

AREA I

Area I was located in the south-west of Area A1, bounded by Road 1 to the east, Road 2 to the south, the edge of excavation to the west and extending northwards as far as major ditch 25027; the most southerly feature of Areas D and F. This area was originally excavated as part of Area J and not separated as a distinct area until post-excavation. Consequently, Areas I and J share a context number sequence.

Following machine clearance, a number of features were discerned, cut into the dark brown silts which extended across the whole of the area. However, little patterning of these features was evident. Indeed, an apparent 10m-wide ring-gully was found to be no more than truncated dumps or midden deposits on further investigation. Obvious features were excavated, while others were only recorded as being cut from this level, and controlled removal of the homogenous silts (i.e. the Period III B dumps, see below) was undertaken by machine over the south-east part of the area. Approximately 0.3m of deposits were removed in spits down to the underlying gravel surface 5935 *et al*, with features and pottery concentrations being investigated/recorded/collected as this proceeded. All exposed features cut into the gravel surface were then investigated, although little of the gravel surface itself was removed and underlying features only rarely excavated. Beyond the south-east of Area I, excavation was generally limited to a series of trenches running off the roads and into the area's interior. Within these, the homogenous silt deposits were again removed by machine.

Summary of phasing:

Period:	Sub-period	Description:	Period / date:
I		-	Middle Iron Age?
II	A	Early activity - pits and gullies	LPRIA–early Roman transition
	B	Major reorganisation – roads, surface & occupation	
III	A	Dumping episode, reorganisation	Early Roman
	B	Post-dumping occupation	
IV		?Public space - well & monumental post	Mid Roman
V		Abandoned, open and overgrown?	Late Roman
VI		Partial reoccupation, roads abandoned	Latest Roman-Saxon
VII		-	

Period I

No features predating the late Iron Age were identified within Area I. However, very little investigation was undertaken below the Period II B surface which extended over the majority of the area.

Period II (Fig. I1)

Division of the LIA-ER transitional period was clear-cut in Area I, the division being the major episode of reorganisation represented by the laying of gravel surface 5935 *et al.* The features sealed below this surface dated to the late 1st century BC to early 1st AD (Period II A) and amounted to little more than a few gullies and pits which protruded from beneath and so were targeted for excavation. However, they served to indicate the presence of earlier occupation in this area. The gravel surface itself and all Iron Age features above it are included in Period II B. As discussed elsewhere, the surface was laid as part of a reorganisation of the settlement as a whole (ref.). The LIA features above constituted the first phase(s) of occupation on the newly created surface.

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

Very little of the Period II B gravel surface was removed, and consequently few earlier features were revealed. However, the few that were investigated show that early occupation features did extend this far west. Judging by the very disturbed nature of the surface of the natural sand and gravel into which these features were cut, it is clear that the area suffered significant truncation during the II B reorganisation of the area (ref.). It is likely that virtually all shallow features would have been removed by this event. Beyond the extent of the gravel surface, a pair of parallel minor ditches clearly predated Road 1.

Ditches 25121 (seg. 18228), 25224 (seg. 13680) (Fig. I2)

Minor parallel ditches, or perhaps major gullies, 25121 and 25224 ran on an ENE-WSW alignment. Most significantly, they predated the earliest surfaces of Road 1. Both clearly continued significantly eastwards, with further parts of 25121 being recorded as ditch 6865 and 25224 as 16118 in Area H.

Ditches 25121 and 25224

18228	Pottery fabric GROG
13680	Pottery fabric GROG

Pottery consistent with a Late Iron Age date was recovered from these ditch segments.

Pits 13678, 21050 (Fig. I3)

Pit 13678 cut both ditches 25121 and 25224. It was a small sub-rectangular feature. Pit 21050 was a partially-exposed large, circular, pit. Estimated to have been more than 2m in diameter, it was covered by Period II B gravel surface 5935. Neither pit contained substantial finds assemblages capable of indicating their function.

Period II A pits

13678	Pottery fabric GROG
21050	Pottery fabric GROG

The pottery provides a Late Iron Age infilling date.

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

The start of Period II B is unequivocally marked by the construction of a gravel surface across much of Area I. This was part of a restructuring of form and layout which can be traced across much of the settlement area investigated. The surface was laid immediately after the imposition of Roads 1 and 2, almost certainly as part of a single scheme. Where road and interior surfacing were removed, they were found to be constructed directly on natural sand and gravel. Disturbance of the natural surface was usually also noted. This, together with the absence of any trace of remnant land surface or soils, indicates that the restructuring episode was a massive one.

With Roads 1 and 2 defining the southern and eastern perimeters of a tangible land unit or plot, its gravel-surfaced interior was subsequently occupied by domestic structures. A total of ten circular structures, possibly small roundhouses (Buildings 17 to 26) were identified along with

fragments of roadside fencelines and other structures, the foundations of which cut the metalled surface. The former represent at least two phases of roundhouse construction forming tight clusters. Pits were conspicuously absent from Area I in this Period, presumably being located away from what must have been dwellings, perhaps outside the compound or fenced plot in which they sat. However, it is noted that the western part of this land unit was not investigated.

Road 1: 5826 (Fig. I4)

Only the west edge of the very southern end of Road 1 was excavated in Area I. Gravel layer 5826 was the earliest surface revealed here. The road edge at this point was not marked by a ditch or gully, and tended to merge with adjacent plot-interior surface 5786. This road surface cannot be closely dated as overlying deposits are mid-2nd century AD. Its identification as a LIA-early Roman transition feature largely relies upon its evidently close association with the mid-1st century gravel surface of the plot interior. Levels taken across the surface of 5826 itself illustrate the road camber quite nicely; with a width of some 8m, there was a 0.15 to 0.20m camber.

Road 2: 18331, 13109, 13381 (Fig. I5)

As with Road 1, it is possible that the lowest layers of Road 2 may not have been reached. However, compacted gravel deposits 18331, 13109 were the earliest *surviving* surface of the road, with the latter set upon orange-brown sandy silt bedding layer 13381.

Although little of compacted surface 18331 was exposed, it is likely that it was indeed the earliest surface and contemporary with metalled occupation surface 5935 *et al* - as succeeding road surface 18607 directly overlay both.

Gravel surface: 5774, 5786, 5878, 5935, 13016, 13370, 13405, 13553, 13571, 13648, 18834, 18839, 18892

A uniform deposit of flint pebbles in pea-grit was found across much of Area I. It was mainly investigated at the southern end of the area, as surface 5935, and revealed intermittently in trenches and slots elsewhere, particularly along the Road 1 and 2 frontages. This very extensive, 0.1m thick compacted gravel surface ran up to (and in some cases under) road surfaces to its south and east. It gradually faded to the north and extended beyond the western edge of excavation. The gravel used in its construction had been carefully graded and was perhaps bonded in places. The northwards limit seems to have coincided reasonably closely with the extent of underlying natural sands and gravels, where these gave way to brickearth.

The artefactual content of this deposit was low, perhaps reflecting both the low contemporary contamination of its clean, graded, constituents, and the solidity of its construction, preventing later intrusions. However, it is also acknowledged that little of the surface was actually excavated so the low volume of finds could also reflect the low volume of excavation. It was also possibly deliberately swept clean while still in use. Animal bone was collected from a few of its recorded parts, but pottery was rare. A brooch and two late Roman coins were collected from surface 5935 which serves to introduce a note of caution as regards the reliability these contexts, but also suggests that any finds that did work their way into this layer did not do so until late in the life of the site when this surface was no longer in use. As a result, like the surrounding roads, the date of its construction is difficult to determine with any precision. A mid-1st century AD date is as close as we can estimate it.

The surface of this gravel deposit was observed to display slight and subtle wear patterns, interpreted as ‘foot traffic’, as well as disturbance by later wheel ruts. Overall, it remained in good condition, being kept clean and needing no significant repair, throughout its life. This was in large part due to its short life, as it was abandoned and covered with a thick deposit of silts in the late 1st or early 2nd centuries AD (ref.).

Gravel Surface

5935	Brooch Reversed fantail (SF 6478)
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13553	Amphora Dr.1/Dr.2-4 (AITAL)
18834	Samian Bowl Curle 11 (SGSW) Other pottery fabric COLBM
18839	Brooch Colchester B (SF 7279)
18892	Pottery fabrics STOR GRS

The finds recovered from these deposits provide a broad Late Iron Age or early Roman date.

Fenceline 25261: 13029, 18802, 18803, 18811, 18815, 18817, 18891

Lengths of narrow gully or slot occurred in a number of the trenches alongside Roads 1 and 2. These slots appear to have marked the boundary between road surface and gravelled plot interior. Alongside Road 2, slot 25261 incorporated a number of post- and stake-holes along its length. These slot and post-hole arrangements presumably represented the position of a fence line. The presence of a boundary during this transitional period indicates that the area bounded by the Roads 1 and 2 was indeed a tangible land unit. The dating evidence all derived from backfills indicating the disuse of the fences during the early Roman period.

Fenceline 25261

13029	Pottery beaker H1.3 (GRS), fabric GROG
18802	Pottery platter A2 (GRS), dish B7.1 (BSW)
18803	Pottery fabric GRS
18811	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS
18891	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS

These features yielded pottery dating to the second half of the 1st century AD.

Buildings 17 to 26 (Figs. I6 & I7)

A total of ten buildings, or parts of them, have been identified occupying the gravel surface in the south-west corner of Area I. All were circular stake- or post-built structures. The plans of some were very clear (*e.g.*, Buildings 17 to 21), while others are more tentative, being reconstructed from ‘left-over’ post-holes and conspicuous spaces (*e.g.*, Buildings 22 to 26). These buildings were all of similar size, excepting Building 23, their radii ranging from 2.5m to 3.9m with an average of 2.8m (or a floor area of 24.6m²).

As reconstructed from the mass of post-holes, stake-holes and slots, the circles intersect, indicating at least two structural phases. Unfortunately there is not a single stratigraphic relationship to permit any determination of which buildings were later or earlier. Only Building 22 and possibly Building 19 could have stood throughout the period. It is likely that the others represent three phases each of three buildings (possibly triptychs formed of: 20, 22 and 24; 18, 25 and 26; and 19, 21 and 23?). The ephemeral nature of their foundation features may suggest that they were relatively insubstantial and regularly replaced during the short span of time the gravel surface was used. It is likely that at least some of these were dwellings occupying a fenced compound, perhaps fronting onto Road 2. The location of buildings was apparently restricted to the extent of the gravel surface as no structural features were found beyond its northern extent.

Building 17

A ring of post-holes, with centre post, also incorporating a short length of foundation slot along its south-western perimeter. There were also traces of an outer ring of stake-holes, particularly around its south side. 3.6m radius. Its component features contained both LIA and Romanizing pottery suggesting a mid 1st century AD date.

Building 17

13683	Pottery fabrics GROG STOR
13689	Pottery fabric GRS
13698	Pottery fabric BSW
13700	Pottery fabric BSW
13710	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS
13731	Pottery fabric STOR
13854	Pottery beaker <i>Cam</i> 113 (NGWF)

The North Gaulish beaker recovered from 13854 dates to the first half of the 1st century AD. The remaining pottery is consistent with the later part of this date.

Building 18

A ring of closely spaced large stake-holes. A small number of similarly-sized stake-holes within its interior may have been the remains of internal supports or structure. Approximately one third exposed, estimated 2.8m radius. Its component features contained mid-1st century AD pottery.

Building 18

13936	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS GROG
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One feature yielded a small group of pottery dating to the mid 1st century AD.

Building 19

A ring of fairly regularly spaced stake-holes. Possible entrance on its south side. Internal stake- and post-holes and may represent internal supports. 2.3m radius. No finds from its component features. Possibly a further ring of post-holes on the exterior, but too few of them and no convincing explanation for those 'missing'.

Building 20

A ring of stake-holes. Internal stake-holes suggest internal structures. Less than half of the structure traced, estimated 2.75m radius. A single sherd of black-surfaced ware jar collected. This may be the least convincing of these buildings.

Building 20

18068	Pottery jar G3 (BSW)
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Dating evidence from these features is very scanty; a jar dating to the second half of the 1st century AD was recovered from a single post-hole.

Building 21

A curving foundation slot ending in a post-hole and two tentatively associated stake-holes. 3.0m radius. The slot contained mid-late 1st century AD pottery.

Building 21

18048	Pottery jar G5.1 (ESH)
18058	Samian platter f18 (SGSW), bowl f37 (SGSW) Other pottery fabric BSW
18134	Pottery platter A2 (BSW)

The early shell-tempered jar in 18048 dates to the second half of the 1st century. The remaining pottery is consistent with this.

Building 22

Four similarly-sized, small, post-holes, set apart from the other structures. A larger, centrally-located post-hole may represent the position of a central support. Estimated 2.6m radius. Component features included bone fragments and a single sherd of black-surfaced ware pottery. Remaining elements of this structure would have lain beyond the area of excavation..

Building 22

13912	Pottery fabric GRS
18054	Pottery fabric GRS

This pottery can be dated no closer than Roman.

Building 23

Tentative arcing arrangement of widely spaced stake-holes. 3.9m radius. Human infant remains in possible doorway post-hole 13167 (ref.).

Building 23

13637	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW GRF STOR
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A small amount of Roman pottery was recovered from post-hole 13637.

Building 24

Double ring of stake-holes. Approximately half the structure traceable. 2.7m radius. No finds.

Building 25

Very tentative association of four stake-holes. 2.9m radius. No finds.

Building 26

Double ring of stake-holes, though the outer is rather tentative. 2.0-2.5m radius. No finds.

Structure 11: 13908, 13914, 13916, 18046, 18050 (Figs. I6 & I7)

An arrangement of five, relatively large, post-holes stood out as the only structural features between Buildings 21 and 22. All were vertical-sided with flat bottoms and depths between 0.16m and 0.25m, which was relatively deep for such features of this date. As interpreted, they formed a small triangle, perhaps some sort of rack, although they might just be the remains of a dividing fence between Buildings 21 and 22. Their fills only contained small quantities of animal bone fragments.

This was the most convincing of the non-roundhouse structures. Other possible post- and stake-built structures in the vicinity included another possible triangular drying rack (Structure 13), a north-to-south fence line (Structure 14) and perhaps another triangular or half-rectangular structure (Structure 15).

Structure 12: 18094, 18096, 18098, 18104, 18108 (Fig. I6)

These uniform, evenly-spaced stake holes run NE-SW for just 2m, in the space between Buildings 19 and 20, and presumably fenced these buildings apart from one another, hinting that they were contemporary.

Structure 13: 18343, 18344, 18345, 18340, 18389, 18341, 5988

A possible right-angled line of stake- and post-holes to the east of Building 17.

Structure 14: 18397, 18178, 18148?, 13984, 13982, 13980, 13976, 18373, 18142

A line of post-holes, some 10m long, immediately to the east of Building 19.

Structure 15: 18043, 13970, 13966, 13960, 13580, 13990, 13986, 18140?

A tentative right-angled post-hole alignment to the south-east of Building 19.

Structure 16: 18072, 18074, 18076, 18078, 18080, 18082, 18084, 18086, 18088, 18090

A right-angled line of stake-holes, partially 'within' Building 20.

PERIOD III (Fig I8)

The Period II B occupation of the gravel surface continued into the early Roman period proper (Period III A) with no recognisable change in the form or layout of its buildings and boundary fences. However, during the late 1st to early 2nd century AD the surface, and the structures upon it, were abandoned. This act of abandonment appears sudden and probably deliberate, with the largely unworn gravel surface being buried under extensive dumping of rubbish-rich silts (Period III B). It is postulated that this dumping episode was a concerted effort to raise the ground surface by at least 0.3m. The catalyst for this is unidentified but it could have been in response to seasonal or freak flooding of this part of the settlement. It is notable that, at this time, the ground surfaces of Areas H and I seem to have been as much as 0.7-0.8 m lower than adjacent Areas J and K in Period II. Both had their average surface level raised by 0.25 to 0.30m between Periods II and III (judging by the rather crude measure of the average recorded top level of deposits and top fills of cut features)

Following the raising of the land surface, the plot was reoccupied. However, this subsequent activity was markedly different from that on the earlier gravel surface. The plot now appears to have been subdivided by fencelines (Structures 36 and 37), running away from the Road 1 and 2

frontages, into at least two sub-plots. The sub-plot to the north-east contained buildings along the road frontage, while that to the south-west lay largely open and was notably pit-free. Its principal features were deep 'trench' 25049, possibly a latrine, likely monumental post-setting 13331 and a number of hearths and storage jar ovens (such as those in Area H). It is posited that, in its later stage of early Roman use, this plot had a close association with both Areas J and H, perhaps being part of the public area around the temple itself. This is the only recorded incidence of an early gravel surface being abandoned so early and so completely, perhaps due to an expansion of activities and facilities associated with the religious function of this part of the settlement.

Road 1: 5847, 5870, 5871 (Fig. I4)

Little of Road 1 in this area can be securely dated between the lowest surface and the latest (which belongs in Period V). There were several episodes of repair (e.g.5847) and silty build-ups (e.g. 5870, 5871) at the foot of the camber that could fall in this period. Even their relationship to the III A dump layers is not clearly defined and could be earlier.

Road 2: 5861, 5914, 5845, 5971, 13063; 18607, 18328,18327, 18326 (Fig. I4)

While more excavation took place on Road 2 than on Road 1 in this area, there is no greater certainty over dating any of the episodes revealed. Of the surfacing episodes, 5861 can be dated no closer than mid-first to early second century AD. It was overlain by early second century silt 5914. The next surface up, 5845 may also belong here, although it could also be as late as mid-third century. It was bedded on sand and gravel layer 5971 which overlay two deposits of silty wash from the earlier surface, although these in turn overlay not road surface but 18834, part of the wider plot-interior surface laid in Period II. Certainly, some of the silty road-wash build-ups can be dated to the early Roman period (e.g. 5852, 5914, probably 5934) and more may be assumed to be of this date too (5883, 5941 underlay 5852). 13063, one of the best of the road surface layers, may also belong here. It included a surprising number of small metal objects (brooches, cosmetic tools, nails) apparently compacted into the surface itself.

The westernmost excavated sequence through Road 2 is perhaps more informative. Metalled surface 18607 directly overlay the earliest, Period II B, surface and also the edge of occupation surface 5935. It survived to an apparent total width of just over 5m, rising up at its south-east side where it presumably merged with Road 3. Thin layer of silt 18328 had accumulated on its surface before this phase of road was buried under thick bedding/levelling deposit 18327 - preparation for overlying road surface 18326. This bedding layer is noteworthy because its particular thickness at the north-west side of the road suggests that it was laid in order to bring the road level up to that of the raised surface of the plot interior brought about by the Period III B dumping episode. The precise relationship between dumps and bedding/levelling layer was not established, but Period III B post-hole 18301 certainly cut the latter. It is thus posited that road surface 18326, above, is probably 2nd century and contemporary with Period III B occupation while surface 18328 and its overlying silt accumulation can almost certainly be no later than Period III A.

The later road surface 18326 appears to have been laid in a slight cut within its bedding/levelling layer and survived to a width of 4.3m. It too was overlain by thick silt-build-up 18325 that must represent use-accumulation. Unfortunately, this had been removed by machine and no artefactual material collected from which to infer either date or nature. Its inclusion in Period III B can only be assumed.

While the details may not be totally secure, it is nevertheless clear that the roads continued to be used and maintained throughout this period. It is also noticeable that silty deposits accumulated alongside and above them here, which does not generally seem to be the case in other areas until much later.

Road 2: 5861, 5914, 5845, 5971, 13063

5861	Samian dish f18/31 or f31 (CGSW) Other pottery fabrics BSW GRF
5914	Samian cup f33 (CGSW) Other pottery jar G24 (GRS)

13063	Samian dish f31 (EGSW) Brooches penannular (SF 5094) trumpet (SF 5292)
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The dating evidence is mixed; the penannular brooch in 13063 dates no later than the end of the 1st century AD, while the trumpet brooch is assigned a mid to late 2nd century AD date. This later date is supported by the samian.

Period III A

The Period II B gravel surfaced interior continued to be occupied by the roundhouses and was apparently kept clean into the late 1st century AD, and perhaps beyond. The only apparent change in the nature of this activity was represented by the appearance of large pits alongside or amidst the roundhouses, together with ditches (*i.e.*, 25120, 25122), which coincided with the north edge of the gravel surface. The ditches may have been a complimentary addition to the roundhouse complex - perhaps marking its northern extent. The pits seem more disruptive and might denote a short interim period of use between surface abandonment and concerted Period III B dumping.

Ditches 25120 (seg. 18204) and 25122 (seg. 18358)

Shallow ditch 25120 lay toward the northern end of the SW excavated part of Area I. Aligned roughly NNE-SSW, it had an irregularly-shaped rounded terminal at its eastern end and extended beyond the western edge of excavation. This ditch probably represented a plot boundary or internal sub-division. It lay *c.*26m from, and parallel with, the Road 2 frontage. It is possible that the terminal marks one side of an access between the two plots, a postulated eastern part perhaps extending across to the edge of Road 1.

Underlying this ditch was slighter ditch 25122 that probably dates to this sub-period but cannot be interpreted meaningfully.

Ditches 25120 and 25122

18204	Samian platter f18 (SGSW), cup f27g (SGSW) Other pottery jars G17.1 (BSW) G19 (BSW) G20 (BSW) GRS) G44.4 (STOR), beaker H1 (BSW)
18358	Brooch T-shaped (SF 6476)

Segment 18204 produced a large ceramic assemblage, providing a late 1st century AD infilling date. Segment 18358, yielding a late 1st to early 2nd century AD brooch, is thus broadly contemporary with 18204.

Pits 13640, 13717, 13771, 13824, 13883, 18338 (Fig. I9)

While at least some of the Period II B roundhouses continued to occupy the gravel surface early in Period III, this space was now encroached upon by a number of large circular-to-oval pits, generally 2.5m to 3m in diameter and often in excess of 0.5m deep. All but unexcavated pit 18338 yielded large quantities of finds, with a broad range of artefact types which presumably reflects the nature of the surrounding occupation activities during the late 1st century AD. All but pits 18338 and 13883 were located in a band across the south-western excavated part of Area I. These may have been peripheral to the surviving roundhouses, all of which would have lain to their south (Buildings 20, 21, 23, 25 cannot have still been standing). Their spacing suggests that these pits were all broadly contemporary.

Of the four central pits, 13640 was notable for the ceramic phallus amulet (SF6093) it contained. Otherwise the contents of these pits appeared to be of a purely domestic nature, comprising large amounts of pottery together with fragments of tile, loomweight, briquetage, animal bone and metalwork. The fill sequences of pits 13771 and 13824 displayed evidence of being only partially infilled when subsequently overlain by the Period III B dump deposits, the upper fills sharing both physical characteristics and dating with the layers above.

Of the two 'outlying' pits, 13883 was over 1m deep and cut into poorly-draining natural brickearth. As a result, its lower fills were waterlogged and organic-rich, yielding fragments of leather (*ref.*) as well as seeds, nuts, molluscs and beetles (*Ref. to enviro reports*). These indicate that the pit stood in open ground, amongst nettles and short vegetation, and remained open and water-filled for a period. Remains of synanthropic insect species hinted at the presence of human

occupation and timber buildings not far away. Unfortunately this pit tells us little about the activities of the rest of Area I, being located on the opposite side of plot boundary ditch 25120 to the other pits and roundhouses, and thus belonging to an area almost wholly unexplored between Area I and Areas D/F.

Period III A pits

13640	Samian platter f18R (SGSW), bowl f30 (SGSW), cup f27 (SGSW) Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery platter A2.2 (BSW), bowls C2.1 (GRF) C14 (BSW) C29 (GRS), jars G3.1 (GRS) G4 (GROGC) G8 (GRF) G16 (GRS) G17.1 (BSW GRS) G19.4 (BSW) G20.2 (BSW), beakers H1.1 (BSW GRS) H7 (BSW), flagon J3 (VRW) Brooch Nauheim derivative (SF 6095)
13717	Samian platter f18 (SGSW), bowl f37 (CGSW), cup f35 (CGSW) Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery platter A2.1 (BSW), dish B7.1 (BSW), bowls C1 (BSW) C6 (NKO) C16 (BSW), jars G3 (GRS) G4.1 (GRS) G5.2 (GRS) G8 (BSW) G17.1 (GRS BSW) G19 (GRS) G20.1 (BSW) G29.1 (BSW), beakers H1.3 (GRF) H7 (BSW) Coin Semis, Nero, AD 64-66 (SF 6100) Brooch Colchester B (6097)
13771	Samian dish f18/31R (CGSW), bowl f30 (CGSW), cup f33 (CGSW) Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery platters A2.1 (BSW) A2.2 (BSW), dish B7 (BSW), bowl C28 (BSW), mortarium D1.1 (COLBM), bowl-jar E6.2 (BSW), jars G3 (GRS) G4 (ESH) G17.1 (BSW) G17.2 (GRS) G19 (GRS) G20.1 (BSW) G23.2 (BSW GRS), beakers H1.3 (BSW GRS) H7 (GRF), flagon J3.2 (VRW)
13824	Samian dish f31 (CGSW), cup f33 (CGSW) Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery jars G5.5 (GRS) G9 (GRS) G29 (GRS), beaker H1 (BSW), flagon J2.1 (RED), fabrics LYN BB2
13883	Samian platter f18 (SGSW), bowls f30 (SGSW), cup f27 (SGSW) Other pottery platter A2.2 (BSW), mortarium D1 (BUFM), jars G3 (STOR) G5.1 (GRS) G17.1 (BSW) G19.4 (BSW) G20 (GRS) G23.2 (BSW GRS), flagon J3.2 (COLB), fabric HAWOM

The range of forms present, supported by the coin and brooches in 13717 and 13640, and general absence of grog-tempered wares strongly suggests that these pits were filled during the late 1st century AD. Pits 13717, 13771 and 13824 received additional material in the form of BB2 dishes probably during the first half of the 2nd century.

Period III B (Fig. I10)

The earliest Roman period occupation of Area I was relatively short-lived, with the gravel surface quickly abandoned and apparently deliberately covered with a series of dumps of brown silts with a high herbivore dung content. These deposits contained a large quantity and wide range of artefacts, including a significant residual element. These deposits have been interpreted as redeposited midden or perhaps even pit fill material. This dumping episode is probably end of the 1st -early 2nd century in date. The deposition of these rubbish-rich silts raised the land surface by around 0.2m to 0.3m, and was restricted to the plot interior, not significantly encroaching upon the roads which remained in use and, in places, themselves seem to have been raised and resurfaced. It is postulated that the gravel surface was abandoned and the land surface raised in response to ?localized, perhaps seasonal or freak, flooding. If this were the case, it might be expected that the dumping would have been more widespread and not restricted only to this single plot. Indeed, similar raising was undertaken in Area H, although there not by means of such a massive single dump, but rather more incrementally, and accompanied by numerous new gravelled surfaces. Alternatively, though less likely, the silt could have been imported specifically to allow the re-vegetation of the plot so that it became a garden. While it is possible that these soils represent natural formations, under the influence of cattle stocking in the area, this seems the least likely of the options.

Following the dumping episode, the plot was reoccupied in the early 2nd century AD. However, its character was now significantly different. The plot interior was now subdivided by fences and gullies, and those few buildings that did exist appear to have been positioned along the eastern road frontage, rather than centrally in the plot. The character of its western part seems now distinctly non-domestic. Monumental post 13331 and large 'trench' 25049, the latter tentatively interpreted as a communal latrine, may indicate a public use - perhaps even associated with the temple precinct. The presence of clustered hearths, including storage jar hearths, is similar to Area H which is also posited to have a function related to the religious focus.

Dump deposits: 5494, 5496, 5688, 5693, 5709, 5764, 5765, 5775, 5776, 5877, 5883, 5907, 5925, 5936, 5951, 5971, 5972, 5987, 5990, 10071, 13037, 13038, 13039, 13040, 13041, 13042, 13053, 13147, 13151, 13199, 13213, 13221, 13261, 13354, 13355, 13360, 13406, 13418, 13445, 13451, 13468, 13491, 13498, 13514, 13556, 13557, 13568, 13576, 13596, 13597, 13687, 13823, 13851, 18205, 18355, 18356, 18359, 18362, 18363, 18364, 18365, 18366, 18367, 18500-04, 18507 (Fig. I10)

Approximately 0.3m of silts overlay Period II B gravel surface 5935 *et al* were spread across almost the whole of Area I, running up to/onto Roads 1 and 2 and thinning out to the north toward contemporary ditch 25015 in Area F. The definition of different soils within, and of features cutting it, was generally poor - although 'Trench' 25049 and the clay-lined post-holes of Structure 36 could be discerned in its exposed surface.

During its machine removal, variations in soil type and artefact density were noted and, to some extent, the assigning of so many context numbers is a reflection of this. It is likely that within this broad grouping of silt layers there is contamination, residuality and intrusion - derived from features both above and below - hence the wide collective date range (mid 1st- mid 3rd century). Large and varied assemblages were collected from these deposits, suggesting that they contained a significant component of domestic rubbish.

Initially, this accumulated deposit was interpreted as an episode of deliberate dumping in an effort to raise the land-surface. Overall, this view still holds, but the agency of its deposition is unlikely to be quite as straight-forward. Much of the rubbish-rich silt may well have been transported in from elsewhere in the settlement (see ruts 13137 *et al*, below), but the identification of probable midden 5721-2 (see below) suggests that a significant amount of material may have simply been derived from the levelling of this *in situ* 'feature'. Alongside the roads, the dump deposits seem to be supplemented by road-wash material. Soil micromorphological analysis of sandy roadwash 5972 indicates conditions of high watertable, high phosphatic content; that of 5951/5987 middening, dung and waste ground. Deposits 5883/5839/5935 were dung-rich soils and the collective evidence suggests that a range of rubbish was being brought in to this area.

Period III B dump deposits

5494	Samian dish f31 (CGSW) Other pottery dishes B2 (BSW) B3.2 (BSW) B5.1 (GRF), mortarium D2 (BUFM), bowl-jar E2.2 (GRS), jar G5.5 (GRS), beaker H32.1 (NVC), flagon J3.2 (VRW)
5693	Samian dish f18/31-31 (CGSW), bowl f37 (CGSW), cup f27 (CGSW) Amphora Dr.20 (AGAUL) Gauloise 4 (AGAUL) Other pottery dish B2.1 (GRS), jar G29.1 (BSW GRS), beakers H20.2 (LRC) H6.3 (GRF) Brooch Zoomorphic (SF 3200)
5709	Samian dish f18/31 (CGSW) Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery platter A2 (BSW), jars G3.1 (BSW) G5.1 (ESH) G17 (BSW) G19.2 (GRS) G20 (BSW)
5722	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery platters A1.1 (GRF) A2.2 (BSW), jars G3 (GRS) G16.2 (BSW) G19 (BSW), fabrics ESH NKG
5764	Pottery bowl C1.1 (BSW), bowl-jar E2.2 (GRF), jar G29 (BSW), fabric BB2
5775	Pottery fabric BSW
5776	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS
5877	Samian bowl f37 (CGSW) Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery dishes B7 (GRS) B2/B4 (GRS), bowl C16 (GRS), jar G20 (BSW), flagon J3.2 (VRW), fabric LRC
5883	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Gauloise 4 (AGAUL) Other pottery platter A2.3 (BSW), dishes B2/B4 (BSW) B7.1 (BSW), bowls C2.2 (NKG) C16 (BSW), mortarium D1.1 (COLBM), beaker H6 (GRF) Brooch Colchester B (SF 3351)
5907	Samian dish f31R (CGSW), bowl f37 (CGSW), cups f27 (CGSW) f35 (SGSW) Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery platter A2.1 (BSW), dishes B3.2 (GRF) B7 (GRS BSW), bowl C16 (GRS), jar G19.2 (BSW), beaker H6 (GRF) flagon J3 (COLB) Coin Denarius, Julia Domna, AD 196-211 (SF 4746) Brooch Colchester BB (SF 3561)
5936	Samian platter f18 (SGSW), bowl f46 (SGSW), cup Ritt.9 (SGSW) Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery platter A2.2 (GRF), dish B7 (BSW GRS), bowl C12 (BSW), jars G4 (GRS) G17 (BSW) G19.1 (BSW) G19.2 (GRS) G19.4 (BSW) G20.1 (GRF BSW), beakers H1.6 (VRB) H7 (BSW), flagons J1

	(COLB) J3.2 (COLB) Brooch Colchester B (SF 3352, 3354)
5951	Samian platter f18 (SGSW), dish f18/31 (CGSW) Other pottery jars G17 (GRS) G19 (BSW) G21 (GRS) G22 (STOR), beaker H6 (NKG) Brooch Nauheim derivative (SF 3569)
5987	Pottery fabric GRS
5990	Pottery jar G19 (GRF)
13039	Pottery fabrics BUF STOR
13040	Pottery fabric BSW
13041	Pottery fabrics BUF STOR
13053	Samian fabric SGSW Other pottery jars G19 (GROG) G23 (GRS)
13199	Pottery platter A2 (BSW)
13213	Samian bowl f30 or f37 (SGSW) Other pottery dish B1.4 (BB2), jars G20 (GROG) G22 (STOR)
13221	Pottery fabrics BSW VRW GRS
13223	Pottery jar <i>Cam</i> 258 (ESH)
13354	Samian platter f18 (SGSW) Other pottery bowl C1.2 (BSW), beakers H1.3 (GRF) H20 (LRC)
13360	Amphora Gauloise 4 (AGAUL) Other pottery platters A1 (BSW) A2.2 (GRS), dish B4.2 (BB2), bowl C22 (GRF), jars G3.1 (BSW GRS) G17.1 (GRS) G19 (BSW) G20 (BSW), beakers H6 (NKG) H10 (GRF)
13418	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Brooch Early plate (SF4737)
13445	Samian dishes f31 (EGSW) f79 (CGSW) Other pottery dishes B2.1 (BSW) B5.2 (BB1), jar G5.5 (GRS), beakers H1 (HGG) H23 (NVC) H32 (NVC COLC), fabrics HAX EGRHN
13468	Pottery dish B2/B4 (BSW), bowl C26 (COLB), jar G17 (BSW), beaker H7.1 (BSW)
13491	Samian platter f18 (SGSW) Other pottery jar G3.2 (GRS), beakers H10 (NKG)
13498	Samian fabric SGSW Other pottery platter A2 (BSW), jars G5.1 (STOR) G19 (BSW) G20 (BSW), fabric COLCE Coin As, AD 41-64
13556	Samian platter f18 (SGSW), cup f27g (SGSW) Other pottery jar G44 (STOR)
13557	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery beaker H1.3 (BSW)
13568	Samian bowl f37 (EGSW), cup f33 (CGSW) Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery jars G5.2 (ESH) G20 (BSW) G29.1 (BSW GRS), beakers H6 (NKG) H20 (COLC), fabrics EGRHN NVC Brooch Hod Hill (SF 7022)
13576	Samian platter f18 (SGSW), bowl f37 (SGSW) Amphora Dr.2-4 (ARCAT) Other pottery platter A2.2 (BSW), dish B7 (BSW GRS), bowls C2 (GRF) C12 (BSW) C22 (GRF) C33 (GRS), mortarium D1.1 (BUFM), jars G3.1(BSW GRS) G5.1 (ESH) G17 (GRS) G19.2 (BSW) G19.3 (GRS) G19.4 (GRS) G20 (GRF), beaker H1.3 (GRS), flagon J3 (COLB) Brooch Hod Hill (SF 4758)
13596	Pottery fabric BSW
13597	Pottery fabric GRS
13687	Samian platter f18 (SGSW), dish f18/31 (CGSW) Other pottery platter A2 (BSW GRS), jars G9.1 (GRS) G17 (BSW) G19 (BSW) G29.1 (BSW), beaker H1.8 (GRS)
13823	Samian bowl f30 or f37 (SGSW) Other pottery platter A2 (BSW)
13851	Pottery platter A2 (BSW), jar G19 (BSW)
18500	Pottery fabric GROG

The pottery generally falls within a late 1st to early 2nd century AD date range, although the occasional presence of later forms, such as B2 and B3 dishes, suggests that some deposits continued to collect material up to the mid 2nd century AD. Both 13445 and 13568 yielded pottery dated later than this, extending deposition well into the later 2nd and early 3rd centuries AD.

Midden 5722

Apparent 10m-wide, roughly circular, gully 5722 was discerned as cutting the exposed surface of the dump deposits. Attempts to excavate this 'feature' revealed its circularity to be the product of the truncation of what had originally been a sequence of heaped silt deposits. This has subsequently been interpreted as the basal remains of a midden, around which the dump deposits accumulated. As discussed above, it is possible that at least some of the surrounding dump deposits were derived from the levelling of this midden and it is noteworthy that the pottery from this feature is similar to that of the dumps too.

Midden 5722

5722	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery platters A1 (GRF) A2 (BSW), jars G3 (GROGC GRS) G16 (BSW) G19 (BSW), fabrics ESH NKG COLB
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The pottery suggests accumulation over the period late first to early second century.

Ruts 13137, 13341, 13404, 13387, 13644, 13645 (Fig I10)

Cut into the top of the dump deposits were a series of wheel ruts that serve to demonstrate the passage of traffic through this vicinity. These collectively mark a narrow route only 2.0-2.5m wide but at least 23m long, curving in a broad arc roughly NW to SE. It is likely that further such ruts were not recognized within the silt dump layers, those recorded perhaps being the most prominent and often penetrating the silt to leave linear 'scars' upon the underlying gravel surface.

This activity appeared to predate the structures occupying the newly created land surface and it is tentatively suggested that it represents the movement of carts or barrows across the area - perhaps even bringing the dump material to this vicinity. However, it could equally relate to later, unassociated, traffic

Ruts

13641	Samian platter f18 (SGSW), cup f27 (SGSW) Other pottery fabrics BSW GRS
13404	Pottery dish B2.1 (BSW), jars G3.1 (BSW) G17.1 (GRS) G29.1 (BSW) G22.1 (GRS), fabrics NKG BB2
13387	Amphora Gauloise 4 (AGAUL)
13645	Samian platter f18R (SGSW) Other pottery platter A2 (BSW), jars G9.1 (BB) G19.3 (BSW) G29.1 (GRS)

Features 13404 and 13645 produced pottery dating to the first half of the 2nd century AD, a date with which the remaining pottery is consistent.

Gravel layers 5884, 5885, 5941, 5944, 5945, 5991, 5992, 13062, 13074, 13075, 18506 (Fig I10)

These were little more than patches of more-or-less loose gravel set in a silt matrix alongside Road 2. 5941 and 18506 formed a linear band of coarse gravel some 2m wide running parallel to and north of the road, with evidence of wear noted on its surface. It was overlain by (5944/5945) a less compact layer of coarse gravel and pebbles in a clayey silt, which may have been resurfacing or at least repair. 5992 was similar to 5941, about 1.6m wide and running parallel to the road. 13062 would have been similar again, 2m wide and parallel to the road, with 13074 and 13075 repairs to it. The other contexts were less convincing, but probably were evidence for similar, localized episodes of minor surfacing. It is not clear what would have occupied the couple of metres of space between the road and these paths, nor why such parallel courses were required. While it is tempting to say these could not have been roads themselves because they were so insubstantial, unfortunately, the 'real' road surfaces are often not any better. So it is possible these represent vestiges of a much wider phase of the road itself; it is not clear how the 'missing' section could have been removed, but there are many possible reasons.

These could perhaps be dated even earlier (to II B), since finds from their surfaces could belong to periods later than the construction date; stratigraphy seems to indicate they were mostly already out of use by the end of the first century. It is just possible, then that they represent not a wider Road 2 but an earlier line? On balance, however, it seems simpler to assume these were indeed separate from the roads proper.

Gravel layers

5885	Pottery beaker H6 (NKG), fabric COLC
5941	Pottery jar G3.2 (GRS) Coin As, AD 41-64 (SF 3365), Brooch Colchester B (SF 3374)
5944	Pottery jar G44.5 (GROGC)
5945	Brooch Colchester B (SF 8222)
5991	Pottery fabric BSW
5992	Samian bowls f36 (SGSW) Curle 11 (SGSW) Other pottery jars G19 (BSW) G23 (GRS), fabric COLC NKG

The material recovered from 5885 and 5992 is likely to have been deposited during the early 2nd century AD; that from 5941, 5944 and 5945 is earlier, dating to the second half of the 1st century AD. The black-surfaced ware from 5991 cannot be closely dated, but fits the offered dates.

Pits 13845, 13469, 18156/18157 (Fig. I11)

Early Roman pits post-dating the dump layers were rare, with only three examples identified within the excavated parts of Area I. All tended to be small and circular. Pit 13845 contained a significant Dr20 amphora component. Pit 13469 contained a complete dish, together with quantities of animal bone and stone rubble in what was perhaps a structured deposit. Pit 18156/ 18157 was a rounded cut truncated by 'trench' 25049 and erroneously excavated as part of it.

Period III B pits

13845	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery dish B2/B4 (GRS), jar G29 (BSW), beaker H26 (NKG), fabrics COLC CGRHN
13469	Pottery dishes B1 (BSW) B8 (BSW), jars G3 (GRS) G17 (GRS), fabric NKG

Pit 13845 yielded pottery that dates to the mid 2nd century AD. The absence of colour-coated wares and later dish forms suggests that the infilling of 13469 did not extend beyond the early 2nd century AD.

Trench 25049 (segs. 13756, 13901, 18155, 18697) (Fig. I12)

Substantial linear cut 25049 was approximately 12m long and generally 1.8m wide with rounded terminals at either end. For want of a better term, it is referred to here as a 'trench' due to its near-vertical sides and flat, horizontal, bottom some 0.65m deep. Its northern end cut earlier Period III B pit 18156, the fills of which apparently collapsed into the trench as it began to fill up, presumably following the trench's abandonment as a functioning feature.

The trench fills varied along its length to some extent, although typically it contained lower fills of weathered yellow sands and gravels, derived from degradation of the trench sides, overlain by brown sandy silt backfill. It is likely that the trench remained open for a period of time. In the northern end (segment 18155) one of the sand and gravel fills, 18023, was a dark, greenish-brown colour. It also contained an apparent recut in its top, which may be more plausibly seen as merely an accumulation into a slump hollow. In the southern end, the trench also contained green-brown sand 13826, but sand and gravel roadwash deposits, from adjacent Road 2, seal the top of the infilled feature.

The artefactual content of the trench was largely derived from its upper silt backfills and therefore related more to disuse than to its primary function. These finds comprised moderate quantities of pottery, tile and animal bone, although the top fill of segment 13901 is notable for the dump of 38kg of oyster shell it contained ([ref.](#)). The feature seems to have passed out of use in the mid- to late-2nd century AD. The green hue of some of the lower fills may provide a clue to the primary use of the feature, possibly suggesting disposal of cess. It is tentatively suggested that this trench may have been the remains of a latrine pit. The underlying natural gravel and sand would have facilitated good drainage.

A latrine may be expected to have been housed in some sort of structure. Contemporary fenceline Structure 36 ran immediately adjacent to the eastern side of the trench and it is possible that a relatively ephemeral wooden lean-to structure was constructed against it. Further post-holes 18301, 18273, 18279 and 18286 appear to enclose the southern end of the trench, perhaps denoting a wall or fence separating it from Road 2. However, there was no trace of screening between the trench and the concentration of hearths and ovens only some 7m to its east.

Trench 25049

13756*	Samian dishes f18/31R (CGSW) f31 (CGSW) Other pottery dish B2 (BB2), mortarium D1.2 (COLBM), jars G19 (BSW) G29.1 (BSW GRS), beakers H6.2 (NKG) H10 (NKG) H20 (LRC), flagon J3.1 (COLB), fabric COLC
13901*	Samian dish 31R (CGSW) Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Pottery dishes B2.3 (BB2) B7 (BSW), bowl C1 (NKG), jars G9.1 (BSW) G19.1 (BSW) G19.3 (GRS) G20 (BSW) G29.1 (GRS), beaker H6.1 (NKG) H6.2 (NKG), flagon J3.3 (COLB)
18155	Samian fabric CGSW Amphora Gauloise 4 (AGAUL) Other pottery dishes B2.1 (BSW) B4.2 (BB2),

mortarium D1.3 (VRWM), jars G19.1 (GRS) G29.1 (BSW)

All segments yielded pottery uniformly dating to the first half of the 2nd century AD. By the time of the final episodes of infilling, the emphasis is very much on the later part of this range.

Ditches/Slots 25048 (segs. 13438, 13739, 13819), **25117** (seg. 13242), **25118** (seg. 13737), **25119** (segs. 13436, 13827) (Fig. I13)

A number of slots, or the ends of small ditches, lay over and immediately south of defunct Period II B boundary ditch 25120. These also coincided with the underlying interface between gravel and brickearth natural and it is likely that their positioning was deliberate in relation to these, hinting at a perpetuation of this perimeter despite the intervention of the dumping episode.

NNW-SSE aligned slots or ditches 25118 and 25119 were parallel features that terminated at the same southerly extent. Their northern extents were not ascertained. Terminal fragment 13436 probably represented an earlier phase of 25119 while 25118 overlay a differently aligned slot, 25048. NNE-SSW aligned slot 25048 was shallow and broad with south-easterly returns at either end. These petered out but probably originally extended further south. A structural function is perhaps likely, forming the northern end of a rectilinear building of some sort. Whether or not it possessed a southern wall is unknown.

Although containing contradictory ceramic dating evidence (*i.e.* 4th century AD), slot 25117 seems best suited as a Period III B feature on the basis of alignment and perceived association. This 4.6m long feature was located close to and parallel with 25048. It also appears to have been positioned in relation to the square construction cut of the 'monumental post-hole' 13331. On the strength of this, its artefactual contents have been dismissed as contaminated (or more probably just mis-numbered?), although it remains possible that the slot was structural and that the fills derived from the time of its disuse / destruction.

Ditches / Slots 25048, 25117, 25118, 25119

13436	Pottery dish B2/B4 (BSW), beakers H6 (NKG) H20.2 (COLC)
13438	Pottery dish B2/B4 (BSW), jar G9 (BSW)
13739	Samian cup f33 (CGSW) Other pottery dish B2 (BB2), bowl C2 (NKG), jars G9 (BSW) G19 (GRS) G20 (GRS) G29.1 (GRS), beaker H6 (NKG)
13242	Samian bowl f38 or f44 (CGSW) Other pottery dishes B1.3 (HAB) B1.4 (BB1), fabric COLC
13737	Samian bowl f38 or f44 (CGSW), cup f33 (CGSW) Other pottery dish B2 (BSW), jar G20.1 (BSW), fabrics COLC VRW
13827	Samian bowl f37 (CGSW) Other pottery dish B2/B4 (BB2), mortarium D1 (COLBM), jars G17 (GRS) G19.3 (GRS) G29 (GRS)

The pottery recovered from these segments is likely to have been deposited during the first half of the 2nd century AD, probably at the later end of this range. By this time the presence of G19, G20 and G29 jars is residual.

Structure 36: 5190, 5191, 5193, 5195, 5197, 5199, 5672, 5708, 5712/5880, 5714/ 13707, 13181, 13182, 13464, 13616, 13658, 13660, 21040, 21042, 21044, 21046, 13465, 18719 (Fig. I14)

A total of 16 circular post-holes ran on a NNW-SSE alignment across the middle of Area I. All were packed with clean orange clay and many contained clear post-pipes. Post-hole size varied between 0.5m and 0.8m diameter and between 0.4m and 0.6m depth. Post-pipes were generally 0.1m in diameter, though depths varied. All were fairly evenly spaced at 2.5-3m intervals with the exception of post-hole 5197, set closer to 5190. Many contained higher than average pottery content for a post-hole, suggesting that pot sherds were deliberately included in the packing material. They also contained a number of nails, possibly from the fence itself.

Collectively, they formed a roughly straight line that was traced for 40m north-westwards from the edge of Road 2. A slight change in alignment is evident either side of post-hole 5197. To the south the alignment was parallel with adjacent 'Trench' 25049 while to the north they drifted slightly more to the north. These post-holes marked the position of a substantial wooden fence which probably extended northwards as far as east-west ditch 25015, in Area D, thus effectively bisecting the Area I plot.

Dated to the early to mid 2nd century, this fenceline seems to represent the subdivision of the plot as part of its reoccupation following the raising of its land surface. Its imposition possibly coincides with that of the fenceline along the road frontage as denoted by a similar line of clay-packed post-holes (Structure 37). Two further clay-packed post-holes 13465 and 18719, in the interior of Area I, may represent another, eastward, subdivision of the plot, though very little of this line was traced.

Structure 36

5190	Pottery dish B4.2 (BB2), jar G29.1 (BSW), fabric COLC
5672	Samian cup f33 (CGSW) Other pottery jars G9 (BSW), beakers H6 (NKG) H20 (COLC)
5708	Samian bowl f37 (CGSW) Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery dish B4.2 (BB2), jars G29.1 (GRS) G40 (BSW), fabric NKG
13707	Samian dishes f18/31R (CGSW) f31 (CGSW) Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery dish B2.2 (GRS), jar G45.1 (STOR), fabrics COLC NKG
13181	Samian dishes f31 (EGSW) f31R (CGSW) Tg (CGSW), bowl f36 (CGSW) Other pottery dish B7.1 (GRF), bowl C2.1 (GRF), jars G5.4 (BSW GRS) G19 (GRS), beakers H20.2 (COLC) H20.3 (COLC) H27.2 (COLC)
13182	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery jar G44.5 (STOR), beaker H1.3 (GRS)
13464	Pottery jars G19.4 (GRS) G24.1 (GRS)
13616	Samian dish f18/31 (CGSW) Other pottery platter A4.5 (BSW)
13658	Pottery fabrics COLC NKG
13660	Pottery jars G3 (BSW) G20 (BSW)

The bulk of the pottery recovered from these features dates to the first half of the 2nd century AD, perhaps closer to the mid 2nd century AD in the case of 13707 and 13181. The latter also contained a high proportion of intrusive 3rd and 4th century pottery (see Period VI). The platter in 13616 is almost certainly residual.

Structure 37: 5717, 5769, 13014, 13015, 13067, 13086, 13088, 13111, 13131, 13133, 13535, 18763, 21056, 21058, 13403

In the north-eastern areas of excavation within Area I, a fenceline ran alongside Roads 1 and 2. It comprised large, oval, post-holes, mostly c.0.7m across and 0.3-0.4m deep. All but southernmost post-holes 13014, 13015, 13535 and 18763 were packed with clean orange clay and contained clear, vertical, post-pipes which showed the posts themselves to have been 0.15m-0.20m diameter. It is likely that this represented a fence line that extended further to both the north and south.

Structure 37

5717	Pottery fabrics NVC HAR
5769	Pottery fabric BB2
13014	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS
13111	Pottery fabric GRS
13535	Pottery dish B7 (BSW GRS), jars G20 (BSW) G23 (GRS)
18763	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW
13403	Samian dishes f31 (CGSW) f31R (EGSW), bowl f37 (CGSW) Other pottery dishes B2/B4 (BSW GRS) B3.2 (BSW GRF), jars G5.5 (BSW GRS) G25 (GSW), fabric COLC

Post-hole 13535 contained the earliest pottery, dating to the early 2nd century AD. That from 13403 and 5769 is consistent with a mid 2nd century AD date. The presence of 3rd century+ Nene Valley colour-coated ware in 5717 may be intrusive.

'Monumental' post-hole 13331 (Fig. I15)

Post-hole 13331 was a vertical-sided pit some 2.4m square and in excess of 0.7m deep. Although disturbed by a later robber cut, this foundation pit contained the impression of the base of a substantial post within deposit of clean clay and gravel 13497 which lined the base of the cut and was used as packing around it. The vertical post had been approximately 0.4m in diameter at its foot, which gives a circumference of 1.25m, or approximately the size an adult male could comfortably wrap his arms around. This was clearly a substantial piece of timber, although with an original foundation depth of only c.1m it is difficult to believe that it stood to any great height (free-standing posts generally need to be planted to one-third of their total height). Material from its

packing deposit indicates a mid-2nd century AD construction date. The post was subsequently robbed out in Period IV.

Given that it stood in a relatively open area of the plot and was aligned on such features as 'trench' 25049, probably 'facing' Road 2, a civic, if not necessarily religious, function may be posited. Such 'monumental' features are known from elsewhere, the most local being Ivy Chimneys, Witham (F1977, Turner, 1999, 40). Its function need not necessarily have been religious, perhaps serving as a marker post of some sort (c.f., Alcester, Hemel Hempstead and Witham could be marker posts associated with a market). Given the changes in land-use wrought in Period IV, and the fact that this post-pit was cut into a Period III pit (13771), it is possible that the open space assigned to Period IV actually had its origins at the time this post was erected, around the end of this Period.

'Monumental' post-hole 13331

13331	Pottery dish B3.2 (GRS), beaker H20 (COLC)
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In addition to the mid 2nd century AD pottery that dates this feature, residual pottery dating up to the early 2nd century was recovered.

Building 49: 13249/13271, 13198, 13313 (Fig. I16)

Building 49 was principally represented by substantial right-angled slot 13271/13249. Three metres to its west, smaller slot 13198 and post-hole 13313 formed a parallel alignment; perhaps denoting an internal sub-division rather than constituting the back wall of this building. Traces of carbonized wood in the fill of slot 13271 may suggest that the building may have been destroyed by fire.

Building 49 was located on the frontage to Road 2, set back some 3.5m from its edge. However, parallel slot fragment 13158 and associated post-holes 15000 and 15002 occupy the intervening space and may represent a further part of the building, perhaps a porch or veranda.

Building 49

13249	Pottery mortarium D13.2 (COLBM), jar G23 (GRS), fabric COLC
13271	Pottery mortarium D13.2 (COLBM)

A date commencing from the mid 2nd century is provided by the presence of the Colchester buff ware mortaria.

Building 50 (Fig I17)

Building 50 was an ephemeral and tentatively-identified structure which lay directly alongside Road 2, in the south of Area I. Revealed in a roadside excavation, it consisted of narrow, deep, slot 13643 and possibly post-holes 13594, 13582 and ?13443 which may be construed to form parallel walls some 3m apart.

Building 50

13643	Pottery flagon J3.4 (VRW)
13594	Pottery jar G23.2 (GRS)
13582	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery jar G23 (GRS)
13443	Pottery dish B4 (BSW), jar G40 (GRS)

The flagon in 13643 and a dish in 13443, supported by the remaining pottery, provides a probable mid 2nd century AD date.

Building 51 (Fig. I18)

Conspicuous isolated cluster of post-holes 13144, 5791, 5802, 13113, and 13114 could constitute some sort of rectilinear structure with outlying post-hole 13130 possibly being a further part. Adjacent gravel layer 5941 could have been the remains of a surface alongside this building with hearths 5793 and 13035 just to the north-west.

Building 51

13113	Pottery fabrics GROG BSW COLB GRS
13115	Pottery fabrics GROG BSW GRS

Largely undiagnostic pottery was collected from these features, though the range of fabrics is consistent with a mid 1st century AD date.

Storage jar Ovens 5665, 5793, 5846, 5946, 5948, 13187, 13359, 13409, 13521, 13531, 13634, 18634 (Fig. I19)

The storage jar ovens were mostly identified either during the initial cleaning of the exposed surface of the dump deposits, or else within it, during their machine removal down to the underlying gravel surface. Generally similar to those of Area H (ref.) many showed signs of internal burning and the ground below 13187 was itself scorched. Some ovens, such as 5946 and 5948 and 13409 had been very disturbed both in antiquity and in machining of the dump deposits. As a consequence, some amounted to little more than concentrations of broken storage jar (e.g. 5665) and may be regarded as dubious as ovens.

Most of these ovens either clustered along the western edge of Area I or else appeared to have been positioned in close proximity to buildings (e.g. Buildings 49 and 51), perhaps to their rears.

Storage jar Ovens

5665	Pottery jar G44.5 (STOR)
5793	Pottery jars G20 (GRS) G22 (GRS), fabric STOR
5846	Pottery fabric STOR
5948	Pottery dish B2 (BSW)
13187	Pottery bowl C33 (GRS), beaker H1 (BSW), fabric STOR
13359	Pottery dish B7 (BSW), beaker H1 (GRF), fabric STOR
13409	Pottery fabrics STOR BSW
13516	Pottery fabric STOR
13521	Pottery fabrics STOR BSW GRF
13531	Pottery fabrics STOR BSW
13634	Pottery fabrics GRS STOR
18634	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW

The pottery provides a broad later 1st to mid 2nd century AD date. The bead-rim dish in 5948 is the latest identified form, dating to the end of this range.

Miscellaneous hearths 5853, 5860, 5874, 5903, 5924, 5925, 13035, 13149, 13311, 13415, 13454, 13458, 13504, 13533, 13570, 13670, 13609, 18634, 18638, 18641 and associated surfaces 13148, 13150, 13215, 13225, 13351, 13407, 13413, 13455, 13519, 13619 (Fig. I20)

As well as storage jar ovens, hearths of clay and/or cobble construction occupied the surface of the silt dumps. Although some had been disturbed in antiquity and machine truncated it is apparent that they were of either circular or rectilinear form and tending to average a length or diameter of 0.7m.

Some hearths were simply concentrations of scorched stones, such as 5853, while 13035 was a circular cut containing burnt clay. Shallow depression 5924 contained a layer of scorched pebbles overlain by deposit of burnt clay. Intercutting of these hearths shows that there were at least three phases of hearth use (e.g. 5924, 5882 and 5874); such structures presumably had a short life and required regular replacement and repair.

Fragments of clay and gravel surfaces occurred in apparent close association with these hearths. compacted yellow-grey sandy clay deposit 13148 surrounded hearth 13149 while yellow-brown silty clay 13225 may have been associated with hearths storage jar ovens 13187. 13407 was a spread of animal bone compacted into the dump silts surrounding hearth 13408 and partially covering adjacent hearth 13409. A similar such range of possible surfaces surrounded other hearths. However, it is uncertain if any of these deposits constitute deliberate floors around these hearths and ovens, rather than being the incidental product of trampling and compaction.

In addition, a further 15 or so ovens/hearths/fire pits of dubious nature were recorded (i.e. 5692, 5882, 5904, 5921, 13023, 13412, 13456, 13457, 13460, 13493, 13494, 13600, 13602, 13618,

13728). However, being the least reliable, these are only mentioned in passing here. Again, mainly located amongst the western cluster, these at least attest to further activity of a similar nature in the 2nd century.

Miscellaneous hearths

5860	Pottery fabric BUF
5874	Pottery fabrics COLB BSW GRS
13035	Pottery fabric BSW
13415	Pottery dish B7 (BSW)
13454	Samian fabric SGSW Other pottery fabrics STOR BSW
13504	Samian bowl f30 (SGSW) Other pottery fabric STOR
13533	Pottery fabrics STOR GRS
13570	Pottery jar G44 (STOR)
13609	Pottery jar G19.2 (GRS)
18638	Pottery jar G45 (STOR), beaker H7 (BSW)

While containing generally undiagnostic pottery, these features yielded nothing that specifically dates any of these features to after the early 2nd century AD.

Associated surfaces

13148	Samian bowl f36 (CGSW) Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery bowls C2 (BSW) C10.2 (LOND) C23.3 (LESTA), jar G19 (BSW)
13215	Pottery dish B4.2 (BSW), bowl C16 (GRS), fabric BB2
13225	Samian platter f15/17 (SGSW) Other pottery jar G3.1 (GRS)
13351	Samian cup f27 (SGSW) Other pottery dish B7 (BSW), G44 (STOR)
13407	Pottery jar G44 (STOR)
13455	Samian fabric CGSW Other pottery jars G44.5 (STOR)
13519	Pottery fabric STOR
13619	Samian platter f18 (SGSW) Other pottery jar G19.4 (GRF), beaker H20 (COLC)

These deposits yielded late 1st to mid 2nd century AD pottery. 13215 and 13619 are likely to have been formed during the first half of the 2nd century AD, with the former being the latest, dated to the mid 2nd century AD.

PERIOD IV

The impression that, following its early 2nd century reorganisation, Area I was largely open space is reinforced by the markedly low occurrence of mid-Roman features. The fence lines around the plot's perimeter and subdividing its interior survived into this period and the continued use of Roads 1 and 2 is inferred, although surfacing episodes could not be closely dated. New features of the 3rd century AD were few, and this alone must mark a significant alteration to the Period III B land use. The presence of well 5806, along with oyster midden deposits, reinforces the impression of domestic occupation in the eastern half of the plot, although Building 49 could no longer have been standing. The continued presence of 'monumental' post 13331 seems to confirm the open, likely public, nature of the western half, albeit the post was removed during the early/mid 3rd century. The space around the 'monumental' post was also important; there was some evidence of surfacing (albeit much less extensive than for earlier periods), and no other cut feature of this period was found in its vicinity.

Road 1 (Fig. I4)

It is likely that surfaces 5826 (also cited in Period IIB), 5847, 5862, 13394 belonged to this period, though none can be dated better than 2nd to 4th century AD. Silt layers 5850, 5870, 5871, 13419 accumulated over these surfaces.

Road 1: 5847, 5862, 13394, 5850, 5870, 13419

13394	Pottery dish B4 (GRS)
13419	Pottery dish B2.3 (BB2), mortarium D1 (COLBM), jars G9.1 (GRS) G25.1 (GRS), beakers H20.1 (COLC) H27.2 (COLC) H33 (GRS)

The pottery assemblage recovered from 13419 included a large residual element, mainly dating to the early 2nd century AD. The latest pieces, which date the deposit, are mid to late 2nd century AD. The pottery from 13394 is consistent with this.

Road 2

The latest surviving surface of road 2, 18324, is included here as much for convenience as anything. The preceding road surface can only be posited as dating to the early 2nd century and we have no idea about how long intervening silt build-up 18325 accumulated. Thus 18324 could conceivably also belong in Period III B, though there is no reason to doubt that it endured in use into the mid-Roman period.

Elsewhere, sandy gravel deposits 5852 (also mentioned as a III deposit) and 5839 and silt 5883 and could perhaps represent road-wash and accumulation on the edge of Road 2 this period, although there were many road layers which simply could not be assigned any date closer than Roman with much certainty. It is reasonably safe to assert that the road was still being maintained, however, as the site's morphology demands its continuing use.

Robber cut 13433 (Fig. I15)

The monumental post in pit 13331 continued to stand into the 3rd century. It was subsequently removed, perhaps as late as the mid-3rd century, when irregularly-shaped pit 13433 was cut into the clay packing deposit around the foot of the post. It was dug to a depth of 0.5m at which point it was possible to remove the post. The surviving post-clast was splayed, probably as a result of attempts to loosen the post. This robber cut was infilled with silts containing modest amounts of finds, not significantly different from other pits of this date in the area.

Robber cut 13433

13433	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery dishes B3.2 (GRF BB2) B4.2 (GRF BSW), jars G5.4 (GRF) G9.2 (GRF) G9.3 (GRS), beakers H27 (COLC) H32 (NVC), fabric HAX
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A date sometime in the first half of the 3rd century AD for the removal of the monumental post is provided by beakers present, supported by Hadham oxidized ware.

Well 5806 (Fig. I22)

In the eastern plot of Area I, well 5806 was cut through the period III B dump deposits. This roughly circular feature was the largest in the area, at approximately 3.5m diameter. Due to severe waterlogging, the vertical-sided cut was not bottomed, but it was established to be in excess of 0.5m deep. Its excavated lower fills were fine silts, clayey at the bottom and sandy at the top. Their dark grey to black hue, with a yellow to green mottle, may suggest that this filling material was of a cessy nature. While it is possible that it functioned as a cess pit or even a latrine at some point, its large size and shaft-like shape suggestion that this was the upper part of a well. It appears to have continued to accumulate material in its top into the 4th century, which may suggest that it was of significant depth and was continually settling. However, there was no sign of a wooden lining and the feature could just have been a big rubbish pit. It cut through rubbish pit (5828) and was adjacent to a further pit 13158, both of which were smaller and shallower. This pit/well also cut Road 1 surface 5845.

Well 5806

5806 KPG	Samian dishes f31 (EGSW) f31R (EGSW) Amphora Kapitän II (AKAPT) Other pottery dishes B1.2 (NVC) B4.2 (BSW) B5.1 (BSW), mortaria D11 (BUFM) D13.2 (BUFM), bowl-jars E2.2 (GRF) E5.3 (HAB), jars G5.5 (GRS) G28 (GRS) G35.2 (GRS), beakers H27.1 (COLC) H32 (NVC), fabric HAX
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The earliest pottery recovered from the lowest fills is likely to have been deposited during the first half of the 3rd century AD. Upper fills continued to receive material into the late 4th century (KPG39).

Pits 5829, 13138, 13158, 18357 (Fig. I23)

A number of shallow, circular to oval, pits cut the Period III dump layers without penetrating the underlying Period II B gravel surface below. All were located towards the peripheries of the plot, in

contrast to earlier pits, and they do not seem to represent a major period of activity. Finds assemblages were varied though not particularly large, apart from significant quantities of tile. All appear to have comprised principally domestic rubbish. Pit 13158 was notable for its inclusion of both slag and lead cast waste (SF3522 & 8392).

Period IV pits

5829	Pottery dish B2.1 (GRF), jar G5.5 (GRS), beakers H33 (UCC) H27 (COLC)
13138	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery dishes B2 (BSW) B3.2 (HAR), G24 (RET)
13158	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery jar G5.5 (GRS), beakers H28 (COLC) H35 (GRS), fabrics BB1 NVC
18357	Pottery dish B3.2 (BSW), jar G5.5 (BSW), fabric NVM Coin AE3, House of Constantine, AD 330-335 (SF 6474); radiate, 3rd/4th centuries AD (SF 6475)

These pits were filled probably during the mid-3rd century AD.

Midden: 13146, 13204, 13211

Mid-Roman period middening was represented by a sequence of two large dumps on the eastern side of Area I. Their surviving components were composed almost entirely of oyster shell, but may originally have included other organic rubbish. They were separated by a thin layer of sand, 13204, which may have been a deliberate capping deposit over the earlier dump. The full extent of this midden was not determined as it extended beyond the limits of the excavated trench but it clearly was in excess of 3m diameter. It would appear that the discard of oyster shell was its primary use; over 100kg of oyster shell was collected in contrast to very small amounts of animal bone, pottery and a single iron nail.

Midden: 13146, 13204, 13211

13146	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW MWSRS
13211	Pottery fabric BSW

Small quantities of almost entirely residual pottery were recovered from these deposits.

PERIOD V (Fig. I24)

Evidence for late Roman occupation of the plot in Area I was extremely slight. Ditch 25247 and pit 13358 indicate activity on its eastern boundary - perhaps in conjunction with major boundary ditch 25027 (Area F). It is possible that Building 62 also belongs to the latter part of this phase, although it has been placed in Period VI on the strength of its clay foundation cutting pit 13358. Gradual disuse and possibly eventual abandonment of the roads is present as dark silt deposits built up along the roadsides and encroached over the road surfaces themselves.

Road 1: 13394, 5747, 5731, 13348 (Fig. I4)

Road surface 13394 dated to the third or early fourth century. Above, dark silts 5747, 5731 and 13348 accumulated and contained gravel derived from weathering and degradation though use of the final surfaces.

Road 1: 13394, 5747, 5731, 13348

13394	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW
5747	Pottery jar G27.2 (LSH), fabric RET
5731	Pottery dish B1.2 (NVC), bowl C8 (OXRC), fabric LSH
13348	Pottery dish B6.3 (BB1), fabric OXRC

The presence of late Roman pottery suggests deposition within the second half of the 4th century AD. These deposits also yielded residual pottery dating up to this period.

Road 2 (Fig. I5)

No surfaces on Road 2 can be specifically dated to the late Roman period. However, part of the road was overlain by a late 4th century AD accumulation of silt (5840).

Road 2

5840	Dish B1 (GRF), jar G27.1 (LSH), fabric OXRC
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The presence of late shell-tempered and Oxfordshire red colour-coated wares point to this group being deposited in the second half of the 4th century, although there is also much residual pottery.

Roadside ditch 25247 (seg. 13239)

The north end of this ditch was excavated as segments 10290 and 10525, in Area F. The southern terminal was identified in Area I, establishing this feature to be approximately 17m long. This short length of irregular ditch ran alongside Road 1. It survived perhaps even into Period VI and may have bridged the gap between late Building 62 and important boundary ditch 25027. In view of the votive nature of deposition in the latter, the onyx intaglio (SF 5109) in segment 13239 may be significant. The positioning of late Roman pit 13358, just off the end of the ditch, may further indicate its endurance beyond Period V.

Roadside ditch 25247

13239*	Pottery dishes B3.2 (BSW) B6.2 (HAB) B6.3 (BB1), bowl C25 (OXRC), mortarium D14.2 (NVM), jar G9 (BB1)
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The pottery recovered from pit 13239 was almost certainly deposited during the second half of the 4th century AD.

Pit 13358

Circular pit 13358 was cut into the top of Road 1, along its western side. The 2.0m diameter pit contained a sequence of fills ranging the late 3rd to late 4th centuries AD. It was overlain by the remains of Period VI Building 62. It contained a vast array of finds, both from the lower fills and from the later dump into the top (13216, see Period VI).

Period V pit

13358	Pottery dish B6.2 (BSW GRS), bowl-jar E2.2 (GRS) E5.4 (GRS), jar G24.1 (RET), beaker H39 (NVC GRS), fabrics HAX
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This feature began to receive material from the late 3rd or early 4th century AD.

PERIOD VI (Fig. I24)

Evidence for latest Roman activity was very slight, the only structural evidence being a single beam-slot construction trench and a separate, small cluster of two or three post-holes. Apart from these, such late activity was limited to dumps or accumulations of silt and rubbish in the tops of earlier features. No early Saxon features or deposits have been identified in this area.

Road 1 (Fig. I4)

There was no evidence for the latest Roman resurfacing or maintenance of Road 1. It is likely that it had ceased to function as a thoroughfare by this time and was at least partially buried under accumulated soils. As denoted by pit 13358, pitting activity had already begun to encroach upon these old road lines in Period V. Now beamslot Building 62 also sat on the road edge.

Road 2 (Fig. I5)

Like Road 1, Road 2 had passed out of use by this time. Overlying silt layer 5840 dated to the late 4th century AD.

Other deposits: 5747, 5502, 5851, 5839, 5840

Dark silt deposits continued to build up along the roadsides indicating the roads were passing out of use. Silty layers within the road sequence are more problematical: were these disuse, or part of the road make-up? (It might also be argued that the roadside layers, dated by their latest pottery, in fact accumulated slowly. In the case of 5747, for example, there is a quantity of third century material among the pottery, which is nevertheless dated to the late fourth by several forms. The assemblage

is probably not large enough to speculate on whether it represents a long build up; if it did, the earlier material might be expected to be more abraded, which seems not to be the case. Indeed, it is often tempting to dismiss the latest sherds (almost always more abraded) as contamination (e.g. 5851).

Other deposits: 5747, 5502, 5851, 5839, 5840

5747	Pottery jar G27.2 (LSH), fabric RET
5840	Pottery jar G27.1 (LSH), fabric OXRC
5851	Pottery fabric OXRC

The pottery present provides a mid to late 4th century AD+ date for deposition.

Building 62: 13490, 13356 (Fig. I25)

This structure consisted of a foundation slot that was traced for a distance of 10m. The 0.46m wide and 0.08m deep slot was filled with clean orange clay which appeared to be a packing deposit around beamslot 13356. This internal slot had near-vertical sides and a flat bottom and was filled with black silt. While it is possible this was no more than a drain, the internal slot looks like a sleeper beam rotted *in situ*. Apart from a short spur that ran off to the south, no more of the structure was evident on the surface of the surrounding unexcavated dark silts.

Nevertheless, if there was a substantial building here, it points to discontinuity. Pit 13358 had already demonstrated that at least the western fringe of Road 1 must have been out of use: this building also encroached over the earlier line of the road. Nothing more of the form of this building is known, though it might be reasonable to assume its eastern side would have coincided with the road edge. No dating evidence was recovered and only its relationship with pit 13358 serves to indicate its late date.

Structure 55: Post-holes 5668, 5759, 13181, 18042 (Fig. I26)

Post-holes 5668 and 5759 were a pair of adjacent features close to the north end of the long-defunct latrine trench 25049. Similar in size, shape and fill, they were the only features definitely of this date in the western plot of Area I. Although not containing any diagnostic material, nearby sub-square feature 18042 is tentatively identified as a third Period VI feature. Post-hole 13181 can also be included to form a square arrangement, despite the fact that the latter feature clearly originally belonged to the Period III B fence line. It appears that the location was simply reused, as is suggested by the very mixed nature of the pottery recovered from this feature. Thus a small rectangular structure, some 1.8m by 1.4m (centre-to-centre) may be posited - potentially a storage structure? However, it may be significant that post-hole 5668 contained a pair of copper alloy tweezers (SF2857).

Structure 55

5668	Pottery dish B6.2 (GRF), bowl C8 (OXRC)
5759	Pottery jar G27.2 (LSH)
13181	Samian dish f31 (EGSW) Other pottery dish B7.1 (GRF), bowl C2.1 (GRF), jars G5.4 (BSW GRS) G19 (GRS), beakers H20.2 (COLC) H20.3 (COLC) H27.2 (COLC)
18042	Pottery fabric STOR

A mid to late 4th century AD+ date is provided by the latest pottery. These features, particularly 5668, and 13181, also produced residual pottery dating mainly to the 2nd century AD.

Late dumps/accumulations

As seen elsewhere across the settlement area, large mid- to late Roman features continued to accumulate material in their tops to the end of the 4th century and perhaps beyond. These are interpreted as layers, rather than fills *per se*, and are probably surviving vestiges of wider spreads of late silts and artefact scatters.

Deposit 13216, overlying pit 13358, is particularly interesting. It contained 60kg of bonded *opus signinum* and tile, otherwise rare on the site, as well large quantities of loose brick and tile, stone and *tesserae*. A similar dump 5768, in the subsidence hollow of well 5806, also included a small quantity of *opus signinum*. Whether this collection of building materials necessarily derived from the demolition of a late building, much less any one *specific* building, remains difficult to determine. Given the frequency with which tile seems to have been re-used in minor structures, any of this material could have been far removed in time and/or space from its original use.

Late dumps/accumulations

5806*	Pottery dish B6.2 (GRF), bowl C8 (OXRC), mortarium D12 (OXRCM), bowl-jar E4 (NVC OXRC), jars G9.4 (BB1 HAR) G27.1 (LSH) G27.2 (LSH), fabrics OXP OXSWM OXWM Coin AE3, Valens, AD 367-375 (SF 3310)
13138	Pottery fabric OXP
13358	Pottery bowl C8 (OXRC), fabrics LSH OXSWM OXP

These features continued to receive material into the late 4th century AD. The latest material from the well comprises mainly small and abraded sherds, which may have been redeposited for levelling.