

AREA G PHASING

Area G was located in the north-east corner of Area A1 and defined by Road 5 to the south, the edge of A1 to the east and north, and Road 1 to the west. It was an area wholly lying on brickearth, overlain by fairly homogenous dark silts within which feature definition was very poor. As a result, machine stripping was severe in places which may have removed some late features as well as layers. Excavation produced relatively few late features so such loss could be perhaps assumed; however features such as large pits should be expected to have survived and it may be the case that there was little late occupation in this area as was the case in Area F.

Excavation within Area G was fragmentary; largely confined to two small areas on its southern limit, targetted on specific features (Building 54 and the road junction; roadside build-up deposits) and along its northern edge, with some chasing of ditch lines southwards. The picture which emerges is likewise fragmented. It is fairly clear that no sequence was really satisfactorily bottomed, and no sequence has much horizontal extent either. This has undoubtedly affected the understanding of Roads 1 and 5 within Area G so that it is difficult to know whether apparent variations in road surface extents were due to widening and narrowing or to slight shifts in the entire line. Perception of land-use is similarly ill-defined.

Phasing Summary

Period	Period description	Sub-period	Date
I	Residual material infers activity?		MIA/LIA transition
II	Enclosure and occupation	A B	LIA & transition
III	Occupation and roads		Early Roman
IV	Continued occupation & upkeep of road		Mid Roman
V	?decline, scattered occupation		Late Roman
VI	Single pit		Latest Roman/Saxon trans
VII	Early modern field division		17-18 th century?

PERIOD I (Fig. G1)

Period I was represented by a single post-hole and a scatter of flint working debris with some middle Iron Age pottery in a small, arbitrary, area toward the north end of the area. This material was retrieved from the upper, reworked, surface of the brickearth. It is possible that the deposits which contained this material were remnants of a disturbed occupation 'location'. At best, it can only be concluded that there must have been activity of some sort predating the earliest late Iron Age phase of the site and that fragments of it survived in areas of the site where either reworking or truncation and disturbance was minimal.

Discuss residual scatter of MIA material here?

Land surfaces (7421, 7422, 7423, 7426, 7427, 7428, 7430, 7431)

this needs further consideration – these are not surfaces in themselves.

This group consisted of dirty brickearths, and some gravel, all of which seem to have contained prehistoric material.. Deposit 7421 was first defined within a 10m grid square as containing a relatively dense concentration of apparent flint working debris. Rather than being separate deposits, 7422, 7423, 7430, 7431 were specific scatters of flint and pot suggestive of the *in situ* remains of flint working within this area. 7427 was part of the same deposit further north (although described very

differently in terms of composition), while 7426 (brickearth) and 7428 (gravel) were layers below 7427. 7380 was a sizeable, fairly regular, post-hole with prehistoric pottery and a tiny bit of slag. Given the slightly mixed nature of the pottery (see below) it is not impossible that all this material was redeposited rather than *in situ*, but one wonders quite what sort of deposit it must have been originally to be redeposited with quite so much worked flint in it. It is probably easier to allow these really to be flint working areas, maybe with some later material working its way into the surfaces.

All the worked flint recorded seems to be from 7422, which leaves about 80 flints (all on the database as cores) missing from this group, according the excavator's count, making it seem much less convincing than it did during excavation. There are also a few anomalous bits of dating evidence. 7430 and 7431 each had one tiny sherd of apparently Roman pottery among otherwise early LIA assemblages. 7422 and 7423 were both LIA. 7381 had 12 sherds including 11 prehistoric (probably MIA?). However, the pot in 7422, 7423, 7430 and 7431 would look like real MIA/LIA transition types if it were not for the two 'apparently' Roman sherds. So it is proposed to allow these to stay as MIA/LIA transition features. The tiny later sherds could easily have worked their way down into these layers from above.

Brickearths 7421, 7422, 7423, 7426, 7427, 7428, 7430, 7431

7422	Pottery jar \$ (MICW), fabric GROG
7423	Pottery fabrics GROG MICW
7430	Pottery fabrics GROG MICW GRS
7431	Pottery fabrics GROG MICW BSW

There is grog-tempered pottery present and sand-tempered bodysherds from handmade forms, although most is fragmentary. Three contexts also contain middle Iron Age sherds, so the pottery from this spread probably indicates a transitional middle/late Iron Age date.

PERIOD II (Fig. F2)

Late Iron Age activity can perhaps be separated, in Area G, into two sub-periods based upon the differing alignments of the ditches encountered mainly in the north of the area; however, a strict division by sequence is less easy. Sub-period II A, is represented by only a few features, including three differing boundary alignments, one of which had a near north-to-south alignment, another arcing and finally one on the more usual NNW-SSE alignment. While both 25043 and 25044 were clearly at odds with the alignments of later boundary features, 25045 adopted the alignment later prevalent throughout the settlement. Sub-period II B is defined by the establishment of a more 'regular', potentially extensive, system of rectangular land division. The defining ditches displayed the adoption of the NNW-SSE alignment which prevailed throughout the settlement from the early 1st century AD onwards. While concrete evidence of associated features was extremely sparse for Period II A, there were more features, largely pits, with demonstrably mid 1st century dates which must surely belong with this phase of enclosure. A well, sunk in the earlier period, may have continued in use, and was certainly filling in during II B. However, neither intrinsic chronological indicators nor associations were such as to enable the great majority of other features, such as gullies, pits and post-holes, to be sub-phased with any reliability.

It is likely that Roads 1 and 5 were established during the later part of this period and with reference to elements of the surrounding landscape division.

Period II A

Two ditches, 25043 and 25044, were the only clear indication of one system of land division and occupation which predated the 1st century AD. Ditch 25045 seems to represent a separate system, but it too was clearly early in the LIA sequence. **Well 7220 must also belong here**, since it was already filling up by the middle of the first century AD, although its construction date could not be established any more closely.

Ditch 25044 (segs. 7198, 7670, 7718) (Fig.G3)

Feature 25044 was a curving length of ditch 1.1-1.2m wide and of variable depth, from 0.2m to 0.5m. The curvature of this ditch was most marked toward its north end, where it was truncated by major Period II B ditch 25041. It is postulated that the ditch may have extended considerably further and that its line was incorporated into that of the later truncating ditch which, at its west end, displayed a similar curve. Although an apparent terminal was excavated as segment 7670, the ditch clearly extended further south, at least as far as cut 7718, before being masked by later silt deposits. It is possible this ditch was cut in discrete sections and was not fully continuous, or that an entrance gap existed either side of segment 7670. Also different fills were distinguished in plan along its exposed length; this could be evidence of recutting or secondary accumulation within slump hollows related to its undulating base.

Ditch 25044

7198	Pottery fabric GROG
7670	Pottery fabric GROG

The pottery recovered consists of grog-tempered bodysherds, providing a late Iron Age date. Segment 7670 also contained pottery of probable middle Iron Age date.

Ditch/gully 25043 (segs. 7111, 7674, 7676) (Fig. G4)

Linear feature 25043 was a 0.46–0.65m wide and 0.1m deep gully, or minor ditch, that ran almost north-south across the north part of Area G. It was traced for a distance of 17.5m with either end truncated by later features. At the north end, its relationship with Period II B ditch 25041 was obscured by a later feature. Its alignment was clearly at odds with that of any other linear feature in the vicinity. as it was not perpendicular to the bigger ditch, 25043 is just as likely to have been cut by 25041.

Ditch/gully 25043

7111	Pottery fabrics GROG MICW ESH
7674	Pottery fabric GROG
7676	Pottery fabric GROG

The pottery recovered consists mainly of grog-tempered bodysherds, providing a late Iron Age date. Segment 7111 also contained sand-tempered pottery (date).

Ditch 25045 (segs. 7322, 7550, 7630) (Fig. G5)

Substantial ditch 25045 ran NNW-SSE down the eastern side of Area G. It was traced, intermittently, for a distance of 49m and, although not proven by excavation, is thought to have extended southwards under Road 5. It was almost 3m wide and up to 0.8m deep at its north end, narrowing to 2m at the south but becoming deeper (1m). No evidence of recutting was noted and fill sequences were simple.

The ditch fills contained modest amounts of hand-made pottery, briquetage and loomweight fragments. The pottery supplies a late 1st century BC date which is supported by the presence of a mid 1st century potin coin (SF2429). It is difficult to see how 25045 could fit into the same pattern of land use as 25043 and 25044, but it was clearly early in the LIA sequence and the creation of a new sub-phase for this feature alone seems unjustified. It is tempting also to associate this with 25041 (currently in II B), but 25041 seems more clearly associated with Road 1.

Ditch 25045

7322	Pottery fabric GROG
7550	Pottery jar \$ (GROG), fabric MICW Coin Potin (SF2429)
7630	Pottery fabrics GROG MICW

These ditch sections contained varying amounts of both grog- and sand-tempered pottery and many of the forms are handmade, indicating a date early in the late Iron Age sequence. The coin in ditch section 7550 provides a mid 1st century BC date. Intrusive samian was recovered from the top fill of 7322.

Well 7220 (Fig. G10, G11)

Feature 7220 was a roughly rounded cut approximately 1.7m in diameter. Due to waterlogging, it was only partially excavated, to a depth of 1.5m. The whole of the top of this feature had been removed by 'pit' 7143 to a depth of up to 0.45m. The sides of the cut were lined with a dirty grey deposit of compact clay, defining a centrally positioned shaft (7144). This shaft was 0.8m square with near-vertical sides. As recorded in the field, it bottomed at a depth of 0.75m, as did the clay lining. Both overlay a grey sandy clay fill, of at least 0.8m thickness, which seemed to fill the remainder of the lower portion of the cut. Although not fully excavated, it was observed that the sides seemed to be sloping in toward a base likely to be not too far below. Given the waterlogged nature of the deposits at this depth, it is likely that shaft 7144 in fact continued down through this lower fill but was not detected. Feature 7220 is therefore interpreted as a probable well. Although no remains of a timber lining were found, it must originally have contained some sort of structure to prevent slippage of the clay lining. Rather than being a truncating pit, feature 7143 is more likely to have been a subsidence hollow which developed above what must originally been a 2m deep shaft and in which silts and rubbish subsequently accumulated.

The finds assemblage is rather small for such a substantial feature, comprising only a modest amount of pottery and a little animal bone, almost all of which was collected from the shaft fill. This material hints the disuse and infilling of the well occurring in the first half of the 1st century AD. A virtual absence of material in the lower fill may suggest gradual silting prior to infilling. The slump hollow accumulation over this feature (recorded as separate 'pit' 7143) contained the majority of the artefacts and included Romanizing pottery, indicating that this feature was infilled and levelled by the mid 1st century AD.

Well 7220 and slump hollow 7143

7220	Pottery jar \$ (GROG), fabrics TR TN(M)
7143	Samian cup f27 (SGSW) Other pottery fabrics COLB GRS GROG TR

The pottery recovered from the well shaft consists mainly of grog-tempered pottery, including handmade forms, with a few sherds of imported fineware, indicating a date in the first half of the 1st century AD. The slump hollow produced grog-tempered pottery along with Roman fabrics, which probably indicates a mid 1st century AD date for the disuse of the well.

Period II B

The ditches of sub-phase II A were replaced by a new major boundary ditch 25041. While representing the establishment of a more regular and rectilinear system of land division, the line of ditch 25041 nevertheless appears to be partially influenced by the earlier boundary features 25044 and 25045. This new boundary system preserved the NNW-SSE alignment which was adhered to through succeeding periods (actually it ran perpendicular to it). This alignment was shared with Road 1 which was broadly contemporary, although admittedly its sequence was never fully excavated in Area G. Little more tangible evidence exists for the origins of Road 5 and its relationship with ditch 25054 was not established; while the ditch clearly disappeared beneath *later* road surfaces, it is possible that it terminated at the edge of the original road. At around the same time, part, possibly a large part, of the surface of the area was gravelled or cobbled.

The ditch system seems to have passed out of use around the time of the late Iron Age / early Roman transition. Occupation, within the enclosures defined by these ditches, was evidenced by a well (7220, possibly still in use), rubbish pits and minor slots or gullies.

Ditch 25041 (Segs. 7132, 7225, 7236, 7304) (Fig. G6)

Feature 25041 was a ditch which ran east-to-west across the north end of the area. Slightly irregular in plan, this linear feature had a pronounced curve at its west end. Its course was not traced beyond this, so it is uncertain if this curvature represents a wide, rounded, corner or merely a meandering line. The

ditch was traced for a distance of some 28m. At the time of excavation it was thought to be cut by ditch 25045 at its east end. However, after a gap, 25041 appears to be continued as ditch 25042. It is thus most likely that 25041 terminated on top of 25041. The excavation of several segments across the ditch revealed considerable variation along its length as regards fills, depth, and to some extent even width and profile. However, it averaged 2m wide and 0.75m deep, with a splayed V-shaped section. Various shallow recuts in the top of the ditch identified in the field are as likely to merely be fills or accumulations within subsidence hollows. The curvature of the western part of ditch 25041 may have been due to the incorporation of part of earlier ditch 25044 into its line, which suggests a degree of continuity between Period II A and II B land divisions. [25041 and 25045 really look as if they ought to belong together on various grounds]

The fills of ditch 25041 contained modest assemblages of late Iron Age pottery and loomweight fragments. The presence of hand-made sherds (earlier LIA?) may hint at a 1st century BC date. Two sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from a 'recut' in its top and perhaps support the idea of ongoing accumulation within slump hollows. The ditch certainly passed out of use before the end of the late Iron Age as is indicated by its truncation by substantial pit 7060.

Ditch 25041

7236	Pottery fabric GROG
7304	Pottery fabric GROG

Two ditch sections produced grog-tempered pottery, providing a late Iron Age date. Section 7132 contained a small quantity of pottery dating to the middle Iron Age.

Ditch 25042 (segs. 7282, 7291, 7305, 7357) (Fig. G7)

Feature 25042 was a relatively broad and short ditch some 11m long. Measuring 1.5m wide and 0.8m deep at its middle, this cut tapered towards a rounded terminal at each end. The location of this short length of ditch, immediately to the east of the intersection of ditches 25041 and 25045, suggests its association as the eastward continuation of the former. The finds assemblage is more varied than those from the associated ditches and the presence of small quantities of early Roman pottery alongside late Iron Age suggests that this feature was perhaps a later addition to the ditch system, complementing 25041, and passed out of use in the mid to late 1st century AD.

Ditch 25042

7282	Pottery fabrics CGFCS GROG
7291	Amphora <i>salazon</i> (ASALA) Other pottery fabrics TR TN GRS BSW GROG
7357	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery platter <i>Cam</i> 5 (TR), jar <i>Cam</i> 254 (ESH), beaker H7 (GRF), fabrics TN(M) GROG GRS

The pottery recovered is mainly grog-tempered, but there is imported fineware present and sherds in Roman fabrics. The presence of these indicates a mid to late 1st century AD date.

Gully 25113 (seg. 7156) (Fig. G8)

Gully 25113 was a narrow, slightly irregular, linear cut which varied in width between 0.35 and 0.75m and in depth between 0.1 and 0.25m. It was traced for almost 26m and possibly had a terminal at its west end. It was not traced westwards beyond its intersection with ditch 25045, beyond which no further parts of the gully were recognized. Most significantly, the line of the gully paralleled that of ditch 25041, only some 3m to the south, and it is thus likely that the gully had a similar relationship to ditch 25045.

Gully 25113

7156	Pottery fabric GROG
------	---------------------

This gully contained a limited range of grog-tempered pottery, some of which is of mid 1st century date.

Gully 25114 (segs. 7162, 7222) (Fig. G9)

Feature 25114 was a fragment of north-south aligned narrow gully surviving between truncating pits. As such, it is poorly understood, but ran more-or-less at right angles to gully 25113 and may therefore have been related in some way.

Gully 25114

7162	Pottery platter <i>Cam 1</i> (TN(M)), fabrics VRW GROG
------	---

The pottery recovered from this gully can probably be dated to the mid 1st century AD.

Road 1: 6300, 7590, 7510, 7754, 7755 (Fig. G14)

Compacted, possibly bonded, gravel deposit 7510 was the earliest surviving substantial surface. This 0.1m thick surface was laid on sandy bedding layers 7754 and 7755.

However, deposit 6300/7590 appears to be a wash of silts which could perhaps imply an earlier phase of road for them to wash from. None of these road-related deposits yielded dating evidence, nor appreciable quantities of any finds - a confirmation of their road-like nature and relatively early date? The only reliable indicator of its date is the fact that this road sequence is cut by the south end of roadside ditch 25246 (segment 7749) which was filled in in the mid-late 1st century.

No evidence for the pre-conquest existence of Road 5 was identified within the limited excavations undertaken across it in Area G; although the apparent absence of such early surfaces is by no means conclusive.

Pits 7060, 7078, 7120, 7141, 7146, 7167, 7182, 7192, 7210, 7221, 7229, 7243, 7276, 7279, 7320, 7337, 7377, 7383, 7415, 7429, 7650, 7721, 7722, 7739, 7747 (Fig. G12)

Numerous shallow pits were excavated across Area G. These varied in shape and size, but fell into three general size categories: large (over 3m; e.g. 7060, 7078, 7210, 7279, 7415), small (1m-2m; e.g. 7120, 7141) and very small (under 1m; e.g. 7678, 7706). Almost all of these pits were shallow, at no more than 0.4m deep; only 7060 was significantly deeper at 1.1m. The smallest of the pits had probably suffered most from machine truncation and should perhaps be viewed alongside those in the 1-2m category.

Of the larger pits excavated, all but 7060 occurred in intercutting groups. Inevitably, these larger pits contained larger artefactual assemblages, although these were not significantly more diverse than those from smaller pits. All contained fairly typical late Iron Age assemblages, largely comprising pottery together with small quantities of animal bone, briquetage and loomweight fragments. However, these assemblages were still rather smaller than those from Period II pits elsewhere on the site (e.g., across Area A2). There was a coin of Cunobelin in 7167 (SF2385). There was little to suggest anything other than domestic disposal.

The dating of these pits beyond 'general' late Iron Age is difficult. While some are of early to mid 1st century AD, only 7146 betrays any hint of being distinctively earlier, having a late 1st BC-early 1st AD range. Therefore some of these could equally belong to Period II A. There is a degree of chronology evident within the main intercutting group centred on 7415, where the latest Period II pit in the sequence, 7210, clearly contains a Romanising ceramic element in its upper fills.

Add ref to slump hollow [7143] over well [7220]. Re rubbish disposal in other 'features' and Romanising stuff?

Period II b pits

7060	Arretine platter <i>Conspectus</i> 12.1 (ITSW) Amphoras Dr.1 (AITAL) Pascual 1 (ARCAT) Beltran 1 (ASALA) Other pottery bowl C22 (BUF), jar G19 (GROG), fabrics VRW COLB GRS TN(M) ESH NGWFS
7078	Pottery fabrics ESH GROG
7120	Amphora Dr.1/Dr.2-4 (AITAL) Other pottery jar <i>Cam 255</i> (ESH), fabric GROG
7141	Samian platter f18 (SGSW) Other pottery beaker H1 (BSW), fabrics NGWFS GROG GRS
7146	Arretine platter (ITSW) Other pottery fabrics GROG TRCG CGFCS

7167*	Amphoras Dr.1 (AITAL) <i>salazon</i> (ASALA) Other pottery platters <i>Cam</i> 8 (TR) A2 (BSW), cup <i>Cam</i> 56 (TR), jars G17 G19 (GROG), beakers H1 (BSW) <i>Cam</i> 112 (TR), fabrics NGWF CGFCS TN(M) TN MICW Coin AE unit Cunobelin (SF2385)
7182	Pottery fabric GROG
7221	Samian fabric SGSW Amphoras Dr.1/Dr.2-4 (AITAH) DR.2-4 (ARCAT) Other pottery platters A4.3 (GRS) A2 (BSW), dish B7 (GRS), jars G3 (GRS) <i>Cam</i> 258 (ESH), flagon J6 (COLB), fabrics GROG MICW CGFCS NGWF
7276	Pottery fabrics GROG NGWFS CGFCS
7279	Pottery fabric GROG
7320	Pottery fabric GROG
7337	Pottery fabric GROG
7415	Amphoras Dr.2-4 (AWINA) Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery jars G19 G20 \$ (GROG), fabrics TN(M) TR Brooch Colchester (SF2393)
7650	Amphora Dr.1 (AITAL) Other pottery fabric GROG

These pits contained a mixture of pottery types; early imports, including Dressel 1 amphora, grog-tempered pottery, imported fineware and mid to late 1st century Roman forms. A date range of late 1st century BC to late 1st century AD is indicated.

PERIOD III: (Fig. G13)

The earliest *excavated* surfaces of Road 1 (see Area F) belong to this early Roman period, although piecemeal excavation makes it difficult to be sure that this was the first phase of road. Given the evidence from other areas of its origins in late Period II, this is perhaps unlikely. Road 5 was also clearly present by this period. Both roads included several episodes of surfacing within this period, indicating heavy wear and use of the roads through this period and into the next. Both were accompanied by shallow ditches.

Probably associated with the surfacing of the roads, an extensive gravel surface was laid across much, perhaps all, of Area G and possibly further to the north and east. Where such surfacing occurred within areas of excavation, it was rarely penetrated. As a result, little is known about the date or nature of the archaeology predating it. However, features post-dating it indicate a mid/late 1st century AD construction.

It is likely that, by this early Roman period, Area G was already a distinct and established land unit defined by Roads 1 and 5. There is scant evidence for any subdivision of the enclosure. However, understanding of the occupation within this enclosure is admittedly slight. Only a single very insubstantial 'building', Building 38, was located alongside Road 5. This building appears to be 2nd century. However, early Roman pits that occur across the area had a high rubbish content and may hint at more extensive/intensive occupation activity than revealed by the limited extent of excavation of structural features.

Roadside ditch 25246 (seg. 7749)

Ditch segment 7749 was probably a further part of ditch 25246 (see Area F) along the east side of Road 1; but too little of it was revealed to add much further detail. It was at least 3m wide and 0.4m deep. Although only revealed in a 1m-wide slot, it clearly ran parallel to the road. It appears to have been deliberately backfilled by the later 1st or early 2nd century AD, and then overlain by an episode of road widening. However, the date of its creation was not established here.

Ditch 25246

7749	Pottery jars G3 G16 G23 (BSW), beaker H1.3 (BSW), fabrics VRW GROG COLC GRS
------	---

Most of the pottery recovered from this ditch section dates to the mid to late 1st century AD. Some intrusive 2nd century material was also present.

Road 5: 7687, 7666, 7661, 7657, 7643, 7642, 7629, 7553 (Fig. G15)

As is the case with Road 1, the earliest tangible remains of Road 5 occur in this early Roman period. Three deposits, (7687, 7666, 7661), represent the build-up of gravelly silts over and alongside the posited Phase II road. This material presumably accumulated through use and weathering of the road itself and layer 7661 contained an As of AD41-64 (SF2446) to hint at an early date for its deposition.

Compact gravel layer 7657 represented a new surfacing episode over the top of these early accumulations, perhaps in an effort to widen the original width of the road. Clean sandy or silty clay layers (7643, 7642, 7629) were make-up layers for a more expansive surface (7553). This was a 0.10m thick deposit of bonded gravel which probably extended the whole width of the road. Its surface appeared to be deliberately cambered. The latest Period III surfaces (7505 and 7467) were apparently laid directly on top of 7553, with no bedding layers. However, dating for these is poor and it is possible that one or both belonged to Period IV.

7666	Samian platter f15/17 or f18 (SGSW), cup f27 (SGSW) Other pottery fabrics GROG BSW
7661	Samian beaker f67 (SGSW) Other pottery fabrics BSW GRS COLB GROG Coin As copy (SF2446), 41-64
7657	Pottery fabrics COLB BSW GROG

Most of the pottery recovered from these layers is not closely datable, although the samian and coin evidence suggests a mid to late 1st century AD date.

Roadside gully 25248 (Segs. 7451, 7573) (Fig. G16)

Linear feature 25248 was a substantial gully which ran along the north side of Road 5 and, in fact, denoted the limit of its surface. Some 0.5m wide, though only 0.13m deep, it was traced for a distance of 21m. The precise relationship between the gully and the Period III road surfaces was not established, though they were clearly in broadly contemporary use.

Post-holes 7560, 7562, 7568 and 7570 were all cut into the fill of the gully and may represent its replacement with a fenceline.

Both gully and post-holes contained early Roman pottery, which is supported by stratigraphy. Although the relatively large assemblage from 7573 also included five early Saxon sherds, these are thought to be intrusive, perhaps deriving from an unrecognized late feature cut into the gully fill. Road 5 seems to have a history of being delineated by a drainage gully/fence, rather than by ditches. Fragment of parallel, ?earlier, gully 7694 would seem to emphasise this.

Gully 25248 (7451, 7573)

7451	Pottery fabrics COLB BSW GROG
7573	Samian bowl f37 (CGSW) Other pottery fabrics GROG NVC GRF BSW SAXON

The pottery recovered from these sections of gully consists mainly of bodysherds and is not closely datable, although the samian recovered from 7573 suggests 2nd century deposition. One section also appears to contain Saxon pottery.

Postholes 7560, 7562, 7568, 7570

7560	Pottery fabric GRS
7562	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS
7568	Pottery fabric GROG
7570	Samian bowl f37 (CGSW) Other pottery fabrics GRS BSW

The pottery recovered from these postholes consists mainly of bodysherds. Dating evidence is inconclusive, although the samian in 7570 carries a mid to late 2nd century date.

Surfaces and layers 7497, 7686, 7696, 7714, 7757, 7744 (Fig. G17)

Several rather scattered remnants of a compacted gravel surface occurred across Area G. The most convincing surface, (7686=7744=7757), was located at the junction of Roads 1 and 5, in the very south-west of the area. Exposed across an area in excess of 15m by 10m, this deposit of graded pebbles in a slightly silty sand matrix, clearly extended further north-east, away from the roads, and may even have merged into both roads. Considerable undulation of the surface was noted, and there were minor local variations in the compaction, both likely to be due largely to underlying features. Excavation, however, did not penetrate below this level. Just how extensive this surface was, was not established. However, it is likely that gravel surface fragment 7696, alongside Road 1, was part of the same surfacing activity, if not the same surface. It seems likely that at least this whole corner, and very plausibly considerably more, of Area G was so surfaced.

Dating for this event is provided mainly by the features cutting through it, as neither the main surfaces themselves nor features below were excavated. The sparse material recovered from the patchier sections of surface points to an early Roman date (possibly pre-Flavian?). Features cutting the surfaces date from the second century and onwards.

7696	Pottery platter <i>Cam 2</i> (TN), fabrics COLB GROG GRS BSW
7714	Amphora Dr.2-4 (AWINB) Other pottery fabrics BSW GRS GROG

Most of the pottery recovered is not closely datable, although the few forms present are early Roman types.

Surface 7059

Gravel deposit 7059 was an isolated gravel spread in the north-east of Area G. While it overlay Period II b ditch 25042, and contained early Roman material, this deposit is unlikely to be an outlying fragment of those alongside the road junction, though it could conceivably be contemporary. Although

direct dating evidence for this surfacing episode is minimal, stratigraphically it must fall into the second half of the second century. This deposit at least serves to show that isolated surfaces occurred across the plot interior; although, in this case, it is not possible to determine what 7059 was associated with.

Prepared surface 7059

7059	Pottery platter A2 (GROG), fabrics GRS BSW
------	--

Although not closely datable the pottery present suggests an early Roman date.

Building 38: 7461, 7483, 7485, 7487, 7491, 7513, 7515, 7517, 7519, 7525, 7555, 7585, 7587 (Fig. G18, G19)

Building 38 was a roughly rectilinear ‘hollow’ [7461] which contained a number of stake-holes in its base. The hollow measured 4.2 by 3.4m and was a maximum of 0.3m deep, its moderately sloping sides stepping down to a rectilinear ‘depression’ occupying the south-west corner of the feature. Arranged around the northern and eastern sides of the depression were 10 stakeholes [7483, 7485, 7487, 7515, 7517, 7519, 7525, 7555, 7585, 7587]. Apart from a slightly offset pair, 7585 and 7587, all of these were inclined inward on cut 7461. There was also a larger vertical post-hole, 7491, toward the north-west corner and a small area of burning, probably also in a slight cut 7513.

Although interpreted as a building, it is unclear if 7461 represents a deliberately sunken floor or a wear hollow within the structure - perhaps made more pronounced by subsidence of the underlying pit fills. The single large vertical post, and peripheral angled stake holes are tentatively interpreted as the remains of a slightly-built, almost tent-like, structure. The lack of daub in and around this feature suggests that its walls were constructed of organic materials other than wattle and daub. The function of this roadside ‘bivouac’ remains undetermined.

The backfill of this feature largely contained late Iron Age pottery plus a small amount of briquetage and loomweight fragments. However, this material is likely to have been derived from surrounding and underlying Period II features and it is the small quantity of Roman material, along with its stratigraphic position along the roadside, which indicate an early Roman date.

Early Roman parallels for this structure are elusive. 'Sub-Roman' Structure 10 at Chelmsford Site K (Wickenden 1992,43-4) is perhaps similar-ish in form, though not in date.

Building 38

7461	Samian platter f18 (SGSW) Other pottery fabrics GRS TR BSW GROG
7483	Pottery fabrics GROG MICW
7485	Pottery fabric MICW
7491	Pottery fabric GROG
7519	Pottery fabrics GROG BSW
7525	Pottery fabric GROG

Most of the pottery recovered is not closely datable, although an early Roman date is suggested. The Arretine ware in 7515 is residual.

Pits 7097, 7118, 7129, 7130, 7139, 7157, 7174=7207, 7194, 7296, 7575 (Fig. G20)

The early Roman pits fell into two general size categories: large pits (over 2m) and medium-sized pits (1-2m); none of which was particularly deep (ranging from 0.2-0.86m, average 0.56m). It is uncertain if their apparent clustering was real or was a product of the excavation strategy, particularly as many pits were seen and not excavated across Area G. In contrast to the Period II pits, these excavated examples produced relatively large and varied quantities of finds; mainly pottery, but also tile, briquetage, bone, slag, copper alloy and iron objects, glass, and quern fragments.

Period III pits

7097	Samian bowl f30 or f37 (CGSW), fabric SGSW Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery platter A2.1 (GRS), dish B2/B4 (BSW), jar G20 (GRS), fabrics NKG COLC
------	--

7118 KPG	Samian dishes f18/31 (CGSW) f31 (CGSW), bowl f37 (CGSW), cup f33 (CGSW) Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery dishes B2.4 B4.2 (BB2), mortaria D1 D13.1 (COLBM), jars G23 G40 (BSW), beakers H20 (COLC) H6.3 (NKG)
7129	Samian dishes f31 (CGSW COLSW) f31R (CGSW), cups f33 (CGSW) f80 (CGSW) Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery dish B4 (BSW), fabrics NKG COLC GRS
7130	Samian dish f31R (CGSW) Other pottery jar G23 (GRS BSW)
7139	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery jars G5.1 (GRS) G3 (BSW), beaker H1 (GRF BSW), flagon J3.2 (BUF)
7157	Samian dish f31 (CGSW), cup f33 (CGSW), fabric EGSW Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery jars G22 (BSW GRS) Coin Sestertius (SF2386), 50-250
7174	Arretine platter (ITSW) Samian f37 (CGSW) Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery platter A2 (BSW), dish B7 (GRS), jar G16 (GRS), fabric NKG Coin Dupondius, Trajan (SF1146), 103-115
7194	Samian fabric CGSW Other pottery dish B2/B4 (GRS), mortarium D1 (COLBM), fabric COLC
7207	Samian platter f18R (SGSW), bowl f37 (SGSW CGSW), cup f35 (CGSW) Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery platter A2 (GRS), dish B7 (GRS BSW), jar G19 (GRS), fabric NKG
7575	Samian platter f18 (SGSW), cup f27 (SGSW) Other pottery jars G20 G24.2 (BSW), fabrics CGCC NKG GRS

The pottery recovered from these pits has a date range of late 1st to mid/late 2nd century, with varying amounts of residual material. The small sherd of BB1 in 7441 is intrusive.

PERIOD IV: (Fig. G21)

Evidence for the mid-Roman occupation of Area G was dominated by the construction of a large rectilinear building (Building 54), at the junction of Roads 1 and 5. This post-dated the extensive Period III gravel surface, perhaps taking advantage of the firm level ground it offered. Probably of late 2nd or early 3rd century construction, the building was timber-framed and was subsequently extended by the addition of a verandah which encroached onto the adjacent surface of Road 1.

Although no mid-Roman surfaces of Road 5 were identified, it is probably necessary to assume its continuing use, as hinted by the presence of Building 54 alongside. Road 1 certainly was maintained, since it remained a principal thoroughfare throughout this period. Although temporarily encroached upon by Building 54, its full width appears to have been restored when the verandah passed out of use. Also roadside deposits continued to accumulate throughout this period and into the late Roman.

The presence and contents of mid-Roman pits indicate occupation activity of a domestic nature. Some could have been associated with the use of Building 54, as could a number of unexcavated tile-lined hearth- or oven-like features to its north. Otherwise, Area G contained no other mid-Roman features of significance; the Period III surfaces were not renewed and became buried, no new boundaries or sub-divisions were established. It is possible that the whole area, as bounded by the roads, was part of the property belonging to Building 54, though its detailed use remains unclear.

Road 1: 6296, 7496, 7509, 7756, 7549

Compacted gravel deposits 6296, 7549, 7509 and 7496 represent a single continuous surface, bedded on silty sand 7756. This episode of road surfacing appears to have involved the widening of Road 1. The surface sealed the western wall remains of Building 54 (see below) indicating a date of no earlier than the late 2nd century (and more probably early/mid 3rd century) for its construction. Virtually no dating evidence was collected from the road deposits themselves.

7549	Samian bowl f31R (CGSW) Other pottery dishes B2 (BSW) B2/B4 (GRF)
------	---

Only one road context contained pottery, this provides a mid 2nd to early 3rd century date.

Road 5: 7505, 7467

The final surviving Road 5 deposits were of likely mid-Roman date. Two episodes of resurfacing were denoted by layers of pebbles bedded in silty sand 7505 and 7467 and separated from one another by a pea-grit layer. Although no dating evidence was collected from these road deposits, they were cut by probable mid-Roman pit 7441.

Ditch 7270/7389

Originally interpreted as an elongated pit, it seems more likely that 7270/7389 was the terminal of a north-south aligned ditch. Indeed, the pre-ex plan suggests a northward continuation toward the edge of excavation.

Ditch 7270/7389

7270	Pottery jar G36.1 (GRS)
7389*	Pottery dishes B2/B4 (BSW) B3.2 (GRF) B6 (GRS), mortarium D1.4 (COLBM), jars G26 (RED) G9 (GRF) G20 (GRS) G29 (BSW), fabrics COLC NVC

Most of the pottery recovered came from 'pit' 7389, but both assemblages can be dated to the mid to late 3rd century. There is residual material present.

Building 54 (Figs. G22, G23, G24)

Building 54 consisted of the collapsed and burnt remains of a rectangular, timber-framed, structure located at the junction of Roads 1 and 5.

The position of its east, west and part of the south external walls were principally marked by a foundation slot 25219/25220. The slot was filled with burnt daub fragments, many of which bore wattle and roller stamp impressions, which were used as a deliberate packing. This material must have derived from a separate (earlier) building, which also burnt down. An 'offering' of a complete ceramic vessel ([ref. pot rep](#)) had been placed within foundation slot fill 7535. Post-holes 7615, 7621, 7662, 7704, 7745, 7759, 7761 occurred at intervals set into the wall slot and its daub packing. Further stake-holes 7580, 7610, 7611, also found within the packing, contained the bases of carbonized stakes. Part of the southern wall was marked by a line of unexcavated post-holes; whether these were also set into a wall slot was not established. Together, these structural features defined a building which was 9m wide and at least 10.5m long. Within Building 54 were the remains of a beaten brickearth floor surface or at least the preparation for a more solid surface, (7472 / 7572), but there was little discernible evidence of other internal features such as partition walls, though tile-lined hearth 7544 may well have been contemporary.

This building occupied a position immediately alongside Roads 1 and 5 and is presumed to have fronted onto the former. Cut into the road surfaces in front of Building 54 were a number of slots 7529, 7680 and 7648 and post-holes 7538, 7547, 7702 and 7608 which have been interpreted as a possible porch or verandah. This seems to have been an addition on to the front of the building and one which encroached upon the Road 1 surface. However, an alternative interpretation of the post-holes as marking the positions of supports for an overhanging roof, with the slots being eaves-drip gullies, is not ruled out. In retrospect, feature 7529 seems to comprise at least two post-holes and a slot, all originally recorded as one. These may indicate the location of the doorway into Building 54, perhaps representing a foundation for the threshold and door lintels. Gravel deposit 7736, associated with this western extension, may have represented a floor. All the features comprising the front extension to Building 54 were overlain by later road surface 7549, a subsequent reclamation of the full width of the road. It therefore seems likely that the porch/verandah had only a limited lifespan.

The dating of Building 54 is not without its problems. Pottery from the structural features contributes late 1st to late 2nd century AD dates, while underlying layers were late 2nd to 3rd century. Given that the foundation slots contain reused burnt daub, it is likely that accompanying material in the packing was also residual. A mid-Roman, possibly early 3rd century, construction date is therefore

likely, with occupation continuing into the late Roman period. The destruction is discussed in Period V below.

Building 54: 25219 and 25220

7701	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS
7752	Pottery fabric MSR
7472	Samian fabric CGSW Other pottery fabrics BSW GRS
7572	Samian dish f31R (CGSW), cup f33 (CGSW) Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery fabrics COLC BSW GRS
7604	Brooch Lozenge (SF2436)
7606	Pottery fabrics COLC BSW GRS
7615	Samian mortarium f45 (CGSW) Other pottery fabrics GRS BSW
7621	Pottery beaker H6 (NKG)
7704	Pottery fabrics COLB BSW
7711	Samian bowl f37 (CGSW) Other pottery fabrics GRF GRS
7759	Pottery fabric GRS
7766	Pottery beaker H6 (GRF)

Very little of the pottery recovered is closely datable. There are 2nd-century beakers present in two contexts and a 2nd-century brooch was also recovered. The samian can be placed more squarely within the second half of the 2nd century. Some contexts contained residual grog-tempered bodysherds and stakehole 7610 contained wholly residual pottery.

Building 54: 25218

7529	Samian bowl f30 or f37 (EGSW) Other pottery dish B1 (BSW), fabric GRS
7680	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS
7667	Samian fabric CGSW Other pottery dish B1 (GRS), jars G19 (GRS), fabrics COLB BSW
7702	Pottery jar G5.5 (BSW), fabric GRS
7645	Pottery fabric GRS

Very little of the pottery recovered is closely datable. The few forms present provide a mid 2nd to mid 3rd century date.

Deposits 7465, 7471, 7495, 7596, 7624, 7656, 7665, 7690, 7712, 7730

7465	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW
7471	Samian dish 31R (CGSW), bowl f36 (CGSW), cup f46 (CGSW) Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery fabrics BSW GRS
7596	Samian dish f18/31R or f31R (CGSW) Other pottery dish B4 (HAR), jar G9 (GRF), beaker H35 (GRF)
7624	Pottery dish B5.1 (GRF), beaker H34/5 (BSW), fabrics NVC HAB BB2
7656	Samian bowl f38 or f44 (CGSW) Other pottery jar G9 (BB2), fabrics CGRHN HAB GRS NVC Coin Denarius, Caracalla (SF2445), 206-210
7690	Pottery fabric GRS

The pottery recovered from these contexts provides a late 2nd to mid 3rd century date, supported by the presence of the coin. Some contexts contained undiagnostic pottery. Residual pottery was also present.

Pits 7072, 7122, 7127, 7248, 7270=7389=7398, 7284, 7294, 7316, 7441, 7762

As with Period III, there are two size-ranges apparent in the excavated pits: large (over 2.8m diameter: e.g., 7127, 7270, 7316, 7762) and medium-sized (1-2m diameter; e.g., 7072, 7122, 7248, 7284, 7294). Most were in the range 30-60cm deep, but 7316 and 7441 were both around 90cm deep. The apparent distribution pattern was largely a product of excavation bias – more pits were excavated in the northern part of the area where definition was good against the brickearth; the pre-excavation plans indicate that such pits were scattered across Area G.

The finds assemblages from these pits were not particularly diverse, largely comprising pottery and tile. A low incidence of metalwork is notable. A few pits have noticeably large assemblages of particular finds types: 7122 has a large pottery assemblage (key pottery group 25) while 7072 has a lot of animal bone, though these were probably just specific dumps rather than an indication of specialized pit use. All of these pits seem to have been used for domestic rubbish disposal.

Period IV pits

7072	Samian bowl f37 (CGSW) Other pottery dish B3.2 (BSW), jar G5.5 (GRS), fabrics GRF COLC
7122	Samian bowl f37 (COLSW), cup f33 (CGSW) Other pottery dish B1 (BSW), mortaria D1.3 D2 D13

KPG	(COLBM), jars G5.5 G24 G25 (GRS), beaker H20.2 (COLC), flagon J4 (MWSRS), fabric LOND
7127	Samian dish f31R (CGSW), cup f33 (CGSW) Other pottery dishes B5.1 (BSW GRF) B6.3 (BB1), mortarium D11.1 (COLBM), jar G5.5 (GRS)
7284	Samian bowl f37 (EGSW) Other pottery dishes B1 B2/B4 (BSW), bowl-jar E3 (GRF), fabric NVC
7294	Pottery jar G22 (GRS), fabrics BB1 BSW
7316	Samian dishes f31 (CGSW) f31R (CGSW) f79 (CGSW), cup f33 (CGSW) Other pottery dish B4 (BSW), jars G5.5 G24 (GRS), beaker H34 (GRS)
7762	Samian bowl f30 or f37 (CGSW) Other pottery dish B4 (BSW), jar G5 (GRS), beaker H34/5 (BSW), fabrics NVC COLC

Most of the pottery recovered from these pits provides a mid 2nd to mid 3rd century date. There is a varying amount of residual material.

PERIOD V:

During the late Roman period, Building 54 evidently burnt down. Due to the absence of debris, it is presumed that the remains were demolished and cleared down to ground level. This seems to have happened by the early 4th century at latest, and precipitated a change of use, if not decline, of this area. With the major building removed, the opportunity was taken to 're-develop' this area, still within the framework imposed by the road network. A new system of ditches and fencelines was set out alongside a large rectangular structure, possibly a building (Building 58), constructed in the centre of the plot, rather than along the road frontage. Very few pits of late Roman date were excavated; it is possible that the focus for refuse disposal shifted southwards or that the nature of disposal practice changed (as is also suggested in other areas of the settlement).

Continued use of the roads into this period probably must be assumed, though direct evidence is lacking. Evidence for the continuing use and upkeep of Road 5 is totally lacking. Road 1 did have some layers containing fourth century pottery, but it is not clear that they actually represented new surfaces, as they were not solid and may represent disuse, weathering, silting. However, there was a considerable number of layers which must post-date at least part of Building 54, which are thus placed in this period. There is a suggestion of a structure (Structure 51) sitting squarely on top of Road 5 about 30m east of its junction with Road 1 which belongs either here or in Period VI. This, together with similarly occurring Building 61 on the Road 1/5 junction (Area H) indicates that both passed out of use by the end of the 4th century.

Building 54 (continued...)

The *in situ* remains of charred stakes, within the surviving wall foundations, indicated that Building 54 was destroyed by fire. Indeed, the internal edges of the burnt daub packing were noted to be particularly burnt in places as was silty sand layer 7742 which lay within the building. Curiously, no debris associated with the destruction of this building was present within and overlying the building. This absence suggests that the site was cleared down to ground level. Though originally seen as building collapse, the deposits of burnt daub (found overlying the wall foundations, within the building, and in the tops of adjacent ditches 7645 and 7668) were, in fact, related to disturbance of the burnt daub-packed foundations rather than being the remains of standing walls destroyed by fire (**daub rep ref.**). The final build-up of silts (7469, 7470, 7499, 7506, 7567, 7627), over the remains of Building 54, dates to this late Roman period. These deposits incorporated much burnt daub derived from disturbance of the foundation fills.

Building 54: post-demolition deposits

7469	Pottery fabric GRS
7470	Pottery dishes B1 (BSW GRF) B6 (GRS), fabrics OXRC NVC
7499	Pottery dish B6 (BSW), bowl-jar E2 (GRS), jar G24 (RET GRS)
7506	Pottery dishes B1 (GRS) B6 (BSW)
7627	Pottery fabric BSW

Most of the pottery recovered can be dated to the 4th century. Only one context (7470) contained late 4th century+ pottery, and some contexts contained undiagnostic material. There are varying levels of residuality.

Gully/Ditch 25249 (segs. 7102, 7058)

Feature 25249, as excavated as segment 7102, was a gully or slight ditch, which ran across the north-east corner of Area G on a roughly NNW-SSE alignment. It was 0.6m wide and a maximum of 0.3m deep. The feature was exposed for a distance of over 19m. It had a shallow rounded terminal marking its south end, but its line was resumed after a gap of only 0.5m, as investigated as segment 7058. The full extent of 7058 was not traced beyond the east edge of Area A1.

Pottery from segment 7102 is late 3rd to mid 4th century AD, while material from 7058 is residual and derived from underlying pit 7174.

Gully/Ditch 25249

7102	Pottery dish B6.2 (GRS)
------	-------------------------

The pottery recovered is fragmentary and abraded and very little is closely datable. The dish provides a date of late 3rd to mid 4th century. Much of the pottery present is residual and that in gully section 7058 is wholly residual.

Gully/ditch 25111 (seg. 7085)

Linear feature 25111 was a ditch 0.8m wide and up to 0.5m deep, running NNW-SSE. It ran roughly parallel to Building 58, some 18m to the east, possibly terminating at a point level with the south end of the building. It was traced for a distance of 14.5m but continued beyond the northern limit of Area A1.

To some extent, the large finds assemblage recovered from its fills merely reflects the extensive excavation of the feature. However, it still appears exceptional for so slight a cut. Along with large quantities of pottery and tile, it contained 9kg of slag and a number of lava quern fragments. Distinct concentrations of material along the ditch were noted during its excavation and it seems likely that this quantity of material reflects deliberate dumping into the ditch rather than gradual accumulation. A later 4th century date for infilling is concluded.

Although not precisely parallel, its similar proportions suggest **contemporaneity** with gully/ditch 25249.

7085*	Pottery bowl-jar E5.4 (GRS GRF), jar G26 (RED), fabric OXSWM Coin AE3, House of Valentinian (SF1149), 364-378
-------	--

The pottery recovered can be dated mainly late 3rd to late 4th century. The latest piece is from an Oxford white-slipped mortarium, a mid to late 4th century form in Essex. The coin supports a mid to late 4th century date. There is a large quantity of residual pottery.

Road 1: 6296, 7445, 7455, 7463, 7464, 7468, 7473, 7482, 7496, 7500, 7501, 7509, 7549, 7626

A number of late Roman surfacing episodes were identified on Road 1 where excavated in Area G. As noted in the previous period discussion for this road, deposits 6296, 7549, 7509 and 7496 may all belong here as there is little positive evidence placing them earlier. Metalled surfaces were marked by gravel deposits 7482, 7626, 7468 and 7464 (perhaps a single episode), and the final surface 7473. Layer 7445 seems to include elements both of the degraded surface of 7455 and of silty accumulation over it. Some of these gravel deposits were very patchy and it is uncertain whether the surfaces they represent were ever more than localized repairs. This makes it difficult to interpret variations in road width as actual widening or shift. While direct dating evidence for the road surfaces is sparse, accumulation deposit 7455 is of early 4th century date or possibly slightly later.

7468	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW
7501	Pottery dish B6.2 (GRS) fabric NVC
7549	Samian dish f31R (CGSW), bowl f30 or f37 (CGSW) Other pottery dishes B2 (BSW) B2/B4 (GRF), fabric

	GRS
7445	Pottery dish B6.3 (GRS BB1), bowl-jar E2 (GRS), beaker H41.2 (NVC), fabric HAX
7455	Pottery dish B2/B4 (GRF), fabrics HAB BSW GRS
7464	Samian dish f31 (EGSW) Other pottery dishes B2/B4 (BSW) B3.2 (GRS), mortarium D11 (COLBM), jar G5 (BSW)
7626	Samian dish f31R (CGSW), cup f33 (EGSW) Other pottery dish B2/B4 (BSW)

The pottery recovered appears to represent two dating elements, late 2nd to mid 3rd century and early 4th century. This may indicate the patchy nature of repairs to the road surface. There is residual pottery also present to a varying degree.

Structure 51: Slots 7437 and 7439

Two fragments of very shallow and narrow linear features, 7437 and 7439, were ‘cut’ into the latest (Period IV) Road 5 surface. Apparently structural slots, they indicate encroachment upon the road – perhaps a building, the foundations of which rested upon, as much as penetrated, the road surface. Although recorded as a vaguely D-shaped impression on the road surface ([photo?](#)), as cut features the slots were negligible. No artefactual material was recovered and their assignment to this period is therefore tentative, they could be later.

Building 58: 25040 (segs. 7074, 7081), 25216 (seg. 7069), 7066, 7083, 7099, 7244, 7392, 7087, 7089, 7091, 7093, 7095 (Fig. Plan & sections)

A series of narrow slots or gullies defined three sides of a probable rectilinear structure. The slots were slightly irregular, varying between 0.2-0.4m width and 0.12-0.2m depth along their length. Major post-hole 7066 was located on the corner of slot 25040, while smaller post-hole 7244 lay within the apparent terminal of slot 25216. Accepting that a further part of 25216 may not have been recognized across the top of Period IV pits 7284 and 7294, and that a southern slot probably originally existed, it is postulated that these features constituted the foundations of a building 14m long and at least 14m wide. Within its interior, a short line of stake-holes ran along the edge of slot segment 7074. Similar stake holes elsewhere around the interior could conceivably have passed unnoticed. Additional short lengths of slot (segments 7083, 7099 and 7169) overlay parts of the major slots (segments 7074 and 7081) and may represent wall repairs. It is noteworthy that these occur where wall lines cross underlying pits. Furthermore, the pre-excavation plan hints at a possible southwards continuation of slot 25216 after a gap of 2.0m, perhaps denoting a doorway on this west side of the structure. No other internal structural features or floors were identified. It is suggested that this building faced onto Road 1, set back from it by a distance of approximately 15m. However, an interpretation as a simple fenced enclosure is not entirely dismissed.

Finds from slot segment 7081 and its repairs, 7083 and 7099, yielded the bulk of pottery, tile and bone. As much of their excavation was conducted over the tops of mid Roman pits, it is possible that some of the material may be derived from the underlying features. Slot segment 7069 included a 4th century AD coin (SF1116). The rather lower incidence of bulk finds from both it and slot 7074 may well be more characteristic.

7081	Pottery dish B1 (GRS), mortarium D7 (OXWM)
7069	Coin AE4 (SF1116), 4th century
7066	Pottery dish B6.1 (HAR), bowl C8 (HAX), fabric NVC
7083	Pottery fabrics NVC LSH
7099	Pottery dish B1 (BSW)

Most of the contexts associated with this building can be dated to the 4th century, with much residual material. The pottery from 7069, 7244 and 7074 is wholly residual

Building 60 (Fig. G?)

Building 60 comprised a series of large, clay-filled, post-holes or post-pads, which were not excavated, only recorded in plan. Four such features were definitely identified; circular deposits of clean clay some 0.4m in diameter. A further three post-holes, albeit lacking distinctive clay fills, appeared to conform to the rectilinear patterning defined. These features defined parts of the north,

west and possibly east sides of a rectangular structure which would have measured at least 8.75m by 8m. No trace of post-holes marking its southern limit were recognized so, although this likely building follows the prevailing NNW-SSE alignment, its precise relationship to Road 5 cannot be determined.

Although the component post-holes were not excavated, they were clearly the latest features in an area of stratified deposits. The alignment on the adjacent road, overall scale of construction and use of clay packing suggests a Roman date and so this building is tentatively assigned to the late Roman period.

Pits 7062, 7159, 7188, 7237, 7259, 7302, 7394, 7396, 7435

All excavated late Roman pits in Area G tended to be moderately sized; between 1.2-1.8m wide and 0.3-0.5m deep. In addition, they were irregular to sub-square in shape. Extremely shallow pit 7435 was notable for its location above Road 5, being further evidence of late Roman encroachment.

Pits 7259, 7188 and 7237 were all located 'within' Building 58. However, pit 7188 was cut by wall repair slot 7169 suggesting that, if Building 58 really was a building, these pits may well have predated it. The pits were deficient in finds compared to earlier Roman pits (or late pits elsewhere). Thus, few are closely dated, but stratigraphically none can be earlier than mid-Roman.

Period V pits

7188	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS
7237	Pottery fabric BSW
7302	Pottery dish B6 (NVC)
7435	Pottery fabric GRS

Most of the pottery evidence is inconclusive for dating purposes, only one pit (7302) produced datable pottery. This provides a 4th century date. The pottery from 7062 is wholly residual.

PERIOD VI:

This reduced scale of activity continued into the latest-Roman-to-Saxon period. On the strength of the excavated evidence from Area G, this decrease in activity was fairly drastic. Building 58, and the 3rd-to 4th-century boundaries, seem to have continued in use through the late 4th century, but there was virtually nothing else, and other remnants of infrastructure seem to have disintegrated by this time with traces of a structure sitting on top of Road 5 possibly belonging here if not earlier.

Period V ditch 25111 was probably still open to receive late 4th century material. Building 58 may also have endured this late; wall repair slot 7083 contained a small amount of pottery of this date. It was also perhaps respected by the only early Saxon feature to be identified, pit 7114, located immediately alongside its north-west corner.

Pit 7114 (Fig. G)

Circular pit 7114 was the only feature of this late date. The 2m-diameter cut was located directly alongside the north-west corner of Building 58 and may even have truncated its remains, although this was not definitively proven by excavation. The dating of this pit is problematical; the large assemblage of pottery is of late third to early fourth century but includes a single sherd of early Saxon pot. The absence of later fourth century material is curious and it must remain possible that the pit actually predated Building 58 and that the Saxon sherd is somehow intrusive

Period VI pit

7114	Pottery dishes B1 (BB1) B6 (GRF), bowl-jar E1 (GRS), jar G42 (GRS), beaker H32 (NVC), fabrics NVM HAB Coin Barbarous Radiate (SF1129), 263-269
------	---

Most of the pottery recovered dates to the late 3rd to mid 4th centuries, with a quantity of residual material. Late 4th century forms and fabrics are entirely absent. The coin appears to support a mid to late 3rd century date.

PERIOD VII:

What had previously been regarded as a latest Roman, or possibly Saxon, fenceline, now appears to be of post-medieval date. This structure presumably represents the sub-division of this field, as bounded by modern hedge and ditch lines, which it appears to more-or-less bisect. However, it is interesting that its alignment followed the prevailing NNW-SSE alignment of the Roman boundary features reasonably closely. No other features of post-settlement date were recognized in Area G.

Structure 59: Fenceline: 7002, 7004, 7006, 7008, 7012, 7014, 7017, 7019, 7022, 7023, 7027, 7032, 7033, 7035, 7038, 7041, 7046, 7049, 7056, 7313, 7314

A total of 24 excavated post-holes formed a NNW-SSE alignment running along the eastern edge of Area G for a distance of 44m. The majority of these features were square to sub-square, though some verged on being rounded – perhaps merely a vagary of their excavation. The post-holes averaged between 0.6-0.8m square and 0.4-0.5m deep. On the whole, they were regularly spaced at 1-2m intervals. However, some were adjacent (e.g. 7038 and 7035) and others even intercutting (e.g. 7022 and 7046) which may be signs of repair and replacement to what was surely a fenceline. The alignment continued beyond the confines of Area G, across Areas H and J.

Postholes 7008, 7022, 7035 contained the *in situ* remains of wooden posts. The fact that post remnants survived, despite their shallow burial, is probably an indication of their relatively recent date. Sixteen of the post-holes yielded pottery of 1st to 4th century date, along with a range of other Roman finds types. However, post-holes 7002, 7008 and 7027, all located in the south of Area G, also contained post-medieval tile fragments (this is also the case with some post-holes of the continuing alignment in adjacent Area H). Given the disparate range of pottery dates and (uncharacteristic for Roman post-holes) consistently large and varied finds assemblages, it is virtually certain that all material but the late tile was residual. A post-medieval date for this fenceline is concluded.

Potentially useful stuff extracted from text

Road 5 has only very tenuous claims to exist at this period also. Its existence at this time is only implied, from the linear features running along side where it ought to be and from the idea that the lowest surviving excavated layers (**7693, 7729, 7716, 7651**), seem to imply that there must have been earlier phases. Roadside ditch 7735 seems to require a bank and a road surface to explain the nature of the layers slumping down into it and laid above it. Narrow slots 7689, 7692 also may be roadside drainage gullies. If a road did exist at this time, it would have been slightly further south (or, more probably, narrower) than in subsequent phases. Actually these early layers may all lie below pit 7650 which has a large LIA pottery assemblage, although this relationship is indirect and uncertain. The next layers up (**7687, 7666, 7661, 7657**) all appear to be early Roman although there is very little dating available for them.

Road 5: It seems to be accompanied by a number of lesser surfaces which supplemented its width from time to time, marking widening and narrowing episodes, with corresponding raising of the lower slopes of the camber. It is also possible there were 'roadside surfaces' at various times, although what purpose these may have served is undetermined. If the entire area was surfaced, there may have been little difference between broad surface and road surface, except that the line of the road may have been marked by ditches or fences. Some care seems to have been taken to provide drainage gullies for each resurfacing episode, and this mass of cut features confuses the understanding of any individual element (it may also have contributed to the instability of the surfaces themselves and have been a contributory factor in necessitating so much maintenance work. The slope down from the road surface clearly also led to considerable buildups of roadside silts.

Building 54:

The layers below (6303, 7508, 7636, 7646, 7659, 7685, 7743) may be related to the raising of the ground prior to the erection of this building, but as these layers are more extensive, they may not be an integral part of this structure at all. This may be supported by the addition of beaten clay and pebbled floors for the building on top of the good surface.

7559 is a bit of a problem, however, as its pottery and coins are stubbornly late fourth century (plus residual). Even moving this into the disuse/destruction groups would still leave it later than anything else here: the best solution may be that there is just some contamination in this layer; it may have been little more than a cleaning layer?

Post holes **7529, 7538, 7547**, run parallel to the west wall of G9 and only approx. 1m (centre to centre) west of it. **7667, 7680** and **7648** are (perhaps) beamslots just slightly further west again, also parallel. (It is not impossible they represent eavesdrips, though they look a bit too deep and regular in profile; the same objection seems to prevent their being wheel ruts; however, 7680 in particular is far from straight.) **7529** is probably three features, two post holes and a slot, but has been recorded as only one, which makes it look very odd. Planned as **25218**. It is very hard to pin these minor features down convincingly. The best explanation seems to involve an extension, or even two successive extensions, of Building 54 to the west, onto the area previously used as road surface. As the road was not excavated at this point, it is impossible to tell if the road as a whole shifted west to permit this, or would have been narrowed as a result. This can be seen as a veranda or porch, or some other form of facade, but it seems unlikely on stratigraphic grounds. The stratigraphy pretty emphatically makes it impossible for these elements to belong to the original construction of Building 54; indeed it is possible it has nothing at all to do with it. There is not even any convincing evidence that these belong together at all (the post holes are not the same size/shape) except for the parallel lines they form. As the destruction layers imply two phases of destruction, too, it seems likely this group is a later phase of an enlarged Building 54. Most of these are cut through **7549**, a ?road surface? which overlies the destruction deposits of parts of Building 54, but appears to be contemporary with other destruction deposits. This raised the possibility of two phases, one of which may well be just such an extension as this seems to represent. The question was not resolved in excavation, despite being raised and explored, and remains unresolved now. It looks as though there must be at least two phases, but it is uncertain quite which elements can be definitely assigned to each, nor quite where to date them.

Period V:

Linear feature [25111] ran parallel to the east face of Building 58, some 18m to the east, possibly terminating at a point level with the southern end of the building, which strongly suggests the two features were laid out together (this may suggest Building 58 was not a building after all but an enclosure).

Gully/Ditch [25249] ran parallel to Building 58 – more than [25111], which is prob later?

Ditches [25111] and [25249] = It may be that these two ditches represent separate phases of land division, but there is no way to judge which was cut earlier, and they may have been contemporary, but 7102 does not contain any later fourth century material, while 25111 does, so it seems 7102 at least filled in before 25111 did. 25111, however, also contains earlier material in its fills, so it is not necessarily the case that it was dug after 7102 had filled. Once again, basic continuity of the arrangement conceals variations in detail (or *vice versa*?).