the sherds present are in Roman fabrics.

Pits 8037, 8058, 8073, 8165, 8247, 8269, 10023, 10026, 10034, 10044, 10070 (Fig. E7)

These Period III pits were circular-to-oval cuts of moderate size, averaging a width of 2m, although 8269 was larger at 4.1m x 2.5m. Most were steep-sided and flat-bottomed. They were largely concentrated in the north part of Area E – though this may be the result of excavation bias, as the south end was less fully explored. Pit 8165 was an apparently isolated circular pit, relatively deep at 0.53m. It contained traces of a possible clay lining, along with pottery, a small amount of baked clay and a glass jar handle.

Large pit 8269 displayed a prolonged, two-phase, sequence of infilling which extended into Period IV, while pits 10023 and 10044 appear to have been deliberately recut in this later period.

10026 appeared to comprise several episodes of deposition, and perhaps recutting, each with a lining layer before the main rubbish deposit (or a capping layer after?). The early lining was of orangey-brown clean, unmixed clay, and a later lining was of gravel. This 2m diameter pit was not bottomed due to the high watertable, but was at least 0.55m deep. Its profile was similar to features elsewhere which turned out to be wells, although it may be a little smaller than most of those, and the fills which were excavated contained nothing like the quantity of finds common to other wells. It may originally have had a purpose unrelated to the rubbish deposits which finally filled it.

These pits defined a 2nd century period of activity across this area of the site. While most of the pits contained relatively large amounts of pottery, those more closely dated to the mid 2nd century may be typified by the presence of tile in moderate quantity. Other types of find remain rare.

Period III pits

8037	Samian cup f33 (CGSW) Other pottery jars G9 (BSW) G22 (GRS), beakers H20 H21 (COLC)
8073	Samian bowl f37 (CGSW) Other pottery dish B2.3 (GRS), fabric BSW
8165	Samian bowl f30 or 37 (CGSW), cup f33 (CGSW) Other pottery jar G20 (GRS), beakers H6 (NKG) H20 (COLC), fabrics VRW COLB
8247	Samian cup f33 (CGSW)
8269	Pottery jars G5.4 G19 G22 (GRS)
10023	Samian dish f31 (CGSW) Other pottery dish B2 (BSW)
10026*	Samian bowl f38 (CGSW), cup f33 (CGSW) Other pottery dish B2 (GRS), jars G5.5 (GRS) G9 (GRS), beaker H20 (COLC), fabrics BSW NKG
10034	Pottery beaker H20 (COLC), fabric GRS

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10044*	Samian dish f18/31-31 (COLSW) Other pottery dish B2 (BB2), jar G23 (GRS), beakers H6 (GRF) H20 (COLC), fabric NKG
10070	Samian bowl f37 (CGSW), cup f33 (CGSW) Other pottery jar G23 (GRS), beakers H6 (NKG) H20 (COLC)

The pottery recovered dates mainly to the mid to late 2nd century, although pit 8165 began to be infilled during the early 2nd century. The presence of dishes in some contexts may extend the date range into the 3rd century.

PERIOD IV (Fig. E?)

In terms of numbers of features, evidence for mid-Roman activity was sparse, being represented almost exclusively by pits. The exceptions are burial 10776 and a group of post-holes that may have formed a circular structure (Structure 41). The Period III building, ditch and well had passed out of use by the later 2nd century and so, with no clear evidence of further occupation, it may be that the use of this area had changed – perhaps now being less enclosed and more or less wholly used as pasture?

There still seems a slender thread of continuity in the form of a close association between 2nd- and 3rd-century pits (e.g. 10020 and 10044, 10012 and 10023). Recutting seems to be a repeated aspect of many of these features. Whether or not these really constituted cleaning/recutting, or continuing accumulation in developing slump hollows, is uncertain. This may provide some evidence that the division between 2nd and 3rd centuries (i.e. Periods III and IV) is not always meaningful.

Inhumation burial 10776 (Fig.E8)

Inserted into the top of mid Roman pit 10782 was a shallow, rather ephemeral, grave cut 10776. The cut was 2.5m long, 1.0m wide and survived to a depth of only 0.28m. It was oriented NE-to-SW with the skull located at its north-east end. No remains of a coffin were identified, nor were grave goods found. The adult female skeleton was extended prone with the arms drawn in to the chest, perhaps indicating a shrouded burial. The authenticity of the grave cut, as excavated, was uncertain and it remains possible that the burial may have been inserted into what was simply a convenient slump hollow in the top of the underlying pit. The informal nature of this isolated burial is supported by the fairly arbitrary attitude of the body. Although this prompted speculation about the possibility of murder at the time of its excavation, analysis has not revealed any sign of perimortem trauma ([ref. to specialist report](#)).

The pottery and large amount of tile, animal bone and slag suggest the infilling of the grave with a rubbish deposit. This material most likely derived from the disturbance of the fills of the mid-3rd century pit into which it was cut, rather than being directly associated with the burial. Thus, a mid Roman date is perhaps a *terminus post quem* and a 4th or even early 5th century date is possible.

Inhumation 10776

10776	Samian fabric EGSW Other pottery dish B5.1 (GRS), mortarium D11 (BUFM), jar G9 (GRS), fabric NVC
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The pottery recovered from this feature does not have the appearance of grave goods and suggests ordinary rubbish disposal. A mid 3rd century date is indicated.

Structure 41: 8228, 8233, 8236, 8238, 8243, 10788 (Fig. E9)

These six similarly proportioned post-holes could be construed to form a circular structure. They were regularly spaced, particularly if an extra, unexcavated and unnumbered post-hole is considered. However, the dating of this structure depends wholly upon the reliability of the relationship of 10788 with pit 10782 and grave 10776, into which features it was apparently cut; this was far from certainly established. There were no datable finds in any of these features. No further post-holes were found above or beyond the adjacent Period II ditch 25039 (Area F) so the structure could even conceivably predate this ditch. All in all, very speculative.

Pits 8080, 8114, 8157, 8276, 8280, 10006, 10012, 10020, 10029, 10038, 10055, 10062, 10782 (Fig. E10)

These pits have been grouped purely by their ceramic dating (*i.e.*, late 2nd to 3rd century AD) as there was no structural framework of dated boundaries or occupation features with which they could be associated. Within this small collection of mid Roman pits, there was a clear size division between small (under *c.*2m) and large (3.5-6.5m).

Spatially, there was no patterning evident within this small group of features. Regardless of size, almost all seem to have functioned as rubbish pits. Their artefact assemblages are very similar,

generally comprising large amounts of pottery and tile with slightly higher incidence of animal bone than noted for earlier periods of pitting. These assemblages are supplemented by an increased incidence of metalwork, particularly iron objects. Of these, nails are the most numerous and their presence may indicate a change in carpentry and building construction techniques (*e.g.*, less reliance on jointing and pegging?) or else a change in disposal practice.

While rubbish disposal was the most likely primary function of the majority of these pits, some of the smaller examples may betray a different original function. 10055 was the largest of the ‘small’ pits, a circular cut of 2.2m diameter, and significantly deeper than other small pits at 0.65m. It had two episodes of clay-lining, the first having been partially removed by cleaning or recutting and the latter truncated by a sequence of successive recuts 10029 and 10006. This was all reminiscent of pit 10026 in Period III, which lay only 20m away. It was difficult to tell if these linings were related to a special function for the pit(s), and there is the possibility that these were incompletely excavated wells. The cutting of later pits into the top fills might reflect nothing more than easier digging conditions in the softer fills as opposed to the compacted gravels beyond the original cut.

This incidence of recuts indicating the prolonged use of a feature was evident in other pits too. 10012 was a small oval recut within Period III pit 10023, while 10020 was possibly a deliberate recut of pit 10044 (Fig. E7). It was particularly evident that the Period IV pits were not a distinct phenomenon, but part of a continuous progression from the Period III pit-digging activity. Indeed some of the larger early Roman pits may simply have continued to accumulate material into Period IV; 8269 contained a sequence of dated fills spanning the early/mid 2nd to late 2nd-early/mid 3rd centuries AD. Similarly, 10062 clearly began filling in the third century but received further material in the later fourth.

The large pits 8080, 8280, 10062 and 10782 were distinctive as being bigger than those of preceding periods. They may therefore represent a new development in disposal practices, which is suggested in other areas, though elsewhere often seems to fall in the later Roman period, namely the longer accumulation of material elsewhere (*i.e.*, middening) prior to its disposal in fewer, larger pits. The smallest of these, 10782 was a 3.4x 2m sub-rectangular cut into the pit fills of which grave 10776 was also cut (Fig. E8).

Period IV pits

8080	Samian dishes f18/31R (CGSW) f31 (CGSW COLSW) f31R (CGSW), bowl f37 (CGSW), cup f33 (CGSW EGSW) Other pottery dishes B1 B2 (BSW) B3 (GRS) B4 (BB2), mortaria D2 (COLBM) D13 (COLBM), jars G5 (GRS) G9 (BSW), beaker H35 (GRS), fabrics NVC BB1 HAX
8114	Samian bowls f36 (CGSW) f38 (CGSW), cup f33 (CGSW) Other pottery beaker H35.1 (NVC), fabrics OXWM RET
8157	Samian dishes f31 (CGSW) f79 (CGSW) Other pottery dish B2/B4 (BSW GRS), jars G5 (BSW GRS) G24 (BSW), beaker H35 (BSW), fabrics COLC NVC
8276	Samian dish f31 (CGSW), bowl f38 or f44 (CGSW) Other pottery dish B2 (BSW GRS), jars G5 (GRS) G24 (GRS)
8280	Samian bowl f38 (EGSW), cup f33 (CGSW EGSW) Other pottery dish B4 (GRS BSW), mortarium D2 (COLBM), bowl-jar E2 (BSW), jars G5 G9 G21 (GRS), beaker H20 (COLC), fabrics BB2 HAX
10006	Pottery dishes B1 (GRS) B3 (BSW GRF), jar G5 (GRS), beakers H23 H24 (COLC), fabric NVC
10012	Samian dish f31R (CGSW), cup f33 (CGSW) Other pottery dish B1 (BSW), mortarium <i>Cam</i> 499 (BUFM), beaker H23/24 (COLC)
10020	Samian dish f31 (CGSW), bowl f38 (EGSW) Other pottery dish B2/B4 (BSW GRS), bowl-jar E2 (BSW), jars G9 (BSW) G24 (RET) G25 (GRS), beakers H20 H26 (COLC), fabric BB1
10029	Samian dish f31R (CGSW), bowl f37 (CGSW) Other pottery dishes B1 (HAR GRS) B5.1 (GRS), bowl-jar E2 (GRF), jar G24 (GRS), fabrics NVC HAX RET
10038	Samian dish f31 (CGSW) Other pottery dishes B3 (BSW GRS) B4 (BSW), mortarium D11 (COLBM), jars G5 (GRS) G9 (GRS) G24 (GRS), beaker H34 (GRS), fabric NVC
10055	Samian dish f31 (CGSW) Other pottery dishes B1.3 (GRS) B3 (BSW), jars G5 (BSW) G23 (BSW), beaker H32/33 (GRS)
10062 KPG	Samian dish f31 (CGSW), bowls f44 (CGSW) Curle 15 or 23 (CGSW), cup f33 (CGSW) Other pottery dishes B2 (NVC) B6.2 (GRS NVC), bowls C8 (OXRC) C25 (OXRC), mortarium D12 (OXRCM), jar G27.2 (LSH), fabric OXSWM Saxon

Elms Farm, Heybridge, Essex
Area E

	Coins AE2, Constantine I (SF1467) 321; AE2, House of Valentinian (SF1471) 364-378, AE2, Constantine I (SF1475) 314-315
10782	Samian dish f31 (CGSW) Other pottery dishes B2 B3 B4 (BSW GRS), mortaria D11 D13 (COLBM), beaker H34 (GRS) Saxon

Most of the pottery recovered from these pits has a consistent late 2nd to mid 3rd century date range, **although pit 10062 has later 4th century, and Saxon, pottery in the upper fills. The pottery from pit 10782 could be wholly residual, given the nature of the stratigraphy and the presence of Saxon pottery.**

PERIOD V (Fig. D?)

Although the Period V features in Area E comprised only a small number of pits, it is likely that these did represent a real clustering in the north of this area. This apparent concentration is reinforced when viewed alongside the Period VI features. While all of these pits had similar rubbish-rich finds assemblages, two were distinguished as having a more special function by the presence of human remains within them.

Pits 8142 and 8155 (Fig. E11)

Pit 8155 was a small rectangular feature, 1.34 x 0.94m, which contained an articulated human arm, along with other fragments of bone, from a middle-aged or older male. Partially overlying and truncating this was 8142, a larger sub-square cut, 1.9m x 1.5m and c.0.44m deep. Its backfill contained a human skull. The skull in pit 8142 was complete with mandible and so appears to represent a partially articulated deposit. It also belonged to a middle aged or older male, quite possibly the same individual, although this cannot be determined with certainty.

The human bone assemblage from 8155 was a mixture of articulated and disarticulated remains. The absence of finger bones, noted at the time of excavation, may suggest redeposition. Other bone from included animal and human fragments, with no refitting.

It is possible that these represent the re-interment of disturbed burials, some of which were relatively fresh at the time, rather than an *in situ* structured deposit *per se*. Apart from the presence of human remains, neither pit contained artefactual material that was particularly different from rubbish pits in the vicinity. Quantities of brick and tile were high, as usual in late pits, although pottery content was markedly low. There was a concentration of iron nails and unidentified iron, which could perhaps suggest a wooden casket, but this can only be speculative. Pottery from the fills dates this activity to the late 3rd to early 4th centuries, although its high fragmentation may suggest that a late 4th or early 5th century date (Period VI) is equally possible.

Pits 8142, 8155

8142*	Pottery dish B6.3 (BB1), bowl-jar E5 (GRS), fabric HAX ?Saxon
8155*	Pottery dishes B6.2 (GRS) B6.3 (BB1), jar G24 (RET), fabric OXWM

The pottery recovered from these pits indicates a late 3rd to early 4th century date. Both assemblages are similar in character and both contained human bone, although a ritual deposit, *per se*, is unlikely. The evidence suggests a disturbed burial mixed with household rubbish.

Pits 10018, 10059, 10067 (Fig. E12)

10018 was a small circular 'cut' centrally positioned in the top of the fills of early Roman pit 10026 (Period III, Fig. E7). Its single fill dated to the late 4th century AD and contained residual material including coins of the mid 2nd and late 3rd centuries. It is possible that this could have been a gradual accumulation within the slump hollow of the earlier feature, rather than a cut pit in its own right.

The other small Period V pit was 10059. This 1.2m diameter cut lay in close proximity to the pits containing redeposited human remains. Though its fill appears to be a typical late Roman rubbish deposit, an association with the putative burial(s) cannot be dismissed completely (Fig. E11).

The remaining pit 10067 was large and similar to those of the preceding period (*e.g.*, 8080, 8114 and 10062) in terms of both dimension and artefact content. Indeed, 10062 carried on accumulating material in its top as late as the later 4th century AD.

Period V Pits

10018	Pottery dishes B1.3 (HAR BSW GRS) B6.1 (GRF), lid K7 (NVC), fabric OXRC
10059	Pottery dishes B6.1 (GRF) B6.2 (GRS), jar G24.2 (RET)
10067	Pottery dishes B1.4 (BB1) B6.3 (BB1), bowl C8.1 (HAX), jar G27.2 (LSH)

Most of the pottery recovered is fragmentary and abraded and provides a late 3rd to early 4th century date. Pits 10018 and 10067 both contained a small amount of pottery which extends the date range to the late 4th century+.

PERIOD VI (Fig. D?)

There was certainly a close relationship between the only two features identified as of latest Roman date. Large feature 25212 was deliberately aligned on, and positioned over, gully 25240. However, the function of neither was clear and little more can be said of the nature of late occupation within this area of the site. While features of this period were scarce, the same cannot be said for the material culture they contained. The trend of large and diverse artefact assemblages, which first emerged during the mid-Roman period, carried on. Tile was present in quantity and a source of such building material was evidently still available at this late date in the life of the settlement. Metalwork continued to be prominent, and glass derived from items such as beads and vessels even seems to have been on the increase. It would appear that antler was present on the site only in very late assemblages (and only from seven contexts) and its appearance may be a hallmark of the late period. In this area it occurred in feature 25212.

Gully 25240 (segs. 8066, 8088) (Fig. E13)

A shallow linear feature running east-to-west, traced for a distance of 4.4m. It was 0.75m wide and 0.25m deep with a rounded terminal at its west end. Its eastward extent is unknown and much of its presumed extent had been removed by overlying feature 25212. Dated to the late 4th century or later, its single fill included abraded pottery, much of which was residual, along with a 1st century AD brooch.

Gully 25240

8066	Pottery dish B6 (NVC), fabric LSH
8088	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW

Segment 8066 produced fragmentary and abraded pottery dating to the late 4th century +. Segment 8088 contained pottery, also fragmentary, but which is inconclusive for dating purposes.

Big feature 25212 (seg. 8152) (Fig E13)

25212 was a long, broad, feature with parallel sides and rounded ends. At c.4m long and 4.5m wide it was by far the largest single feature of any period in Area E. Unfortunately, it was also difficult to interpret, although it clearly had some association with gully 25240 on which it was aligned and which it truncated. Its proportions would have suggested a massive ditch, had it been longer, but it clearly never extended further than the 14m planned.

It was a moderately-sloping sided cut with a broad, flat base at a depth of c.0.7m (reaching to 2.05m OD). Its eastern extent stopped just short of features 8142 and 8155, which may be significant and even suggest a Period VI date for these too.

The fills of 25212 showed signs of having been partially cleaned out or recut. It was finally infilled with a single substantial dark silt deposit (8076) which included large quantities of tile, pottery and animal bone, dated to the later 4th century AD+. The presence of worked antler supports a late, possibly early Saxon, date. There was also a large residual element in the finds assemblage and it appears that this large cut must have disturbed significant earlier features, as would be expected.

Some comparison with ditch 177 at Sough House Farm (Wallis and Waughman 1998, 34) could be made. This feature looks very similar in both plan and section but, unfortunately, was thought to be LIA.

Feature 25212 (8152)

8152	Pottery jars G26 (UWW) G27.2 (LSH), fabrics PORD NVC OXWM OXRC
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This feature is dated to the late 4th century + by the presence of late shell-tempered ware and Oxford red colour-coat. Residuality is very high.