

## AREA F

### Introduction

The limits of Area F are marked by Road 1 to the east and the major ditches 10406 to the south, 25039 to the west. Within this, excavation concentrated upon three distinct ‘sub-areas’ (Fig. F1): the ‘Haul Road’, ‘North Trench’ and ‘South Trench’. The northern end of Area F (Haul Road) encompassed a wide variety of features cut, more or less directly, into brickearth. The North and South Trenches were very restricted areas located to sample relatively deep stratigraphic sequences within the interior of an enclosure bounded by ditches 25039 and 10406 *etc.*, together with Road 1. The North Trench was positioned over what at first seemed to be two wall lines (originally thought to be the front and back walls of a roadside building) and Road 1, while the South Trench focused upon ditch 10406 itself.

Much of the surface deposits across Area F were dark and homogenous, betraying little of the features that undoubtedly lay within and below them. Hence, there was little to base an informed strategy of investigation upon. The restricted extent of excavation, particularly within the roadside enclosure, can only give a limited insight into the developments of this area of the settlement, particularly as most attention was given to investigation of the road sequence. The absence of extensive intercutting ditch systems, and the such like, means that the phasing of Area F features relies almost wholly on the ceramic evidence. No real sense of spatial patterning can be deduced from the limited set of excavated features, while those beyond were indistinct amid an expanse of homogenous-looking unexcavated silt deposits.

Area F is important for its evidence of Iron Age activity that can be demonstrated to predate the imposition of Road 1. Fragments of post- and stake-hole alignments suggest that this earliest activity comprised occupation.

### Summary of phasing:

Period:	Sub-period	Description:	Period / date:
I		<b>Mention MIA prehistorics?</b>	MIA/LIA transition
II	a	Pre-road occupation activity	LIA/Roman transition
	b	Roads, occupation within enclosures	
III		?Remodelling of enclosure, occupation, later roads	Early Roman
IV		?decline in activity, continued use of Phase III roads	Mid Roman
V		Maintenance of boundaries, decline of roads?	Late Roman
VI		Last vestiges of major ditches?	Latest Rom/Saxon trans.
VII		-	Post-early Saxon

## **PERIOD I (Fig F2):**

The north trench of Area F contained the only convincing evidence of early structures in the form of post- and stake-hole alignments sealed below Road 1. Although these were only revealed in small areas of excavation, they nevertheless indicate that the thread of continuity of settlement may extend as far back as the Middle Iron Age, or at least to the Middle-Late Iron Age transition. However, the influence, if any, of this early occupation on later settlement morphology cannot be appreciated from the excavated evidence.

### **Structure 1: stake-holes 11799, 11801, 11803, 11805, 11807, 11809, 11811, 11813 and 10669, 10671, 10673**

Eight stake-holes, 11799-11813, were found sealed below the earliest surfaces of Road 1. Although truncated by road construction, they were driven into natural gravel and formed a straight line on a WNW-ESE alignment. They were regularly spaced, *c.*0.4m apart, and similarly proportioned at around 0.05m diameter and depth of 0.05-0.07m. Their line could be traced for 3m, but was removed by later pits at either end. Three further identical stake-holes, 10669, 10671 and 10673, appeared to be associated; running off at right-angles to the main line.

### **Structure 2: post-holes 10675, 10760, 10774, 10784 and 10736**

Although these post-holes were similarly sealed by Road 1, they displayed no apparent patterning. All but 10736 were similarly proportioned and may be associated with one another. Post-hole 10736 was significantly larger than the rest at 0.7m diameter and 0.5m deep. It contained a single sherd of Middle Iron Age pottery. While this could conceivably have been a small pit, the other features, averaging 0.3m diameter and 0.15m depth, appeared to be structural. 10774 contained post-pipe 10675 and could be construed as a corner post, and thus have been part of Structure 1. Its fills contained sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery.

#### **Structure 2**

10736	Pottery fabric PREHIST I
10774	Pottery fabric PREHIST P, GROG

Only post-holes 10736 and 10774 contained pottery, all in sand-tempered fabrics and of middle Iron Age date. 10774 also included a tiny (?intrusive) grog-tempered bodysherd.

## **PERIOD II (Fig F3):**

In Area F, Period II can be divided into two sub-periods separated by the construction of Road 1 sometime in the early to mid 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. The features predating the road suggest domestic occupation, with land division, structures and rubbish disposal all represented by only a small number of features.

Judging from the way in which Road 1 was driven through this earlier occupation, its imposition marked a change in settlement morphology at least in this northern zone. Alignments changed in relation to this new landscape feature, with a rectangular enclosure created immediately to its west, as evidenced by its boundary ditch **25015 (Period III-IV)**.

The circular pit cuts, particularly those of Period II B, tended to be rather small (compared to those in adjacent areas), though their finds assemblages were not significantly different in terms of composition. Elsewhere, Period II pits tended to be in excess of 2m diameter. This may suggest a different pattern of use in this vicinity.

### **Sub-period II A (late 1<sup>st</sup> century BC to early 1<sup>st</sup> century AD)**

The earlier of the Period II sub-phases is defined by activity which preceded the construction of Road 1 and its associated boundary features. Due to a lack of definition within the late Iron Age ceramic assemblage, it is not generally possible to recognise features predating Road 1 except by stratigraphic relationship.

Along with the Period I features, fragments of stake- and post-hole lines, and a ditch dating to the Late Iron Age occurred below Road 1. These signified the presence of buildings and fences, together with a possible early land division. It is possible that these features represented uninterrupted occupation from MIA to LIA periods. Finds from the pits dated to this period indicate a domestic character for this occupation.

### **Ditch 25241 (segs. 10229, 10232, 10631) (Fig F4)**

Ditch 25241 was the remains of a substantial cut, approximately 2-2.5m wide, but only survived truncation by the works in advance of road construction to a depth of 0.2m, where excavated as segment 10229. 10232 was of similar depth, but narrower, and is posited to be an under-excavated part of the northward continuation of 10229. Both cuts suggested a broadly north-south alignment, though neither was extensively exposed. The irregularity of the sides is reminiscent of early ditches 25024 and 25036 in Areas D and E, while the spacing would fit well with a system including these and 25238. Segment 10631 is tentatively included as a further part of the same ditch as its north-south line is clearly at odds with the later road line above. Its inclusion would make ditch 25241 a rather irregular linear.

10631	<b>Pottery jar § (GROG)</b>
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This ditch contained a quantity of grog-tempered pottery which included handmade forms. There are also two sherds of intrusive samian.

### **Structure 3: Post-holes 10792, 10794, 10796**

Three post-holes cut into natural gravel were sealed by the earliest road deposits. All three were closely spaced and similarly proportioned at 0.21-0.29m diameter and 0.24-0.33m deep. Together, they defined a north-to-south alignment that may well have extended north beyond the trench limit while being removed by later ditches and pits to the south. Although they contained no dating evidence, their stratigraphic position is clear and this alignment is seen elsewhere in features of earlier LPRIA date. While three post-holes are difficult to interpret meaningfully, they at least serve to show that structures, predating Road 1, were present.

### **Post-hole 10105**

Even more isolated and difficult to interpret is post-hole 10105. Containing 3 sherds of pot and a potin coin, its significance lies primarily in its value as dating evidence. It appears to have been truncated by a roadside ditch though the ditch was not excavated and need not have been early.

#### Post-hole 10105

10105	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics MICW GROG <b>Coin</b> Potin (SF 1507)
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This post-hole contained bodysherds in both grog- and sand-tempered fabrics, indicating a date early in the Late Iron Age sequence. The coin carries a late 1st century BC to early 1st century AD date.

#### Pits 10108, 10192, 10199, 10579 (Fig F4)

Pits 10192 and 10199 were a pair of intercutting pits, both approximately 1.6m diameter. Both are very shallow at a maximum depth of 0.2m and heavily truncated by Period II B pits. Both contained small amounts of pottery that can only be accorded a general Late Iron Age date. However, they were the earliest features in a sequence of intercutting pits and looked rather different to those above, having markedly fewer finds. Therefore a late 1<sup>st</sup> century BC date may be postulated.

#### Period II a pits

10108	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics GROG MICW
10192	<b>Pottery</b> jars EF108 (GROG)
10199	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GROG
10579	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GROG

These features produced small amounts of grog-tempered pottery, and some forms are handmade. 10108 also contained sherds in sand-tempered fabric, including jar rims. A date early in the Late Iron Age sequence is indicated.

#### Sub-period II B

Period II B was one of significant change. A further part of the early 1<sup>st</sup> century rectilinear enclosure system identified in Area D also extended across Area F (ditches 25039 and 25243). Although its southward extent of the enclosure within Area F was not certain, it is postulated to coincide with the location of later boundary ditch 25015. Its dimensions have been estimated at c.70x40m in area. **Entrance? Content? Function?**

The eastern side of the enclosure was encroached upon by construction of Road 1 around the middle of the 1<sup>st</sup> century; ditch 25243 being apparently cut by it and its (slightly later?) roadside ditch. From its beginnings, Road 1 appears to have been of relatively sophisticated construction, comprising gravel surfaces laid on top of redeposited brickearth foundation layers. While the earliest surface was not bonded, subsequent surfaces were both metalled and usually cambered. The earliest phase of the road was accompanied by ditch 25038, along its east side. While the creation of the road was itself a very significant undertaking, its early existence was not particularly settled, appearing to have suffered a short period of encroachment. However, this activity does not seem to represent significant disruption as the slightly irregular line and near north-to-south alignment were quickly adjusted in subsequent periods of road building and maintenance.

It is likely that the flanking enclosure probably continued to function even though encroached upon by the road. Very few features within this enclosure were excavated; much of the area being covered in homogenous silts that were not extensively removed. Further late Iron Age features must be assumed to have underlain these.

#### Ditches 25039 and 25243 (segs. 8230, 8250, 9712, 9859, 10239, 10241, 10243, 10247, 10257, 10269, 10277, 10536 and 10536) (Fig. F10)

Ditch 25039 was a major landscape feature, 1.7m wide and 0.6m deep, which formed the western and northern boundaries of an enclosure to the west of Road 1. Its west side was traced for 60m and ran on a NNW-SSE alignment, parallel to, and roughly 32m west from, Road 1. Its northern side was set at right angles, ending in what was originally recorded as an irregular terminal with a finger-like protrusion. However, it is more likely that the terminal was rounded and that the

protrusion was an unrecognized separate rectilinear pit of the type discussed below (see 10108 *et al*).

Ditch 25243 constituted the eastward continuation of the enclosure boundary which was truncated by early Roman roadside ditch 25244 and almost certainly overlain by the earliest phase of Road 1. Although a terminal was not located, a probable c.6m entranceway separated the two ditches.

The north side of the enclosure ditch had a simple fill sequence of an orange silty sand and gravel primary weathering accumulation below a dark brown gravelly silt-sand. The west side was more complex and contained a recut. The ditch extended south almost as far as later east-to-west ditch 25015, before being obscured by unexcavated silt deposits. The enclosure probably survived bisection by the road and continued in use alongside it, the road itself now constituting its eastern boundary. The artefactual assemblage comprises a large amount of pottery together with briquetage and loomweight fragments and a ceramic spindle whorl (SF2241). Animal bone was present only in small quantities. An early to mid 1<sup>st</sup> century date is likely for infilling: earlier material could have been derived from whatever features the ditch was cut through.

#### Ditch 25039/25043

8230	Pottery jar <i>Cam 255</i> (ESH), fabrics MICW GROG
9712	Pottery jars <i>Cam 254</i> (ESH) G19 (GROG) G23 (STOR), fabrics MICW GRS BSW
10239	Pottery jar \$ (MICW), fabric GROG
10241	Pottery jars G5.5 (GRS) <i>Cam 254</i> \$ (GROG), fabrics ESH MICW BSW
10243	Pottery fabrics MICW GROG
10257	Pottery jar \$ (GROG), fabric MICW
10269	Pottery jars <i>Cam 254</i> (ESH) \$ (GROG)
10277	Pottery jar \$ (MICW), fabrics GROG ESH
10536	Pottery fabrics MICW GROG

Most of the pottery recovered from this feature is either grog- or sand-tempered, with many handmade forms present. Some contexts also contained prehistoric (?MIA) pottery. There are Roman fabrics and forms in small quantities, including samian, but these are likely to be intrusive. A late 1st century BC to mid 1st century AD date is indicated by the bulk of the pottery present.

#### Road 1 (Haul Road): 10204, 10209, 10210, 10212, 10213, 10214, 10215, 10217, 10228 (Fig F6)

In the Haul Road area, the earliest recognised road deposit was orange-brown sandy gravel 10217, containing larger pebbles. While its eastward extent was located, this layer extended west below later, unexcavated, road layers. This deposit was in excess of 4.15m wide and only 0.06m thick, containing no trace of bonding. It overlay the fills of Period II A ditch 25241. Whether it constituted a road surface in its own right, later worn and degraded, or was a foundation deposit for the more distinctive surface above is unclear.

Patches of clayey sand layers overlay 10217. The most substantial of these was 10204, found to be 3.0m wide though truncated along its western edge by ditch 10189. All comprised dirty brickearth containing residual prehistoric material and they are interpreted as foundation deposits of redeposited material for the overlying gravel surfaces.

Above these were patches of bonded gravel surface (10209, 10210, 10225, 10228), cumulatively amounting to 3-5m wide and displaying a cambered surface on the east side. These road surfaces were truncated along both edges and may originally have been up to 6m wide. The road ran approximately NNW-SSE and this stage seems to have been flanked ditch 25038 directly to its east.

Very little artefactual material, other than residual prehistoric pottery and worked flint, was collected from any of these deposits. This may help to emphasise the early construction date of this road. Foundation deposit (10213) did, however, contain an early 1<sup>st</sup> century BC coin (SF2220), though the road is unlikely to have been quite this early.

#### Road 1 10217, 10204, 10212, 10214, 10215, 10209, 10210, 10228, 10685, 10708

10213	Coin AE unit (SF 2220)
10217	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS

10210	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GROG
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Only two of these contexts contained pottery, consisting of a few bodysherds in both grog-tempered and Roman fabrics. The coin is an early continental type (attributed to the Remi) and, dating to the early 1<sup>st</sup> century BC, may be residual. Dating evidence is inconclusive.

### **Road 1 (North Trench): 10685, 10556, 10543, 10544, 10557, 10590**

In the North Trench a reddish brown sand and gravel layer 10685, with a slight silt content, overlay the natural gravel and a range of features dated to Periods I and II A. Unbonded and fairly loose, it appeared to be the same layer as 10217 to the north. It was truncated by ditches 10546 and 10565 to the east and west and so survived to a width of *c.*7.4m. These later ditches perpetuated the line of Road 1 and it is unlikely that 10685 was ever significantly wider. This gravel deposit varied between 0.07-0.12m thick, and would seem to represent the earliest road surface within this trench. A number of pits, post-holes and slots were cut from the level of this surface, showing that the road was encroached upon for a time here, just as it was further north.

A very thin, 0.03m, compact silty gravel 10556 overlay surface 10685 and the features cut into it. It too was truncated by ditches 10565 and 10546 to the east and west. Above this were less expansive deposits of dark brown gravelly sandy silts (10557 and 10556?), which were relatively rich in finds. These were in turn cut by post-hole 10573 which is itself sealed by a loose gravel deposit 10590 which may constitute a repair or reinstatement of the road surface. Subsidence hollows, which developed due to the numerous underlying features, accumulated silt deposits (*e.g.*, 10543). This sequence of accumulation was completed by 10544, a layer of yellow grey sandy silt, and totalled only 0.17m in thickness.

Although there were no very distinctive metallised surfaces surviving, it is clear enough that the *ensemble* amounted to a road. No contemporary roadside ditches could be identified - perhaps this is due to their cleaning, truncation, enlarging or removal in the form of the two later ditches 10565 and 10546.

### **Road 1 (South Trench): 10708, 10408**

10708 was a compact gravel surface, of which only a small part was recorded, immediately to the north-east of 25247 in a narrow slot within the South Trench. 10708 overlay natural brickearth and a single cut feature 10730. In turn, it was cut by two post-holes 10705 and 10707 which may represent the remnants of a boundary along the road edge. 10408 was a compact pebble layer in excess of 3m wide, which overlay the earlier road surface 10708 and the two post-holes cut into it. Although later shallow ditch 25247 removed the western edge of these surfaces, they serve to show the approximate limit of the road in this period, though their eastern extents were not established.

### **Roadside ditch(es) 25038/25242 (segs. 10219 and 10546, 10582 ) (Fig. F7 and F8)**

Linear cuts 25038 and 25242 ran NNW-SSE down the eastern side of Road 1 and probably represented a single roadside ditch that can thus be traced for at least 50m. Its southern extent was obscured below unexcavated later road surfaces and other roadside features. It survived to a width of 2.0–2.5m and a depth of 0.4-0.5m.

Toward its north end, ditch 25038 was sealed by road surface 10180 and truncated by ditch 25246, both of Period III date.

Ditch 2542 appeared to cut eastern edge of the road surface Although only partially exposed, it was in excess of 1.7m wide and 0.55m deep. It contained recut 10582 that contained sandy clay fills possibly derived from adjacent road make-up layers. It is likely that this ditch was an addition, inserted alongside Road 1. It was maintained and continued to function into the early Roman period; recut segment 10582 contained a late Iron Age primary fill with late 1<sup>st</sup> century Roman material above.

### **Ditch 25038/25242**

10219	<b>Amphoras</b> Pascual 1 (ARCAT) Dr.2-4 (ABSAN) <b>Other pottery</b> jar G20 (GROG)
10582	<b>Samian</b> platter f15/17 or f18 (SGSW), bowl f29 (SGSW) <b>Amphora</b> Dr.20 (ABAET) <b>Other pottery</b> platter



	<i>Cam 2</i> (TN), mortarium D1 (VRWM), beaker H1 (GRF), fabrics NGWF GROG CGFCS <b>Coin</b> Dupondius/As, Vespasian (SF 5218), 69-79
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Both ditch segments contained a quantities of grog-tempered pottery. The early amphoras present in 10219 indicate a late 1st century BC to mid 1st century AD date. Imported finewares and 1st-century Roman types, all present in some quantity, provide a mid to late 1st century AD date range for segment 10582.

### Structure 10: Post-holes 10677, 10679, 10681, 10738, 10740, 10753, 10755

Seven circular post-holes ran across the North Trench on a NE-SW alignment. Importantly, they cut earliest road surface 10685 and were sealed by the succeeding metalled surface 10556. There was some variation in both size and spacing, though a degree of patterning, of two smaller post-holes between each large one, may be discerned. Further post-holes with a similar stratigraphic position were present but displayed no patterning.

The fact that these structural features existed on top of an apparent early road surface is of interest. This may suggest that even the earliest layout was not rigorously respected and that encroachment was allowed before its line was reaffirmed and surfaces renewed (**need to consider this further**). Pit 10552, below, also cut this surface. Such encroachment was commonplace on all the roads in later periods, but does seem surprising so soon after construction.

#### Structure 10

10677	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GROG
10681	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GROG
10738	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics GROG BSW

Most of the pottery recovered from these postholes is grog-tempered, providing a Late Iron Age date, although the sherd from 10740 is prehistoric.

### Slots 10549, 10684

Both features were narrow, shallow slots running roughly parallel with one another, 2.7m apart. They crossed the north trench on a NW-SE alignment for almost 4.5m and were probably truncated at their southern ends, surviving to a maximum of 0.2m wide and 0.15m deep. There was no sign of stake or post-holes within their bases.

It is possible that these were the remains of wheel ruts in road surface (10556). However, they ran on a slightly different alignment to the roadside ditch. It is possible that they could have been associated with Structure 10.

#### Slot 10549, 10684

10549	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GROG
10684	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GROG

The few grog-tempered bodysherds recovered indicate a Late Iron Age date.

### Gully 25110 (seg. 10223)

25110 was an 8m length of curving gully, 0.2m wide and only 0.08m deep. It had a rounded terminal at its south end, while the NE end ran into the edge of excavation. If this were the surviving part of a foundation slot belonging to a circular structure, the whole structure would have been in the region of 11m diameter. It was possibly the remains of a roundhouse - either its eavesdrip or an actual foundation slot. A number of post-holes fell on or within its circumference and could have been associated – however, few were excavated (the two that were, 7136 and 7172, seem to have been Roman).

#### Curving Gully 25110 (10223)

10223	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics GROG STOR
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The pottery recovered consists of body sherds in both grog-tempered and Roman fabrics. Dating evidence is inconclusive.

### **Pits 10111, 10123, 10146, 10197, 10288, 10345, 10383, 10695, 10552 (Fig. 5)**

It is evident that there is a thread of continuity between many of the Period II A and II B pits, with the later features apparently being deliberately located above the earlier, suggesting at least that the ‘proper place’ for pit digging was remembered despite the remodelling.

Apart from small circular pit 10111, all were rectangular in plan. They ranged in length from 1.1 to 2.6m, though generally 0.8-0.9m wide, and displayed two alignments, either roughly NW-SE or ENE-WSW. Few were deeper than 0.33m, most in the range 0.15m to 0.22m, and they tended towards the slot-like, although not obviously structural in their arrangement. Consequently, it is uncertain whether these features were really pits or had a specialized function. Similar examples occurred in adjacent Area E (e.g., 10014) and may be construed to describe a curving alignment across this vicinity of the site. In addition, the rectangular cuts seem to have been located in relation to the end of enclosure ditch 25039, and what appeared as a finger-like protrusion from end is likely to be another such rectangular feature.

Cut 10552 was apparently a large sub-rectilinear pit, 3m wide and in excess of 0.65m deep. However, its southern extent was not identified and it remains a possibility that this was, in fact, a ditch terminal. It cut through the earliest North Trench road surface and was sealed by later surfaces. Its fills contained a large amount of LPRIA pottery, particularly in the lower fills, together with loomweight and animal bone fragments. Its upper fills contained an iron nail, copper alloy cosmetic tool and a few sherds of sandy greyware which suggest the early Roman levelling of an essentially late Iron Age rubbish pit. However, this begs the question: ‘why dig such a big pit in the middle of a road if only to reinstate the road again?’ Most probably there was an existing LIA feature, filled to allow the earliest road to be laid, which needed further consolidation before the early Roman road layers could be laid, and in the process of backfilling this, it was only the Roman recut into the top which truncated the earliest road layers.

All the pits contained fairly typical late Iron Age assemblages, comprising grog-tempered pottery, daub and loomweight fragments. Lone pit 10288 contained significantly more animal bone (1.3kg) than the others, which may be an indication of a different (i.e. non- waste disposal?) function for the rectangular features.

#### **Period II b pits**

10111	<b>Pottery fabrics MICW GROG</b>
10123	<b>Pottery fabrics NGWF GROG GRF BSW</b>
10146	<b>Pottery bowl EF66 (GROG)</b>
10197	<b>Pottery beaker H1 (GROG), fabrics MICW GRS</b>
10288	<b>Arretine platter <i>Conspectus</i> 12 (ITSW) Other pottery fabrics GROG TN(M) CGFCS ESH MICW BSW</b>
10345	<b>Pottery fabric GROG</b>
10383	<b>Pottery fabrics MICW GROG</b>
10695	<b>Pottery fabric GROG</b>
10552	<b>Amphoras Dr.1 (AITAL) <i>salazon</i> (ASALA) Other pottery jar G20 (GROG), fabrics BSW TR</b>

The pottery indicates a date in the first half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. The presence of imported fineware and some Roman fabrics extends the date range into the mid 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. The sand-tempered body sherds and Dressel 1 amphora are residual.

#### **PERIOD III (Fig. F11):**

During the late 1<sup>st</sup> to mid 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD, Road 1 was maintained. Two episodes of resurfacing can be attributed to this period, which include its widening first to 8m and then to as much as 11m in places. This substantial major thoroughfare was generally well-bonded and cambered. Its widening required the creation of a new roadside ditch along its west side, itself maintained at least until the early 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD.

Occupation, within the area of the enclosure previously defined by boundary ditch 25039, is particularly evident in close proximity to Road 1. This plot possibly continued into the Roman period, its edges perhaps now marked by hedges. Storage jar ovens, fragments of gravel surfaces and rubbish pits attest to primarily domestic activity, at least along the road frontage. Broad continuity of land-use either side of the Conquest is therefore postulated.



**Road 1 (Haul Road): 10180, 10203, 10210, 10227 then 10158, 10172, 10185, 10186, 10203**

Road 1 witnessed two distinct episodes of resurfacing in period III.

Layers 10180, 10203 and 10227 were bonded gravel surfaces which, incorporating the existing Period IIb road surface 10210, formed a substantial road some 8m wide. These deposits sloped gently to either side and were suggestive of a cambered road surface. They overlay silty sand layers 10592, 10598 and 10626, probably accumulations rather than deliberate make-up deposits, on top of the earlier, Period IIb, road surface. These accumulations presumably represent build-up during use. While 10592 contained only Late Iron Age pottery, the others included occasional tile fragments and early Roman pottery. The metalled surface above them should therefore be early Roman. Period III metalled surface 10574 sealed the fills of earlier roadside ditch 25038 and represents a deliberate widening of Road 1 at this point.

The second episode clean clay-sand consolidation or make-up layers providing a base for the overlying metalled surface. Make-up deposits 10171 and 10179 overlay the fills of roadside ditch 25246 and seem to be confined to the edges of the road, in an attempt to level out the camber of the old road. Layer 10169 constituted the levelling of a subsidence hollow in the surface of the former road. It is clear that the surviving surfacing of the underlying road (10203), particularly at its centre, was incorporated into the new road surface and that the new surfacing to each side represented a process of levelling and enlargement to a width of up to 11m in places. However, it is possible that the full combined width of old and new road was not actually used, as the peripheries of the earlier surfaces were buried under roadside deposits which may already have begun accumulating this early.

This was the last major resurfacing of Road 1 in Area F, and although it remained in use for a long period, it does not seem to have been maintained to the same degree.

**Road 1 (North Trench): 10508, 10511, 10309, 10394, 10395, 10495**

Deposit 10508 was a 0.1m thick, compacted gravel surface which sealed the former roadside ditch 10546/10582. This continued the widening of Road 1 as seen in the Haul Road area, though it has not been established if a replacement ditch was also established to its east. The road at this point was in excess of 7.5m wide and clearly conformed to the prevailing NNW-SSE alignment. Layer 10511 was a very thin silty gravel deposit on top of the metalled surface and may be a weathering deposit (not recorded in section).

These deposits were overlain by loose sandy silty gravels 10394, 10395 and 10495. While 10394 was a 1m-wide, path-like, band of cleaner gravel running along the road, the others were largely confined to the subsidence hollows down the middle earlier road surface. These deposits may have been preparation layers for overlying surface 10309. It was a 5.6m wide expanse of compacted gravel, up to 0.13m thick and bonded in places. Patches of gravel denoting likely repairs were noted on its surface.

Road 1

10170	<b>Amphora</b> Pascual 1 (ARCAT) <b>Other pottery</b> fabrics GROG GRS
10171	<b>Samian</b> fabric SGSW <b>Other pottery</b> fabrics GRS GROG
10179	<b>Amphora</b> Dr.20 (ABAET) <b>Other pottery</b> fabrics CGFCS GRS GROG <b>Brooch</b> Hod Hill (SF2214)
10158	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics GRS GROG
10172	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics GROG GRS
10185	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GRS
10186	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GROG

The contexts representing this phase of the road provide a broad early Roman date. There were later sherds present, demonstrating that the road had continued usage, probably into the 3rd century.

10210	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GROG
10592	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GROG
10598	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics GROG BSW GRF
10556	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GROG

10543	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GROG
10544	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GROG
10557	<b>Pottery</b> jar \$ (GROG)
10309	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics GROG BSW
10394	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GROG
10495	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics GROG TR

The pottery recovered from these surfaces is mainly grog-tempered, providing a Late Iron Age date. The sherds in Roman fabrics are probably intrusive. (Late Iron Age? to Period II?)

**Roadside ditch 25244** (segs. 10189, 10522, 10565) and **recuts 25245** (segs. 10159, 10392, 10529)  
Ditch 25244 was a linear cut that ran down the west side of Road 1. It varied between 1.6m in width at the south to 2.4m to the north and 0.6-1.0m in depth, apparently draining northwards. It contained a sequence of gravelly and sand-rich fills which were largely material washed from the adjacent road surface. As excavated, this ditch had no stratigraphic relationship with road surface 10309. However, as it cut the underlying preparation deposits and, further north, cut surface 10185, it is likely that this ditch post-dated Period III surface 10309 as well. It is nonetheless likely that they would have been contemporary in their subsequent use.

There were two recuts in the top of ditch 25244. Both were relatively minor and irregular and have been combined as 25245. The first, segment 10392, was 1m wide and 0.3m deep and marked a slight westward shift from the established ditch line, though remaining roughly parallel to it. Within its silt-clay fill was a deposit of unworked septaria 10266. This is likely to have been part of a deliberate infill and has a near-by parallel in similar deposit 10278, described below. The second recut, 10529, was a 1.2m-wide linear cut which broadly ran down the centre of 10565. Further south only one recut was recovered (10159) which could equate to either of those in the north, or may indicate that the recutting was really only sporadic, location-specific, cleaning out. This roadside ditch was probably dug in the late 1<sup>st</sup> century AD and functioned well into the 2<sup>nd</sup> century.

The artefact assemblages within the fills of the ditch and its these successive recuts suggest continuing occupation in the vicinity of Road 1. While much of the ditch fill material derived from the road itself, the fills also contained fairly typical assemblages comprising large amounts of pottery together with tile, daub and animal bone.

No earlier ditch along the west side of any of the preceding road phases has been recognized. It is possible that this edge remained generally static through time and that any such feature had been removed by the cutting and recutting of 25244. Although the ditch was only clearly visible for some 24m in the north and was not visible at all further south until excavated, it is presumed to have extended alongside Road 1 for some distance – but apparently stopping short of the South Trench within which it was not located.

**Ditch 25244** (segs. 10189, 10522, 10565)

10189	<b>Samian</b> cups f27 (CGSW) f33 (CGSW) <b>Other pottery</b> dish B4 (BSW), fabrics COLC GRS NKG
10522	<b>Pottery</b> jar G19 (BSW), fabrics GROG GRS
10565	<b>Samian</b> platters f18 (SGSW) f18R (SGSW), bowls f30 (SGSW) f37 (CGSW), cup f27 (SGSW) <b>Amphoras</b> Gauloise 4 (AGAUL) Dr.20 (ABAET) <b>Other pottery</b> dish B7 (BSW), jars G8 (BSW) G17 G19 G23 (GRS), beaker H13 (NKG), flagon J3.2 (COLB), fabric VRW

Blurb

**Recut ditch 25245** (segs. 10159, 10392, 10529)

10159 KPG	<b>Samian</b> dish f31 (CGSW), cup f33 (CGSW) <b>Other pottery</b> platter A4 (NKG), dishes B2.3 B3.1 (BB2) B4 B7 B9 (BSW) B10.1 (GRF), bowls C16 (GRS) C23.3 (LESTA), jars G18 G20 G29 (GRS), beakers H6 (NKG) H20 (COLC), fabric VRWM
10392	<b>Amphora</b> Dr.20 (ABAET) <b>Other pottery</b> jar G20 (GRS), beaker H1 (BSW), fabrics TR COLB
10529	<b>Samian</b> platter f15/17R or 18R (SGSW), cup f27 (CGSW) <b>Other pottery</b> jars G19 G23 (GRS), fabric LRC

Blurb

### Roadside ditch 25246 (segs. 10206, 10208)

Ditch 25246 was a linear cut that ran parallel to, and truncated the east edge of, earlier roadside ditch 25038. It was 2.6m wide and c.0.6m deep with steep sides and a broad, flat base. Though only revealed for a short distance, beneath obscuring silt deposits, it appears that this ditch was a direct replacement of 25038. It must be associated with metalled surface 10180, with this eastward shift facilitated the widening of Road 1, as described above. The single dark brown gravelly silt fill contained pottery of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, mainly on the early side, and animal bone. It is likely that ditch 7749, in Area G, is a further part of the same.

#### Ditch 25246

10206	<b>Pottery</b> mortarium D1 (VRWM), fabrics GROG TN(M) NGWFS
10208	<b>Amphora</b> <i>salazon</i> (ASALA) <b>Other pottery</b> beaker <i>Cam 102</i> (CGMIC), fabric GROG

These ditch sections contained mainly grog-tempered pottery in a variety of forms. An early to mid 1st century AD date is suggested by the presence of the imported fineware and amphora. The mortarium is a mid 1st century type.

(not sure that this is period III either)

### Ditch 25015 (segs. 10491, 10599, 10602)

East-west ditch 25015 continued across the southern extreme of Area F from adjacent Area D, where it is accorded the same overall number. Within Area F, it was 1.2-2.0m wide and as much as 0.8m deep, rising to an eastern terminal (segment 10491) at the edge of Road 1. It is likely that this ditch marked the southern boundary of the rectangular enclosure system and may have followed an earlier, LIA, demarcation, although there was no evidence of this in the areas investigated. The relative paucity of finds may even suggest an early origin for this ditch - perhaps contemporary with the creation of the road? [Note that it prob continued into Period IV.](#)

#### Ditch 25015

10491	<b>Pottery</b> jar ?G42 (GRS), fabric BSW
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Only segment 10491 contained pottery. Little of this can be closely dated within the Roman period, although the jar is a possible later Roman type - perhaps intrusive from a later recut.

### Structural features: 10132, 10174, 10501, 10350, 10358, 10798 (Fig. F14)

Excavated structural and occupation features were few and far between. Post-holes were scattered across Area F, though few can be closely dated. 10132 was an early Roman post-hole cut into the fill of roadside ditch 25244/25245. It contained a post-pipe and is an indication that some sort of structure was present alongside Road 1 at this time.

Hearth 10174, comprising a sequence of scorched clay and pebble layers, sat to the east of Road 1 in the Haul Road area.

Within the North Trench a number of features lay within 10m of the western roadside ditch. Amongst these were two ovens 10501 and 10798. 10501 was a shallow cut containing the truncated remains of two large storage jars laid one on top of the other. Both jars contained the remnants of charcoal-rich fills which included large, often burnt, flint pebbles. The interiors of the two vessels are themselves burnt and are interpreted as the remains of successive storage jar ovens, the use of which spanned the late 1<sup>st</sup> to early 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD. Gravelly layers 10350 and 10358 lay in close proximity and may represent the remains of an associated surface. Together, these features strongly suggest roadside occupation of a domestic nature. Hearth 10798 was a similar arrangement of successive storage jars, set in an irregular, 0.2m deep cut. The fills in this case showed no particular sign of *in situ* burning. It was positioned on the edge of Road 1, only 3m to the south-east of hearth 10501.

#### Structural features 10132, 10174, 10501, 10350, 10358, 10798

10132	<b>Pottery</b> bowl C16 (BSW), fabrics GRF GRS
10174	<b>Pottery</b> fabric STOR
10501	<b>Pottery</b> jars <i>Cam 258</i> (ESH) <i>Cam 255</i> (GROG) G44 (STOR), fabrics GRS NKG BSW

10350	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GRS
10358	<b>Pottery</b> dish B8 (BSW), fabrics NKG GRS
10798	<b>Amphora</b> Dr.20 (ABAET) <b>Other pottery</b> platter A2.5 (BSW), dish B2/B4 (BSW), jar G44 (STOR), fabrics ESH GRS

These contexts produced pottery mainly dating from the late 1st to early 2nd centuries. There are residual grog- and sand-tempered sherds present throughout and small intrusive sherds present in some top fills. The storage jars used in the hearths are not closely datable, except for the *Cam* 258 shell-tempered jar which is a Monaghan (1987) class 3D4, dated to the second half of the 1st century AD.

### **Septaria rubble deposits 10266, 10278 (in 'cuts' 10382 and 10392 )**

At the time of excavation, 10266 and 10278 were apparent as a pair of parallel linear arrangements of septaria rubble. They were originally viewed as the likely remains of wall footings denoting a building fronting onto Road 1, and were therefore the major reason for the location of the North Trench in this part of Area F. However, both were established to be distinct dumps within the fills of cut features 10382 and 10392.

10382 was a short shallow slot only 3.3m long, parallel to Road 1 at some 12m from its edge. Septaria deposit 10278 extended along much of its length. Though indeed parallel, 10392, as described above, was a recut of roadside ditch 10565, within which septaria deposit 10266 was a fill extending only 2.5m along its length.

Consisting exclusively of septaria, these highly selective deposits must have been used as deliberate infill. It is likely that they were contemporary and they hint at the need for substantial reinstatement of the ground surface at these particular locations, perhaps in the path of an access onto Road 1 itself.

### **Pits 10110, 10113, 10119, 10133, 10151, 10166, 10355, 10398, 10531, 10532, 10322, 10349, 10371 (Fig. F16)**

Only a small number of pits of Period III were excavated within Area F. Although these excavated examples give no meaningful insight into the overall distribution of such features, pits 10110, 10119 and 10133 suggest that there was a degree of continuity of location in relation to the Period IIb pits which are positioned at the terminal of enclosure ditch 25039.

In the North Trench, oval pits 10322, 10349 and 10371, all of early Roman date occurred within 10m of Road 1. These seem to have been filled with domestic rubbish.

Pits of this period tended to be slightly ovate and small; generally being under 1.5m maximum length and few were over 0.55m deep. Pits, such as 10151, cut into the fills of roadside ditch 25244, and its recut, serve to show the western limit of Road 1 in the early Roman period. 10398 was a more substantial pit in the South Trench, approximately 1.7m diameter and over 0.8m deep.

All contained similar assemblages of pottery together with small amounts of tile, animal bone, daub, briquetage and the occasional iron nail. Pit 10349 is perhaps noteworthy because of its unusually diverse assemblage for a **?mid** 1st century Roman feature. It includes a higher than normal metalwork content along with lava quern fragments and a bone die (SF6574).

#### **Period III pits**

10110	<b>Samian</b> bowl f37 (SGSW) <b>Other pottery</b> dish B4 (BSW), jars G9 G23 (BSW)
10113	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics GRS BSW
10119	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GRS
10133	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics NKG GRS BSW
10151	<b>Samian</b> fabric EGSW <b>Other pottery</b> dishes B1 B2/B4 (BSW), bowls C23.2 (LESTA) C16 (BSW), fabrics COLC GRS
10166	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics BSW GRS CGFCS GROG
10355	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics GRS BSW
10398	<b>Samian</b> platter f18 (SGSW), cup f33 (CGSW) <b>Other pottery</b> jars G18 (GRS) G20 (BSW), beaker H20 (LRC), flagon J3 (COLB), fabric COLC
10531	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GRS
10532	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GRS

10322	<b>Samian</b> platter f15/17 (SGSW) <b>Amphora</b> Dr.20 (ABAET) <b>Other pottery</b> dish B1 (BSW), jar G5.5 (GRS)
10349	<b>Samian</b> cup f27 (CGSW SGSW) <b>Amphora</b> Dr.20 (ABAET) <b>Other pottery</b> platters A2 (BSW) A4 (RED), dish B7 (BSW), jars G20 (BSW) G23 (GRS), fabrics LRC NKG
10371	<b>Samian</b> cup f25 or f27 (SGSW) <b>Other pottery</b> bowl C2 (NKG), fabric BSW
10382	<b>Samian</b> fabric SGSW <b>Other pottery</b> jar G19 (GRF), fabric BSW <b>Brooch</b> Aucissa (SF 4015)

These features produced pottery mainly dating from the late 1st to early 2nd centuries, with some pieces extending the date range into the mid 2nd century. The brooch is a late 1st century type. Also present were quantities of residual material.

#### **PERIOD IV (Fig. F17):**

Although Road 1 continued in use throughout the 3<sup>rd</sup> century and probably into the 4<sup>th</sup>, widespread resurfacing was absent at its north end with that to the south limited to a single episode. However, there was evidence of use, wear and localized repair and the ditch along its west side was recut. In contrast with earlier phases of Road 1, these latest road surfaces and associated bedding deposits contained varied finds assemblages that included quantities of metalwork, particularly iron nails. This would appear to mirror the composition of mid-Roman assemblages from pits.

At the south end of Area F, Structure 42 indicates the presence of a major boundary that ran up to Road 1. This fence-line probably marks the boundary of the enclosure plot lying to the west of the road and is either supplementary to or a replacement of earlier boundary ditch 25015. Within the roadside enclosure, traces of structural features and rubbish pits served to show that its occupation continued in the mid-Roman period.

#### **Road 1 (Haul Road): 10104, 10115, 10127, 10136, 10137, 10140, 10142, 10143, 10145, 10148, 10149, 10150, 10176, 10183**

The resurfacing activity along Road 1, which was a major aspect of Period III in the Haul Road area, does not appear to have continued in the mid Roman period. However, it is clear that earlier surfaces survived and remained in use as a thoroughfare. Cutting their surface were the remains of features and deposits which seem to constitute use, wear, repair and possibly disuse.

Features 10140 and 10143 were elongated ruts filled with gravelly silt, while 10183 seems to have been a wear or subsidence hollow filled with silt, rather than a cut *per se*. Widespread loose gravel and silt deposit 10150 was probably weathering or wear of Period III surfaces and its dispersal (by washing, sweeping or merely use?) across the general vicinity. Being at the top of the surviving sequence, the dating for this activity is vague. Gravelly clay silt 10104 and dirty gravels 10115 and 10127 were the latest deposits in this sequence and the most abundant in artefacts. Of these, 10104 was the most significant covering the whole of the road area and containing 58kg of tile, including voussoir and a large amount of pottery. There was also a significant metalwork component with 29 iron nails and various other iron, copper alloy and lead objects present. The pottery from these deposits gives a broad 3<sup>rd</sup> century date with significant residual components. 10115 contained a denarius of Caracalla (SF2199) dated to 212-217 AD, and an iron split-pin (SF2194) which may be from a cart and therefore signals these deposits as build-up during continued use of Road 1. It is possible that the tile was a deliberate inclusion in an attempt to maintain the road.

#### **Road 1 (North Trench): 10279, 10294, 10301, 10306, 10373, 10497, 10499, 10505, 10289, 10330, 10272, 10281**

Similar to Road 1 where investigated in the Haul Road area, there were no substantial Period IV metallised road surfaces in this trench either. Through the later second to 3<sup>rd</sup> century, layers of silt built up on top of the Period III surface of Road 1. These deposits contained varied assemblages of pottery, tile, iron nails, animal bone and daub. They were interpreted as accumulation through use or perhaps deliberate levelling/bedding for overlying surface 10281. This was a thin, compacted,

sand and gravel layer with irregular edges to the east and west. It partially overlay the earlier eastern roadside ditches. It is interpreted as the latest surviving road surface which incorporated a slight eastward shift in the line of Road 1 at this point and was probably associated with western ditch recuts 10529 or 10392. It had a 0.05-0.1m thick irregular patch of gravelly silt-sand on top.

In addition, a sequence of silt deposits overlay the western roadside ditches of Road 1. They included concentrations of daub and the two major deposits, 10289 and 10330, contained high proportions of pottery, tile and metalwork. These were likely to be roadside accumulations closely associated with the deposits on the surface of Road 1.

### Road 1 (South Trench): 10267, 10265, 10259, 10273

Layer 10267 was a compacted gravel located at the east end of the 'South Trench', of which only the western edge was exposed. In excess of 5m wide and 0.15m thick, it was clearly a surface of Road 1 which stopped short of ditch 25247 to its west and probably associated with its use. Unusually, this surface contained tile inclusions (3.6kg) along with iron nails, animal bone and a pottery counter (SF2245) and may be a sign of its relatively late construction. Rut 10265 dug into this surface, and it was overlain by a tile and sand deposit (10259), which may be a repair and an indication that the road continued in use for some time, perhaps even as late as Period V.

#### Road 1

10104	<b>Samian</b> dish f32 (EGSW), bowls f37 (EGSW) f38 (EGSW), cup f33 (EGSW) <b>Other pottery</b> dishes B5.1 (GRS BSW) B2 B4 (GRF) B3.2 (BSW), mortaria D11.1 D11.2 (BUFM), bowl-jar E2 (BSW), jars G9 (GRF) G5 (BSW) G24 G36 (GRS), beakers H24.2 (NVC) H32 H35 (GRF BSW), lid K7 (NVC), fabrics EGRHN BB1 <b>Coin</b> Dupondius/As (SF 2189), 69-199
10115	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics NVC GRS BSW <b>Coin</b> Denarius, Caracalla (SF 2199), 212-217
10127	<b>Pottery</b> dishes B1 (BB1) B2/B4 (BSW), bowl-jar E2 (GRS), fabric NVC
10143	<b>Pottery</b> fabric NVC
10176	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics STOR GROG
10183	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GROG
10279	<b>Pottery</b> dishes B1 B4 (BSW), jar G40 (GRF), fabric GRS
10294	<b>Samian</b> fabric EGSW <b>Amphora</b> Dr.20 (ABAET) <b>Other pottery</b> jar G5 (GRS), fabrics NVC BB2
10301	<b>Pottery</b> mortarium D1 (REDM), jars G40 (GRF), fabrics NVC BSW
10373	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics GRS BSW
10499	<b>Pottery</b> dish B4 (BSW), jar G5 (GRS), beaker H32 (GRS), fabric NVC
10505	<b>Pottery</b> jar G5 (GRS), fabrics BSW CGRHN
10281	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GRS
10267	<b>Samian</b> fabric EGSW <b>Other pottery</b> dish B2 (BSW), bowl-jar E2 (GRS), fabrics NVC
10265	<b>Samian</b> bowl f36 (EGSW) <b>Other pottery</b> jar G5 (GRS), fabric BSW
10259	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics BSW GRS
10273	<b>Samian</b> bowl f38 or f44 (CGSW) <b>Amphora</b> Dr 2-4 (AITAL)

The contexts associated with the later use of Road 1 produced pottery with a consistent 3rd century date, with some residual sherds. Some contexts only contained pottery that is not closely datable.

### Structure 42: Post-holes 10384, 10518, 10585, 10745 (Fig. F18)

A line of four, similarly proportioned, sub-square, clay-lined post-holes formed an ENE-WSW alignment and were regularly spaced at intervals of 3.4m. All were truncated by overlying major ditch 25027. Square post-pipes were recorded in three of the post-holes. The fourth, 10745 was heavily truncated and may well originally have contained another. A further post-hole has been tentatively identified, in post-ex, some 10m to the west (see Fig. 21).

These features are interpreted as the remains of a fenceline that probably ran off to the SW, away from the edge of Road 1. It is possible that it supplemented or replaced boundary ditch 25019, itself later recut/re-established by ditch 25027 that also truncated the adjacent post-holes.

Pottery from post-hole 10384 gives a mid-2<sup>nd</sup> + century AD date, while that from the post-pipe within 10518 is probably 3<sup>rd</sup> century. Where dark silt upper fills existed above clay linings,



they contained 4<sup>th</sup> century material. It is likely that these fills were in fact part of the overlying ditch fills and, on balance, a mid Roman date can be assigned to the fenceline.

#### Structure 42

10384	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics RET BB2 BB1
10518	<b>Pottery</b> dishes B4 (GRS) B6 (BSW), jar G24 (RET), fabrics NVC HAX LSH HAB
10585	<b>Pottery</b> dish B6 (GRS), beaker H41 (NVC), fabrics LSH HAX OXRC RET
10745	<b>Pottery</b> dish B6.2 (BSW), fabrics RET GRS

These postholes contained pottery of a general 3rd century date, but late 4th century fabrics and forms were present in some top fills. This later pottery may be intrusive as it probably derives from late Roman ditch (25027), which cut the postholes.

#### Structure 43: 10537, 10341, 10365/10375

Narrow gully 10537 was a 0.4m-wide, clay-lined cut, just to the north of pit-like 10375. Eight iron nails (SF5215) survived *in situ* within the clay, along with two stake-holes; one round (10554) and one square (10564). Truncated at either end, it ran on a NNW-SSE alignment for 2.3m and was surely associated with feature 10365/75 in some way. Gully 10341 *et al.* appeared to be a broader replacement of this feature. While it is postulated to turn a right angle at the point at which it was cut by pit 10355, its southwards extent, beyond the North Trench limit, is unknown. The function of this feature is uncertain but may have been structural, though as it truncated the top of 10365, it is unlikely to be directly associated. Pit 10648, containing post-pipe 10637, was located only 1m from the gully terminal and may have been an associated post-hole. Both ran parallel to Road 1, c.27m to its west and they could conceivably constitute the partially excavated remains of a building.

#### Structure 43

10537	<b>Samian</b> bowl f37 (CGSW) <b>Other pottery</b> fabrics GRS BSW BB1
10365	<b>Pottery</b> dish B3.2 (BSW), fabrics GRS NVC

These features produced pottery that provides an early to mid 3rd century date, with varying amounts of residual material also present.

#### Misc. structural features: 10156, 10369, 10641, 10637, 10648, 10554, 10564

While there were a number of possible mid-Roman post-holes across Area F, only one was reliably dated as such. Small post-hole 10156 was above the infilled roadside ditch recut 25245 (seg.10159) and probably originally cut through the Period III road surface which was laid over the ditch.

10375 was a 1.15m square cut, some 0.55m deep, located in the North Trench (Fig. F18). A thin deposit of clay lined its base. At the centre of the feature was a 0.8m square 'shaft', 10365, which bottomed onto the clay lining. The pit was backfilled with a clayey sandy silt, itself capped with a layer of clay around the 'shaft'. It is possible that this was on or near the contemporary land surface. Superficially, this looks like a post-hole with *in situ* post-pipe. However, a 0.8m square post is perhaps unlikely and the ridge in the clay lining of the base is more suggestive of a wooden lining. The 'shaft' fill contained a large and varied artefactual assemblage, including pottery, tile, glass and a lead sheet (SF3995), which seems more characteristic of a rubbish backfill than gradual replacement of an *in situ* post. A storage function may perhaps be postulated. A very similar feature in Area P (pit 8540) belonged to Period III.

#### Misc. Period IV structural features

10156	<b>Pottery</b> dish B2/B4 (BSW GRS), fabrics NKG
10369	<b>Pottery</b> jar G5.5 (BSW)
10641	<b>Pottery</b> dishes B1 B2/B4 (BSW), jar G5.5 (GRS), beaker H34/35 (GRF), fabric NVC
10637	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics NVC GRS BSW
10648	<b>Samian</b> fabric EGSW <b>Other pottery</b> dish B4 (GRS), mortarium D11.1 (BUFM), jar G24 (GRS), fabrics EGRHN NVC BB2 RET <b>Coin</b> Radiate, Postumus (SF 5241), 262

These features produced pottery which provides an early to mid 3rd century date, confirmed by the coin of Postumus. Varying amounts of residual material also present.

**Pits 10086, 10089, 10091, 10094, 10162, 10164, 10168, 10195, 10216, 10221, 10271, 10321, 10353, 10515, 10580, 10622 (Fig. F20):**

10086, a circular pit, c.1.75m diameter, cut the latest surface of Road 1, suggesting further evidence for the lessening of maintenance along this road in this period.

10091 was a small oval pit, 0.9 x 0.7m and only 0.1m deep, which contained a concentration of animal bone, 10090, some of which was articulated. It formed part of a cluster of pits with 10164, 10166 and 10168, immediately to the east of Road 1. All of these were relatively small and shallow pits. It is interesting that this location seems to be the site of prolonged pit digging, as a number of Period V pits subsequently truncated these.

10216 was a sub-rectangular pit with a distinctive clay fill, into the centre of which a later feature, 10195, had been cut. This, in turn, contained a small circular cut 10221. This arrangement of successive recuts is similar to features in Areas D and E at the end of Period III (*e.g.*, 9007, 9391, 8017, 10023, 10044) and into IV (*e.g.*, 10012, 10020). This recurrent aspect, together with the presence of a clay lining, may suggest a primary function other than simply as a rubbish pit.

In terms of finds assemblages, these pits divide into two clear groups, which almost entirely match their geographical spread. The pits at the northern extreme of the area, 10086, 10089, 10091, 10164, 10168, 10195, 10221 all had very few finds. 10195 and 10216 had a lot of pottery, but little else. Pottery and iron nails formed the majority of finds in all of these. There was little bone or even ceramic building materials. In this geographical cluster, only 10094 had a substantial amount of finds, which, apart from the 800+ sherds of pottery, included 28 nails, some iron, some cbm, bone and a glass fragment. It may be significant that this was the only one of the northern group west of Road 1.

The finds assemblages of the southern group of pits (10271, 10321, 10353, 10515, 10551, 10580, 10622,) are in stark contrast to this dearth. Only 10353 and 10551 display such a lack of artefacts. Among the rest, the pottery sherd counts are commonly high, there is more cbm and animal bone, but much more striking is the variety of other materials: glass, iron objects, copper alloy objects and cast waste, querns and other stone, all appear commonly, while 10271 also boasts a black shiny material counter and 10622, a number of flints.

This patterning clearly shows a differentiation in land-use between the northern group of pits (east of the road, and realistically belonging more closely with Area G's activity patterns) and the southern group, mainly in the enclosure area west of the road, though 10271 actually is east of it. The activity west of the road clearly produced more material waste to be disposed of in pits than that to the east, though whether this means an imbalance in material wealth or just different activities and disposal practices is open to debate.

**Pits 10086, 10089, 10091, 10094, 10162, 10164, 10168, 10195, 10216, 10221, 10271, 10321, 10353, 10515, 10580, 10622**

10086	<b>Pottery</b> beaker H34 (GRF), fabrics HAX NVC BSW
10091	<b>Samian</b> bowl f38 (CGSW)
10089	<b>Pottery</b> dish B2 (BSW), jar G5.4 (BSW), fabric GRS
10094	<b>Samian</b> dish f31 (CGSW), bowls f37 (CGSW) f42 (CGSW), cup f33 (CGSW) <b>Other pottery</b> dishes B3.2 (BSW) B1.4 B2.3 (BB2), jars G9 G23 (BSW), beakers H5 H6 (NKG) H20 (COLC), flagon J3.5 (MWSRS), fabric GRS
10162	<b>Samian</b> dish f18/31R (CGSW) <b>Other pottery</b> dishes B1 (BSW) B2 (GRF), jars G5 G9 (GRS), beakers H24 (COLC) H6.3 (GRF), fabric HAX
10164	<b>Pottery</b> dishes B1 B2/B4 (BSW), jar G5.2 (GRS), fabric COLC
10168	<b>Pottery</b> jar G5.5 (GRS), fabrics COLC BSW
10195	<b>Samian</b> dish f31 (CGSW) <b>Other pottery</b> mortarium D1 (BUFM), jar G9 (BSW), beakers H34 H35 (BSW), fabric COLC
10216	<b>Samian</b> bowl f38 or 44 (CGSW) <b>Other pottery</b> jars G24 (GRS) G23 G9 (BSW), fabric COLC
10221	<b>Pottery</b> bowl C18 (NVC), fabrics GRS BSW
10271	<b>Samian</b> bowl f37 (EGSW) <b>Other pottery</b> dish B1 (BSW), bowl-jar E2 (GRS), jar G5.5 (BSW GRS), beaker H27 (NVC), fabrics MIC COLC HAX

10321	<b>Samian</b> dishes f18/31R (CGSW) f31 (CGSW) <b>Other pottery</b> dishes B5.1 (BB1) B1 B3 (BSW) B2/B4 (GRF BSW), mortarium D6 (OXWM), beaker H32 (NVC), fabrics HAX <b>Coin</b> Radiate (SF 3972), 230-270
10353	<b>Pottery</b> mortarium D11 (COLBM), fabrics BSW GRS
10515	<b>Samian</b> fabric CGSW <b>Other pottery</b> dishes B1.4 B2/B4 (BSW), jar G5.5 (BSW), fabrics NVC GRS
10580	<b>Samian</b> jar f72 (CGSW) <b>Other pottery</b> dishes B4 B5.1 (BSW), jars G9 (BB1) G24 (GRS), beakers H6 (NKG) H20 (COLC)
10622	<b>Samian</b> dish f31 (CGSW), bowl f38 (CGSW), cup f33 (CGSW) <b>Other pottery</b> dishes B1 B4 B3 (BSW), bowl-jar E2 (GRF), jars G24 (GRS) G9 (BSW), beakers H32 (NVC) H33 (BSW), fabric HAX

Most of these pits produced pottery which ranges in date from the mid 2nd to the mid 3rd centuries. All generally contained either dishes or folded beakers, with varying quantities of residual material, although some samian may not be. The pottery in 10091 is wholly residual. Also present in 10271 is a patera copy in mica-dusted fabric, in this fabric contemporary with the rest of the pottery.

## PERIOD V (Fig. F20)

Road 1 continued in use into the 4<sup>th</sup> century, but there was no evidence of any new resurfacing during this period. The only instance of maintenance was represented by the shallow roadside ditch terminal 25247 located at the south end of the area. In view of the fact that mid-Roman resurfacing was apparently limited to only the southern half of Road 1, it is possible to postulate that late Roman upkeep was even further limited, perhaps to an area south of new ditch 25027.

Limited excavation across the area revealed only a single Period V pit, and only one more in Period VI, so little can be said regarding the distribution of late pitting, except that where encountered, they tended to occur in close proximity to the roadsides of Road 1, without encroaching upon its surface. This is further evidence that Road 1 was still in use, or at least respected as a boundary marker, at this late date. A slight tendency for the late pits to be located on top of clusters of Period IV pits hints that there was at least a thread of continuity between the mid and late Roman periods.

In the south of Area F, mid-Roman fenceline Structure 42, and surviving remnants of adjacent ditch 25015, were replaced by very substantial ditch, 25027. Thus, it may be demonstrated that the major land divisions of the settlement were perpetuated. It is, however, more difficult to define the nature of land-use within such enclosures, because of the lack of excavated structural remains. On the evidence of the very diverse and large artefactual assemblages from such features as ditch 25027, there must have been occupation activity in the vicinity, to produce waste from a range of activities such as lead-working, as well as domestic refuse. However, during this period, ditch 25027 probably formed the northern boundary of the settlement's core area, and this rich material culture may have been derived from activity to the south (*i.e.*, beyond Area F) rather than to the north of this feature. Indeed, a probable votive element to the deposition in this feature has been identified. This structured deposition, principally involving coins, jewellery and other metalwork, may have been deposited by visitors to, or in conjunction with rituals at, the temple in Area J.

### Roadside ditch 25247 (segs. 10290, 10525)

25247 was the irregular end of a shallow broad ditch located at the east end of the South Trench. Its narrow tip was truncated by east-west ditch 25027. Though only 0.1m deep, this feature cut the Road 1 surfaces except for the latest (10267), which is dated as Period IV. It is likely therefore that 25247 was the roadside ditch for this final surface, which may hint that the construction date of this ditch can be pushed back as far as the later 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD. Most importantly, the existence of this ditch indicates that Road 1 still functioned into the 4<sup>th</sup> century.

The roadside ditch was filled with a single gravelly sandy silt which may derived from road-wash. Overlying its fill was a deposit of gravel, sand and clay (10261) that seems to have accumulated in the slump hollow. This material was most likely the product of continued degradation of the adjacent road surface. Finds from the ditch are dominated by tile, with little pot, and metalwork is present only in limited quantity. A denarius of Geta (198-212) must already have been old when it found its way into the fill of 10290.

The southern terminal was excavated in Area I, as segment 13239, making this ditch only c.17m long. The main fill of 'pit' 13239 is dated to the second half of the 4<sup>th</sup> century and may indicate the prolonged survival of/accumulation in this deeper end of the feature.

#### Ditch 25247

10290	<b>Pottery</b> dish B6.2 (NVC)
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The Nene Valley colour-coated dish dates this feature to the early to mid 4th century. Also present were residual bodysherds and a coin of Geta, 198-212, also residual.

#### Homogenous silt deposits: 10248, 10255

10255 was an ill-defined gravelly sandy silt deposit which overlay the Road 1 sequence as exposed in the North Trench. It was an homogenous layer, containing a large and varied artefactual assemblage which included large quantities of pottery, tile and metalwork (particularly iron nails), dated to the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. 10248 was a dark brown-grey sandy silt which partially overlay 10255. It was preserved only within slump hollows created by earlier features 10271 and 10582 in the underlying sequence. Together, these layers attest to the formation of mixed soils over Road 1 and therefore indicate its disuse and abandonment sometime during the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD.

#### Silt Deposits

10248	<b>Pottery</b> bowl-jars E2 (HAB BSW) E5.4 (GRF), jars G24 G42 (GRS), beaker H41 (NVC), fabrics HAX BB1
10255	<b>Pottery</b> bowl C8 (OXRC), bowl-jar E2 (BSW), fabrics NVC HAX

These contexts contained pottery dating from the late 3rd to 4th centuries, with much residual pottery. The Oxford red colour-coat in 10255 provides a date of late 4th century+.

#### ?Midden/dump 10496, 10639, 10605, 10693

A 10m diameter sequence of concentric circular deposits has been interpreted as a truncated dump or midden-type feature. Soils, all essentially dark silts, varied in both colour and pebble content. The various deposits contained a diverse array of finds, including pottery, tile, quern, slag and particularly metalwork (mostly iron nails). Three 4<sup>th</sup> century coins were present, two of which are dated to 347-348AD and so supply a later 4<sup>th</sup> century date for this dump or midden sequence.

This 'feature' suggests that the nature of rubbish disposal may have been changing in the later life of the settlement. It is possible that fewer pits were being dug for this purpose and that rubbish was being middened. The almost total lack of late pits in this area naturally provides some support for this idea. This, of course, has implications for the consideration of decline and fragmentation of the structure of the settlement.

#### Midden/dump

10496	<b>Pottery</b> dishes B6.1 (GRF), beaker H41 (NVC), fabrics BB1 BSW <b>Coins</b> AE3, House of Constantine (SF 4640, 5230), 347-348, AE4 (SF 4648), 300-399
10639	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics LSH RET BSW
10693	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics MEK NVC BSW

Much of the pottery from this deposit is late Roman in date. The coins support a mid 4th century date, but the presence of late shell-tempered and Mayen ware bodysherds may indicate a date in the late 4th century+. There is residual material, mostly dishes, in some quantity.

#### Ditch 25027 (Segs. 10311, 10380, 10404, 10406, 10520, 10538, 10657, 10663)

##### Allude to its Period III-IV forerunner - 25015

Ditch 25027 was a wide linear feature running WSW-ENE, across the southern end of Area F. It extended a short distance into adjacent Area D, with a total length of 38m. The ditch was up 4.6m wide and 0.45m deep, with a rounded terminal at its east end which cut roadside ditch 25247 and the western edge of Road 1. Traces of two recuts were evident in the vicinity of the terminal and, elsewhere along its length, the stepped sides of the cut make it likely that the ditch had been cleaned or recut on at least four occasions.

This feature perpetuated an important boundary that replaced the Period IV fenceline (Structure 42) and overlay ditch 25015. The precise date of its original digging remains unclear, as the surviving fills relate to its latest use-life and subsequent disuse.

The find assemblage is exceptional, comprising large amounts of Late Roman pottery, tile and an array of metalwork that includes jewellery items and working waste. Perhaps most significant is the large collection of copper alloy coins from the east end of the ditch. The latest coins date to AD364-375, or 367-375, though most are from the early-mid fourth century. There was also a significant number of much earlier coins, from the early second century onwards. Two complete ceramic vessels and fragments of face-flagons were also present, and it seems apparent that at least part of the assemblage is the result of structured or votive deposition within the open feature - perhaps over a protracted time.

#### Ditch 25027

10380	<b>Pottery</b> dishes B6.3 (BB1) B1 (NVC), bowls C25 (OXRC) C8 (NVC), mortarium D5 (OXWM), fabric HAX <b>Coin</b> AE4, House of Theodosius (SF 4018), 383-402
10404	<b>Pottery</b> dishes B1 (BB1) B6 (GRF), bowl-jar E2 (GRS), jar G24 (RET), beaker H41 (NVC), fabric NVM
10406	<b>Pottery</b> dishes B6 (NVC BB1 GRF) B6.1 (BSW GRS), bowls C [P32] (OXPC) C8 (OXRC), mortaria D14 (NVM) D7 (OXWM), bowl-jar E2 (GRF GRS), jars G27 (LSH) G24 (HAX) G42 (GRS), fabrics OXCRM OXSWM OXW <b>Coins</b> AE3, Valens (SF 3974), 367-375, AE3 Valentinian I (SF 4289), 367-375, AE3, House of Constantine (SF 3482), 330-335
10520	<b>Pottery</b> dish B6 (GRS), jar G42 (GRS)
10538	<b>Pottery</b> dishes B6.1 B6.2 (GRS), bowl C8 (NVC), mortarium D6 (OXSWM), bowl-jars E2 (BSW) E5 (GRS), jars G26 (HAX) G35 (GRS) G27 (LSH), fabrics OXWM BB1 OXRC <b>Coins</b> AE3, Valens (SF 4022), 364-378, AE3, House of Constantine (SF 3987, 3988, 3992), 330-337
10657	<b>Pottery</b> dishes B1.2 (NVC) B6 (GRF), bowl C (OXRC), mortarium D14 (NVM), bowl-jars E2 (BSW) E6.1 (GRS), jars G27 (PORD) G42 (GRS), flagons J11 (NVC) J (OXRC), fabrics HAX, LSH <b>Coins</b> AE3, Constantine II Caesar (SF 3998), 321-323, AE3, House of Constantine (SF 4636), 330-337
10663	<b>Pottery</b> dish B6.1 (GRS), mortarium D7 (OXWM), fabric HAX

Most of these ditch sections contained late 4th century+ pottery, although there is evidence to suggest that the feature began accumulating rubbish in the 3rd century with the greatest deposition occurring in the later 4th century. This is supported by the coin evidence. There is much residual material present.

#### Pit 10763 (Fig. F22)

10763 was a pit containing the redeposited corner of a brick structure. This structural fragment (10562) comprised a total of seven courses of brick, bonded with clay. The infilling of this feature was relatively complex, the sequence indicating an episode of initial deposition then concerted dumping into the remnants of the cut, which included the structural brick. Whether this was derived from a building, or merely some such structure as an oven, is unknown.

#### Pit 10763

10763	<b>Pottery</b> dishes B1 (BB1) B6 (BSW), bowl-jar E5.4 (BSW GRS), jars G24 (GRS) G9 (GRF) G26 (RED), beakers H32 (NVC) H34 (BSW), fabrics OXSWM HAX <b>Coin</b> AE3, House of Constantine (SF 5458), 330-337
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Most of the pottery recovered can be dated to the late 3rd to mid 4th centuries. The presence of the coin supports an early to mid 4th century date. There is residual pottery present throughout.

#### PERIOD VI (Fig. F20)

Although almost no features appear to have originated in this latest Roman to early Saxon period within Area F, the ceramic evidence suggests that ditch 25027 continued to accumulate material into the late 4<sup>th</sup> century +. However, no identifiably Saxon material is present. Otherwise, there are a couple of isolated features with some late fourth century pottery in their fills, of which probably only two pits merit a mention.

**Pits 10125, 10504**

10504 was a small, 1.1m diameter, pit on the west edge of the road. The finds from this pit comprise mainly pottery and tile, though there is also a significant metalwork component.

Pit 10125 was the latest in the sequence of intercutting pits immediately to the east of Road 1, on the northern edge of Area F. While indicating a continuity of pit digging at this location, the latest example was also among the largest – some 1.8m diameter, though only 0.28m deep.

It is possible that either or both of these were earlier fourth century pits, just receiving a few later finds.

**Period VI pits**

10125	<b>Pottery</b> bowl C (OXRC), fabric LSH
10504	<b>Pottery</b> dishes B1 (LSH) B6 (GRF BSW), bowl C8 (OXRC), fabric BB1

Both of these pits produced pottery which dates to the late 4th century+, with lots of residual material.