

AREA H

Area H, at least in the Roman period, was a tangible land unit close to the centre of the settlement. It was defined on three sides by Roads 1, 3 and 4. During excavation, its fourth (east) side was originally defined by the eastward limit of Area A1, although this was later extended a short distance into Area A2.

Excavation was undertaken over approximately half of the surface area of Area H. However, it contained some of the most deeply stratified and complex sequences of layers and surfaces, and the depth of excavation therefore varied across the area. Excavation was mainly concentrated within a series of trenches positioned to investigate the roads and adjacent features and layers. The whole of this area was covered with dark, largely homogenous, silts within which feature clarity was extremely poor. With little surface indication of archaeological content to inform excavation strategy, only partial, selective, excavation was undertaken in more central areas of this plot, principally centring upon well 6280. More work was concentrated along the edges of the plot, focussing on the road edges and presumed boundary locations. Work rarely penetrated below the Roman stratigraphy to reveal the underlying late Iron Age features that clearly were present across much of Area H.

Although revealed over only a very limited area, and consequently little understood, it is apparent that Area H contained a significant late Iron Age component dating from the later 1st century BC (Period II a) onward. This earliest activity was in the form of substantial ditches and a possible trackway, running on various alignments, which occupied what seems to have been a significantly undulating area of the terrace. Associated with these were pits and vestiges of a gravelled surface indicating that these linear features served an occupation area. The earliest ditches hint at the origin of alignments which prevailed through succeeding periods with ditch 25251 being notable for terminating at what later became the edge of Road 1.

Although these earliest features arguably exerted an influence over later alignments and layout, it is clear that by the middle of the 1st century AD (Period II b) the excavated features represent the occurrence of significant change. At least in places, the undulating nature of the land surface was levelled and a new layout imposed. The overall ground level was raised by an average of almost 0.25m between Periods II and III. Instead of ditches, the principal features marking out this new land division were metalled roads. Available evidence hints at Road 1 being earlier than Roads 4 and 5, although this may merely be a detail of the sequence of their construction. As seen elsewhere across the settlement (principally in Areas I and J) the imposition of the roads was accompanied by the laying of subsidiary gravel surface(s) across the area they bounded, this infrastructure work being undertaken at around the end of the Late Iron Age period. Thus from the mid-1st century AD at least three sides of a tangible land unit are recognisable. The internal organisation of this space is poorly understood, although, curiously, much of its area appears to have been taken up by an elliptical ditched enclosure (ditches 25046 and 25047) of unknown function. Only the corner of a single tentative building (Building 16) was identified in the south-west corner of the area and a scatter of small pits offers further hints of the use of this plot.

In the early Roman period (Period III) Area H continued the same general pattern, surfacing of its interior surface being undertaken periodically; probably at the same time as that of the surrounding roads. The Period II b ovoid enclosure was also renewed, this time with an entrance on its eastern side. Perhaps the only significant new development of this period was the appearance of the storage jar ovens. Although occasionally occurring in other areas (e.g. Areas D, F and I), this distinctive form of oven was present in quantity, particularly alongside Road 4.

However, evidence of such continuity ceased around the mid-2nd century AD and the nature of the plot appears to have changed subtly. While the gravel surfacing was renewed and maintained, the inner ovoid enclosure was abandoned, which opened up the interior allowing substantial timber-lined well 6280 to be located toward the centre. Around this time, the incidence of pits declined, perhaps reflecting this opening up of the area and a change of use. Structural evidence was very sparse and this may be an accurate reflection of the open nature of this area during this period.

Despite the erection of a building alongside the junction of Roads 1 and 4 (Building 55), the basically open, possibly communal/public, nature of Area H continued into the mid Roman period (Period IV). Although the roads seem only to have received rather *ad hoc* maintenance, their lines were reinforced or emphasized by new boundary features; Road 4 was marked by a likely roadside fence (Slot 6061 *et al*) while Road 5 was flanked by two phases of substantial ditch (ditches 25259 and 25115). Equally, internal surfaces appeared to have been sporadically repaired, some patches notably incorporating unusual quantities of animal bone. However, soils had begun to accumulate on these surfaces and particularly along the roadsides. Well 6280 probably survived into the early part of this period, though it was backfilled no later than the early 3rd century AD. It is possible that its infilling, which included a likely ritual element in the form of a structured deposit (ref.), marked a further subtle change of use. Subsequently, a number of rectangular pits were now dug across the southern and central parts of the plot, some of which overlay the backfilled well.

While the evidence for late Roman activity (Period V) is restricted, this is the first time that a tangible eastern end to the plot can be identified, though this is not to say that one was not present earlier. Mirroring the temple precinct wall across Area J, a substantial fence or wall (Structure 44) was constructed between Roads 4 and 5. Inside the plot, to the west of the wall, late activity is represented only by a low density pit distribution, of which pit 6641 is the most notable example, containing a hoard of pewter vessels. Outside, to the east of the wall, further pits (or possibly large post-holes) flanked Road 4 and perhaps the wall itself. Degraded gravel surfaces on Road 4 show that it was still in use though not actively maintained. while the continued use of Roads 1 and 5 may be assumed.

No latest Roman-early Saxon activity was identified within the interior of Area H itself, all evidence occurring only on the roads. While flanking ditch 25260 implies that Road 4 continued to function as a thoroughfare, or at very least as an influential marker in the landscape, the mass of post-holes and structural slot 16433 show that it was overlain by a building at some point. Further evidence of eventual road disuse is signalled by the location of Building 61 on the junctions of Roads 1 and 5 while the eastern wall was clearly dismantled at this time. These buildings represent the final occupation phase with no further activity until the imposition of a post-medieval fence line, again across the east end of the area.

Summary of phasing:

Period	Sub-phase	Description:	Period / date:
II	A	LPRIA origins (ditches, pits & ?trackway)	Late 1 st century BC - early 1 st century AD
	B	Roads, surfacing & occupation	Early-mid 1 st century AD
III		Occupation & resurfacing, then change to public/communal use with well?	mid-2 nd – later 2 nd century AD
IV		Occupation	late 2 nd - 3 rd century AD
V			4 th century AD

VI		Latest Roman- Early Saxon occupation	Late 4 th cent +
VII		Fence	Post-mediaeval

Period I

No features of this period were recorded.

However, where encountered at the bottom of excavated sequences, natural brickearth deposits (layers 6735, 6852, 6866, 16022, 16028, 16205, 16227, 16244, 16752) showed that the original ground surface was clearly undulating and even quite sharply sloped in places. There were also a few cut features, possibly just natural holes, with no finds, underlying early layers. No finds derived from any of these underlying features or deposits.

Period II (Fig. H1)

Whole of period II needs restructuring to account for the elimination of subphase C.

The late iron age remains, where present, were generally well sealed below Roman layers and surfaces. Largely confined to pits and ditches, they have been divided into two sub-periods with the division in the earlier 1st century AD. Although revealed only within limited areas of excavation, features of the earlier sub-division (Period II A) hint at a relatively high density of boundary markers as early as the later 1st century BC, some of which appear to have influenced later settlement patterning. An association between these earliest features and those of adjacent Areas G and J is posited.

Features of Period II B evinced an episode of large-scale reorganisation which can be traced across the settlement; preceding boundary features were abandoned, the area levelled up, and the road infrastructure created. The imposition of Roads 1, 4 and 5 created a clearly bounded plot which was itself also surfaced with gravel, apparently as part of the same scheme of construction. Within this plot there was evidence of further sub-division in the form of a large ovoid enclosure ditch and traces of a building in its south-west corner (Building 55).

Subphase II A (Late 1st century BC – early 1st century AD)

This phase of earliest activity within Area H comprised ditches which ran on either ENE-WSW or north-to-south alignments. The most instructive sequence was excavated in the south west corner of the area where, amongst other features, terminal 6851 of ditch 25251 coincided with water hole 6734.

The south-west corner of Area H contained a sequence of Late Iron Age features and deposits cut into markedly undulating brickearth. A series of ditches, some parallel, may be construed to **anticipate** the location of Road 1, although parallel ditches 25250 and 16118 continued on across/beneath the path of the later road. It is clear that these earliest features had little to do with later settlement layout and development.

Ditch 25251 terminated within the area of excavation and was probably contemporary with likely water hole 6734, located just off its end. The well itself appears to have had a gravel surface around it, and tends to hint at occupation in its vicinity. The top of the brickearth itself was noted to have been reworked and this was presumably a product of this early activity.

In the north-eastern corner of the area, two more ditches mark the corner of an enclosure, aligned more closely to the normal NNW-SSE lines of other land divisions on site.

Ditches 25250 (6865, 16025) and 16118 (Fig. H2)

As exposed in the south-west corner of Area H, parallel ditches 25250 and 16118 ran on a WSW-ENE alignment. Both were slight, at less than 1m wide, but relatively deep at 0.5m. Most significantly, they continued below Road 1, just north of its junction with Road 4. Ditch 16118 was further investigated as feature 13680, and 6865 as 18228, in Area I. Only centimetres apart, it is likely that one was probably a replacement of the other, but there was no indication of the sequence. Excavation was limited to within a 5m square trench through the Road 1 sequence, although 6865 has been tentatively traced beyond as ditch segment 16025 some 18m to the east, these being combined as 25250. No artefactual material was collected from the fills of these ditches, but both features lay at the bottom of a late Iron Age stratigraphic sequence, 6865 being cut by Period II A pit 6714.

16025 was a minor ditch, when compared to the major lines 25251 *etc.* It was steeply U-profiled, 1m wide and 50cm deep. It ran some 9m north of the line of Road 4, and parallel to it, with a small upcast bank 6977 to the south (of which little remained).

Ditches 6865, 16025, 16118

6865	Pottery jar G15 (GROG)
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Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from a single ditch segment.

Ditch 25251 (Segs. 6851, 16038) (Fig. H2)

This was a substantial SW-NE aligned ditch. Cut 6851 marked the western extent of this ditch, its very end just underlying Road 1. This terminal was square and 2m wide by 0.35m deep. Cut 16038, located some 19m to the north-east, was 2.3m wide and 0.63m deep.

Ditch 25251 (6851, 16038)

6851	Pottery jar G15 (GROG), fabric MICW
16038	Pottery jar <i>Cam</i> 254 (ESH), fabric GROG

Both segments contained pottery providing a Late Iron Age date.

Ditch 25252 (Segs. 6385, 16018, 16044, 16349) and **recut(s) 25253** (Segs. 16156, 16235 16077) (Fig. H3)

Feature 25252 was the corner of a wide ditch. Its north-to-south aligned side was 3m-wide and 0.6m deep while its eastward return had survived to a depth of 1.1m (its upper portion having been less truncated). Traced only for a short distance, where overlying Roman stratigraphy was removed, the eastward continuation appeared less regular and began curving towards a more ENE-WSW alignment to the point at which it was truncated by Period IIIb well 6280. Although it was observed in the opposite side of the well cut, the ditch was not traced beyond this.

At the very corner of this ditch, a number of likely recuts were identified (combined as 25253). Not only the alignment but also the location of this ditch showed clear evidence of a major reorganization of the landscape *within* the LIA; this ditch clearly had nothing to do with the line of Road 1 or any possible predecessors. Even if it reflected a different line for a road at this point, it was too far east to have been a roadside ditch, and too far west to be the first boundary to the east. Nor does it seem likely to be part of a system of land divisions which also incorporated any of the ditches already discussed. Or, if it was, then the system here was not so rectilinear as elsewhere. It may be, then, that this ditch was the earliest feature on area H, possibly deserving a separate sub-phase, but nothing else can be shown to go with it. Its finds might also suggest this, as it seems to have been filled in by the end of the first century BC.

The ditch contained pottery of possible mid 1st century BC date along with a potin coin (SF 5645) of similar date. The artefact assemblage was typically late Iron Age with modest amounts of bone, baked clay and occasional loomweight fragments present. A few sherds of clearly misplaced Roman pottery and tile were intrusive, understandable given the intensive activity above this spot.

Ditches 25252 (16018, 16349, 6385, 16044) and **25253** (16156, 16077, 16235)

16018*	Amphora Dr.1 (AITAB) Other pottery jars \$ (GROG MICW) Coin Potin Class I/II (SF 5645)
16349	Pottery jars G3.2 (GROG) <i>Cam</i> 254 (ESH)
6385	Pottery fabric GROG
16044	Pottery fabrics MICW ESH GROG

Ditch segment 16018 yielded a large pottery assemblage (key pottery group 2), which included handmade jar forms and Dressel 1 amphora. Supported by the coin, the pottery suggests that this part of the ditch at least was filled during the second half of the 1st century BC. The pottery recovered from additional segments can be dated no closer than Late Iron Age. The ditch also contained a small amount of intrusive Roman wares.

Structure 4: Stake-holes 6941, 6951, 6955, 6983, 6985, 6987, 6989, 6991, 6993, 6995, 6997, 6999, 16001, 16003, 16005, 16007, 16009 (Fig. H3)

A concentration of 17 small stake-holes cut the top fill of ditch segment 16349 (25252). They tended either to cluster toward the middle of the ditch cut or to be positioned along its south edge. These latter may have been a fence associated with the later life of the ditch. None contained much artefactual material.

Stake-holes 6941, 6951, 6955, 6983, 6985, 6987, 6989, 6991, 6993, 6995, 6997, 6999, 16001, 16003, 16005, 16007, 16009

6955	Amphora Dr.1 (AITAL) Other pottery fabric GROG
6999	Pottery jar G20 (BSW)

The somewhat scanty quantities of pottery are nevertheless consistent with a Late Iron Age date. Indeed, the presence of the Dressel 1 amphora may narrow this date to the second half of the 1st century BC. The single sherd of black-surfaced ware from 6999 may be intrusive, though is not necessarily out of place here.

Ditches 16053 and 16055, 6923 (Fig. H4)

An intercut cluster of earlier Iron Age features occurred in the north-east of Area H. While cut 6923 may have been the truncated remains of a shallow pit, 16053 and 16055 were intercut ditches, each just under 1m wide. The earlier, 0.4m deep, cut 16055 was exposed for only 4m and was truncated at its south end by 16053, beyond which it was obscured by unexcavated later deposits.

The later, NW-SE aligned, ditch 16053 was traced for a distance of 3.5m before being truncated by Period IV ditch 25259. It was only 0.25m deep and may have been curving. Both ditches extended northwards beneath Road 5. Intersecting at right angles and containing similar single fills, these two ditches were probably parts of the same ditch system.

I've taken 6558 out of this position, but I have no idea where it ought to go instead. Can we just pass over it quietly? The notes on the group sheet [H59] don't seem to tally with the pottery (the pot can't be intrusive from the two ditches mentioned, as they don't have pot this late). If we're saying all its finds were intrusive and it's a pit, is it any use to anybody? [SP] Also, 6923 is used as a ditch terminal in several later discussions, so it may be better just to pretend it was one! 6923 could have been a direct replacement of 16053, to accompany the track 6851 etc.

Ditches 16053 and 16055, 6923

16053	Pottery fabric GROG
16055	Amphora Dr.1/Dr.2-4 (AITAL) Other pottery fabrics GROG ESH
6923	Pottery jar \$ (GROG)

Segment 6923 produced handmade grog-tempered jars dating to the Late Iron Age, possibly the second half of the 1st century BC. The remaining pottery, while largely undiagnostic, is consistent with this date.

Water hole 6734 and surface 6793 (Fig. H2)

A localized area of surfacing 6793 occurred around the edge of ?pit 6734. The surface comprised rounded flint pebbles, pot sherds and animal bone set into the natural brickearth. As exposed, it formed a 1.5m swathe around the north half of the pit, sloping markedly down NW to SE towards the pit edge. It is possible that the undulating brickearth in the south-west corner was the product of deliberate ground reduction centred upon 6734 and that the surface originally extended all around it. The surface was clearly associated with the pit's use, suggesting its function originally may have been as a well or watering hole. Pit 6734 was a roughly round cut some 2.3m in diameter. Its rather irregular, concave, sides narrowed toward the bottom to form a central, circular 'shaft'. This feature was cut into brickearth to a depth of 0.83m and contained a relatively complex sequence of nine fills. These banded sand,

clay and charcoal-rich fills contained only small amounts of pottery, bone and baked clay together with an iron blade (SF 8314). Surrounded by associated surface 6793, this feature may have functioned as a well or watering hole. Indeed, the lower fills appeared to have been water-lain

Surface (6793)

6793	Pottery fabric GROG
6734	Amphora salazon (ASALA) Other pottery jar <i>Cam 254</i> (ESH), fabric GROG

The pottery in 6734 was deposited during the Late Iron Age, possibly as early as the late 1st century BC, as suggested by the amphora, while deposit 6793 yielded Late Iron Age pottery.

Pits 6714, 6928, 6932, 6964, 16207, 16348 (Fig. H2)

Though few in number, the pits which predate the late Iron Age-early Roman transitional surfaces (Period II B), spanned the late 1st century BC to early 1st century AD.

The earliest pits occurred below Road 1, in the south-west corner of the area. **Pit 6714 was a sub-rectangular cut located immediately east of water hole 6734. It contained a gravel backfill over a small deposit of charcoal-rich silt, both of which contained few finds. Pit 6714 appeared to be the later of the two, cutting the pebble surface which surrounded 6734.**

The pits of the early 1st century AD serve to show that at least some of the Period II A boundary features had already passed out of use by this time. Being overlain by the earliest gravel surfaces, they also indicate that the subsequent Period II B reorganization evident in Area H was a mid 1st century event. Small pits 6964 and 16207 cut the fills of Period II A ditch 25252. Both contained only small quantities of pottery and animal bone, although 6964 included a copper alloy cosmetic tool (SF7360). Larger, rather irregularly-shaped, pits 6928, 6932 and 16348 showed signs of comprising a number of scoops, suggesting that these were shallow delvings, perhaps for gravel extraction. Their fills contained few finds, although it is noted that the pottery comprised relatively large sherds. Further pits of this date almost certainly occurred across the unexcavated parts of Area H.

Pits 6714

6714	Pottery jar \$ (MICW), fabric GROG
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The pottery was deposited during the Late Iron Age, possibly as early as the late 1st century BC, as suggested by the handmade jar in 6714.

Pits 6928, 6932, 6964, 16207, 16348

6932	Pottery jars <i>Cam 254</i> (ESH), fabrics GROG BUF STOR
6964	Pottery fabrics GROG MICW
16207	Pottery fabric GROG
16348	Pottery jar G3 (GROG), fabric SILT

While Late Iron Age grog-tempered ware predominates, the small amount of Roman wares in 6932 and the presence of silty ware in 16348 suggest accumulation up to the mid 1st century AD.

?Trackway: 6858, 6816, 6854, 6860 (Fig. H4) REVIEW

A broad, shallow linear feature 6858, located in the north-east corner of Area H, has been tentatively identified as a trackway. Apparently a wear hollow, rather than a deliberate cut, 6858 was 2m wide and a maximum of 0.2m deep. It was traced for a distance of 6m and clearly continued significantly further on a NW-SE alignment. Within this linear hollow were clayey sand 6816 overlain by a firm deposit of pebbly sand 6854 which may be a track surface. It is possible that this track was associated with one or more of Period II A ditches 16053, 16055 and 6923, although it overlay 16055 (and thus, stratigraphically, although not physically, 16053).

The interpretation of this feature as a trackway is supported by apparent rutting features 6836, 6838 and 6840 above it. These narrow linear features all appeared to be wheel ruts, while 6823 and 6915 were less convincing but could also be interpreted in this way. Other than demonstrating that the road layout of II B was not imposed on an empty tablet but did represent a change from what had gone before, very little information about layout can be garnered from this short stretch of track (even if this is what it was!)

So where does this trackway go? It is very dodgy as a feature, or at least its interpretation is.

?Trackway: 6858, 6816, 6854, 6860

6816	Pottery fabric GROG
6860	Pottery fabric GROG

This feature yielded a small amount of Late Iron Age pottery.

?Ruts 6823, 6915

6823	Pottery fabric GROG
6915	Pottery jar G15 (GROG), fabric MICW

The presence of both sand- and grog-tempered pottery dates this context to the late Iron Age.

Sub-Period II B (Early-mid 1st century AD)

While this sub-period spans the first half of the 1st century AD, the majority of features and deposits included here probably date towards its end, perhaps as late as the LIA-early Roman transition. By this time, the landscape divisions of Period II A were abandoned and, at least in places, a thick levelling deposit of brickearth was laid in preparation for an extensive remodelling of the vicinity. An extensive new infrastructure of roads and adjacent gravel surfaces was laid, of which Roads 1, 4 and 5 combined to define a rectilinear plot closely corresponding to the excavation's Area H. In its earliest life this new layout was well maintained, both Roads 4 and 5 and the plot interior being resurfaced, or at least repaired, within the transitional period. However, the function of this area remains unclear. Only the corner of a single possible building has been identified, in the south-west corner (Building 16) and it may be that the area was largely open space. The existence of what has been reconstructed as the east end of an oval ditched enclosure 25047/25046 *within* this plot further complicates matters, particularly as Road 4 appears to have had its own flanking ditch at this time. The majority of the contemporary pits were located within the postulated interior of this ovoid enclosure, though they offer few further clues as to function. The combination of open space and gravel surface may suggest a communal or public use, particularly in view of the close proximity of the Temple precinct (Area J); an associated, and therefore possibly ritual, function is not dismissed.

Layer 6773 / 6676 (Fig. H2)

Orange-brown silty clay deposit 6773 / 6676 constituted a levelling layer of redeposited brickearth. Located in the south-west corner of Area H, it clearly extended beyond the limit of the 5m square trench in which it was investigated, although it is postulated to have functioned primarily as infill of the hollow which had developed at this location. In addition the deposition of this material clearly marked the abandonment of the Period II A features which previously occupied this hollow, presumably to facilitate the construction of Road 1 above. However, the layer's continuation east of the road also suggests that the whole of this area may have been levelled prior to the laying of the gravel surface across it.

Micromorphological analysis of the soil of 6676 has identified characteristics in common with an *in situ* beaten floor, probably of more than one phase (ref. to report). This suggests that the redeposited brickearth may have been used as a surface in its own right and

that it marked a transitional stage (or stages) of land use between Period II A and the subsequent reorganization in Period II B.

Layer 6773 / 6676

6773	Pottery fabrics MICW GROG
6676	Pottery fabric GROG

Although recovered from both deposits in abundance, the pottery can be dated no closer than Late Iron Age

Road 1: 6611, 6661, 6676, 6773 and 6450, 6451, 6648 (Fig. H6)

Gravel deposits 6611 and 6661 formed the earliest surface of Road 1 in Area H. The road surface was laid upon redeposited brickearth levelling layers or foundation deposits, 6676 and 6773, which sealed the Period II A water hole 6734 and its adjacent surface 6793.

The actual road surfaces were 0.12m-thick deposits of compacted and bonded gravel. As recorded, 6611 overlay the edge of 6661 perhaps hinting that the road was constructed in sections from north to south. Alternatively, this impression of two distinct surfaces may have been created by the slumping of 6661, and of the brickearth foundation deposits below, into water hole 6734. The road foundation deposits contained a relatively large assemblage of undiagnostic late Iron Age pottery while surface 6611 contained an Italian amphora spike.

Dark silt 6648 overlay the road surface and may represent use accumulation upon its surface. A further sandy silt deposit 6450 accumulated in the hollow formed by road surface 6661 subsiding into underlying water hole 6734.

Road 1: 6611, 6661, 6676, 6773 and 6450, 6451, 6648

6611	Amphora Dr.1/Dr.2-4 (AITAL)
6661	Amphora Dr.1/Dr.2-4 (AITAH) Other pottery fabric GROG
6676	Pottery fabric GROG
6773	Pottery fabrics MICW GROG
6450	Pottery fabric GROG
6648	Pottery fabrics GROG BSW

The reasonably large quantities of pottery provide a reliable Late Iron Age date.

Road 4: 6425, 6476, 6683, 6691, and 6671, 13076, 13077 (Fig. H7) & Ditch 25255 (Fig. H6)

Road 4 was investigated in a series of trenches along the south side of the area, within which the earliest recognized elements dated to the later (transitional) end of Period II B. Compacted gravel deposits 6425, 6683 and 6691 were three adjoining or overlapping areas of metalling combining to form a single road surface. Their constituent pebbles were well sorted and compacted in a matrix of silty sand. The excavation trench in which the surface was exposed extended only to the approximate centre of the c.4m-wide road, but was of sufficient extent to reveal a clear camber, with a 0.26m drop from the middle of the road to its north edge.

Deposit 6683 was stratigraphically later than both 6691 and 6425, as well as being composed of smaller pebbles. While it is possible that 6683 represented a repair to the road surface, it was as likely merely a variation in materials used in its construction. No underlying foundation deposits were discerned for this earliest episode of road construction, the surface being laid directly on natural gravel and sand. Another fragment of this early surface, 6476, was identified in a further roadside trench some 7m to the east. None contained any artefactual material. These relatively thin earliest surfaces were probably short-lived and were replaced by a far more substantial deposit 6671.

6671 was a 0.22m-thick layer of road surface, comprising silty sand, grit and pebbles. Although truncated by later resurfacing activity where it rose toward the centre of the road, it

is assumed that this was a resurfacing of constant thickness across the whole width of the road, preserving the extant cambering of this thoroughfare. As it was truncated by ditch 25254, the full northwards extent of 6671 is unknown, although a northwards shift or general widening of the road is suggested. While 6671 was clearly a distinct surfacing episode it still appeared to be of transitional date although there was little tangible dating evidence to clarify this: its single tiny sherd of romanizing greyware scarcely constitutes a secure basis for dating. The next surface above it dated to the late 1st century.

Ditch 25255 (segment 6938) was a 1.5m-wide cut that ran just to the north of, and roughly parallel to, Road 4. A relatively substantial feature at 1.0m deep, with a U-shaped profile, it was only exposed within a small 2m-wide trench. Its continuation cannot be reliably identified within the excavated area to the east, although it is suggested that this was the earliest roadside ditch alongside Road 4. It contained only a small quantity of pottery and bone, a spindle whorl (SF5644) and a loomweight fragment (SF8433). Its lower fill appears to be late Iron Age, though its upper fills included later 1st century material and probably indicated its survival into Period III, when it was replaced by ditch 25254.

Ditch 6938

6937	Samian platter f18 (SGSW) Other pottery jar G19.4 (GROG), fabrics STOR MICW
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While the bottom fill produced grog-tempered pottery providing a Late Iron Age date, the top fill of the ditch contained some Roman pottery, probably dating a little way into the second half of the 1st century AD.

Road 5: 6481, 6482, 6488, 6360, 6480 (Fig. H9)

Sandy bedding layer 6482 and overlying compacted gravel surface 6481 were the earliest vestiges of Road 5 within Area H. Patches of gravel surface 6360 and 6480 may represent a resurfacing episode. As these mainly lack finds, there is no clear evidence for the construction date of Road 5, although this episode was overlain by early Roman deposits.

Road 5: 6481, 6482, 6488

6488	Pottery fabrics BB2 BSW
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Intrusive 2nd to 3rd century pottery (2 sherds) was recovered from layer 6488.

Earlier Gravel surface 6802, 6810, 6824, 6832, 6872, 6905, 6906, 6913, 6917, 6956, 6974, 16023, 16030, 16062, 16344 (Fig. H1)

Later Surfaces 6353, 6452, 6523, 6565, 6579, 6612, 6635, 6730, 6736, 6737, 6767, 6795, 16072, 16079, 16112, 6613, 6658, 6747, 6748, 6815, 6857, 16021, 16109 (Fig. H1)

The earliest fragments of gravel surface and associated bedding or levelling layers are presumed to be contemporary with the imposition of the surrounding roads. The more convincing and expansive surface fragments, 6905 and 16030, were fairly reliably identified as all parts of the same surface, though others were less extensive and often uneven and it was more difficult to be certain of their equivalence. Some survived only as foundation deposits lacking an overlying surface. Collectively, however, it is reasonably clear that these deposits represented a deliberate levelling up of the area and the provision of a metallised surface. Surviving surface fragments mainly covered an area from Road 4 north to at least halfway into the centre of Area H. Further patches were excavated in the north-east corner. Although the extent of excavation was very limited within the northern half of Area H, it may reasonably be assumed that this surface originally covered the whole of Area H.

Further fragments of surfacing overlay the earliest surface. Although the association of these apparently similar layers, revealed within different trenches across Area H, is largely tentative, gravel layers 6353, 6736 and 6737 at least were certainly a single surface. Deposits

6565 and 6579 probably also formed a single surface, with 6612 and 6635 as a gravelly levelling deposit below. Similarly, 6747, 6748 and 6613 were almost certainly the same surface with 6658 as their bedding layer. Gravel deposits 6795 and 6767 were more problematical, but are likely to have been gravel levelling and/or surfacing, with 6730 an accumulation of silt over them. 16112 was another slight patch of cobbling, with silt build-up 16079 above followed by a further surface 16072. However, only a limited extent of this sequence was revealed and 16072 may have been no more than a repair to 16079. **Include descrip of location of all of these?**

Of particular interest is surface 6353 which sloped down markedly from east to west. Where it reached the line of Period III ditch 25257 there was a deposit of animal bone, largely mandibles and scapulae (**ref to bone report**) running along the edge of the ditch. This material was incorporated into surface 6353 rather than being a compacted dump of bone upon it (which in any case could hardly have survived long in this position). This must have been deliberate, and it is possible that the bone was used as some sort of marker. If so, then ditch 25257 may have been a later marking out of the same line.

These surface fragments represent a late Iron Age to early Roman transitional period surface which originally covered the majority of Area H. With little excavated evidence of structures occupying it, or of broadly contemporary features such as pits cutting it, it appears that this was an open area in the mid 1st century AD.

Various silt layers (6071, 6743, 6788, 6789, 6790, 6914, 6959, 6969) occurred on top of these surfaces. They lay within slight slump hollows which had developed as the surfaces settled into underlying features. It is not clear whether these silts were deliberate infills or 'natural' accumulations. Apart from 6790 and 6914 these deposits contained modest finds assemblages which makes their identification as either dumps or occupation build-up associated with the actual use of the surface difficult.

Gravel surfaces 6802, 6810, 6824, 6832, 6872, 6905, 6906, 6913, 6917, 6956, 6974, 16023, 16030, 16062, 16344

6824	Pottery fabric GROG
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Just one deposit contained pottery, comprising undiagnostic body sherds of Late Iron Age date.

Surfaces 6353, 6452, 6523, 6565, 6579, 6612, 6635, 6730, 6736, 6737, 6767, 6795, 16072, 16079, 16112

6353	Pottery fabrics BSW STOR BUF GRS
6452	Samian platter f18 (SGSW) Other pottery platter A2 (BSW), jars G20 (GRS) G23 (GRS BSW), fabric GROG
6523	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS GROG
6579	Pottery fabric STOR
6612	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS COLB
6730	Samian platter f18 (SGSW) Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery jars G5.2 (GROG) G23 (BSW), fabrics GRS NKG
6767	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery jars G3 (GROG)
6795	Pottery fabric GROG
16072	Samian fabric SGSW Amphora Dr.1/Dr.2-4 (AITAL) Other pottery fabrics GROG GRS BSW
16112	Pottery beaker H1 (BSW), fabrics GRS STOR GROG

The pottery recovered from these deposits, while retaining a significant grog-tempered element, includes Roman forms and fabrics. This provides an early Roman date for deposition, almost certainly confined to the second half of the 1st century AD, with the emphasis placed on the beginning of this range.

Surface 6613, 6658, 6747, 6815, 6857, 16021, 16109

6815	Pottery jar G15 (GROG)
6857	Pottery jar G20 (GROG)
16021	Amphora Dr.2-4 (AWINC) Other pottery fabrics BSW GRS TN(M) GROG
16109	Pottery fabrics MICW GROG

These deposits yielded pottery that dates to the Late Iron Age, probably close to the mid 1st century AD, as suggested by the presence of Roman wares in 16021.

Need dating for the silting over the top—and stress this will be about the latest thing happening in Period II, stretching on into late 1st century. (6071, 6743, 6788, 6789, 6790, 6914, 6959, 6969)

Ditch 25047 (Segments 6377, 6566, 6849, 16046) and **recut 25046** (16041, 6373) (Fig. H10) Curving ditch 25047, located toward the eastern end of Area H, is a tentative association of four excavated ditch segments (6377, 6566, 6849, 16046). The longest exposed length, segment 6377, was distinctly curved. Smaller successive segments 6566, 16046 and 6849, to its south, appeared to describe a rounded return which straightened out into an ENE-WSW alignment. Assuming that the curvature of northern segment 6377 continued eastward and that there was a degree of symmetry to this feature, it is postulated that the ditch originally had a straight north stretch parallel to the south stretch, so defining an ovoid enclosure. Although its full westwards extent was not determined, it is likely that this ditch extended up to the Road 1 frontage at both north and south, and perhaps did not complete the circuit on this side. This would leave the enclosure open to access off Road 1. Ditch segment 6849 was located between Period II A ditches 25250 and 25251 and was roughly parallel with them; this may suggest that the location and line of 25047 were influenced by these earlier ditches, perhaps even to the extent of terminating at the road edge as was the case with ditches 25251 and 25250. However, the south side of this supposed enclosure ditch was also parallel to Road 4, running some 10m to its north.

Recutting of the ditch was evident in two places, as cuts 6373 and 16041. Given the limited excavation of 6566, it is possible that a recut was simply not recognized at this point. The fills of the ditch and its recut offer little insight into its function, containing only a small amount of pottery and animal bone. Recut 6373 contained a small quantity of Roman sandy greyware pottery and tile which may indicate that infilling extended into Period III. Roman material in ditch segment 6566 was intrusive, being derived from overlying pit 6569.

Ditch 25047 and recut 25046 : xxx and recuts 16041 / 6373

6377	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW GROG
6566	Samian fabric SGSW Other pottery fabrics GRS GROG Coin As copy (SF 3425) 41-64
6849	Samian fabric SGSW Other pottery fabrics GROG BSW GRS ESH MICW
16046	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery fabrics GROG ESH
16041	Amphora Dr.2-4 (AWINC) Other pottery fabrics BSW GRS GROG TN(M)
6373	Pottery fabrics GRS GROG

Ditch 25047 contained small amounts of pottery dating to the mid 1st century or a little earlier. The pottery from recut 16041 is similarly dated, suggesting that there was no great time difference between the cutting of the features.

Layers (6534, 6910, 6970, 16020, 16042, 16061, 16067, 16188, 16189)

These contexts include a variety of silty or clayey layers, most of which appeared to have been deliberate levelling, some reworked subsoil. All were at or near the bottom of their sequences. None was very extensive, but this was due to the small areas excavated and they may have extended much further.

Findings were rare in most of these, with only 6910 producing much (a lot of pot, some bone, briquetage, a tiny amount (60g) of tile spall, and two ceramic spindle whorls).

Some of these overlay the early cobbled surfaces, and could perhaps have accumulated during the life of those surfaces, but they seem more likely to be related to preparation for later surfaces. This would fit with the pattern seen in Areas I and J where there was extensive remodelling at or near the end of the LIA. There was a certain amount of

circumstantial evidence (e.g., that these might involve the slighting of ditch upcast banks) that these were part of a concerted effort at raising the ground surface. However, the general similarity between ditch groups above and below these layers appears to show that this was not immediately followed by a major reorganization of the divisions of the landscape.

Layers (6534, 6910, 6970, 16020, 16042, 16061, 16067, 16188, 16189)

6910	Pottery jars <i>Cam</i> 254 (ESH) § (GROG), fabrics MICW BSW
6970	Pottery jar § (GROG), fabrics ESH
16020	Pottery fabrics STOR GROG
16189	Pottery fabric GROG

The pottery provides a Late Iron Age date for the deposition of these layers, which may also have received material up to the start of the Roman period, suggested by the appearance of storage jar fabric and black-surfaced ware.

Later Layers 6784, 6794, 6805, 6807, 6820

Located towards the south-west corner of Area H, these layers seem to level out the sharp slope left by 6793/6841 below them; it is quite likely they were laid for this purpose, but they might also have accumulated coincidentally in the hollow. They were predominantly clayey deposits, and there does not appear to be much clay on site that represents natural build-up. There were also significant finds assemblages within these layers, so that a deliberate origin seems the more likely. Much of this will have been a mixture of material that was already old when deposited, probably dug up from elsewhere, whose dates are too early for the deposits; and more material will have derived from a lengthy period of build-up, allowing the finds to be contemporary with individual and indistinguishable episodes within each context; and finally, even perhaps material pressed down from overlying layers after the deposits themselves have been laid.

Layers 6784, 6794, 6805, 6807, 6820

6794	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery platter A2 (GROG), jars G3 (BSW GROG) G23 (GRS), beaker H7 (SILT), fabric MICW Brooch Fragment (SF 3436)
6805	Samian platter f18 (SGSW) Other pottery fabrics BSW GRS GROG
6807	Pottery platter A2 (GROG)
6820	Pottery jar G15 (GROG)

Layer 6794 produced the most and best dated pottery; the presence of Roman wares in association with Late Iron Age pottery suggesting a mid 1st century date for deposition. Layer 6805 is likely to share this date, while the remaining pottery is consistent with it or dates a little earlier.

Building 16: 6573, 6583, 6592, 6594, 6581, 6564 (Fig. H11)

The partial remains of only one structure, and that tentative, has been identified as being of mid-1st century date. This building consisted of post-holes 6573, 6583, 6592, 6594 and a slot with post-setting 6581. These described an arc that may have marked the wall of a circular structure of c.5m diameter. It is likely that further structural elements existed to the east, where excavation did not penetrate so deep into the stratified sequence. Minor deposit of gravel 6564 may have been a fragment of internal surfacing for this building.

Other clusters and possible alignments of post-holes were found across Area H, though the limited nature of excavation means that distribution and patterning are incomplete. No meaningful alignments can be discerned within these.

Structure: 6573, 6583, 6592, 6594, 6581, 6564

6583	Pottery fabric BSW
6581	Pottery fabric GROG

Pottery, which was poorly dated though consistent with an early Roman date, was recovered from two structural elements.

Pits ?6478, 6530, 6738, 6830, 6833, 16032, 16037, 16069, 16154

As excavated, pits of mid 1st century AD date were mainly located towards the interior of Area H, well away from the roadsides. Only one or two occurred within each excavated trench suggesting that they were thinly scattered, in contrast to the clustering common in most Areas. These generally oval pits were of varying size, from 1m to perhaps as much as 3m in diameter. The largest example, pit 6738, appears to have continued to accumulate material into the early Roman period (Period III). As with the earlier pits in this area, finds assemblages were both relatively small and of limited range in comparison with pits from elsewhere across the site.

Shallow pit 6478 was noteworthy for the incidence of 11 stake-holes (6491, 6493, 6495, 6497, 6499, 6501, 6503, 6505, 6507, 6509 and 6511) in its base and a possible pebble lining. Four of the larger stake-holes could be construed to form a square arrangement in the middle of the feature with the smaller stake-holes showing little sign of patterning around them. A function as a cooking structure has been considered but the feature contains no clear evidence of *in situ* burning (there was charcoal, but nothing to indicate this was other than part of the backfill).

6738 could perhaps go back to A, as it's below 25047. Pot not listed below for some reason, but it's all grog, so shouldn't be a problem.

Pits ?6478, 6530, 6738, 6830, 6833, 16032, 16037, 16069, 16154

6478	Pottery fabric GROG
6530	Amphora <i>salazon</i> (ASALA) Other pottery jar G44 (STOR), fabric GROG
6750	Pottery jar G15 (GROG)
6830	Pottery fabric GROG
16032	Amphora Dr.2-4 (AITAL) Other pottery jar G20 (GROG), fabric MICW
16037	Amphora Dr.1 (AITAL) Other pottery fabrics GROG MICW
16069	Amphora Dr.1 (AITAL) Other pottery jars G3 (GROG) § (MICW), fabric BSW
16154	Samian fabric SGSW Other pottery jar G3 (GROG), beaker H1 (BSW)

Two distinct dates may be discerned from the pottery recovered from these pits. Features that exclusively contain grog- and miscellaneous tempered pottery are likely to have been filled by the end of the Late Iron Age, while pits containing only Roman wares were filled sometime during the second half of the 1st century AD. Pits yielding both sorts of pottery may date up to the late 1st century AD, but perhaps are more likely to be confined to the mid 1st century AD.

Period III (Fig. H12)

The major reorganization of settlement infrastructure undertaken in Period II B ushered in a period of continuity. The early Roman activity in Area H included two identifiable episodes of resurfacing both along the roads and across the interior of the area. The Period II B ovoid enclosure was replaced by a similar, but slightly larger enclosure, this time with an entrance through its east end. This ditch and entrance may mark the eastern perimeter of the plot at this time. While pits of the late 1st to early 2nd centuries were relatively numerous and evenly distributed across Area H, few appear to be of mid to later 2nd century date. This trend may be paralleled by the occurrence of cooking structures, referred to here as ‘storage jar ovens’, in the early part of this period but not in the later. These ovens, along with the ovoid enclosure ditch, were covered by the second of the surfacing episodes across the interior. This was probably contemporary with the construction of a timber-lined well near the centre of the plot. It is postulated that the earlier pitting and cooking activities were curtailed as the likely communal / public function of this area was enhanced by the insertion of the well. In the light of this and the close proximity of Area H to the temple complex (Area J), the speculative identification of Area H as a market place may be a reasonable one.

Ditch 25254 (6868, 6728, 6646) (Fig. H6 & 13)

Period II B roadside ditch 25255, presumed to flank an early phase of Road 4 (unexcavated at this point), may have continued in use into the early part of this period. However, it had silted up by the later 1st century AD and its line was re-established by recut 6868. This replacement was in excess of 3m wide and 0.8m deep.

Although this trench did not extend far enough south to determine either the ditch’s edge or its relationship to the various surfaces of Road 4, this was clarified in a further trench immediately to the east in which the south edge of the ditch was recorded as 6728. This part of the ditch did clearly cut through the early layers of Road 4. The ditch seems to denote a southward shift, most probably resulting in the narrowing, of Road 4.

While the westwards extent of this ditch was not located, its eastern terminus was excavated as ditch segment 6646. Although severely truncated, this broad ditch had a roughly square end. In all, this roadside ditch was traced for some 15m. It is likely that its west end occurred at the junction of Roads 1 and 4 and that the complete ditch was therefore no more than 20m long.

Ditch 25254 (6868, 6728, 6646)

6868	Pottery jars G19 (BSW) G20 (BSW), fabric GROG Brooch Hod Hill (SF 5634)
6728	Brooch Nauheim derivative (SF 3424)
6646	Samian platter f15/17 (SGSW), bowl f37 (SGSW), cups f27 (CGSW) f35 (CGSW SGSW) Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery platters A1.1 (BSW) A2.3 (BSW) A2.5 (GROG), mortarium D1 (COLBM), jar G23 (GRS) G3.1 (BSW) G20 (GRF), beakers H1 (BSW) Coin As Domitian (SF 3417) 81-96

Ditch segments 6868 and 6646 yielded pottery dating to the late 1st century AD, although containing a mid 1st century AD brooch and grog-tempered pottery only, the lower fill of 6868 may have accumulated earlier. The Nauheim derivative brooch in 6728 is consistent with a mid to late 1st century AD date.

Ditch 25256 (Seg. 6713) (Fig H.13)

Feature 25256 was a similarly broad, shallow ditch, 2.5m wide and 50-60cm deep, which also runs along the north side of Road 4. Only the rounded, tapering, western end of this ditch was excavated (segment 6713). The ditch, although cutting the end of 25254, appears closely connected, sharing the same point of termination; perhaps 25256 was a development or

replacement of the earlier ditch. Both ditches appear to have been recut, 25256 at least twice, so it is possible they did not originally overlap and could once have been contemporary features. There could once have been an entrance gap between them which was subsequently filled in by recutting and extension.

Ditch 25256 cut one of the early make-up layers of Road 4, providing further evidence of its narrowing or southwards shift and suggesting at least a broadly contemporary existence with 25254.

Ditch 6713

6710	Pottery jars G20 (BSW) G23 (GRS), fabric NKG
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Although the pottery recovered from this ditch segment cannot be closely dated, it is likely to fall within a late 1st to early 2nd century AD date range.

Ditches 25257 (segs. 6389, 6513) and 25258 (seg. 6693) (Fig. H14)

Apparently two distinct linear features, 25257 and 25258 are postulated as a replacement of elliptic enclosure ditch 25047. Located immediately to the east of the earlier ditch, these two lengths of ditch broadly follow its curvature, though clearly defining an enclosure of broader north-south extent. As with ditch 25047 only the eastern end of this feature was revealed by excavation. The square terminals of segments 6389 and 6693 defined an entrance some 3.0m wide.

It is possible that this second phase of elliptic ditch extended across the whole of Area H, its sides closely flanking Roads 4 and 5. Although the ditch was only 1.0-1.5m wide, it is nevertheless tempting to associate it with the broader ditches, particularly 25256, alongside Road 4.

Ditches 25257 and 25258

6389	Pottery fabrics STOR GRS
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6513	Samian platter f18 (SGSW), fabric CGSW Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery dish B7 (BSW), fabric GRS
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6693	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery jars G44 (STOR), fabric GROG
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Segment 6513 contained pottery that dates from the late 1st to early 2nd century AD. The pottery from segments 6389 and 6693 is consistent with this date. Most of the pottery from 6693 was, in fact, intrusive, from overlying ditches 6769 and 25115, as these were dug out of sequence, dating from the late 2nd to mid 3rd century AD.

Road 1: deposits 6450, 6648, 6380 + features 6470, 6512, 6471, 6472, 6473 (Fig. H7)

While there is no evidence that Road 1 was resurfaced in this early Roman period, it was clearly in use. In the absence of formal repairs, Road 1 continued to subside into underlying late Iron Age features. Within this hollow, brown silts 6450 and 6648 accumulated as late as the mid 2nd century AD as did roadside deposit 6380. While soils were accumulating on the roadway, they were also being eroded by traffic using it as demonstrated at the edge of deposit 6380. Within this wear and subsidence hollow were traces of irregular ruts 6470 and 6512.

However, three apparent stake-holes were recorded within 6512 and it remains possible that both ruts were structural slots. In section, 6512 could be construed as the remains of a wall or fence against which 6380 could have accumulated.

Alternative interp:

Fence 6470, 6512 (plus 6468, 6469, 6471, 6472, 6473) Running along the eastern side of Road 1, and cut into its second phase make-up layers, these slots or gullies, and stake-holes alongside, probably mark a fence line. The stake-holes are all more-or-less identical, 10-15cm diameter, 9-15 cm deep. The slots were of similar depth, but very marked, and 6512 had stakes driven through its base, so there is no question of these

being wheel ruts, for instance. The irregular line of 6512 requires some explanation. This irregularity alone seems to rule out any possibility of these being part of a building fronting the road here.

It is possible these features were marking out the slumping area of Road 1 (underlying hollow 6734 caused every surface above it to slump, it appears), prior to continuing repairs above them, but it seems more likely they just denoted a roadside fence. However, there is a suggestion that build-up layer 6380 may have been accumulating up against and behind this line, so that these features would mark a revetment for this 'bank'. Just possibly the pressure of this bank could explain the line of 6512, as the revetment buckled under the strain? Later road surfaces reclaim this space and cover over the area.

Gully 6107, 6133 was an insignificant gully running east-west at least 2.5m to the north of Road 4 (probably more, as the road has now slipped back south from its greatest northwards extent), also north of ditch 6445, and with no apparent relation to anything else. It is important precisely because it does not appear related to other features, and is so totally different from the 2.5m wide ditches marking the line of Road 4 earlier.

Road 1: 6450, 6648, 6380 + features 6470, 6512, 6471, 6472, 6473

6450	Pottery jars G3 (GROG), fabric STOR
6648	Pottery fabrics BSW GROG
6380	Pottery platter A2.1 (BSW), bowl C33 (STOR), jars G3 (GRS BSW) G19/G20 (GRS) G23 (GRS)

These deposits produced pottery dating to the second half of the 1st century AD.

Road 4

5382, 5579, 5636, 5826, 5794, 5932, 5970, 6449, 6632, 6642, 6643, 6650, 13045, 13068, 13257, 16519, 16562, 16520, 21948, 21949, 21959, 25223. (Fig. H8)

Road 4 continued to be maintained throughout the early Roman period. The earlier surfaces, particularly along the centre of the road were incorporated into the new surfaces constructed either side **See Area J for further details (ref). Discuss surface 6467 over ditch 6646?**

Road 4 was again resurfaced around the mid 2nd century AD, having been encroached upon by the build-up of silts along the roadside. Gravel deposits 13045 and 5579 constitute the main surfacing episodes, along with associated levelling, make-up and bedding layers. Minor patches of resurfacing probably merely indicate subsequent maintenance. Road surface 13045 was at least 5.4m wide and probably as much as 8m. Further east, this same surface was recorded as 16519 and 16562 and bore evidence of wear in the form of wheel rut 16520 and a possible pot-hole, both of which had been repaired. Surface 13045 appears to mark the abandonment of a cambered surface and its replacement with a concave surface. Whether this was deliberate or not is uncertain, although this change in construction seems to coincide with the incorporation of occasional, relatively large, **ragstone or greensand** fragments in its metalled surface. **Does this link with construction of temple plinth or precinct wall?**

Road 4: 5382, 5579, 5636, 5826, 5794, 5932, 5970, 6449, 6632, 6642, 6643, 6650, 13045, 13068, 13257, 16519, 16562, 16520, 21948, 21949, 21959, 25223.

6449	Pottery jar G45 (GRS)
6632	Pottery dish B2.3 (BB2)
6642	Pottery mortarium D1 (BUFM)
6643	Pottery dish B2.3 (BB2), mortarium D2.1 (BUFM)
6650	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS
21959	Coin Denarius, Septimius Severus, AD 196-197 (SF 7736)

The latest pottery recovered suggests that these surfaces were deposited during the second half of the 2nd century AD.

Road 5: 6447, 6448 (Fig.H9)

Limited excavation along the southern edge of Road 5 suggested that surfaces 6447 and 6448 were the first Roman deposits to be laid. Although no dating evidence was collected from them, stratigraphic association suggests an early Roman date.

Layers 6165, 6724, 6778, 6804 (moved in from II C when it went kaput, implications not yet

quite worked through)

Deposits of greyish-orange brickearths were identified sporadically across Area H. These layers generally overlay major features of earlier date, probably representing their final levelling and consolidation. While apparently isolated from one another, these dumps could have constituted a single episode of ground levelling, much in the same way as similar redeposited silty brickearths of Period II B (*i.e.*, Layer 6773 / 6676). It is, however, not discounted that this group of deposits could be related to the preparation of the ground for the surfacing episodes of Period III above them.

Layers 6165, 6724, 6778, 6804

6165	Samian cup f27 (SGSW) Other pottery dish B1 (BSW) B4 (BB2), jar G42 (STOR), beaker H20 (COLC), fabric GROG Brooch Early plate (SF 1668)
6724	Pottery bowl C15 (GRF), jars G15 (GRF) G20 (GROG)
6778	Pottery jar G23 (GRS), fabrics BSW GROG
6804	Samian platter f18 (SGSW), bowl f37 (CGSW) Other pottery fabrics NKO COLC

Both 6724 and 6778 contained pottery providing an early Roman date. Layer 6165 yielded dishes and a Colchester colour-coated beaker that date to the mid 2nd century AD. **Intrusive? Or should the layer be somewhere else? The 'early' element is very small – grog-tempered body sherds. – bit larger now with added samian. 6804 is looking later, too – say, early 2nd century?**

Surface 6653, 6664, 6665 (Fig. H8 ?) & 6049, 6090, 6091, 6148, 6207, 6219, 6278, 6279, 6287, 6289, 6349, 6363, 6370, 6372, 6560, 6744, 6745, 16347 (Fig. H12)

Following the abandonment and infilling of roadside ditch 25254, the top of the ditch and adjacent cambered roadside were levelled-off with make-up layers 6664 and 6665. A relatively thin layer of compacted gravel 6653 was laid on top. As excavated, this roadside surface extended just south of the former line of the underlying ditch but may originally have extended further, over the north side of Road 4. This episode appears to represent a narrowing of the road and a building-up and resurfacing of the interior of Area H. However, it is difficult to identify this same episode elsewhere, either along the roadside or northwards across the interior. It appears that the surfaces previously laid across the interior of Area H in Period II B continued in use, presumably being repaired and maintained in this early Roman period. It is likely that gravel surface 6653 constituted such secondary activity as did deposits 6674 and 6908 elsewhere. **Clarify their location, extent, nature?**

Such piecemeal resurfacing seems to have continued as late as the mid Roman period. The later maintenance was characterized by fragments of worn or degraded pebble surfaces (*e.g.*, 6049, 6090, 6148, 6219, 6349, 6560, 6744, 6745), some showing evidence of repair (*e.g.*, 6278, 6279). Most appear to have been laid upon bedding layers of flint pebbles and grit in sandy silt (*e.g.*, 6091, 6363, 6370, 16347). It is possible that the distinction between road and off-road surfaces became significantly blurred. The roadside ditches were not renewed during this period, allowing road and interior surface to merge to form a more-or-less single surface which extended eastwards at least as far as Area L and perhaps M.

Surfacing: 6049, 6090, 6091, 6148, 6207, 6219, 6278, 6279, 6287, 6289, 6349, 6363, 6370, 6372, 6560, 6744, 6745, 16347

6091	Pottery fabric STOR
6148	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery dish B3 (GRS), mortarium D11 (BUFM), fabric BB1
6207	Samian dish f31 (CGSW) Other pottery fabric GRS
6219	Samian dish f18/31 or f31 (CGSW) Other pottery fabrics BSW GRS
6278	Pottery fabric STOR
6279	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS
6287	Samian dish f31R (CGSW) Other pottery jar G44 (STOR)
6289	Samian bowl f44 (EGSW) Other pottery dish B2.3 (BB2), bowl C12 (LOND)

6349	Pottery fabrics STOR GRS
6363	Pottery dish B2 (BSW)
6370	Pottery dish B2/B4 (BB2), jar G23.3 (GRS)

The best dated pottery, including mainly the dishes and mortarium, can be assigned a mid to late 2nd century AD date. The remaining pottery, while not particularly diagnostic, fits this date range.

Surface 6653, 6664, 6665

6653	Pottery jar G44 (STOR) fabric GRS
6664	Pottery jar G23.3 (GRF), fabric VRW
6665	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS

These deposits contained largely undiagnostic pottery that is nevertheless consistent with an early Roman date.

Layers 6053, 6220, 6292, 6378, 6411, 6414, 6416, 6418, 6421, 6426, 6435, 6437, 6561, 6587, 6933, 6965, 16019

As noted in Period II, there were a number of silty and clayey layers accumulating on top the early gravel surfacing of Area H. These soils seem to have built up in the later 1st and early 2nd centuries AD, before being covered over by a second surfacing episode in Period III B.

However, there were further mixed silt layers which were clearly of early Roman date. These included roadside wash/runoff (e.g. 6411, 6414, 6416, 6421, 6426, 6435, 6437). These had few finds, although perhaps a surprising amount of stone (as opposed to flint pebbles and gravels). The late dating for some of these accumulations (6411, 6416) cannot be accepted: they were both stratigraphically below perfectly acceptable second century features: it must be that these extensive layers carried on accumulating material long after their original deposition. This is not quite the same as dismissing the later material as intrusive, only accepting that the histories of these deposits are more complex than single depositional events.

Dark sandy silt 6418 (including lenses 6542, 6585 within it) was a more expansive layer which extended northwards from the edge of Road 4 into the interior of Area H. As thick as 0.3m in places, and overlying uneven gravel surface 6565, this deposit may have been a deliberate dump deposited to counter continuing slumping into ditch 25254 (segment 6646) lower down in the sequence. Unlike the other roadside deposits, it contained large quantities of artefacts indicative of redeposited rubbish. Although less extensive and containing less cultural material, near-by layers 6220, 6292 and 6378 may have been parts of the same levelling activity as 6418.

Clayey silts 6053, 6933, 6965 and 16019, located in the centre of Area H, overlay brickearth levelling and possibly represent the ground surface of this period where there was no clear metalled surface. If so, we may posit an open grassed area or possibly even a garden.

Layers 6053, 6220, 6292, 6378, 6411, 6414, 6416, 6418, 6421, 6426, 6435, 6437, 6561, 6587, 6933, 6965, 16019

6053	Samian platters f18 (SGSW) f18R (SGSW), dish f18/31 (CGSW), bowls f36 (CGSW) f37 (CGSW) SGSW Other pottery dishes B2 (BSW) B3.2 (BSW) B7 (BSW) B10.1 (RED), bowls C1 (NKG) C33 (STOR), mortarium D13 (BUFM), jars G5.5 (BSW GRS) G9 (BSW GRS) G21 (GRS) G22 (STOR) G23 (BSW) G29.1 (GRS), beakers H1 (BSW GRS GRF) H10 (BSW) H20.3 (COLC) H23 (LRC), flagons J3 (HAWG) Coin As, AD 40-199 (SF 905)
6292	Samian cup f33 (CGSW) Other pottery dish B2/B4 (BB2), jars G3 (BSW) G22 (STOR)
6378	Samian platter f15/17 (SGSW) Other pottery bowl C12 (LESTA), jar G5.1 (ESH), fabric LOND
6411	Pottery fabrics GRS NVC
6414	Samian cup f33 (EGSW) Other pottery fabrics GRS NKG COLC Coin AE unit (SF 3381)
6416	Pottery jars G21 (RET) G24 (GRS), beaker H41 (NVC)
6418	Samian dish f31 (CGSW) Amphora Gauloise 3 (AGAUL) Other pottery platter A2.2 (GRS), dish

	B7 (BSW), jars G3.2 (BSW) G8 (BSW) G17.1 (BSW) G17.2 (GRS) G20.1 (BSW) G23.2 (BSW) G23.3 (GRS), beakers H1.3 (BSW) H6 (GRF), flagon J3.2 (COLB) Brooch Hod Hill (SF 5839)
6421	Pottery beaker H20 (COLC)
6426	Pottery fabrics LRC BSW GRS
6435	Pottery fabric BSW
6437	Samian platter f18R (SGSW) Other pottery beaker H7 (GROG), fabrics BSW GRS
6587	Samian bowl f38 (EGSW) Other pottery fabric STOR
6933	Pottery fabric GROG
6955	Pottery fabric GROG
16019	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS

These deposits yielded pottery of mixed date. While the pottery from 6378 and 6418 dates to the late 1st and early 2nd centuries, that from 6053, 6292 and 6421 is later, with the pottery providing a mid 2nd century+ date. However, a large proportion of pottery from 6053 dates to the second half of the 1st century or beginning of the 2nd century, and later material may be intrusive. The latest pottery was found in layers 6411 and 6416; Nene Valley colour-coated beaker in the latter suggesting a date commencing from the late 3rd century AD. The remaining pottery can be given only a broad Roman date.

Layer 6380

(resolve – already dealt with (if that’s the word) in Period III in assoc with Road 1).

6380 was a very extensive, deep (up to 40cm) layer of silty sand build-up, with no real differentiation within it, and providing a remarkably level top surface, in contrast to everything below it. It was planned over an area 9m by 5m but was certainly much more extensive. It contained quite a small amount of finds for such a large volume, but included mid-second century pottery (and much residual), some cbm, briquetage and a little animal bone. It certainly can be presented as a levelling deposit, although it is to the east of the line of Road 1, so it must have been levelling the interior surface of area H. It has been suggested above (see discussion of the fence line) that it was held in place by a revetment along its western boundary, which would make the corresponding phase of Road 1 run through a slight cutting here, for the only time in its life, before later phases rise up over the level of 6380 again. All very odd, very convoluted.

Layer 6380

6380	Pottery platter A2.1 (BSW), dish B2 (BB2), bowl C33 (STOR), jars G3 (GRS BSW) G23 (GRS)
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The bulk of the pottery from this layer is residual, dating to the second half of the 1st century. The latest piece, a dish in BB2 dating from the mid 2nd century, provides the date of deposition.

Structures (indicate these on Plan Fig. H12?)

There are just enough stake and post-holes to indicate that there were at least some minor structures in the area at this time, but it is difficult to envisage any large buildings, and it is impossible to get any decent plan out of the little we do have. Clusters include:

Structure 23: 6294, 6394, 6433, 6571, 6600, 6601, 6602, 6622, 6624, 6626, 6628, 6630, 6645, 6637, 6732, 6740, 6752 (This cannot be one structure, surely? Actually none of these looks any good. Review.)

Structure 24: 6547, 6588, 6596, 6598, 6606, 6608, 6718, 6719, 6751

Structure 25: 6900, 6902, 6945, 6947, 6949

Structure 26: 6927, 6943, 6953, 16011, 16026, 16034, 16036, 16064

Structures:

6294, 6394, 6433, 6571, 6600, 6601, 6602, 6622, 6624, 6626, 6628, 6630, 6645, 6637, 6732, 6740, 6752

6294	Pottery fabrics GRS GROG BSW
6394	Samian fabric CGSW Pottery fabrics BSW GRS
6433	Samian platter f18 (SGSW) Other pottery fabrics BSW GRS GROG NKG
6571	Pottery fabrics BSW GROG

Small quantities of pottery dated no closer than to the Roman period were recovered from some features, though the presence of grog-tempered ware supported by Roman pottery suggests an early Roman date.

6547, 6588, 6596, 6598, 6606, 6608, 6718, 6719, 6751

6547	Samian platter f15/17 (SGSW) Other pottery fabrics STOR GROG GRS
6608	Pottery fabrics STOR GROG GRS
6718	Samian cup f33 (CGSW) Other pottery fabrics GROG GRS
6719	Pottery fabric BSW
6751	Pottery fabric MICW

The pottery recovered from these features cannot be closely dated. The presence of grog- and Roman sand tempered pottery together is consistent with an early Roman date.

6927, 6943, 6953, 16011, 16026, 16034, 16036, 16064

16026	Pottery beaker H1 (GROG), fabrics BSW GRS
16036	Samian cup f27 (SGSW) Other pottery fabrics GROG GRS

Pottery dating to the second half of the 1st century AD was recovered from two features.

Well 6280 / 6387 (Fig. H15)

The centre of Area H was dominated by a substantial well, consisting of construction cut 6280 and 'ramp' 6387 extending off it to the south-east. This ramp appeared to be integral to the construction of this feature. While the upper part of the construction cut had eroded or collapsed to produce a characteristic splayed, irregular cone, the original profile of its lower portion remained as a circular vertical shaft some 1.8m diameter. Located at the centre of this shaft was a c.1m square box-lining 16075, constructed of oak planks ([ref to wood / well discussion & mention 'SV' stamp?](#)). The space between construction cut and wooden lining had been backfilled with clay deposit 16076. Access ramp 6387 was backfilled at the same time. Further infilling was then undertaken using rubbish-rich silt 6367 that may have been derived from a pit or midden.

Use of the well appears only have been represented by fill 16131, with overlying fill 16083 being a rapidly accumulated deposit containing large amounts of animal bone, much of it evidently butchered ([ref. to bone report](#)). The same fill contained wooden objects (SFs 5667 and 7185) ([ref](#)), fragments of shoe leather ([ref](#)), rope (SF 5484) and a number of near-complete ceramic vessels which account for 2/3 of the pottery group by weight ([ref. to pot report?](#)), as well as a mass of debris such as twigs and leaves ([ref. to enviro reports](#)). However, the relative lack of tile (only 3kg) and virtual absence of metalwork are perhaps significant; does 16083 represent a specific dump of organic rubbish and pottery or a structured deposit?

Overlying fill 16084 contained three loose planks lying at inclined angles where they presumably became detached from the lining. Although in the vicinity of the modern watertable and therefore in variable states of decay along their lengths, these planks were less uniform than those *in situ* lower down. It is possible that the upper portion of the box lining was of differing construction or that at least some of the planks may have once been part of the well-head.

Above, clay-rich lining 16074 was probably an attempt to seal the top of the redundant well shaft, perhaps as part of its formal (even ritual?) closure. The fills above probably constitute final infilling and levelling, perhaps in response to subsidence.

[Quick note about possible superstructure: presence/absence? Slot 16013?](#)

[What about the four stake/postholes in the base of ramp 6387? + ?surface 6386?](#)

[Similar ramp feature at Stonea, Cambs = Jackson & Potter 1996, Well 446, Fig.42, 101-2](#)

Well 6280 / 6387 - construction

6280*	Pottery dish B2 (BSW), beaker H20.2 (COLC), fabric LRC
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Well 6280 / 6387 - ?use

6280*	Pottery fabrics BB2 COLC
Well 6280 / 6387 - disuse	
6280*	Samian dishes f31R (CGSW) f79R or TgR (CGSW), bowls f37 (EGSW) f38 (CGSW) Other pottery dish B4.2 (BB2) B3 (BSW), mortarium D3 (BUFM), jars G9 (BSW) G5.5 (GRS) G25 (GRS), beaker H24.1 (COLC) H35 (COLC)

Construction of the well is reliably dated to the mid 2nd century AD with the presence of a B2 dish found in the backfill of 16076. The dendrochronological date for the timbers gives a felling date range of AD 149 to 197. It seems that the use of the well was short-lived; the pottery recovered from 16083 (key pottery group 26) and its overlying deposits suggests that it was not only out of use but also filled up by the end of the 2nd century AD. Most of the pottery from the upper fills dates to the mid 2nd century and, allowing for later 2nd century disuse, may be residual. This could suggest that the well was deliberately backfilled, as opposed to being allowed to accumulate rubbish gradually.

Pits 6164, 6201, 6516, 6518, 6543, 6544, 6569, 6818, 6853, 6855, 6925, 16070, 16057, 16142, 16469 (Fig. H16)

Period III pits tended to be very shallow, generally less than 0.3m deep, with only partially excavated pit 6855 deeper, at 0.56m+, and all round or irregular, small-to-medium in plan, mainly around 1m diameter, up to 1.5m (16070). These relatively small pits were scattered across the excavated parts of Area H and do not suggest a dense distribution over the area as a whole. Although the artefactual content of these pits was slightly increased over earlier pits, it was still not prolific. Assemblages seem to differ from other areas of the settlement and a lack of metalwork is noted.

Of note is the brooch, vessel glass, ceramic counter and lava quern in pit 6201. Interestingly, this pit was located at the very centre of the area – is its artefactual content indicative of a structured deposit? ??

Even allowing for the limited extent of excavation in Area H, mid 2nd century AD pits were clearly very occasional occurrences; the only excavated example being pit 6543. This pit was notable for the inclusion of kiln furniture (SF8461) along with over 1kg of unidentified baked clay **has it since been ID'd?** It is speculated that the appearance of well 6280, perhaps the product of increasingly public use of Area H, resulted in a decrease in the incidence of (private) pits.

Pits 6164, 6201, 6516, 6544, 6855, 6925, 16070, 16469

6164	Samian bowl f30 or f37 (SGSW) Other pottery fabrics GRS BSW
6201*	Samian dish f18/31 (CGSW) Amphora salazon (ASALA) Other pottery platter A2 (BSW), jars G8 (GRS) G17 (BSW GRS) G20 (BSW) G23 (BSW GRS), beaker H1 (BSW), flagon J1.2 (COLB) Brooch Colchester BB (SF 2331)
6516	Pottery jars G20 (BSW) G23 (BSW)
6518	Pottery flagon J3.2 (COLB)
6544	Pottery platter A2 (GRF), jars G5 (BSW) G23.1 (BSW)
6569	Samian cup f27 (CGSW) Amphora Gauloise 4 (AGAUL) Other pottery platter A2 (BSW), jar G3 (GROG)
6818	Pottery fabrics BSW GROG
6853	Samian cup f27 (CGSW) Other pottery platter A2 (BSW), dish B7 (BSW), jars G16 (BSW) G23 (BSW) G40.1 (BSW), fabric GROG
6855	Samian dish f31 (COLSW) Other pottery beakers H6 (NKG) H10 (NKG) H20.3 (COLC), fabric LRC
6925	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS STOR
16057	Samian platter f18 (SGSW) Other pottery platter A1 (BSW), bowl C33 (BSW)
16070	Samian platter f18 (SGSW) Other pottery fabric STOR
16142	Pottery dish B7 (BSW), fabrics GROG NKG

The pottery suggests that these pits were filled during the late 1st and early 2nd century AD. The filling of pit 6201 (key pottery group 20) is unlikely to extend beyond the end of the 1st century AD, while 6855, containing North Kent and Lower Rhineland wares, was filled perhaps exclusively during the early 2nd century AD.

Pit 6543

6543	Pottery dish B2.3 (BB2), beakers H6 (NKG) H20.2 (COLC)
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The pottery provides a mid 2nd century AD date for the infilling of this feature.

Storage jar ovens 6189, 6308, 6323, 6343, 6399, 6441, 6456, 6462, 6521, 6551, 6939, 6958, 6845, 16345 (and pits 6529, 6759) (Fig. H17)

The early Roman period saw the appearance of a totally new type of feature in Area H – the ‘storage jar oven’ (previously referred to in our literature as a ‘pot hearth’). **Describe?** Ovens 6399, 6529 and 16345 contained burnt stones within charcoal-rich fills. **(Ref to synthetic discussion of storage jar ovens)**. Apart from ovens 6441, 6456, 6551, 6939 and 6958, all the excavated examples were clustered within a 5m radius, midway along the south side of Area H. All but 6939 and 6958 had been set into the gravel surfacing of Area H.

While most were single-phase structures, oven 6462 contained three phases of storage jar within a single cut, each set on the remains of another. In contrast to this simple replacement, intercut ovens 6308, 6323 and 6343 were each distinct structures with their own construction cuts. This three-phase episode shows that their location was relatively static. It is significant that these storage jar ovens were located mainly around the edges of Area H, and suggest a role of food production (even retail?) complementing the public rôle of the area.

Adjacent to the southern cluster of ovens were two small, shallow pits 6529 and 6759. Both contained quantities of charcoal, together with burnt flint and quartzite pebbles, and may have been associated with the use of the ovens. Whether these pits were simply for the disposal of oven waste, or were used for the heating of stones and embers used in the cooking process, is uncertain.

Comment that when they do occur they seem to do so in close clusters of multiple ovens. 6189, by the way, appears to be a lot later—it’s missing from the dating evidence section below!

Storage jar ovens 6308, 6323, 6343, 6399, 6441, 6456, 6462, 6521, 6551, 6939, 6958, 6845, 16345 (and pits 6529, 6759)

6308	Pottery jar G44 (STOR)
6323	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery fabrics STOR GRS
6343	Pottery jar G17 (BSW), fabrics GRS GROG STOR
6399	Pottery jar G44.5 (STOR), fabrics GROG BSW GRS
6441	Pottery jar G44 (STOR)
6456	Pottery fabric GROG
6462	Pottery jars G44.5 (STOR) G45.1 (STOR), flagon J3 (BUF), fabrics GRS BSW
6521	Pottery jars G23 (GRS) G44.5 (STOR) G45.1 (STOR)
6551	Pottery fabrics GROG STOR
6939	Pottery jar <i>Cam</i> 271 (GROG), beaker H6 (GRF), fabrics BSW STOR GRS
6958	Pottery dish B2.3 (BSW), fabrics STOR GRS GROG MICW COLC
16345	Pottery fabrics BSW STOR GROG
6529	Pottery jar G19.2 (BSW), fabrics GRS STOR
6759	Samian dish f18/31 (CGSW) Other pottery fabrics STOR ESH BSW

While the storage jars that formed the ovens cannot be closely dated, the pottery often found in upper fills may indicate when these features were no longer used. Oven 6958 was almost certainly out of use by the second half of the 2nd century AD, whereas ovens 6343, 6462, 6521, 6939 and 6529 are unlikely to have functioned beyond the early 2nd century, if not before. The remaining pottery, though largely undiagnostic, has something of an early Roman character and is not out of place within the second half of the 1st century AD.

Storage jar oven 6189

6189	Samian cups f27 (SGSW) Ritt.9 (SGSW) Other pottery bowl C33 (GRS), jar G44 (STOR), fabric COLC
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The pottery present suggests that this hearth dates to the second half of the 1st century AD. The Colchester colour-coated ware, dating to the 2nd or early 3rd century, is probably intrusive.

Hearth 6766

Hearth 6766 was a construction of two lydions (ref. to tile rep?) set flat on a bed of clay. The clay was burnt and the tiles scorched and cracked through heating. However, this feature was excavated in isolation and no consideration of its wider context and use is possible.

Hearths 6766

6766	Pottery dish B1.1 (BSW)
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This feature yielded a dish, dating from the late 1st to early 2nd century.

Structured deposit 6539 (Fig. H19)

Small oval pit 6539 contained the truncated remains of a once ?complete black surfaced ware jar together with a pair of animal jawbones (what kind?) carefully laid alongside. The 0.08m deep feature was also recorded as containing a concentration of burnt bone, though none was collected. It is likely that this arrangement of artefacts constitutes the remains of a structured deposit. Also mention Fe SF8262?

Structured deposit 6539

6538	Pottery dish B2.3 (BB2), jar G17 (GRS), fabric BSW
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This feature yielded pottery that is likely to date to the first half of the 2nd century AD. While the top fill contained a number of conjoining sherds in black-surfaced ware, I am not convinced that the pot was complete on deposition.

Period IV (later 2nd to mid 3rd centuries AD) (Fig. H20)

It is worth remembering there may be some chronological overlap between the end of Phase III and the start of this, and at the other end just as much overlap with the start of V. This is probably most apparent in the various surfaces which can be mid-second to mid-third century, and which do not seem likely to benefit from being more closely pigeon-holed. As the Period is characterized by continuity, this haziness need not be a problem.

There may be the beginnings of silty accumulations along the roadsides at this time, and certainly at the junction of Road 4 with Road 1. These seem to be just silty wash off the roads and general build-up of deposits in hollows or against the slopes of the base of the camber. That this sort of deposit does not seem to have appeared earlier (with only a couple of exceptions, e.g., 6411, 6416) argues for their being evidence of disuse, or at least less careful maintenance of the roads at this period.

Road 5 itself had its fourth phase now too, which is the latest seen of it. Its recording was poor, which may be at least partly because the surfaces were so degraded as not to be quite easily categorized. But there were sufficient finds to be reasonably certain of a third century date for the latest layers recovered. This pushes the road a little later than suggested in Area G, but one suspects there may have been later phases too, now lost (e.g., to machining? not likely if they had been decent surfaces, but if they had already been badly disintegrated, not impossible). A roadside ditch at least implies that there must be a further surface above these, and as it seems hard to believe this road really did go out of use so early, this seems only reasonable. A subsequent shift northwards hardly seems enough to explain the lack of later surfaces (they would then be expected in Area G, where they do not appear). There is also a slight puzzle over the lack of any earlier ditch alongside Road 5 here, with little scope for explaining away this lack, other than by suggesting that the location of the excavation trench may have coincided with an entrance gap in any possible ditches. This would only require about a 5m wide gap, and the possibility that this might be the right place for it (about 35m-40m along the road, east from Road 1) is provided by terminals 6693 in a later ditch, and 6923 in an earlier. Indeed, it is possible that the curving ditches of the previous period could have been merely the in-turned ends of ditches terminating just at this point.

Ditch 25259: It is below 6715, which is part of the wider mid-Roman surfacing. There is something of a contradiction here, since, if this ditch actually impinges on a road surface, it cannot be associated with the use, or at least not with the construction, of that surface. Yet it does seem to be a roadside ditch, and there are no surviving surfaces above 6674. There is thus the implication that there must have been later surfacing episodes which have not survived.

It seems hard to believe that Road 5 would have been defunct as early as late C2 or early C3, so that the implications of the continuing roadside ditch sequence can, I think, be relied on as sufficient evidence for the continuation of some sort of road or track at least through here. It is possible that the line shifted further north again, so that none would have been picked up in the restricted excavation slots in Area H. Against this, there is little in Area G to suggest the continuation of the road much beyond the second century, and while there is evidence of a couple of shifts to the northward, nothing so late as this.

Nor is there much to suggest any earlier roadside ditch here; this seems difficult to explain, as the earlier phases seem likely to have been the more southerly, and any associated ditches would surely have been found if they had existed. There is little scope for them to have been completely obliterated by later ditches, if there were the changes in line suggested, especially given the number and nature of roadside surfacing and levelling episodes which ought to have filled and preserved them. It is possible there is a clue in the lines of, e.g., 6693 and even 6923. Perhaps the roadside ditches ran along the south of Road 5 as far as where 6693 and 6923 show a bend to the south, there being an entrance off the road into Area H precisely here. This would only need to be some 5m wide or so to leave a gap large enough for there to be no trace of ditch. Thus those ditches which are picked up here represent a shift in the location of any such entrance. It can hardly be coincidence that such a position would line up pretty nicely on a projection of the eastern temple precinct wall just to the south in Area J, not to mention the LIA trackway running below.

Roadside? Ditches: They imply the continuation of a road along the line of Road 5 (or do they? could it just be that the boundary line remains, and perhaps the idea, but not the surface? Are they, even, too far south for there to be any connection?). While the dating seems to make these as late as fourth century, it is by no means clear whether this should be taken to mean that Road 5 continues this late too. It reflects the stability of the broad lines of the layout, but I have found nothing to show clearly whether there is any road here. If these push back to late second/early third century, much the same applies, though there is less of a problem having the road at least lasting to the end of the C2.

Building 55 **nestles** in the corner where Roads 1 and 4 meet. The foundation slots may appear to be a very ephemeral set of features, but it was quite certain that this did exist. It only serves to show how easy it is to miss such features, though, so that all those ‘miscellaneous post-hole’ groups could have had slight sill beam traces like this around their individual elements. It is also worth remembering that slight archaeological remains need not equate to slight structures, and indeed that the architectural skills involved may even be more advanced than those which require substantial foundations. This building was about 4.5m by 3.2m, though this may have been only part of a larger structure. It may have been rendered all the more visible because of its destruction by fire, and the burnt clay the foundations contained (the clay could conceivably already have been burnt before construction, and used in packing, as with Building 54 in Area G). There were no clues as to function, although there were hints that it may have been abandoned before being burnt down. There seems to have been a lot of rubbish lying around in it before the fire. The destruction seems to be in this period also. A lot of the debris built up over it may, however, be later.

Well 6280 remains a central feature in this phase; although it seems to have fallen out of use by somewhere late in the second century or perhaps early in the third. **Without repeating too much of the discussion from the previous phase**, there is clearly some deliberation involved in the closure deposits in this well, which is worth more consideration (ref. to structured deposits discussion).

The pits of this period do not stand out from those of earlier phases, still having relatively little material culture disposed in them. **Aren’t these all small and rectangular?**

The surface repairs continue as in all phases here, with a variety of probably unconnected localized repairs, also some striking examples of the deliberate use of bone to form surfaces. Were these markers of some description, of some form of symbolic space?

Paraphrase this:

Road 5 received its fourth resurfacing in the mid Roman period. This was the uppermost surviving road surface, perhaps suggesting little maintenance was undertaken beyond the early 3rd century AD.

Also, the road 4 and road 1 run-off silts do not suggest much use of the roads after maybe the mid-third century.

Ditch 25259 (segments 6769, south side of 6313, 6814) (Fig. H21)

Ditch 25259 ran alongside Road 5, offset to its south by some 3m. Approximately 1.7m wide, this feature was excavated within 3 segments. Segment 6814 defined the shallow western terminal of the ditch which terminated alongside the junction of Roads 1 and 5. The ditch deepened as it progressed eastward, being 0.37m deep in segment 6769. It was traced for a distance of 41m and clearly extended beyond the eastern limit of Area H.

The ditch cut Period III roadside surface 6674 and was overlain (**directly?**) by mid Roman surface 6715. The earlier material in segment 6814 probably merely reflects the diminutive size of the excavated assemblage, such a shallow feature having acquired material just knocking about on the surface while it was open.

6122, Ditch 6769, 6313, 6814

6122	Pottery dish B4 (HAB)
6769	Samian bowl f37 (CGSW) Other pottery dish B2 (BSW), mortarium D11 (EAM), beaker H34 (GRF), fabric CGRHN

6814	Samian fabric CGSW Other pottery bowl C3 (BSW)
6313*	Samian dish f79 (CGSW), mortarium f45 (CGSW), cup f33 (EGSW) Other pottery dishes B2.1 (BSW) B3.2 (GRS BSW), bowl-jars E1 (BSW) E6.1 (RET), jars G5.5 (GRS BSW) G9 (BB1) G28 (GRS) G35 (GRS), beakers H32 (NVC) H35 (BSW) H42 (GRF), fabrics CGRHN COLC

These ditch segments were filled principally during the late 2nd and early 3rd century AD. Segment 6313 was filled perhaps exclusively in the 3rd century AD, continuing to accumulate material into the second half of the 3rd century AD.

Ditch 25115 (segments 6358, 6369, n. side of 6313, 6577) (Fig H21)

Ditch 25115 was clearly a replacement of ditch 25259, judging by the way it followed the latter's east-to-west line so closely for much of its length alongside Road 5, departing only as it reached the Junction of Roads 1 and 5. Most reliably excavated as adjoining segments 6358 and 6369, in the north-east corner of Area H, it was 1.6m wide and 0.6m deep. The northern part of over-excavated ditch segment 6313 almost certainly represents its westward continuation. Bearing in mind that Roads 1 and 5 continued to function during the mid Roman period, it is postulated that ditch segment 6577, immediately alongside their junction, represents the southward return of this same roadside ditch. Its extent along the Road 1 frontage was undetermined. At least one episode of recutting was apparent in the excavated segments. It is likely that the ditch continued to function, or at least to accumulate material in its top, into the 4th century AD.

Ditch 25115 (6358, 6369, n. side of 6313, 6577)

6358	Samian dish f31 (EGSW) Other pottery dish B2.1 (BSW) B3 (BSW), bowl C32 (BSW), jars G5.5 (GRS) G5.6 (BSW) G25 (GRS), beaker H34 (GRS), fabrics CGRHN OXRC
6369	Pottery dish B6 (BSW); jar G21 (GRS), beaker H24.2 (COLC), fabric NVC
6313	Samian dish f79 (CGSW), mortarium f45 (CGSW), cup f33 (EGSW) Other pottery dishes B2.1 (BSW) B3.2 (GRS BSW), bowl-jars E1 (BSW) E6.1 (RET), jars G5.5 (GRS BSW) G9 (BB1) G28 (GRS) G35 (GRS), beakers H32 (NVC) H35 (BSW) H42 (GRF), fabrics CGRHN COLC
6577	Pottery dish B6.2 (GRS), mortarium D11 (BUFM) D14.1 (NVM), fabrics RET LSH NVC HAX OXRC

Principal infilling is dated to the later 2nd and first half of the 3rd century AD. These segments also yielded late Roman pottery and are likely to have received material during the 4th century AD, though not necessarily at the same time. **There is a consistent late Roman character to these features that is largely absent from the previous set of ditches.**

Gullies 6409, 6443, 6061, 6397 + post-holes 6019, 6064, 6070, 6080, 6082, 6124, 6138, 6147 (also 16516, 16518, 16383, 16482, 16491, 16506, 16508, 16462?) (Fig. H22)

is it worth calling it a fenceline and according the whole lot an overall number?

Features 6061 and 6397 were parts of an interrupted slot or gully which ran alongside Road 4. The whole 10m-length of slot 6061 was excavated and found to comprise a series of interconnected slots of varying length and depth, generally 0.35 wide. Neither end of slot 6397 was determined, but it is likely that its western terminus occurred in the vicinity of the junction of Roads 1 and 4. These lengths of slot were connected and continued northward by post-holes positioned at regular intervals along the same line. Nine such post-holes were excavated (*viz.*, 6019, 6061, 6064, 6070, 6080, 6082, 6124, 6138, 6147) and it is apparent from the pre-excitation plan that there were others not investigated.

Together, these slots and post-holes formed a boundary along the roadside which was reliably traced for a distance of over 30m. It is entirely possible that it continued considerably further eastward with post-holes (*e.g.*, 16516, 16518, 16482, 16491, 16506, 16508, 16462) tentatively identified as further components. It is possible that some of the elements of this structure, primarily slot 6061, were not merely parts a fence but formed part of a more substantial construction (**expand?**). The proximity of this slot alongside the southern cluster of storage hearths may be significant.

Similarly proportioned slot or gully 6443 was located 1.5m north of slot 6397, with which it ran parallel. It was replaced by a further slot 6409, of which the western terminal was located. Whether either of these was contemporary with slot 6397 is difficult to determine, but they may have been associated in some way.

Gullies 6409, 6443, 6061, 6397 + post-holes 6019, 6064, 6070, 6080, 6082, 6124, 6138, 6147

6409	Pottery jar G44.5 (STOR), fabric GRS
6443	Pottery GROG
6061	Pottery dishes B4 (BSW) B5.1 (BSW), fabric NVC
6397	Samian fabric CGSW Other pottery fabrics BB2 CGRHN
6019	Pottery dish B2/B4 (GRS)
6064	Pottery dish B2/B4 (GRF), fabric LSH
6070	Pottery dish B2 (BSW)
6080	Samian fabric CGSW Other pottery dish B2/B4 (GRF), jar G44 (STOR)
6124	Pottery beaker H41 (NVC)
6138	Pottery beaker H32 (NVC)
6147	Pottery fabrics BB1 NVC
16506	Pottery fabric GRS
16275	Pottery fabric GRS

The presence of Nene Valley colour-coated and central Gaulish Rhenish wares dates a number of these features to the late 2nd and 3rd century AD. The remaining pottery is consistent with this date; gully 6061 yielded a B5 dish and was possibly filled by the second half of the 3rd century. The presence of late shell-tempered ware within the post-pipe of 6064 is probably intrusive and unlikely to be related to the use of the feature.

Road 1: 6410, 6422, 6436 (Fig. H7)

Accepting that 6470 and 6512 were ruts in the base of a hollow created by a combination of wear and subsidence, it appears that...

Continuing subsidence of Road 1 into underlying pre-road features (i.e., principally water hole 6734), exacerbated by apparent relative neglect during much of the early Roman period, was countered by infilling. Substantial deposit of (?)bonded gravel 6436 was used to fill and consolidate the road ahead of the construction of a new surface. Thin layer of pebbly mortar 6422, and perhaps redeposited brickearth 6451, was laid as a foundation to the road surface itself, 6410.

Where Roads 1 and 5 meet, the evidence is very sketchy; there may be as many as seven episodes of surfacing. However, only two contexts can really be dated among them: **6537** and **6723** (fill of a wear hollow or rut) belong to this period, if their pottery was current at the time of deposition, and all the other surfaces and layers are simply fitted in around these two, with one surface above and the rest below. So although the sequence at the junction is not wonderfully securely dated, it does fit the same overall sort of pattern as would be expected from the other evidence. (**6259, 6265, 6266, 6297, 6298, 6537, 6556, 6649, 6689, 6705, 6775, 6806, 6827, 6885, 6886, 6889, 6890, 6891, 6920**)

Road 1: 6410, 6422, 6436

Also 6259, 6265, 6266, 6297, 6298, 6537, 6556, 6649, 6689, 6705, 6775, 6806, 6827, 6885, 6886, 6889, 6890, 6891, 6920

6410	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery dish B2 (BSW)
6422	Pottery fabrics STOR GRS BSW
6436	Pottery fabrics STOR GRS
6298	Samian fabric EGSW Other pottery jars G5.5 (GRS)
6537	Samian fabric EGSW Other pottery dish B2 (GRS), mortarium D11 (BUFM)
6556	Samian bowl f38 or f44 (CGSW) Other pottery jar G44.2 (STOR)
6689	Samian dish f31R (CGSW)

Much of the small quantities of pottery could not be closely dated, though the identified forms present may place deposition within the later 2nd century and first half of the 3rd century AD.

Road 4: (Fig. H8)

4th episode: 5458, 5511, 5522, 5541, 5544, 5550, 5556, 5558, 5578, 5591, 5698, 5787, 5792, 5847, 5871, 5926, 5960, 6817, 13032, 13036, 16292, 16509, 21836, 21841 (dubious: 6413, 6420, 6434)

5th episode: 5490, 5500, 5587, 5778, 5784, 5862, 5870, 6130, 6132, 6143, 6144, 6219

Maintenance of Road 4 continued in the mid Roman period with two episodes of resurfacing evident. The first (and fourth overall) was best demonstrated in the westernmost road trench where gravel deposits 13032, 5591, 5522 and 5926 formed a concave road surface up to 0.15m thick. This surface was laid upon make-up layers 13036 (clay-silt) and 5787 (sand) and seems to have involved a slight narrowing or retreat northwards compared to earlier (and later) surfaces. In the easternmost extent of Area H, compacted pebble layers 16292 and 16509 were parts of the same road surface. Although this surface was not removed, features cut through it showed that there was at least one earlier surface below. Further to the south, a probable further part recorded as layer 21836 was bedded upon clayey-silt 21841. Minor deposits 5550, 5547, 5541 and 5578 amount only to repair episodes to this phase of road.

Surface 13032 was replaced by surface 6130. Partly laid upon the earlier gravel surface, additional make-up layer 6132 appears to have allowed for the northward widening of the road to at least 7m, returning it to a similar proportion as that of its Period II origins. This surface was the last surviving solid road. *There is very little dating for these later layers, but stratigraphy allows no later than late third century for some of them, which fits with what little pottery there is.*

Above these two episodes of surfacing were a number of much less compacted layers (5396, 5489, 5499, 5827, 5850, 6128, 6129, 16308). Largely gravelly silts, these were probably repairs and weathering of the surfaces, indicating degradation of the road through its continuing use. Layer 5499 contained an iron lynch pin (SF3206), presumably derived from the traffic using the road.

Road 4: 4th episode: 5458, 5511, 5522, 5541, 5544, 5550, 5556, 5558, 5578, 5591, 5698, 5787, 5792, 5847, 5871, 5926, 5960, 6817, 13032, 13036, 16292, 16509, 21836, 21841 (dubious: 6413, 6420, 6434)

6420	Other pottery jar G23.3 (STOR)
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Layer 6420 contained little that could be closely dated. The jar form present dates to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD.

5th episode: 5490, 5500, 5587, 5778, 5784, 5862, 5870, 6130, 6132, 6143, 6144, 6219

6132	Pottery fabrics GRF GRS BSW
6219	Samian dish f18/31 or f31 (CGSW) Other pottery fabrics GRS STOR BSW

Pottery recovered from 6132 can be dated no closer than to the Roman period, while that from 6219 probably dates to the second half of the 2nd century.

Road 5: 6283, 6446 (Fig. H9)

Road 5 received its fourth resurfacing in the mid Roman period. Gravel layer 6446 was a worn surface comprising poorly graded and compacted stones. This was the uppermost surviving road surface, perhaps suggesting little maintenance was undertaken beyond the early 3rd century AD.

Road 5: 6283, 6446

6283	Samian dishes f31 (CGSW) Curle 15 (CGSW) Other pottery dishes B2.1 (BSW) B3.2 (GRS), mortarium D2 (BUFM), jar G5.5 (GRS)
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The pottery provides a mid 2nd to mid 3rd century date for deposition.

Surfaces: 6047, 6084, 6089, 6173, 6177, 6181, 6185, 6218, 6234, 6352, 6674, 6715, 6763, 16204, 16257, 16284, 16288, 16289, 16332, 16342, 6145, 6316, 6319, 6320, 6348, 6584, 6654, 6655 (Fig. H20)

At least parts of the Period III surfacing of the interior of Area H probably continued in use, while others were clearly newly laid during the late 2nd to early 3rd centuries AD.

Gravel surfaces (6084, 6089, 6218, 6674; 6145, 6320, 6654), laid on foundation deposits of gravelly or pebbly sandy silt (6181, 6234, 16332, 6316, 6348, 6352, 6584, 6655) represent the relaying and maintenance of this open area. Some surfaces show evidence of repair (6177, 6185, 6319, 6763, 16342), and some were overlain by silty accumulations (6173, 6715, 16257, 16284, 16288, 16289) which may relate to the use of the surface.

Most of the surfaces appeared to be degraded but some were notable for the incorporation of animal bone (chiefly cattle scapula and mandible) in their construction. As a presumably deliberate inclusion, such occurrences are worthy of further consideration (**ref to strucdep?**). Wear hollows 16204 and 16342 were filled with selected bone packed in gravel but little else.

On the whole, these gravel surfaces contained significantly more finds than did earlier surfacing deposits; the incidence of coins is particularly noted. However, this may merely be a product of increased material culture and surface rubbish, resulting in increased incorporation of such material at the time of construction.

Surfaces: 6047, 6084, 6089, 6173, 6177, 6181, 6185, 6218, 6234, 6674, 6715, 6763, 16257, 16284, 16288, 16289, 16332, 16342, 6145, 6316, 6319, 6320, 6348, 6584, 6654, 6655

6047	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery dish B2/B4 (GRF), jar G24 (BSW), fabrics HAB NVC
6084	Pottery fabric GRS
6173	Pottery dish B2 (BSW)
6181	Pottery dishes B3 (BSW) B4 (BSW)
6185	Pottery fabric STOR
6234	Pottery dish B3.2 (BSW), jar G9 (GRS)
6674	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery dish B6.3 (BB1), jar G5.5 (GRS), fabric COLC
6715	Pottery dish B3.2 (GRF), mortarium D11 (BUFM)
6763	Samian cup f33 (EGSW) Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery dish B3.2 (BSW), jars G24.2 (GRS) G25 (GRS), fabrics ALH CGRHN COLC
16257	Pottery dishes B2 (BSW), jar G5.5 (BSW), fabric NVC
16288	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery dishes B4 (HAB) B6 (GRS), mortarium D13 (BUFM), bowl-jar E2 (GRS), beaker H35 (BSW), fabrics NVC LSH
6145	Pottery fabrics GRS COLC Coin Radiate, 3rd/4th century AD (SF 1646)
6316	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery dishes B3.2 (BSW) B4 (GRS) B10 (RED), mortaria D11 (COLBM) D14 (NVM), jars G5.5 (GRS BSW) G24.2 (GRS) G40 (BSW), beakers H20 (COLC) H21 (COLC) H34 (GRS), fabrics NVC RET Coins As, Hadrian, AD 117-138 (SF 2373)
6319	Samian cup f33 (EGSW) Other pottery dishes B2.1 (GRS) B3.2 (HAB), jar G5.5 (GRS BSW), beaker H35.1 (GRS)
6320	Pottery fabric GRS Brooch Lozenge (SF 2362)
6348	Pottery fabrics GRS GRF STOR
6584	Samian bowl f37 (CGSW) Amphora Gauloise 4 (AGAUL)
6654	Pottery dishes B1.4 (BB1) B5.1 (BSW)
6655	Pottery dishes B4 (BSW) B5 (BSW), beakers H21 (NVC), fabric BB1

Most of these deposits were formed during the 3rd century AD; some, such as 6674, 6654 and 6655, were formed almost certainly during the second half of the 3rd century. Late Roman pottery, including late shell-tempered and Alice Holt wares, appear occasionally, and suggests that some deposits continued to accumulate material up to the late 4th century AD.

Layers 6142, 6326, 6331, 6334, 6340, 6072, 6088, 6098, 6103, 6105, 6106, 6114, 6121, 6122, 6123

Further accumulated silts were evident along the roadsides, notably at the junction of Road 1 with Road 4 where several layers of runoff silts accumulated (6142, 6326, 6331, 6334, 6340) and along the length of Road 4 (6072, 6088, 6096, 6097, 6098, 6103, 6105, 6106, 6114, 6121, 6122, 6123). These layers, probably formed through use of and wash off the roads, built up alongside, and gradually encroached upon, the road surfaces.

These accumulations contained moderate finds assemblages, predominantly animal bone and tile but with a significant ironwork component. They do not seem to have been the product of deliberate dumping or middening along the roadsides. It would seem that Roads 1 and 4 were no longer actively maintained beyond the early 3rd century AD. However, their continued use, even in their overgrown state, is likely as late as the 4th century AD.

Layers 6142, 6326, 6331, 6334, 6340, 6072, 6088, 6098, 6103, 6105, 6106, 6114, 6121, 6123

6142	Pottery dishes B2 (BB2) B3.2 (GRS BSW) B5.1 (BB1 GRF) B6.1 (BB1), mortaria D5.3 (OXWM) D13 (BUFM), jar G5.5 (GRS BSW), beaker H35 (GRS), fabric NVM
6326	Pottery dish B1 (GRF), fabrics BB2 HAWO
6331	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW
6334	Pottery fabrics HAB BB2 EGRHN
6340	Samian bowl f37 (EGSW)
6072	Pottery dishes B1 (BB2)
6088	Pottery fabric NVC
6098	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW
6106	Samian fabric EGSW Other pottery fabrics BSW GRS
6121	Samian bowl f38 (EGSW) Other pottery dish B2/B4 (GRS)

Layer 6142 produced the best dated pottery, providing a mid to late 3rd century AD date for deposition. A sherd of Oxfordshire red colour-coated ware also recovered suggests occasional accumulation up to the late 4th century AD. The remaining pottery is earlier in date, falling within a later 2nd and early 3rd century AD date range.

Building 55: 6155, 6217, 6274, 6277, 6285, 6288, 6291, 6330, 6345 (Fig. H23)

Building 55 consisted of right-angled foundation slot 6288/6291 which contained three integral post-holes (6274, 6285 and 6330) positioned at regular intervals. Together with further post-holes 6155, 6277 and 6345, these structural features represent the south-west corner of a rectilinear timber building positioned at the junction of Roads 1 and 4.

As seen elsewhere (e.g. Building 54), the foundation slot was packed with fragments of burnt clay, together with tile and flint cobbles. No internal features or surfacing were recognized although deposits of brown silt 6212 and 6228 seem to have built up against its walls, presumably while it still stood.

The layers and spreads of material which overlay the remains of Building 55 (6195, 6208, 6233, 6237, 6238), contained evidence of burning and quantities of tile. They may have been products of the destruction of the building, although they admittedly also contained a range of domestic rubbish. The destruction of Building 55 occurred during the 3rd century, perhaps as late as Period V.

Building 55: 6155, 6274, 6277, 6285, 6288, 6291, 6330, 6345

6155	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW
6274	Pottery dish B3 (BSW)
6277	Samian dish f18/31 (COLSW) Other pottery jars G5.4 (GRS) G9.1 (GRS), beaker H34 (BSW)
6285	Samian fabric EGSW Other pottery jar G5.5 (GRS), fabric COLC
6288	Samian cup f33 (CGSW) Other pottery beaker H6 (GRF), fabrics MHM
6291	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS
6330	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS

6345	Pottery fabric GRS
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The pottery recovered from these features lie within a general mid to late 2nd century AD date range, possibly extending into the beginning of the 3rd century AD. Some features contained material that could not be closely dated, while most produced small quantities of residual 1st and earlier 2nd century AD pottery.

Building 56 (16541, 16192, 16440, 16404, 16318, 16226, 16293, 16394, 16457, 16215, 16254) (Fig. H24)

possible 'floors' 16312, 16313, 16321 ???

These form a rectangle 10m by 6m, with the south wall running on the same alignment as the fence line along the north of Road 4. The north wall was not well defined, lying in an area which was not extensively cleaned, much less fully excavated. There is room to doubt that all these features really belong together but there is little doubt that there was some sort of building here, and probably on just about this sort of alignment. There are hints at internal subdivisions paralleling the short walls, but not enough to posit a satisfactory ground plan. It is tempting to see another building along the lines of two rooms off a central corridor, but there is probably too little of this to allow much confidence. Of interest is the possibility that the south wall, facing the road, was either replaced or strengthened at some point, with an inner row of posts along the central section only, 0.8m back from the main wall. Equally, these could relate to internal arrangements, or even to another building entirely. (Another possibility is that the inner line of posts here was the wall and the outer line formed a façade or veranda. However, the outer line included the more substantial posts, and compared better with the structural posts of the rest of the building, so they appear to be primary and not just decorative.)

Nearly all of these posts were sealed below 'occupation layer' 16187, and at least some of this layer may include material from the life of the house. Several were also recorded as cutting floor layers 16321, 16312, 16313, but it is also possible these floors were laid around the posts *in situ*. The floor layers were not easily distinguished from other surfaces, even the roads, although they were thought to be the original positions of many tesserae which were retrieved from cleaning layers above them. The context records mention mortaring, although no trace of this was recovered for analysis, nor do the photographs indicate that it was an obvious component of the floors. The oddest thing about these floors is that, as they survived, they were entirely outside the building; this could mean that there was an earlier building here, or that the plan is all wrong and it should extend southwards rather than north from the one good wall (placing it across the road), or it may mean that this floor was in fact an exterior surface, a path to the front of the house from the road, or a patio. In the absence of the tesserae and mortar from the finds records, it is hard to see how these are any different from other surfaces in the area, but both excavators and supervisor seem agreed they were. (There were 207 tesserae from 16081, which is the cleaning layer referred to above, although it also covered the whole of the 20m grid square, so it is impossible to say if all the tesserae derived from this immediate area. There were also 205 from 16187, which was generally within the area of the building, and so offers slightly more positive evidence. Nonetheless, no tesserae from here were discovered *in situ*.)

Building 56

16192	Pottery fabric GRS
16440	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW
16404	Pottery dish B1 (GRS)
16318	Pottery fabric NVC
16226	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW
16293	Pottery fabric BSW
16394	Pottery fabrics BSW GRF

16457	Pottery fabric BSW
16215	Pottery jar G21 (GRS), fabric OXRC
16254	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery dish B2/B4 (GRS)
16452	Pottery fabric GRS
16506	Pottery fabric GRS
16243	Pottery jar G5.5 (GRS), fabric HAX
16313	Pottery dish B4 (HAB)

With the exception of a possibly intrusive sherd of Oxfordshire red colour-coated ware in 16215, none of these features contained any pottery that exclusively dates to the late 3rd century AD and beyond. The identified forms provide a broad mid 2nd to mid 3rd century AD date range.

Pits 6006=6116, 6007=6135, 6030, 6040, 6096, 6109, 6141, 6151, 6169, 6182, 6209, 6267, 6762 (delete?), 6873, 16058, 16088, 16149, 16315 (Fig. H25)

Consider including 16066 here?

Mention transitional (mid/late Rom) nature of some; i.e. 6267, 6169, but close assoc with better dated mid Rom examples. NB 6267 + 16058 currently in Period V. Possibly all late in this period?

The majority of the excavated mid Roman pits formed two clusters; in the centre and on the south side of Area H. However, these groups appear to have been closely associated, all but pits 6006=6116 and 6109 being rectilinear in plan.

The southern group (pits 6006, 6007, 6030, 6109 and 6182) were of moderate size, ranging from 1.2m to 1.7m diameter, though only a maximum of 0.4 deep.

The central group (pits 6169, 6209, 6267, 6335, 6873, 16058, 16088 and 16149) were located over and around the Period III well 6280. All were square to rectangular in plan and of uniform proportion. Furthermore, they were similarly aligned NNW-SSE with all but pits 6335, 16088 and 16149 forming a line. Their alignment, and the location of pits 6209, 6267 and 6335 in the top of the infilled well, suggest their deliberate positioning in relation to the well.

Both clusters' finds assemblages were characterized by large quantities of tile, pot and bone along with a significant metalwork component. Notably, pit 16149 was apparently cut by a smaller feature 16108 which contained the lower half of a ceramic vessel. Tilted to one side, this was originally thought to be a storage jar oven. However, the greyware jar was too deeply buried and too steeply inclined to have been used as an oven. Instead, it was more likely placed whole and upright and may even have been integral to pit 16149 itself. While a practical use is probable, 'ritual' deposition is not discounted.

Pits 6006 / 6116, 6007 / 6135, 6030, 6096, 6109, 6134, 6141, 6151, 6169, 6182, 6209, 6267, 6762 (delete?), 16058, 16066, 16088, 16149

6006	Samian cup f33 (EGSW) Other pottery dishes B3.2 (GRF GRS) B4 (BSW) B5.1 (BSW), bowl-jars E2.1 (GRS) E6 (GRS), jars G5.5 (GRS) G24 (GRS), beaker H34 (BSW), fabrics HAX NVC
6116	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW
6007	Samian bowl f44 (EGSW) Other pottery dishes B4 (BSW GRS) B5.1 (GRF) B6.1 (BSW), mortarium D11 (BUFM), jars G5.5 (BSW GRS) G24.1 (GRS), fabrics NVC COLC
6030	Pottery dishes B3.2 (GRS) B4 (GRS) B5 (BSW) B6.2 (GRS), mortarium D11 (BUFM), bowl-jar E5 (GRS), jars G5.5 (GRS) G24 (BSW) G36 (RET), beaker H32 (COLC), fabrics HAR LSH EGRHN HAX Coin Radiate, AD 200-235 (SF 1670)
6040	Pottery dish B4 (GRS BSW) bowl-jar E2 (GRS), fabrics BB1 COLC
6109	Samian dish f31R (EGSW) Other pottery dishes B2 (BSW) B5.1 (BSW), jars G5.5 (GRS BSW) G40.1 (GRS), fabric COLC
6141	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS
6151	Pottery dishes B2/B4 (GRS, BSW) B3.2 (BSW) B6 (GRS, GRF), mortarium D3 (BUFM) jar G24 (GRS), beaker H20 (COLC), fabrics EGRHN NVC RET HAX
6169	Samian bowl f37 (EGSW) Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery dishes B1 (NVC) B2/B4 (GRS) B5.1 (BSW), jar G42 (STOR), beakers H32 (NVC) H35 (BSW), fabric OXWM Coin AE4, 4th century AD (SF 1645)
6182*	Pottery dishes B3.2 (GRS) B4 (BSW GRF), jars G5.5 (BSW GRS) G5.6 (GRS), beaker H34

	(BSW), fabrics CGRHN EGRHN NVC COLC
6209	Pottery dishes B3.2 (BSW) B4 (BSW), fabrics COLC NVC Brooch Lamberton Moor (SF 2321)
6267*	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery Dishes B3.2 (GRS) B6 (BSW), mortarium D3 (BUFM) D5 (OXWM) D11 (BUFM), bowl-jar E2 (GRS), jars G5.5 (GRS BSW) G9 (GRS) G24.1 (RET) G26 (RED) G42 (GRS), beakers H33 (GRF) H34 (BSW), fabrics NVC NVM
6762	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW
6873	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Gauloise 4 (AGAUL) Other pottery dishes B2/B4 (BSW) B5 (BSW), bowl-jar E2 (GRS), jars G5.5 (GRS) G25 (GRS) G36 (BSW) G42 (GRF STOR), beaker H34 (GRS)
16058	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery dish B4 (BSW) B6 (GRS), bowl-jars E6.1 (GRS), jars G5.5 (BSW GRS), beaker H24 (UCC) H34.2 (GRS), fabrics HAX NVC
16088*	Samian fabric EGSW Amphoras Gauloise 4 (AGAUL) Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery dish B3 (GRF) B4 (GRF), mortarium D11 (BUFM), bowl-jar E5.4 (GRS), jars G5.5 (GRS BSW) G9 (GRF) G24 (GRS BSW) G25 (GRS), beakers H24.2 (GRS) H34 (GRS), fabrics NVC HAXM
16149	Pottery jar G5.5 (BSW), beaker H34 (HGG), flagon J6 (HAX)

While probably filled at different times, none of these pits is likely to date beyond the end of the 3rd century AD. The latest pits yielded pottery that included B5 and B6 dishes, which were deposited in the second half of the 3rd century AD. The remaining features received material up to the mid 3rd century AD. There are sherds of intrusive Saxon pottery in 16088 and 16149.

Period V

(Late 3rd to mid 4th century AD) (Fig. H26)

This period presents a peculiar mixture of evidence that suggests possible abandonment over much of the area, but with building going on in the eastern end, and an **impressive ?monumental** wall dividing east from west along the line of the eastern temple precinct wall **rewrite. This prob actually reflects our poor understanding!**

A substantial wall line is placed in this phase, as this is likely to be when it was constructed, although all the dates from it come from backfills of robber cuts, which are Period VI. It marked a very major boundary feature, which can really only be a wall, similar in appearance to the temple precinct wall in Area J. It would appear to have been a masonry construction, although set with wooden posts, so perhaps it had a masonry footing only, and the upper reaches were timbered, perhaps even arched.

It must also represent the late aspect of a pre-existing boundary; there is a marked difference in the landuse patterns east and west of its line (although this must be tempered by the knowledge that nothing earlier than Period IV was excavated to the east). There was very little structural to the west of this line, while to the east there was a rash of post-holes all over the surfaces. The line extended to the north the line of the temple precinct wall, separated from this only by the 6m or 7m width of Road 4. This line (31.5m east of the temple shrine, 35.5m east of the furthest western point of the temple) has no obvious importance within H other than to extend the line of the precinct wall; it has no obvious relationship with anything else on any sensible multiple of 31.5m or 35.5m, for example. Nevertheless it does seem to mark an important, even if only symbolic, boundary. As a physical barrier, it must be negligible; you would only have to walk along one of the roads to avoid it, but it could mark a boundary between sacred and profane spaces, for example.

It would appear that roughly this same line dictated the point at which ditch 25258 diverged from its roadside course, to provide a rebated entrance into the area from Road 5; if this was the case, then here was another example of the control of traffic movement, the visitor coming along Road 5 being required to make the detour to approach through the (presumably) imposing facade. This provides some evidence, too, that Road 5 was still in use this late. This period also saw the end of Road 4, very patchy and badly degraded, and by no means certain to be so late.

And this same point may be related to pit 6641 with its clearly significant deposit of pewter bowls/dishes **and other ?non-random selection of finds**. However, caution needs to be sounded over the dating of this feature, which is problematical, as the majority of its finds suggests it ought to be earlier. **It is accepted here that its latest dated pottery provides the correct date, and thus that the rest were antiques when deposited, (or just plain old boring residual, which seems less satisfactory and is not actually an explanation anyway) but is it really all that likely that pottery would survive or be curated in such a way?**

To the south west was the destruction of building 55; it is probably a mixture of actual destruction deposits and assorted debris accumulating over these, but the bulk of it falls into this phase. To the extreme east of the Area, the land around Building 56 saw more post-holes, but these were difficult to make any plans out of. There was almost certainly a building across the line of Road 4 at this point. Structurally, there was otherwise just a small cluster of post-holes in the north-east of the area; it is difficult to determine whether the clustering is a real pattern (*i.e.*, it is difficult to be sure there were not more of them elsewhere), but certainly the explosion of posts outside the line of the wall must reflect different landuse there; there was no sign of this density of building anywhere else in Area H.

There were still surprisingly few finds in the few pits. It is just possible that the answer lies in the amount of material allowed to accumulate in the 'occupation layers': can we really see a build-up of debris all over the area, replacing pit-disposal as the way the

inhabitants dealt with their rubbish at the end of the life of the settlement? This explanation might have been tempting in other areas, but there were never many pits in H in any period, so it does not carry much weight in this instance.

No individual structure could be identified with any certainty. There were lots of post-holes cut into the road surface, and the off-road surface, east of the boundary wall Structure 49, which clearly represented at least two or three buildings in this spot, but it was simply not possible to pin down any individual plan with confidence, nor even to be sure that they made buildings rather than fences or single walls corresponding to the ?monumental wall. Those actually cut into Road 4 provided the best group, probably making a building not unlike Building 56 in this area, or Building 59 next door in Area L (or even Building 66 further along in Area M), but it is probable that this pattern simply stood out because these were all so clearly cut into an already well-defined small area.

Note cluster of late features in NE corner of Area H.

Structure 44: Wall / fenceline 16177, 16179, 16196, 16197, 16261, 16265 (Fig. H27)

The position of a likely wall or major fenceline was marked by sinuous slot 16196 / 16197 which ran roughly NNW-SSE across the east end of Area H. Its line was punctuated by a series of large, regularly spaced, post-holes (16177, 16179, 16261 and 16265). It was traced from the edge of Road 4, for a distance of 15.5m, before becoming obscured beneath unexcavated deposits. It is presumed that the slot extended northwards as far as the edge of Road 5.

The slot itself appears too irregular to have been a foundation and is more plausibly interpreted as a robber-trench. The bulbous southern end of slot 16197 is suggestive of robbing of the post from post-hole 16265. The slot and its component post-holes contained large quantities of tile and significant amounts of rubble stone, principally septaria and quern fragments, which could be the remains of a robbed-out wall footing or dwarf wall which ran between the posts. (mention tesserae?) As such, this boundary most probably marked the eastern extent of a tangible plot as marked elsewhere by the surviving roads 1, 4 and 5. To what extent this late Roman feature perpetuated an earlier boundary, either tangible or notional, is uncertain.

Wall / fenceline 16177, 16179, 16196, 16197, 16261, 16265

16177	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW
16179	Pottery mortarium D14.1 (NVM) bowl-jar E2 (GRS), fabric NVP
16196	Pottery dish B6 (GRS), jar G24.1 (GRS), beakers H41 (NVC), fabric OXRCM
16197*	Pottery dishes B1 (BB1) B6.3 (BB1), mortaria D6 (OXSWM) D14 (NVM) bowl-jars E2 (GRS BSW) jars G9.4 (BB1) G24 (GRS BSW) G32 (HAX) G42 (GRF), fabrics OXRC ALH
16261	Pottery fabrics BSW OXWM
16265	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW

Just two features, 16179 and 16261, are likely to have been infilled by the mid 4th century AD. 16196 and more certainly 16197 received material, possibly including redeposited rubbish, during the second half of the 4th century AD or later.

Road 4: 5396, 5489, 5499, 5827, 5850, 6128, 6129, 16308 (Fig. H8)

The late Roman use of Road 4 was represented by degraded surfaces and repairs. Even the more substantial of these gravel layers, 6129, 5396, 5489 and 5850, were loose and broken with a significant silt component. Layer 16308 may have been the result of similar degradation of the top of the easternmost surface (16292). 6129 was only in the region of 2.5m wide, though it may have allowed continued use of the surviving width of Period IV surface 6130 as well, combining with it to a width of 6-7m.

At its junction with Roads 1 and 2, this phase of Road 4 was found to underlie Road 1 surfaces (see Area I). Thus it is likely that Road 4 continued to function throughout the 3rd century and perhaps into the 4th century AD, albeit in a rather *ad hoc* state.

Layers 6008, 6020, 6025, 6043, 6050, 6118, 6153, 6172, 6174, 6226, 6227, 6269, 16130, 16166, 16187, 16236, 16311

The majority of these are dark sandy silts. Being generally homogenous, some of these were little better than arbitrary spits (e.g. 6008, 6269, 16130, 16166) removed in an effort to define distinct features and deposits more clearly. These layers extended over the top of surfaces and roads, apparently occupation layers, but equally possibly related to abandonment.

The majority of these layers yielded large quantities of finds of a wide range of types, but chiefly, as usual, pottery and cbm. It seems clear enough that most of these are real archaeological layers, although they probably also include undistinguished features within them. It is very interesting that nearly all those with specifically noted residual contents have specifically mid-third century residual pottery. This suggests that there was not much activity in the later third century in this area. A scan of the pottery dates from the area as a whole suggests that this may well be the case; only 13 assemblages of late third or late third-early fourth century are listed for Area H. Even if we allow that some of this pottery may be less distinctively dateable, this does appear to suggest a real gap, or at least a drop, in activity during this period here.

Equally, there can be no doubt there was a strong period of activity in the fourth century. Even if the origin of these layers is obscure, there are features cut into them which can only be occupation activities. **Some might call these 'dark earths' but they'd have to define what they meant by that.** They look awfully rich in finds to be 'cultivation soils', unless having lots of bits of pottery in your soil was supposed to help with drainage. It is not quite so simple, either, to make them into destruction and abandonment layers, given that activity clearly did continue above them. 6025, for example, is very rich in metal finds, including coins, yet it was overlain by (admittedly patchy) gravel surface 6020 and may even have been a deliberate make-up for that surface.

There is a possibility that those with the clearly residual content may have been more than a single deposit in each case, not recognized in excavation, one representing the top of a third century sequence, the other the bottom of a fourth century sequence. Of those with such pottery, only 16311 and 6118 would present any problem being interpreted thus (they both have late Roman features below). So there would then be a case for the existence of some abandonment layer, sealing many features, deposited in the mid third century and marking a period of relative inactivity in this Area. It would also be worth pointing out that all these layers lie in the south and east of the Area, so that it would not be possible to extend this observation to the north-western half of H.

This idea also happens to match the lack of evidence for much work on Road 5 in particular later than late second or early third century, but it contrasts with the apparent importance attached to the area when the boundary wall was erected and new buildings sprang up alongside it.

6008 has one 15g sherd of Saxon pottery among its 555 total sherds (30kg). As there seems to be both middle and late Roman involved among the other 554, raising the possibility of some uncertainty over the security of this context, it looks not unreasonable to banish the Saxon sherd to the contamination bin, and assume there were unrecognized features within this layer to which we can assign a late Roman date overall. 16166 had pottery of early or middle Roman dates but is stratigraphically clearly late. Otherwise all of these have late third to mid fourth century, or fourth century, or even late fourth century pottery, often with much

residual material as well, especially noticeable (though not necessarily any more prevalent?) among those with late fourth century dates. Most are at or near the top of the sequence in their area, and are not earlier than fourth century on stratigraphic grounds. 6118, 6153, 6172, 6174, 16236 and 16311 are more involved in real stratigraphy, with features clearly recognized cutting them; all the features above are late fourth century where dated.

6118 is the only one of these whose pottery is mostly late third century (although with a range of fourth century material too). 6153 and 6226 may be a continuous build-up throughout the late third to late fourth centuries. 6174 has pot of mid second to late third century but this is nearly all residual, its stratigraphy insisting it is no earlier than late third. Likewise 16166 can be no earlier than late fourth century, though its pot is all late second to mid third, while 16311 can be no earlier than fourth century despite its third century pottery.

Layers 6008, 6020, 6025, 6043, 6050, 6118, 6153, 6172, 6174, 6226, 6227, 6269, 16130, 16166, 16187, 16236, 16311, Pit 6641

6008	Pottery dishes B3.2 (BSW GRS) B5.1 (BSW GRS) B5.3 (LSH) B6.1 (GRS) B6.2 (BSW) B6.3 (BB1) B6 (NVC), mortaria D3 (OXSWM) D10 (OXWM) D14 (NVM), bowl-jar E6.1 (GRS), jars G24.2 (GRS) G27 (LSH) G42 (BSW), beakers H32 (GRS), lid K7 (NVC), fabric HAX OXRC OXP Coins AE3, Constans, AD 347-348 (SF 877)
6020	Pottery dish B6 (BSW GRS), bowl C8 (OXRC HAX), bowl-jars E1 (GRS) E2 (GRS), jar G24.1 (LSH), fabrics RET NVC Coins AE4, AD 300-399 (SF 831); AE3, House of Constantine, AD 330-337 (SF 871)
6025	Amphora Gauloise 4 (AGAUL) Other pottery dishes B3.2 (GRS) B5.1 (GRS) B6.1 (BSW) B6.2 (BSW) B6 (NVC), bowls C8 (NVC HAX) C25 (OXRC), bowl-jar E2 (BSW GRS), jars G26 (GRS) G28 (GRS) G27 (LSH) G41 (ALH) G42.2 STOR, beaker H32 (NVC) Coins AE3, Constantius II Caesar, AD 323-324 (SF 825); AE4, House of Theodosius, AD 394-408 (SF 826); AE3, Constantius II Caesar, AD 330-335 (AF 832); AE3, House of Valentinian, AD 364-378 (SF 884); AE3, House of Constantine, AD 330-335 (SF 886); AE4, AD 300-399 (SF 893); AE3, AD 347-348 (SF 1250); AE3, House of Constantine, AD 313-316 (SF 1767)
6042	Pottery dish B6.2 (GRS) Coins Radiate, Claudius II, AD 268-270 (SF 888); AE3, House of Constantine, AD 347-348 (SF 889)
6050	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery fabric BSW
6118	Pottery dishes B1 (BB1 LSH) B3.2 (GRS) B5.1 (GRS) B6.2 (BSW), bowl C8 (HAX), mortarium D14 (NVM), bowl-jar E2 (BSW), jars G25.1 (GRS) G42 (GRS STOR), fabrics OXRC OXWM RET Coins Barbarous radiate, AD 238-244 (SF 1653); AE3, Constantine I, AD 323-324 (SF 1655); AE3, Valentinian I, AD 364-367 (SF 1656); AE3, House of Valentinian, AD 364-378 (SF 1658)
6153	Pottery bowl C8.2 (HAX), mortarium D14 (NVM), jar G9.4 (BB1), beakers H35 (GRS), fabrics RET LSH NVC OXRCM Coins AE3, Constantine I, AD 319 (SF 1678); denarius, Geta Caesar, AD 200-202 (SF 1679); AE3, House of Constantine, AD 330-337 (SF 1681); AE3, Constantine I, AD 321 (SF 1684); radiate, Valentinian, AD 365-367 (SF 1688); radiate, AD 260-290 (SF 2322)
6172	Pottery dishes B5 (GRS) B6 (GRS), mortarium D12 (OXRCM), jar G9 (BB1), fabric NVC
6173	Pottery dish B2 (BSW)
6226	Pottery dishes B5.1 (HAB) B6.2 (BSW), bowl C1 (NVP), mortarium D14 (NVM), bowl-jar E2 (BSW), beakers H32/3 (NVC) H34 (BSW), fabrics RET LSH OXRC Coins AE4, AD 353-360 (SF 2326); AE3, House of Valentinian, AD 364-367 (SF 2327)
6227	Pottery dish B6 (NVC), bowl C8 (OXRC), fabrics RET HAX LSH Coins Radiate, Gallienus, AD 253-268 (SF 2340); AE4, House of Theodosius, AD 383-402 (SF 2345); barbarous radiate, AD 260-290 (SF 2349)
6269	Pottery dish B6.2 (GRS), bowl-jar E2 (GRS), fabric RET Coins AE3, Valens, AD 364-367 (SF 2471); AE3, Valentinian I, AD 364-375 (SF 2473); AE3, House of Theodosius, AD 383-387 (SF 2474); AE3, Constantius II, AD 337-341 (SF 2475)
16166	Amphora Gauloise 4 (AGAUL) Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery dish B2 (HAB), jar G42 (GRS), flagons J3 (HAR) J6 (HAWO), fabric NVC
16187	Pottery dishes B5.3 (LSH) B6 (NVC), bowl C18 (NVC), mortarium D14 (NVM), bowl-jar E2 (GRS), jars G27.2 (LSH) G24 (RET) G26 (HAWO) G27 (LSH), fabrics OXP OXRC MHM Coins AE3, Constantine I, AD 316-317 (SF 7177); AE3, House of Constantine, AD 347-348 (SF 7178); AE4, Theodosius, AD 388-395 (SF 7179); AE3, House of Valentinian, AD 364-378 (SF

	7180); AE3, House of Valentinian, AD 364-375 (SF 7182)
16236	Pottery dish B6 (BSW), bowl-jar E2 (GRS), jar G26 (GRS), lid K7 (NVC), fabrics BB1 LSH
16311	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery dish B6 (GRF), bowl-jar E2 (GRS), jar G37 (STOR), beaker H34 (BSW), fabrics HAB HAX NVC
6641	Pottery dishes B1 (BB1) B5 (GRF), mortarium D7 (OXSWM), bowl-jar E2 (BSW), fabrics RET OXRC HAX

Most of these deposits produced very large pottery assemblages, including mid to late 4th century+ material. Where such material, for example Oxfordshire red colour-coat and late shell-tempered ware, is absent, the pottery can usually be given a late 3rd or 4th century AD date. Residual pottery dating up to the mid 3rd century AD was recovered from all deposits.

Pit 6641 (Fig. H28)

Originally interpreted as a likely well, pit 6641 was an irregular oval cut some 2.8m by 2.5m and 1.2m in depth. The cut was steep-sided and cut through natural brickearth, its base intruding into underlying gravel. No traces of a timber or clay lining were discerned, although five possible post or stake impressions were noted in the north-western edge. Bottom fill 6640 contained large amounts of bone but most importantly five pewter bowls and dishes ([ref to pewter report](#)). Due to the difficult, waterlogged, working conditions, it was not possible to investigate their deposition in detail, although it is clear that they represented a deliberately deposited hoard ([ref to struc dep report](#)). Given their location at the bottom of this shaft-like feature, it is likely that pit 6641 was constructed specifically for the purpose of their interment.

Although recorded as part of fill 6640, the 14kg of tile retrieved from the pit in fact was a sealing deposit overlying the initial covering of the hoard. A further fill (xxxx) represented the complete infilling of the pit with 6639 perhaps being the result of gradual accumulation within the subsequent slump hollow. Although all fills contained 4th century AD pottery, a considerable 1st-3rd century residual element was present, presumably derived from infilling with rubbishy soils. No ‘special’ aspect has been identified in the ceramic or animal bone assemblages. – [headless horse!](#)

Pits 6127, 6149, 6191, 6223, 6317, 6527, 6590, 16159, 16162, 16200, 16214, 16228, 16263 (Fig. H29)

The late Roman pits were generally rounded and between 1m and 1.75m in maximum dimension. Overall, depth varied from 0.1m to 0.8m, within which with two distinct groups may be discerned; (6127, 6149, 6191, 6223, 6317, 6527, 16159, 16162, 16214) were all under 0.23m, the rest all in excess of 0.5m.

These pits seem to have been scattered across Area H, examples being identified wherever excavation was undertaken. However, pits 16214, 16228 and 16263 may constitute a line of the more substantial examples alongside Road/Track 4 and it may be possible to speculate the association of pit 6590 with ‘votive’ pit 6641. Pit 6590 contained lenses of brickearth in its fills which may hint at packing, perhaps within a large post-hole marking the votive pit.

Finds assemblages from these late pits are moderate in quantity in comparison with those of other areas, but are still typified by an increase in tile, stone rubble and possibly animal bone. They contain nothing to contradict a use for domestic rubbish disposal, with no discernible difference between the two depth-groupings.

Pits 6127, 6149, 6191, 6223, 6267, 6317, 6527, 6590, 16058, 16159, 16162, 16200, 16214, 16228, 16263

6127	Pottery B6.1 (GRS), bowl-jar E2 (GRS)
6149	Pottery dishes B3 (BB2) B5.1 (GRS) B6.2 (GRF), jar G24 (RET), fabrics HAX NVC OXWM
6191	Pottery fabric LSH
6223	Pottery dish B1 (BSW GRS), fabric NVC

6267	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery dishes B3.2 (GRS) B6 (BSW), mortarium D5 (OXWM), bowl-jar E2 (GRS), jars G9 (GRS) G24.1 (RET) G26 (RED) G42 (GRS), beakers H33 (GRF) H34 (GRS), fabrics NVM NVC
6317	Pottery dish B6 (GRS), bowl-jar E2 (GRS), jars G9 (GRS), fabric RET HAX
6527	Pottery fabric GRS
6590	Pottery bowl-jar E2 (GRS), fabrics BB2 NVC
16058	Pottery dish B6 (GRS), bowl-jar E6.1 (GRS), beaker H34.2 (GRS), fabrics NVC HAX
16159	Pottery dish B6 (HAB), bowl C8 (OXRC), fabric HAX
16162	Pottery dishes B1 (HAB) B2 (GRS) B4 (HAB) B5 (BB1) B6 (GRS)
16200	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS
16214	Pottery dishes B2/B4 (BSW) B3 (HAB), mortarium D13 (REDM), jars G5.5 (BSW GRS) G26 (GRF), fabrics HAR HAWO
16228	Pottery fabric NVP
16263	Pottery dish B6 (BSW GRF), beaker H42 (BSW)

Most of these pits are likely to have been infilled during the second half of the 3rd century or the first half of the 4th century AD. The pottery from pit 16214 is unlikely to date beyond the mid 3rd century AD, while 6191 and 16159 yielded mid to late 4th century+ material.

Slots 6058, 6252, 16283, 16204, 16200 (Fig. H30)

[Descrip here.](#)

Slots 6058, 6252, 16283, 16200, 16204

6058	Pottery dish B4 (BSW), jar G24.1 (GRS), lid K7 (NVC), fabric OXSWM
6252	Pottery dish B5 (GRS) Coin radiate, Gallienus, AD 267-268 (SF 2330)
16283	Pottery dish B2 (BSW), jar G24 (RET)
16200	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS

Slots 6252 and 16283 produced pottery dating to the second half of the 3rd century AD. The date of the former is supported by the radiate of Gallienus also present. Slot 6058 appears to date later; the Oxfordshire white-slipped red ware mortarium provides a mid to late 4th century date, although with little to support this date, the single sherd may be intrusive.

Period VI (Fig. H26)

Latest Roman-early Saxon (AD360 and beyond)

It may be worth bearing in mind that the 'late fourth century' division is really dictated by more distinctive (and supposedly more closely dated) pottery and need not always imply a later date than 'fourth century' which may be an otherwise identical assemblage lacking the diagnostic sherds. At the other end, the 'Saxon' dating also relies entirely on pottery, nearly always a tiny minority of the sherds in any context, and again need not necessarily imply a later date, much less the ethnicity of the pottery-consumers.

There may have been a fresh surfacing episode, which may have been part of either Road 1 or Road 5; but nothing about it is clear. It would certainly be anomalous if it were a fresh road surface this late, and scarcely less so if it were off-road surfacing, but it is not even certain it is a surface at all, it may be just a dump with a high gravel/pebble content.

A major ditch, 25260, certainly the same ditch that runs through Areas L and M, runs from the eastern edge of this area further out to the east. It tends to lend some support to the possibility of the continued existence of Road 4, though it has nothing to say about new surfaces for the road. It is difficult to see how it could be related to ditch 25115, which would support the continued presence of a junction where Roads 1 and 5 meet. If 25115 is not allowed to be curving around to respect this junction, it would be wholly at odds with every other alignment on the site; not enough of it survived to expand on its function.

25260 may also be important since this is the only place where it can be seen to be below any other feature; out eastwards it is always the latest feature in the sequence, perhaps a suggestion that the density of settlement was very much less further east than this, even contracting? It is also important for its finds, which are chiefly bulky rubble (cbm, even stone), which suggests they derive from the demolition of some large structure, not implausibly the Period V boundary wall line.

If we do allow the evidence that the roads continued in use, or at least to be respected, right up to this phase, then Building 61 belongs here, though strictly its stratigraphy only makes it 'no earlier than mid third century'. It is a slight but clear rectangular beamslot structure, 4.8m by 3.5m, similar to Building 55, but leaving even less substantial traces. As usual, there is nothing to hint at its function. It lies over the junction of roads 1 and 5, as does a group of other post-holes, which may be part of the same occupation, though it is hard to make anything convincing out of them.

Roads: No real evidence of any new work this late on any of the roads survived, and building over the top of Road 1 at least suggests they were now defunct.

There is very little else which need be so late: four pits and three hearths.

Ditch 25260 (16185, 16231, 16338) (Fig. H31)

Located in the east of Area H, ditch 25260 ran alongside Road/Track 4. The 15m length exposed ended in a rounded terminal coinciding with the end of Period V Structure 44. This ditch can be traced eastward across Areas L and M (*cite context nos.*) and, tentatively, into Area A3, on an ENE-WSW alignment. Within Area H, the ditch was relatively broad and shallow, averaging 2m in width and only 0.06-0.25m depth. It appears to define the northern edge of Track 4 and clearly was associated with the boundary represented by Structure 44.

The ditch contained large quantities of tile, Greensand and septaria rubble which may argue for the its deliberate infilling, or at least purposeful disposal of demolition material within it.

EB notes the pottery in 16333 is very similar in type and condition to that in 16196, the robbing of the northern extremity of the wall line, even to the extent of some sherd linkages; both assemblages are very abraded and may have been deposited (or redeposited) as late as sometime in the fifth century.

Ditch 25260 (segments 16185, 16231, 16338)

16185	Pottery dish B6 (BSW GRF)
16231	Pottery dish B6 (HAB), mortarium D14 (NVC), jar G9 (BB1) G32 (HAX), beaker H41 (NVC), fabrics HAR RET LSH OXRCM OXRC
16338*	Pottery dish B6 (GRS BSW), fabrics NVC ALH RET BB1 HAX NVM LSH OXRC

The latest pottery dates the infilling of these ditch segments to the second half of the 4th century AD. However, much of the pottery, including the latest material, is abraded and may have been redeposited, perhaps even as late as the 5th century AD.

Layers 6008, 6742, 6755, 6786, 6895

Overlying the junction of Roads 1 and 5 and extending into the adjacent interior of Area H were layers of gravelly silt 6742, 6755, 6786, 6895 which could possibly have been degraded surfaces in their own right, but were more likely a mixture of road wash and silt accumulation.

Some material (e.g. 6008) may also have been derived from the deterioration of underlying gravel surfaces which could account for the gravelly nature of the late soils which accumulated across the whole of Area H from Period V onwards. Indeed, it is impossible to distinguish the majority of these homogenous deposits as being either Period V or VI. However, features of this period cut into these layers, so indicating that they do not represent the final abandonment and growth of soil over the area but appear to have accumulated as use deposits.

Layers 6008, 6742, 6755, 6786, 6895

6008	Pottery dishes B5.3 (LSH) B6.1 (GRS) B6.2 (BSW) B6.3 (BB1), mortaria D3 (OXSWM) D14 (NVM), bowl-jar E6.1 (GRS), jar G27 (LSH), lid K7 (NVC), fabric OXRC HAX OXP Coin AE3, Constans, AD 347-348 (SF 877)
6742	Pottery dishes B5 (BSW) B6 (HAB), jar G24 (RET), beaker H41 (NVC), fabrics HAX BB1 Coins Radiate, Carausius, AD 287-293 (SF 3426, 3428); radiate, Tetricus, AD 271-272 (SF 3427); AE3, House of Valentinian, AD 364-375 (SF 3430)
6755	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW

Layer 6008 produced late Roman pottery dating its deposition to the second half of the 4th century AD. Layer 6742 contained nothing later than mid 4th century AD; its late 4th century date is confirmed only by the latest coin present. These deposits contained considerable quantities of mainly 3rd century residual pottery and deposit 6786 produced 2nd century pottery.

Building 61 (6196, 6200) (Fig. H32)

Building 61 was situated on the junction of Roads 1 and 5. It comprised a single very shallow slot 6196 which was cut into the upper road surfaces. This slot defined three sides of the structure and returns for the fourth, describing a bow-sided rectangle of 4.8m by 3.5m. Truncation had clearly removed the southern and much of the western wall which, in places, was little more than a stain or impression in the road surface. The eastern side does not appear to have suffered the same degree of truncation and the gap in its slot may have been real, defining a doorway. At the north end of the interior, clay deposit 6200 was either a floor fragment or, more likely, the base of a hearth. Primary records allude to an unnumbered patch of 'dirty gravel' in the southern part of Building 61 which may have been the result of wear.

The building was deliberately located on the road junction. It is likely that its gravel surfaces, perhaps the only part of the road clearly visible amid an encroaching build-up of silt, were selected as a solid foundation and floor for the structure. The positioning of the building clearly indicates that at least part of the road network had ceased to function as a series of thoroughfares though was still a discernible part of the landscape.

Building 61: 6196, 6200

6196	Pottery fabrics GRS BUFM
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This feature contained undiagnostic Roman pottery.

Hearths 16181, 16273 **review**

16181 was a pad of tile fragments set one course deep in roughly a 70cm square on top of a clay pad (16198). There is some evidence of burning, especially of the clay rather than the tile. There is also a chunk of limestone on top of the tile. This may not be a hearth at all, but a post-pad set into the top of a pit, or even, conceivably, a bit of bonded rubble thrown in as a fill (though no record of bonding on context sheet).

16273 seems to be a tile-built hearth set on top of a post-hole; or rather, a tile lining in a small hole (about 50cm diameter, very roughly round), above which is a burnt fill. However, 16270 looks to have too wide a range of finds to be the actual use fill of a hearth (including some slag and some iron ?lumps; could it have been for iron- working?).

Neither of the tile structures is very convincing as a hearth at all, but the alternative explanations are no better. 16181, given its proximity to the other rubble derived from wall line, could probably be more of the same, if there was any indication it had been bonded, but then what sort of wall are we looking for? Tile as a base course of some sort? It certainly looks to be a single deliberate square rather than simply jumbled rubble. 16273 can hardly be a small furnace, so it may just be a dump of tile too, but again it does look set, not dumped.

Hearths 16181, 16273

16181	Pottery fabric LSH
16273	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW

The pottery from 16181 provides a second half of the 4th century AD+ date; that from 16273 is undiagnostic, though not inconsistent with a latest Roman date.

Other misc. features: 16480, 16302, 16386, 16390, 16392

post-holes in assoc with ditch 16338? Next to its end. Implications of it being on/ blocking Road 4?

Mention likelihood of virtually all of the other features cut into this bit of Road 4 being Latest Rom/Sax – is there a structure? Slot 16433.

Post-holes 16480, 16450, 16386

16480	Pottery fabric LSH
16302	Pottery dish B6 (BSW), fabrics OXRC RET LSH HAX
16450	Pottery jar G27.2 (LSH)
16386	Pottery fabric ALH

All these features yielded pottery dating to the second half of the 4th century AD+.

Pit 16450

inc pot and 24 tessera

Ditch all of these?

Period VII

(post 5th century AD) (Fig. H26)

In this area, a post-medieval fence line is the only feature of this latest, post-abandonment period. The most notable thing about this is its remarkable adherence to the alignment of the boundary wall line of Period V.

Structure 59: Fenceline 6004, 6009, 6011, 6013, 6015, 6017, 6021, 6023, 6027, 6051, 6068, 6073, 6087, 6092, 6094, 16105, 16111, 16114, 16127, 16151, 16247, 16165, 16286, 16438, 16453

(Fig. H33)

An NNW-SSE alignment of 26 post-holes ran across the eastern end of Area H continuing into both Areas G and J to either side. The post-holes were the latest stratigraphic features, visibly cutting the late Roman layers which covered much of the area and the surfaces of Roads 4 and 5. The cuts were all square to sub-square, vertically sided and on average xxm deep.

While containing a range of material of Periods II through to VI, the presence of post-medieval tile fragments in post-holes 6068, 6087 and 6092 reveals this to have been wholly residual. Further incidence of post-medieval tile in further post-holes in Area G would seem to confirm this. A spread of such tile was noted during machine stripping, principally in the vicinity of post-holes 6068 and 6092. It is speculated that these two post-holes mark the position of a gateway through a fence which, due to the passage of animals through it and to the soft nature of the ground underfoot created by the presence of underlying ditches 25259 and 25115, required consolidation.

Fenceline 6004, 6009, 6011, 6013, 6015, 6017, 6021, 6023, 6027, 6051, 6068, 6073, 6087, 6092, 6094, 16105, 16111, 16114, 16127, 16151, 16165, 16286, 16438, 16453

Most of the pottery recovered from these postholes consists of undiagnostic bodysherds in a mixture of fabrics. The presence of post-medieval tile in a number of fills confirms that the Roman pottery (and early Saxon in 2 cases) present is wholly residual.