

AREA J

Three sides of Area J were defined by Roads 2, 3 and 4. Its eastern limit was more arbitrary, originally being the division between Areas A1 and A2 but later extended some 20m further into A2. Excavation was very extensive within this area, but by no means complete. Some parts received less attention than others or, particularly across the eastern end, were more prone to machine truncation (this was more-or-less where the machining of the site began). It is clear that excavation was not necessarily pursued below the level of the Late Iron Age (Period II B) gravel surfaces, and the roads and roadsides were under-represented too (Road 4 is primarily discussed as part of Area H).

Phasing summary

Period	Sub-period	Period description	Date
I		-	MIA/LIA transition
II	A	Religious activity - shrines	LPRIA
	B	1 st temple phase – development of complex	LIA-ER transition
III	A	Ongoing temple complex development	Early Roman
	B	2nd temple phase	
IV		Changing use? ?profane additions	Mid Roman
V		Decline & ?diversification of the temple complex	Late Roman
VI		-	Latest Roman/Saxon
VII		Post-medieval fenceline	Post-early Saxon

PERIOD I:

No features of mid/late Iron Age transition date have been identified. However, a group of earlier, prehistoric, features were recorded beneath what later became the site of the temple. A cluster of **?five** substantial Middle Bronze Age post-holes were the only recognized prehistoric features in Area J. Being prehistoric, and not directly related to the origin and development of the later settlement, the detail of these features has been reported separately ([ref.](#)). However, they clearly occupied a slight rise in the natural gravel and their presence below this Iron Age and Roman religious complex is of relevance if only to highlight the relative prominence of the topography at this point. The possibility of this location retaining a ritual significance from the Bronze Age, even latterly as a folk memory, and thus deliberately chosen as the site of later religious activity, is not completely dismissed.

PERIOD II (late 1st century BC to mid 1st century AD)

The importance of Area J as the focus of a religious centre began in the LPRIA and its development was reasonably clearly indicated by sequences of well-defined buildings and deposits. The period is readily separated into two sub-phases, the watershed being the destruction of the earlier buildings and the remodelling of the entire area. Primarily, this is signified by the laying of gravel surface 5440 *et al* on top of which successive buildings, though clearly perpetuating the posited earlier religious function of this location, are of very different form.

Thus Area J is a key area for the understanding of the nature and chronology of settlement change and development. However, the dating of this process is problematic, mainly due to the small quantities of evidence (pottery and coins) involved. While this is the case across the whole of the settlement, it is particularly acute in this religious area. The deliberate deposition of artefacts does not appear to have been part of its associated rituals and, at the same time, its sacred nature seems to have precluded the disposal of more mundane deposits such as domestic rubbish.

Sub-period II A (late 1st century BC to earlier 1st century AD) (Fig. J1)

A number of features clearly predated the Period II B gravel surfacing of this area, along with others which had no relationship to this deposit but appeared to predate temple structures on grounds of morphology and orientation. The principal features were a pair of small buildings interpreted as shrines (Buildings 7 and 8), one of which housed a votive deposit of a jar in pit 18578 (ref. to pot rep.). Traces of a further three posited structures (Buildings 9, 10 and 11), were also present. While the votive deposit was the only direct evidence of a religious or ritual function for one or more of these buildings, the fact that Period II B buildings of more obvious religious function overlay them would seem to substantiate this interpretation. Whether directly associated with these structures or not, pits also predated the gravel surface. The contents of these pits suggest metalworking and domestic activities in close proximity and may be the excavated examples of more widespread, and perhaps more diverse, activity.

No traces of any boundary features can be dated to this phase, but this may be largely due to the continual renewal of the same boundaries through later periods, as the many episodes of marking out the northern limit of the area, in particular, demonstrate. It remains possible that the general area was simply not physically sub-divided by boundary features at this period, which would have made the remodelling and surfacing of the settlement that much easier.

Building 7: 25065 (segs. 18769, 18808, 18843, 18871, 18989, 18990) and pit **18849** (Fig. J2)

Building 7 comprised a 1m-wide foundation trench (25065) which defined a small building roughly 6.5m square externally (4.5m square internally). Pit 18849 was centrally-located within its interior. The foundation trench was relatively deep at 0.45m, its splayed profile bottoming as a vertical-sided slot some 0.3m wide. It is likely that the walls of this building were constructed of close-set planks, of substantial thickness, placed upright side-by-side in the trench, as was the case with some of the Danebury shines, such as Building R2/RS2 (Cunliffe, 1984, 113 and Figs. 61, 62). There was no indication of the position of a doorway and the foundation backfills contained no diagnostic evidence regarding the function of the structure.

Centrally-positioned circular pit 18849 was 1.2m in diameter and 0.8m deep. Its dark sand-silt fill contained only a small quantity of late 1st century BC pottery, animal bone and a blue glass bead (SF7281 – since lost). Although its contents showed no sign of a ritual function or structured deposition, the pit was clearly associated with the building. On the strength of its plan, and the later use of this area, Building 7 is interpreted as a shrine. As well as Danebury, parallels from Heathrow, Stansted, Westhampnett and Cadbury Castle may be cited (cf. Drury 1980, Wait 1985, Grimes & Close-Brooks 1993).

Building 7

18849	Pottery fabrics GROG MICW
18871	Pottery jar \$ (MICW), fabric GROG
18843	Pottery fabrics GROG BSW

The contexts associated with this building contained small amounts of sand- and grog-tempered pottery, including a jar form which is dated to the late 1st century BC at Kelvedon (Rodwell 1988, fig.79, no.19-22).

Building 8: 18674, 18677, 18701, 18704, 18722, 18732, 18734, 18778, 18780, 18786, 18862, 18881, 18883, 25068 (segs. 18291, 18295, 18306, 18792, 21015) (Fig. J2)

Building 8 was a 6m diameter circular slot 21015, which contained a series of integral post-holes in its base. The slot itself was very shallow and averaged some 0.3m wide. The integral post-holes ranged between 0.2-0.6m diameter and displayed little regular spacing around its circumference, although the two largest post-holes 18701 and 18881 could conceivably indicate the position of a south-facing doorway.

Like adjacent Building 7, the foundation remains of this structure gave no indications of function, their fills collectively containing only a small quantity of undiagnostic late Iron Age grog-tempered pottery. The interpretation of Building 8 as a shrine depends largely upon its association alongside Building 7, the subsequent development of the religious nature of this location and,

perhaps most interestingly, the occurrence of a votive deposit in pit 18578 within its interior (see below). In isolation, this structure could easily be interpreted as a small roundhouse of domestic function, though the difficulties in distinguishing between round domestic and round religious structures have been commented upon elsewhere (Drury 1980, 66; Wait 1985, 171). Two roundhouses at Little Waltham, C4 and C8, contained similar features (Drury 1978, 15 and 23). It is possible, of course, that this resemblance between religious and domestic architecture was entirely purposeful.

Building 8

18674	Pottery fabric GROG
18778	Pottery fabric GROG

Few of the contexts associated with Building 8 contained pottery. Two postholes produced grog-tempered bodysherds providing a Late Iron Age date.

Building 9: 13070, 13090, 13092, 13103, 13140, 13175, 13230, 13264, 13396 (Fig. J3)

Building 9 was a extremely tentative construction using some of the many post-holes which did not recognizably form parts of the structures that later occupied the area. Some clearly predated the later temple buildings (Buildings 34, 52), while others lack any form of dating evidence, be it stratigraphic or artefactual. The assembled post-holes could be construed to form two concentric circles, the outer with a radius of 3.75m, the inner *c.*2.5m. Perhaps significantly, this building centred on what later became the location of Period III plinth structure 5811. Some contained similar clayey fills and all had been truncated; whether this was due simply to machining of the area, or to its Period II B re-modelling (thus indicating that they all belong to this earliest structural phase) is uncertain. Post-hole 13070, with its burnt content, perhaps resulting from demolition activity prior to reconstruction, may suggest the latter. If this and intersecting Building 10 were indeed both Period II A buildings, Building 9 would appear to have been the earlier.

Building 10: 13121, 13232, 13280, 13344, 18252, 18257, 18637, 18660, 18922 (Fig. J3)

Building 10 was only a slightly more convincing post-built circular building of some 5m diameter. The nine constituent post-holes were of similar sizes. Some clearly predated Period II B temple buildings.

Building 10

18252	Pottery jar \$ (GROG), fabric MICW
18257	Pottery fabric GROG

Two of the postholes associated with the building contained grog-tempered pottery. The jars in 18252 are handmade, and one of these is also tempered with sand. A date in the second half of the 1st century BC is indicated.

Building 11: 18315, 18499, 18581, 18583, 18588, 18596, 18657, 18659, 18670, 18672 (Fig. J2)

Building 11 was the remains of approximately half of a tentative circular building of post-hole construction. Nine post- or stake-holes are construed to be arranged around the central post-hole 18315, forming a structure of some 7.0m diameter which would have extended southwards under an unexcavated part of later Road 3. The post- or stake-holes were only 0.15-0.25m diameter and relatively shallow (most under 0.15m). If real, it is doubtful that Building 11 was contemporary with Building 8 which lay immediately to its north, but the relative sequence could not be established. No dating evidence was recovered.

Votive pit 18578

Small pit 18578 lay within the interior of circular Building 8, located in its north-eastern quadrant. Being only 0.27m diameter and 0.11m deep, this feature could have easily been mistaken for a truncated post-hole, but for the singular presence of a complete pottery vessel within it. This small 1st century BC jar ([ref. to pot report and figs.](#)) and had been placed upright in the cut. Being an

isolated and exceptional find, it is interpreted as a votive offering inserted into the floor of the building.

However, there is a similar occurrence within ?domestic roundhouses at Little Waltham; Feature 168 within Hut C8, Area A10 and Feature 176 within hut C4 (Drury 1978, Figs. 9 and 20).

Pit 18578

18578	Pottery jar S (GROG)
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This shallow pit contained a whole grog-tempered jar, apparently buried upright. The vessel is wheel-finished and roughly decorated with looped combing, a form which is dated to the second half of the 1st century BC at Kelvedon (Rodwell 1988, fig. 79, no.32).

Pits 5220, 5221, 5259, 5270, 5272, 18598, 18653, 18710, 18766, 18936, 21501, 21513, 21542, 21544, 21550, 21552, 21640, 21673, 21674, 21972 (Fig. J4)

[Move 5431 to here](#)

The period II A pits were generally sealed below the Period II B gravel surfacing of Area J. All were characterized by being large, rounded or irregularly shaped, shallow cuts into the underlying sand and gravel; generally being in excess of 2m wide and only 0.2-0.4m deep. Most of the excavated examples were adjacent or intercutting pits located toward the north-east corner of Area J with a few further west. Many contained remarkably similar fills of mid- to dark brown sandy silts overlain by charcoal-rich deposits. It is postulated that these upper, black, deposits were the remnants of more extensive layers, rather than fills *per se*; the product of a destruction episode which preceded the remodelling of the area (see Period II B for further description). Fill 5211 of pit 5220 was subject to soil microstratigraphy analysis (Samples M1-3). The primary function of these pits is not indicated by the small artefact assemblages in their fills which included small quantities of pottery and animal bone as their principal components. Although the pottery is largely undiagnostic grog-tempered wares, there are sand-tempered sherds in pit 5220 which hint at a likely later 1st century BC date for at least some of these features. The absence of imported pottery from this apparently ritual area may be significant, but then again may simply be an indicator of their relatively early date.

Period II A pits

5220	Pottery fabrics GROG MICW
5259	Pottery fabric GROG
5270	Pottery fabric GROG
5272	Pottery fabric GROG
18598	Pottery fabric GROG
18652	Pottery jar Cam 254 (ESH), fabric GROG
18710	Pottery fabric GROG
18766	Pottery fabrics GROG CGFCS
18936	Pottery fabrics ESH BSW GROG
21501	Pottery fabric GROG
21513	Pottery fabric GROG
21542	Pottery fabric GROG
21550	Amphora Dr.1 (AITAL) Other pottery fabric GROG
21972	Pottery fabric GROG

The pottery recovered from these pits consists mainly of bodysherds in grog-tempered fabric providing a Late Iron Age date. A late 1st century BC date is indicated by the Dressel 1 stamped handle in 21550. The coin of Constantius recovered from 21972 must be intrusive.

Sub-period II B (mid 1st century AD) (Fig. J5)

The beginning of this sub-period was marked by an episode of remodelling which extended not only across Area J but across much of the late Iron Age settlement. Within Area J, this involved the demolition of the Period II A shrines, the stripping of the topsoil, the construction of metallated Roads 2, 3 and 4 and the laying of a gravel surface across the interior of the area these bounded.

This restructuring represented a huge undertaking which has important ramifications for issues of settlement status, social and political dynamics. These are discussed in **Volume I, Sections 4 and 5**.

Although the earlier religious focus of the two shrines (Buildings 7 and 8), and the other structures and features surrounding them, had been cleared in advance of this restructuring, the religious function of this location was immediately re-established. As the positioning of new buildings directly over, and centred upon, earlier structures shows, this was done with direct reference to the earlier structures (e.g. Building 33 over Building 8). Buildings 27 and 28 may represent the presence of temporary or interim structures, but the remodelled religious focus comprised two major buildings (Buildings 33 and 34/35) which were constructed directly on the new gravel surface. There was no evidence of boundary ditches or fences, though these buildings undoubtedly occupied a distinct religious area as defined by the road system. Building 33 was the first to be constructed, apparently with reference to the line of Road 3. Temple Buildings 34 and 35, a circular *cella* contained within a trapezoidal enclosure, were then constructed alongside it. These were only the first elements of a religious complex which was developed over a long period of time. Their separation from subsequent, but closely related, developments is a slightly artificial one as the complex continued to evolve through Period III.

The temple and its enclosure were most likely unroofed, the former containing a tentative shrine structure *on the west side*. **rephrase?** The eastern frontage of the trapezoidal enclosure was faced with a probably roofed and colonnaded portico or façade which, with its passage-like doorway, presented an elaborate temple frontage which both attracted and excluded the visitor approaching from the east. The gravel surface in front of the temple (i.e. to the east) remained open and perhaps extended uninterrupted for some distance eastwards, between Roads/Tracks 3 and 4. Apart from buildings, pits were the only other features present in this area. These occupied a likely ‘backyard’ area to the rear (west) of Building 33 and **seem to have been for domestic rubbish disposal rather than ritual purposes. Judging by the lack of artefacts such as coins and other metalwork across the religious complex, it seems that ritual deposition of such objects was not a feature of the rituals associated with it.** **REVIEW**

Destruction deposits: 18310, 18488, 18689, 18764, 18961, 18962, 21541, 21798, 22078 (Fig. ??)

Deposits of charcoal-rich silts occurred mainly in the tops of the pits of sub-Period II A. These are postulated to be the remnants of what were once more extensive layers of demolition material derived from the clearance of the structures that formerly occupied this location. In some cases, these deposits were virtually the only ‘fills’ of the earlier pits, which were probably still open when the destruction episode occurred. The further extent of this deposit was perhaps removed by a related episode of ground reduction and levelling which is presumed to have followed this clearance more-or-less immediately. This involved the removal of all top- and subsoil and the exposure of the underlying natural gravel.

Finds within the dark destruction deposits were not prolific and largely restricted to pottery and small amounts of bone. A quantity of slag in deposit 18961 may be a direct product of this destruction episode.

Destruction deposits

18310	Pottery fabrics GROG BSW NGWF
18689	Amphora Dr.1/Dr.2-4 (AITAF) Other pottery fabrics ESH BUF GROG GRS
18936	Pottery fabrics ESH BSW GROG
18961	Pottery fabrics BSW GRF GROG
22078	Amphora Dr.1 (AITAL) Other pottery fabrics MICW GROG

The pottery recovered from these deposits consists mainly of bodysherds. Some sherds are in Roman fabrics, but there is earlier pottery present also. A date in the first half of the 1st century AD is indicated.

Gravel surface(s): 5440, 5459, 5796, 5816, 5821, 13097, 13132, 13159, 13195, 13300, 13385, 13482, 13522, 13805, 13806, 18797/21644, 21646 (Fig. J5)

A number of fragments of gravel surfaces of this date were identified across Area J. Some sealed earlier (Period II A) late Iron Age features (e.g. 13805/13806), the tops of which had clearly been truncated. None of the surfaces overlay ancient land surfaces or soils of any kind, but rather were laid directly on top of the natural gravel, or on artificial bedding deposits of sand or clay, to a depth of up to 0.1m of graded material. These had best survived later occupation and eventual machine truncation in the south-western, northern and central parts of Area J. As originally combined, these individual fragments must have formed a single, extensive gravel surface which perhaps extended across the whole of the area as defined by the surrounding roads.

Very few finds were collected from this surface and many those that were may have been old and residual when deposited or else intrusive. However, the pottery from extensive surface fragment 5440 is consistently late Iron Age in character.

Gravel surface(s): 5440, 5459, 5796, 5816, 5821, 13097, 13132, 13159, 13195, 13300, 13385, 13482, 13522, 13805, 13806, 18797, 21644, 21646

5440	Pottery jar \$ (GROG), fabric MICW
13805	Pottery fabrics GROG GRS
18797	Pottery fabrics GROG BSW

The pottery recovered consists mainly of bodysherds. Some sherds are in Roman fabrics, but there is earlier handmade pottery present in 5440, indicating a late 1st century BC date for this context. The pottery from 13805 and 18797 is inconclusive for dating purposes.

Road 3: 22312, 22348 (Fig. J5)

Gravel deposits 22312 and 22348 may represent the earliest surface of Road 3 in Area J, although the record sounds similar to natural deposits, and there was little evidence for an edge in any direction (largely due to its not being explored beyond a single 10m square). It is possible that an edge was established to the north but more likely that it was simply concealed where later road surface 22082 was not removed. Even claiming these layers as road at all is largely based on projecting backwards from the later phases, but it does seem that this is what they were. These contexts are dated by the post-holes which cut into them, ten of which contained late Iron Age pottery. It is possible that this surface should not actually be regarded as road at all, but that it may belong with the rest of the more extensive gravel surface of this period, as it seems a bit odd to build a road and then (almost immediately) erect a post-built structure on top of it. It may be significant that the next phase of road above the post-holes, while it cannot be closely dated, may be as late as mid-2nd century; there was no rush to reinstate the line if this was a road. Excavation in this area was not specifically directed to the roads, which were more fully explored elsewhere.

Road 3: 22312, 22348

22348	Pottery fabric GROG
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One context associated with this phase of Road 3 contained a grog-tempered bodysherd, providing a tentative Late Iron Age date.

Building(s) 27/28: 25064 (segs.18744, 18761, 18813), **25066** (segs.18932, 18934), **25067** (segs.8956, 18971, 21038) (Fig. J6)

The remains of one, possibly two, buildings occurred alongside Road 3 and comprised three lengths of slot; 25064, 25066 and 25067. The most substantial was slot 25064, 0.2m wide and 0.25 m deep cut which defined three sides of a small probably square structure, some 4.5m across. Traces of its eastern wall had presumably been removed by an element of later Building 33.

Slot 25066 was of similar proportion to 25064 and lay just to its north. This curving length of foundation could constitute the north-eastern corner of the same building. Alternatively, combined with slot 25067, it could be construed to form a second phase of sub-rectangular building measuring some 8.0m by 5.0m. Whether these slots were beam-slots, drip- or drainage gullies is uncertain. If these indeed constituted buildings, they must have been the earliest constructed

following the imposition of the roads and the surface across Area J. Their replacement by Building 33 is likely to have been swift. It is thus difficult to interpret these buildings in the context of the development of the temple complex.

Building(s) 27/28

18813	Pottery fabrics GROG BSW
18934	Pottery fabric BSW

Very little pottery was recovered from the contexts associated with this building. Dating evidence is inconclusive.

Building 33: (Fig. J6)

25051 (segs.18153, 18173, 18197, 18198, 18203, 18255, 18288, 18290, 18481), **18175, 18212**

25052 (segs.18281, 18284, 18294, 18297, 18319, 18594, 18611, 18940, 21001, 21027), **18199, 18317, 18928, 18930, 18994, 18996, 18998**

25053 (segs.13308, 18493, 18497, 18613, 18605, 18947), **13371, 18491, 18664, 18887, 18916, 18949, 18958**

25054 (segs.13421, 13777, 18244, 18631, 18633, 18666, 18668, 18748, 18752, 18975, 18977, 18979, 21020), **18247, 18695, 18696, 18981**

Building 33 was a 15m square structure, the foundation of which survived as four sets of intermittent rectilinear slots arranged more-or-less ‘concentrically’ within one another. The exterior walls of this structure were apparently marked by slot 25054. The interior slots, 25052 and 25053 had been laid out some 1.5m apart, except on the south side of the building where they all shared a single foundation along the edge of Road 3. Foundation slot 25052 enclosed an area roughly 11.5 by 8.0m. In the middle of the structure was a set of slots 25051 which defined a ‘room’ some 3.0m square. The slots of Building 33 were of generally similar dimension, at around 0.3m wide and 0.25m deep, and contained the same dark brown sandy silt and pebble fill. Apparently integral post-holes occurred, often randomly, along the slots - though it is noted that others may simply not have been recognized. Some of these post-holes occurred at the terminals of slots and help show that at least some of the breaks in the slots were perhaps deliberate, rather than the result of truncation. Such gaps tended to occur in the eastern sides of the slots and may hint at the position of doorways on this side. Further post-holes occurred within the interior of the inner, square, ‘room’ as defined by slot 25051. These tended to be of small size, often occurred in pairs around the walls of the ‘room’ and particularly in the corners. This patterning may be a result of differential survival but at least hints at some sort of internal structure.

Cut into the gravel surface, and also overlying the remains of short-lived Building 27/28, Building 33 was evidently one of the principal buildings within this newly-laid out area. However, its form and function are difficult to determine from its highly unusual layout. The four sets of foundation slots are interpreted as being contemporary and belonging to a single building rather than representing successive enlargements or replacements. The ‘concentric’ nature of their layout suggests that the internal walls of this structure formed either a corridor ambulatory around a central chamber, or even a small labyrinth around this focal point. Its close association with the adjoining temple structure (Buildings 34 and 35) suggest a similarly religious use. This would seem to be confirmed by the deliberate centring of the building over earlier shrine Building 8. The inner ‘rooms’ of Building 33 and the shrine were also of identical width, further indicating the closeness of their association. An alternative function for this building could have been ancillary buildings such as priests’ or visitors accommodation, though its elaborate construction and deliberate positioning would seem to make this doubtful. Further discussion of the form and function of Building 33 is presented in Section 6.

Building 33: (individual rooms separately)

Building 33: slot 25051

18153	Pottery fabric GROG
18173	Pottery jar <i>Cam</i> 258 (ESH), fabric GROG
18197	Pottery fabrics GROG ESH
18203	Pottery fabric GROG

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18255	Pottery fabrics GRS GROG
18481	Pottery fabrics ESH GROG
18175	Pottery flagon J1.2 (MWSRF), fabrics NGWF BSW GROG
18212	Pottery fabric GROG

Most of the pottery recovered is grog-tempered providing a Late Iron Age date. The 'Hofheim' type flagon in 18175 is dated to the mid 1st century AD.

Building 33: slot 25052

18940	Pottery fabric GROG
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Only one context contained pottery. This consists of a sole grog-tempered bodysherd, providing a tentative Late Iron Age date.

Building 33: slot 25053

13308	Pottery fabric GROG
18493	Pottery fabric GROG
18613	Pottery dish B7 (BSW), fabric GROG
18947	Pottery fabric GROG
13371	Pottery fabric GROG
18491	Pottery jar G3 (STOR), fabric GROG
18887	Pottery fabric BSW
18958	Pottery fabrics GROG NGWF

Most of the pottery recovered is grog-tempered providing a Late Iron Age date. The dish in 18613 and the jar in 18491 are mid to late 1st century AD types.

Building 33: slot 25054

13421	Pottery fabric GROG
13777	Pottery fabric GROG
18631	Pottery jar G19 (GROG), fabric BSW
18977	Pottery fabric GROG

Most of the pottery recovered consists of grog-tempered bodysherds providing a Late Iron Age date, although the jar in 18631 is a mid 1st century AD form. The pottery in beam slot 18975 is prehistoric in date and presumably residual.

Building 34: 25057 (segs. 13537, 13555, 13608, 13695, 13741, 13815, 13882, 18215) (Fig. J7)

Building 34 was centrally located within Building 35 and contained putative shrine Structure 17. It survived as an 11m diameter circle marked by a substantial foundation slot 25057, some 0.4m wide and 0.3m deep. Terminals 13608 and 13695 marked a c.2.0m-wide entrance facing roughly ENE.

The base of the vertical-sided foundation slot was irregular and suggested the positioning of posts within it. Only two tangible post-holes 13555 and 13815 were identified but it is not certain that these were actually integral to this structure. The single fill of the slot betrayed no further information about the nature of the buildings construction, containing only a small quantity of pottery and a single iron nail. Within its interior, no patterning of post-holes signifying roof supports could be discerned; the majority of the post-holes in this location being regarded as components of preceding Building 9 or contemporary internal 'shrine' (Structure 17). The rear, or west side, had been truncated by later features, principally Period III B pit 5588/13432.

The identification of this circular structure as a temple *cella* relies solely upon morphology, along with the strength of cumulative evidence of both preceding and succeeding periods, rather than any directly associated artefactual evidence. Building 34 was located within a trapezoid enclosure (Building 35) and the two should properly be regarded as parts of a single temple structure. If tentative Period II A Building 9 was real, it is likely that this circular temple replaced it, centred on much the same spot and slightly larger, though differently constructed.

Discussion of the relationship of this building with others of this period and of their significance and function is pursued further in Section 6, though parallels with other LIA shrine/temples such as at Hayling Island, Fison Way and perhaps Frilford, are noted.

Building 34

13537	Pottery fabric GROG
13695	Pottery fabrics COLB GRF BSW GROG

13882	Pottery fabric GRS
18215	Pottery fabric GROG

The pottery recovered consists solely of bodysherds, but there are sufficient early Roman fabrics present to suggest a mid to late 1st century AD date.

Structure 17: 13107, 13117, 13166, 13247, 13260, 13268, 13274, 13276, 13315, 13379, maybe 13123 (Fig. J7)

Within the *cella* (Building 34), a number of (unphased) post-holes and slot fragments were located on the west side of the interior. Although this vicinity had been severely truncated by Period III B pit 5588/13432, it is possible that some of these features were the remains of a wooden structure, such as a shrine, against its 'back' wall, diametrically opposed to the *cella* entrance. However, not enough of this vicinity has survived later truncation to distinguish the form of this tentative shrine/altar structure.

Other unphased post-holes within the interior of Building 34 could also temporary or free-standing structures associated with its use, or with that of its successor Building 52.

Building 35:

25055 (segs.5168, 13850, 13957, 18012, 18060, 18184, 18186, 18227), **13833, 13843, 13996, 13997**

25124 (seg.13450), **13513, 13578, 13651, 13656, 13852**

25125 (seg.13489)

25126 (seg.13567), **18132**

Others: 5043, 5045, 5047, 5049, 5051, 5053, 5055, 5058, 5060, 5062, 5065, 5085, 5086, 5091, 5126, 5137, 5168, 5170, 5172, 5224, 5226, 5321, 5347, 5365, 13376, 13447, 13485, 13487, 18014, 18025, 18188, 18189, 18192, 18194, 18369 (Fig. J7)

In some ways Building 35 is perhaps better regarded as an enclosure around circular temple Building 34, than a building in its own right. It comprised a number of slot foundations marking the perimeter of a trapezoidal area, 18m long from east to west. It also incorporated the north wall of Building 33 into its plan and seems to have been added to it. It is unlikely that the majority of this structure amounted to more than a wooden screening wall or fence around Building 34 and there is no evidence of it having been entirely roofed. The 'front' of this enclosure was clearly its 16m-long eastern side, in the middle of which a c.2m-wide entrance was located. Along this eastern frontage was a façade or portico, as denoted by the line of large post-holes offset by some 3.5m. This post-built structure could be construed as an addition to the trapezoid, though the eastward continuation of slot 25055 would suggest that it was in fact integral. Instead, it is possible that the portico had a colonnaded frontage or perhaps an enclosed 'room' either side of a central entrance passage which was aligned on the circular *cella* doorway itself. This portico and the entranceway were most probably roofed. A less elaborate rear entrance, marked by slot 25125 on the western side of the enclosure, is also posited.

Building 35

13957	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS GROG
18012	Pottery fabric GROG
18060	Pottery fabrics GROG BSW
18184	Pottery fabrics GROG BSW
13833	Pottery fabrics GROG BSW
13843	Pottery fabrics GROG BSW
13996	Pottery fabrics GROG BSW
13450	Pottery fabric GROG
13578	Pottery fabric GROG
13567	Pottery jar G29 (BSW), fabric GROG
5058	Pottery fabric BSW
5137	Pottery fabric BSW
5170	Pottery fabrics BSW GRF GROG
5224	Pottery fabric NKG

5347	Pottery fabric GROG
13376	Pottery fabric GROG
13485	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery fabrics GRF BSW
18014	Pottery fabrics GROG GRS BSW
18025	Pottery fabrics GROG GRS BSW
18192	Pottery fabrics GROG BSW

The pottery recovered consists mainly of bodysherds in both Roman and grog-tempered fabrics. The jar in 13567 indicates a mid to late 1st century AD date and Roman fabrics are present in sufficient quantity to suggest a late 1st to early 2nd century AD date. Two sherds of later, probably intrusive, pottery were found in posthole 13485.

Pits 5431, 13424, 13427, 13549, 13552, 13560, 13802, 13893, 18030 (Fig. J8)

Move 5431 to Period IIA

The late Iron Age/early Roman transition pits of Period II B were similar in proportion to those of Period II A, being generally in excess of 2m diameter. However, these subdivide into two groups on the criterion of depth, with the majority being less than 0.3m deep but pits 13552, 13560, being considerably deeper at 0.65m to 1m deep. Even in the case of these larger pits, their artefact content remained low, characterized by small assemblages of pottery, animal bone, briquetage and daub.

Although subtle, there are slight indications of deposition within these pits associated with the area's religious function. Pit 5431 contained a coin (SF 2272), iron knife blade (SF 2118), glass bead and copper alloy items. Pit 13560 had a number of iron objects and a La Tene III brooch (SF4747) and 13893 a coin of Cunobelin (SF 4752). It is possible that the sheep remains in pits 5431, 13802 and 13560 may also be significant.

Virtually all of the pits of this date were located to the rear, that is to the west, of Buildings 33 and 34/35 and it remains possible that this was a 'backyard' to the temple complex and thus available for use as a place for disposal - whether ritual or otherwise.

Period II B pits

5431	Pottery fabrics ESH GROG MICW Coin AE unit (SF 2272)
13424	Pottery fabric GROG
13427	Pottery fabric GROG
13549	Samian bowl f29 (SGSW) Other pottery fabric GROG
13552	Pottery fabric GROG
13560	Amphora Dr.1 (AITAC AITAL) Other pottery fabrics BSW GRS GROG Brooch La Tene III (SF 4747)
13802	Pottery fabrics COLB GRF GROG
13893	Samian bowl f29 (SGSW) Other pottery jar G19 (GROG), fabrics GRF BSW Coin AE unit Cunobelin (SF 4752)
18030	Amphora Dr.2-4 (ABSAN) Other pottery fabrics GROG GRS BSW

These pits contained small amounts of pottery, most of which is grog-tempered. The coin and the sand-tempered pottery in 5431 provide a late 1st century BC date for this pit. The brooch in 13560, the coin in 13893 and the samian are all consistent with a mid 1st century AD date. The presence of an amphora sherd and Roman fabrics in 18030 indicates a mid 1st century AD date for this feature,

PERIOD III (mid-1st to mid-2nd century AD)

Overall, this period saw continuity of Area J's religious function, though this involved varying degrees of development and change to its structural content throughout the mid-1st to mid-2nd centuries. The varying extent of these developments and changes marked a sub-division of this period in Area J; the earlier (III A) being of addition of minor structures (Buildings 44-47) to the existing complex of Buildings 33-35, while the latter (III B) involved their demolition and replacement by single temple Building 52.

This change between Periods III A and III B was not restricted to the structures; pitting practice also seem to have changed, both in terms of location and perhaps function.

It appears that the precinct perimeter was still not marked during this period - at least not until IIIB at the very earliest - although it is possible that such Period IV and V features had removed any trace of earlier boundary markers. Road 3 was resurfaced at least once in Period III and acquired a fence, for at least a short distance, along its north side. There was also some evidence of early Roman surfacing and upkeep of Road 4, but the excavated sequences here are poorly understood.

Sub-period III A (mid 1st to early 2nd century AD) (Fig. J9)

The additions to the temple complex during the second half of the 1st century were, in reality, a part of the same episode of development following its initial remodelling, the only difference being that recognisably Romanized material was now being deposited. The Period II B-III A development of this complex would therefore seem to straddle the Late Iron Age to Romano-British transition period and may well be seen to be an embodiment of this process.

The circular temple, in its trapezoid enclosure, (Buildings 34 and 35) and square Building 33 continued as the principal elements of this complex. Further structural additions were made to these in the form of Buildings 44 to 47. It is postulated that these were ancillary buildings; perhaps priests' quarters, store rooms or even shops, and may serve to show that the religious centre prospered at this time. Although depositional activity continued to be restricted to the rear of the temple buildings, it seemingly became focused upon single large pit 13892.

Building 44: 18032, 18231, 18233, 18773, 18775, 18959, 18964, 21003, 22383, 22385, 25137 (Fig. J9)

Building 44 appears to have been a westward extension of Building 33. It consisted of substantial slots 18773, 18775 and 21003 and contained a series of post-holes within them. These structural features marked the southern part of the extension with post-holes 22383 and 18233 possibly marking the position of a 1.8m-wide doorway. Assuming this entrance was centrally placed along the wall, it is likely that Building 44 ran the whole length of the west wall of Building 33 and thus may be estimated to have measured some 14m x 3.5m.

Building 44

18233	Pottery fabrics VRW BSW
18775	Pottery fabric GRS

Two of the contexts associated with this building contained pottery, but bodysherds only were recovered. The fabrics present indicate an early Roman date.

Building 45: 25132 (seg.18897), **25133** (seg.18899), **25134** (seg.18900), **25135** (seg.18926), **18790, 18906, 18943** (Fig. J9)

Building 45 was a further addition to the temple complex, represented by four parallel slots that ran roughly east-west. The longest of these survived to 6.7m and all were regularly spaced, some 2.0-2.5m apart. Post-holes 18790 and 18967 probably marked the original ends of the shallow slots and presumably formed the west wall of a building some 7m wide and at least 8m long. Although not particularly well-aligned on the existing buildings to its north and west, it appears that Building 45 was a further attempt to utilize the space created by adjoining Buildings 33 and 35. Whether this

was in addition to, or a replacement of, Building 47 is unclear; the lack of intercutting between structural elements of each perhaps suggesting the former to be more likely.

Building 46: 5493, 5538, 5549, 5780, 5909, 13453, 13467, 13564, 13584, 13588, 13590, 13611, 13668, 13704, 13752, 13754, 13812, 13839, 13847, 13715 (Fig. J9)

Building 46 was a rectilinear structure to the north of the temple which comprised a series of sub-square post-holes, some of which were linked by shallow slots. Although these structural remains were sealed by the mid 2nd century resurfacing of the temple precinct, it is difficult to relate this building to others in the complex, particularly because it is unclear whether elements of its south wall (*i.e.*, post-hole 13584) cut, or co-existed alongside, Building 35. Restricted by the temple and Road 4, this building can have been no more than 5m wide; although traced for some 8m east-to-west, it is possible that it was significantly longer. Like Building 47, it may conceivably have extended as far as the east wall of Building 35, just short of its portico-style frontage. If so, this would suggest that the two were contemporary. Slot 13752/13754 was probably part of an internal partition wall foundation.

Building 46

5538	Samian dish f18/31R or 31R (CGSW), fabric EGSW Other pottery fabrics GRS BSW
13453	Pottery beaker H6.2 (NKG), fabric BSW
13564	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS
13584	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS

The pottery recovered consists mainly of bodysherds, but two contexts contained pottery which dates to the early to mid 2nd century; the samian is placed comfortably at the end of this range.

Building 47: ?5006, 5010, 5012, 5014, 5016, 5018, 5040, 5068, 5070, 5074, 5089, 5095, 5101, 5107, 5115, 5121, 18064, 18868, 18918 (Fig. J9)

Building 47 was a small, rectangular, post- and slot-built structure inserted into the corner formed by the east wall of Building 33 and the south wall of enclosure ‘building’ 35. Its south wall and interior structure were represented by a pair of parallel lines of post-holes while the east wall was slot-built. This created a building some 8m x 4m and seems to have been the result of the ongoing, perhaps somewhat opportunistic, development of the temple complex.

Building 47: ?5006, 5010, 5012, 5014, 5016, 5018, 5040, 5068, 5070, 5074, 5089, 5095, 5101, 5107, 5115, 5121, 18064, 18868, 18918

5014	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW
5101	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW
5107	Pottery fabric BSW
18064	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS

The pottery recovered from these contexts consists mainly of bodysherds. The fabrics present indicate an early Roman date. Context 5016 contained storage jar sherds only, inconclusive for dating purposes, and the pottery in 18868 is wholly residual

Road 3: 21703, 21704, 21789/22082, 22035

Road 3 was represented by metallised surface 21789/22082, laid on likely make-up layer 21704, with 21703 constituting a silt accumulation on top. Deposit 22035 seems to be a build-up of road-wash silt alongside the road. Overlying a number of Period II B post-holes that cut the earlier surface, it seems that this resurfacing reclaimed this part of the road and included either widening or northward shift of its line. The Radiate coin (SF 7779) from surface deposit 22082 may indicate its protracted use through the 3rd century, although truncating post-hole 21965 is of apparent mid-2nd century date.

Road 3

21789	Pottery fabric GRF; Coin AE unit, Cunobelin (SF 7778)
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A single tiny bodysherd in Roman fabric and an early to mid 1st century AD coin.

Deposits 5807, 5808, 5810, 13377, 13397, 13652, 13690

Layers of brown sand-silts accumulated on top of the gravel surface within the temple precinct. These were not extensive, nor necessarily associated with one another, and may have merely been accumulations in slight hollows and depressions in the surface across the temple area. Most were found to the west of the circular temple buildings, and the larger temple circle (Building 52) overlay at least two of these. Some were notable for their relatively high finds content; deposit 5810 was comparable to some of the contemporary pits. The pottery from deposits 5807, 5810 and 5859 was noticeably broken, as might be expected if it was subject to trampling underfoot, and may indicate that these deposits relate directly to the earlier 2nd century use of the temple precinct. None of these layers was effectively 'sealed' by later deposits. As is often the case, the pottery from these deposits comprised a mixture of material contemporary with the deposition and later material accumulating on top, long after the soils themselves were deposited, and indeed after the area had passed out of use.

Note a general period III date.

Deposits 5807, 5808, 5809, 5810, 13377, 13397, 13652, 13690

5807	Pottery platter A2 (BSW), dish B1 (BSW), jar G9 (BSW), fabrics GRS BB1
5810	Amphora Dr.2-4 (AITAL) Other pottery jar <i>Cam</i> 254 (ESH), fabrics VRW NKG BSW GRS
13377	Pottery fabrics VRW BSW GRS
13397	Pottery beaker H6 (GRF), fabrics GRS BSW
13652	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW

These deposits produced a range of fabrics and forms, mainly dating to the late 1st to mid 2nd centuries. Some intrusive pieces were found in 5807. The pottery recovered from 5808 is wholly residual and that from 13377 and 13652 is inconclusive for dating purposes.

Pits 13892, 13908 (Fig. J11)

Pit 13892 was the largest excavated pit in Area J, being a roughly circular cut of some 5m diameter and 1.1m depth. Its complex sequence of fills, which also certainly indicate regular re-digging, contained mainly mid- to late 1st century pottery, with only small quantities of other bulk materials. A bone 'phallus and fist' amulet (SF4742), needle and bracelet were also collected. The location of this singular pit, to the rear of the temple (Buildings 34 and 35), is of principal importance and may hint at a specialized function which, unfortunately is not overtly demonstrated by its finds assemblage. Whatever its function, the pit was infilled by the early 2nd century as evidenced by features cut into its top.

Pit 13809 also lay to the rear of the temple buildings, probably pre-dating the addition of Building 44. The majority of the pottery it contained derives from a single large storage jar which displayed internal burning. It appear that this was the remains of a storage jar hearth - apparently redeposited. However, the pit also contained an iron knife blade (SF 6454) and a few other miscellaneous pieces of metal that might have significance.

Period III A pits

13892*	Amphora Gauloise 4 (AGAUL) Other pottery platters <i>Cam</i> 5 (TN) A2 (BSW), dishes B7 (BSW) B4 (GRS), bowls C1 (GROG) C14 (GRF), mortarium D1 (BUFM), jars G3 (GROG BSW) G5.3 G19 G20 G30 (GROG) G23 (GRS), beakers <i>Cam</i> 113 (NGWF) <i>Cam</i> 112 (TR) H7 (BSW GROG) H1 (GROG), flagon J4 (COLB), fabrics NKG LYN VRW ESH Coin As copy (SF 4738) 41-64
13809	Samian platter f15/17 or 18 (SGSW) Other pottery fabrics GROG NGWF GRS BSW

Most of the assemblage from 13892 is mid 1st century in date, but some of the forms and fabrics from contexts near the top of the sequence continue into the 2nd century. The samian platter in pit 13809 is dated AD45-65.

Sub-period III B (?early to mid 2nd century AD) (Fig. J12)

The expanded complex did not last long, being remodelled in the earlier 2nd century. Buildings 34, 46 and 47 were demolished, seemingly as a single act, and replaced with a single, larger, circular temple (Building 52) which dominated what was now becoming a recognisable

precinct or *temenos*. The precinct boundaries were now formally defined along the sides of Roads 2, 3 and 4 by fences and perhaps in places by shallow ditches. The eastern ‘front’ of the precinct was marked by a substantial wooden screening fence or wall that now made the temple precinct a fully-enclosed entity.

Although this episode brought about a very marked change to the religious centre, the degree of continuity embodied in these changes should not be overlooked. Most obviously, the new temple was constructed directly over the site of the earlier structure, their wall foundations being almost concentric to one another and their doorways identically aligned. Within the new temple a sequence of activity centring upon a masonry shrine or altar plinth 5811 clearly shows that structural development continued but that it was now largely confined to the temple itself. Outside the circular temple, the precinct was resurfaced, as were flanking Roads 3 and 4. Gravel surfacing was continued eastward, beyond the confines of the precinct, and the importance of the open space, between Roads 3 and 4, in relation to the temple is noted. Within the precinct, its surfaces seem to have been kept particularly clean during this period. The 2nd century also saw both an increase and a change in the nature of depositional activity. Pits were now located in a tight, intercut, cluster in front of the temple, immediately to one side of its entrance, rather than to its rear.

Road 3: 5963, 18201, 18239, 21788, 21615, 21679, 22038, 21568 (Fig. J12)

The latest surviving phase of Road 3 was not well dated, being laid any time from the 2nd century onwards. However, it is likely that this episode accompanied the remodelling and resurfacing of the temple precinct alongside. The sequence comprised road construction (18201, 21788) with weathering (21568), road-wash and accumulations (21679, 21615, 22037, 22038) on top that represent road use extending into the late Roman period. Surface 21788 seems to have been narrower than earlier phases of this road, although it is possible that it simply incorporated the earlier surface where it extended beyond 21788’s width. Thus, such later surfaces may constitute concerted repair rather than wholesale replacement.

Road 3

21615	Pottery fabric BSW, Brooch Nauheim derivative (SF 7671)
21568	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW

The contexts associated with this road surface contained mainly bodysherds in a variety of fabrics, although an early Roman date only is inferred. The latest pottery present dates to the late 4th century+ probably indicating that the road is a long-lived feature. The pottery from 18239 is wholly residual and the brooch fragment from 21788 is not closely datable.

Structure 38: 18208, 18210, 18263, 18267, 18269, 18271, 18586, 18851, 25128, 5031, 5033, 5035, 5037, 5039, 5057, 5067, 5073, 5141, 21515, 21518, 21567, 21930/22032, 21965, 21968, 21524 (Fig. J12)

Immediately south of the Building 33 frontage onto Road 3, a number of slots and post-holes may have marked the position of a roadside fence. To the east of Building 33 a more convincing line of large post-holes ran along the roadside for a distance of some 24m. Judging from the substantial nature of these post-holes (0.6m diameter and 0.4m deep), it is likely that they housed the supports of a substantial screening fence which ran from the corner of the building to the eastern end of the precinct (as articulated by the imposition of a precinct wall).

Much more fragmentary remains along the western side of the area were less conclusive but may have represented a similar, or possibly less substantial, fence along this boundary too.

Structure 38

18208	Pottery fabric BSW
18210	Pottery fabric BSW
18263	Pottery dish B7 (BSW), fabric GRS
18267	Pottery jars G23 (BSW) G17 (GROG), fabrics COLB NKG GRS
18586	Pottery fabric BSW
5031	Samian dish f31R Other pottery fabrics COLC GRS

5033	Pottery fabrics COLC GRS BSW
5037	Samian dish f18/31-31 (CGSW) Other pottery dish B2/B4 (BB2), fabrics GRS BSW
5057	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW
5067	Pottery fabric GRS
21515	Pottery fabrics BSW NKG
21518	Pottery dish B2 (BSW), fabric GRS
21567	Pottery dish B1 (BSW), bowl-jar E2 (BSW)
21930	Pottery fabric BSW
22032	Pottery fabrics GRS LOND BSW
21965	Samian dish f31 (CGSW), cup f33 (CGSW) Other pottery dish B2 (BB2), jar G9.2 (GRS), fabric BSW Brooch Hod Hill (SF 7695)

Much of the pottery recovered consists of bodysherds, although some of the fabrics present indicate an early Roman date. The dishes and jars, and the presence of Colchester roughcast beaker fragments, indicate continuation into the 2nd century. The pottery from 21968 is wholly residual and that in the postpipe of 21567 is late Roman.

Structure 39: 18986, 21812, 21899, 22001, 22008, 22058 (Fig. J13)

A line of six large post-pits ran across the eastern end of Area J on a NNW-SSE alignment, representing the first phase of a substantial precinct frontage fence or wall. The pits themselves were generally oval, although the most northerly two, 18986 and 22001 were more elongated. At 0.9m to 1.0m wide and over 0.50m deep, these foundations most likely housed substantial posts spaced at some *c.*3m intervals. In addition, traces of shallow slots running between the pits were recorded in places and these may have housed the baseplate for the infill of the fence between the posts. While the post-pits accounted for an alignment of only some 15m length, it is postulated that further, unexcavated, post pits lay to the north below a stretch of later wall (Structure 46), features beneath which were not extensively investigated.

As such, these features marked the position of a wooden screening wall that extended between Roads 3 and 4, and formed the eastern perimeter of the temple precinct. This structure may have been quite elaborate, with the supporting uprights perhaps more like columns than posts, and was clearly the 'front' of the precinct, as is indicated by its position of its entrance in relation to the temple *cella* doorway. Post-pit 18986 almost certainly marked the south side of the doorway in this wall, aligned on the temple entrance. The backfills of these post-holes contained *tesserae*, mortar and stone that was also used to construct the footing of it's the replacement precinct wall., indicating its likely removal in Period IV.

Structure 39

21812	Pottery dish B2 (GRS), fabrics BSW NVC
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The small amount of pottery recovered provides a tentative late 2nd to mid 3rd century date.

Gravel surface(s) within precinct: 5184, 5354, 5772, 5773, 13529, 13540, 13595 make-up layers 13012, 13013, 13243, 13448, 13459, 13532, 13539 (Fig. J12)

The interior of the temple precinct was surfaced with a deposit of small pebbles compacted in a sandy-clay matrix. Small quantities of tile, pottery and tesserae were noted within it, though these are likely to have been later incorporations rather than components of its construction. As with the earlier gravel surface (Period II B), only fragments survived. However, these were sufficiently extensive to suggest that it originally covered much, if not all, of the precinct area. It clearly overlay elements of the earlier temple complex (Buildings 35 and 46) although not the temple itself (Building 34). It is concluded that the surface was laid after the construction of the new temple (Building 52) within which no trace of this surface was identified.

A number of deposits interpreted as make-up layers underlay the gravel surface fragments. These suggest two separate episodes of this activity, having features intruding between them. While it is possible that some were interim levelling measures, or repairs to the earlier surface, a sequence of consecutive gravel surfaces and their associated make-up deposits was identified (*viz.* 13540,13539, 13595, 13532, 5354), showing that there may have been as many as three surfacing episodes.

Surface(s) within precinct: 5184, 5354, 5772, 5773, 13529, 13540, 13595 + **make-up layers** 13012, 13013, 13243, 13448, 13459, 13532, 13539

5354	Samian platter f15/17 or f18 (SGSW) Other pottery dish B2/B4 (BSW), jar G16 (GRS), beaker H6.2 (NKG), fabrics VRW COLB LOND
13529	Pottery fabric GRS
13012	Samian platter f18R (SGSW) Other pottery platter A2 (BSW), dish B7 (BSW), beaker H6 (NKG), fabrics BB1 GRS
13243	Pottery fabric BSW
13448	Pottery jar G24.1 (GRS), fabric BSW
13459	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW

The pottery recovered provides a late 1st to mid 2nd century date. The pottery from 13529, 13243 and 13459 is inconclusive for dating purposes.

Surfaces outside precinct: 18832, 18869, 21549, 21591, 21631, 21632, 21634, 21645, 21832, 21962, 21991 (Fig. J12)

Further layers of silt lay outside, to the east, of the precinct. These overlay the earlier (Period II) gravel surface surface, and were overlain by another such surface represented by gravel deposits 21591, 21631 and 21962.

It is uncertain whether the find-free silts represented occupation build-up or a deliberate make-up for the new surface, though the absence of intervening features between them and the overlying surface may suggest the latter. As in the temple precinct, there appeared to be at least three episodes of surfacing in places. Probably laid at the same time as the surfacing of the precinct interior and perhaps the flanking roads, it is conjectured that the open area in front of the temple had an associated function.

Surfaces outside precinct

18832	Pottery fabric BSW
21991	Coin Radiate/AE4 (SF 7734)

Both the pottery and the coin provide only a general Roman date for this surface.

Building 52: 25056 (segs. 5508, 5513, 5555, 5563, 5565, 5567, 5569, 5571, 5573, 5575, 5577, 5767, 13417, 13836) (Fig. J14)

Building 52 is the second phase of temple *cella*. It survived as a foundation slot which described a circular structure some 15.7m in diameter (14.6m internally). The slot itself was 0.45m wide and up to 0.33m deep, filled with a distinctive orange-brown clay. This was a packing deposit around a series of upright posts, the positions of which were evident in the base of the slot. The presence of iron nails, particularly in slot segment 5555, where they appeared to form a linear distribution (SFs 4725-4731), gives further insight into the construction of this building and confirms the undisturbed nature of these foundation remains. The clay-filled foundation was interrupted by a short length of wider slot 5508 packed with mortared septaria rubble and gravel. This was located on the ENE side of the building and was clearly the remains of the threshold of a c.3m-wide doorway. The foundation slot was also interrupted on the south-west side of the building, although it is not clear whether this necessarily constituted a further entrance, since the surviving depth here was very much shallower (parts of segment 13836 were as shallow as 20mm, so this apparent gap may be a product of truncation).

Although Building 52 was roughly concentrically positioned around Building 34, it is unlikely that the two circular structures were ever contemporary. Building 52 cut directly through the trapezoid enclosure (Building 35) associated with the earlier temple. However, it does appear that this later temple was constructed in direct reference to the earlier as evidenced by their near-concentricity and the alignment of their entranceways. It is even possible that, while the trapezoid enclosure (Building 35) was demolished, the earlier *cella* itself remained and that Building 52 was constructed around it. If so, Building 34 need not have been removed until the imposition of pit

5588 in the interior of the latter. As for earlier *cella* Building 34, no evidence of internal roof supports was identified.

Building 52

5555	Samian platter f19 (SGSW) Other pottery fabrics GRS BSW
13417	Pottery fabric BSW

The pottery is largely inconclusive for dating purposes, although the samian suggests a late 1st or early 2nd century date. 13836 contained pottery which is wholly residual.

Plinth 5811 / 13520 (Fig. J15)

Plinth 5811/13520 was a rectangular block of mortared but uncoursed flint and septaria rubble at the centre of pit 5588/13432, within the interior of temple *cella* Building 52. The plinth measured 1.6m by 2.2m and, judging by the rough, unfinished, nature of its vertical faces, had originally been built/poured into a construction cut which probably intruded straight into natural gravel. The plinth survived only as a 0.35m deep foundation, any above-ground portion it once had being demolished in Period IV, so that it survived only below the contemporary floor surface.

Such a solid construction, only remotely paralleled by the Period IV precinct wall foundation Structure 46, must indicate a specific, probably load-bearing, function. Coupled with its location at the rear of the *cella* interior, aligned on the doorway, this structure was probably the remains of the base of a shrine, altar or even statue which occupied the former site of the tentative Period II B-III A shrine Structure 17.

The plinth was reduced down, just below floor level, probably around the mid- to later 2nd century. A deposit of looser flint, septaria and mortar rubble 5590, overlying the solid plinth remains, was most likely the result of wear/erosion of the new surface after this reduction. Although the plinth was physically within hexagonal cut 5588/13432, these two features were not strictly contemporary with one another. Indeed, the hexagonal pit was apparently cut *around* the extant plinth foundation, perhaps as part of this episode of reduction (*contra* Atkinson and Preston 1998, 100-1).

Pit 5588 / 13432 (Fig. J15)

Pit 5588/13432 was a near-hexagonal cut, roughly 7m by 5m, which had seemingly been excavated around the *in situ* foundation of plinth 5811/13520. Whether or not the unusual shape of the cut was significant, or indeed deliberate, it had been dug down to a point some 0.1-0.15m below the base of the plinth foundation. As **Fig J?** illustrates, the plinth remains were not undermined, but left on a low pedestal of natural gravel. It is unclear if this represented an abandoned attempt to remove the plinth, although the overall size of the surrounding cut would seem to have been excessive for this purpose. Nevertheless, the plinth was at least cut off below ground level as part of this operation. The pit had been quickly and deliberately backfilled with varying deposits of gravel and sand, silt-sand and finally clay 5589/13474. The fill sequence differed on each side of the plinth and it seems likely that infill material was tipped in randomly from all four sides. Other than small quantities of apparently unremarkable pottery and bone, the main finds component was septaria rubble and mortar which is presumed to derive from the plinth itself and probably indicates that the excavation of the pit was contemporary with the reduction of the plinth. However, pit segment 5588 also contained chicken bones. Given that the pits outside the temple doorway also contained chicken bones, it seems that there was a ritual aspect to the deposition in this pit - as might be expected for such a conspicuous feature inside a temple. The fact that the cutting and filling of pit 5588/13432 was a relatively late episode in the sequence of temple development is further suggested by the presence of some 84 tile tesserae (**ref. to tile rep?**), the incidence of which is generally a mid to late Roman phenomenon. It is perhaps possible to speculate that the pit was excavated to remove an associated structure that had *surrounded* the plinth, the only surviving remnant of which could have been represented by truncated post-hole 5815 in the base of pit 5588. In spite of its apparent hexagonal shape, there is no convincing evidence of this pit performing a ritual function in its own

right, although following the reconstitution of the area of the plinth and pit a replacement shrine (ref.?) was placed directly on top (see Period IV). If, as previously speculated, the earlier *cella* (Building 34) had initially co-existed with its larger replacement, it no longer did so; this pit clearly cutting Building 34's foundation slot.

Pit 5588 / 13432

5588	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS
13432	Pottery beaker H20 (LRC), flagon J3 (BUF), fabrics GRS BSW

The forms and fabrics present indicate a mid 2nd century date, although the pottery found in 5588 is inconclusive for dating purposes.

Pits 5147, 5156, 5158, 5177, 5206, 13366, 13399, 13401 (Fig. J16)

A very distinct intercut cluster of round-to-oval-shaped pits was located immediately to the north-east of the temple (Building 52). All were between 1.0-2.5m diameter and rarely deeper than 0.4m. Like the Period III A pit 13892, it is the location of these features which is of primary importance in the recognition of their probable 'ritual' function. The eight pits were all cut into the north-east corner of trapezoidal Building 35, clearly showing that it had been demolished by the early 2nd century. It is possible that some of the undated, but Roman, 'post-holes' to the north and east formed a screening fence around this area of pitting or even constitute minor depositional activity alongside.

It seems that the pits were contemporary with the use of the second phase of temple (Building 52), being located immediately alongside it, but carefully positioned so as not to encroach upon its access. Given the northern and eastern limits of this cluster, it is possible that they were even positioned in relation to the plan of the portico of earlier Building 35. This pitting continued into the 3rd century as evidenced by Period IV pit 5145; the latest in the intercut sequence.

Although the spatial distribution of these pits is striking, their contents display a less obvious, though discernible, trait of structured deposition. Finds assemblages largely comprise modest assemblages of pottery, tile, and bone that are not particularly different from those of Period III pits elsewhere across the settlement. The most obvious item of religious significance is the pipeclay Venus figurine (SF4717) in pit 13366, although pit 5147 contained an iron knife and bone needle and pit 5158 a bone hairpin. Perhaps most importantly, the remains of only *older* sheep have been identified (ref. [Johnstone and Albarella](#)) in pits 5147, 5156, 13366, 13399 and 13401. Furthermore, chicken bones were recovered from pits 5147 and 13366. Thus, the deposition of votive, even sacrificial, material seems clear-cut.

Period III B pits

5147 KPG	Samian bowls f30 (SGSW) f37 (CGSW), cup f27 (CGSW) Other pottery platters A4 (NKG) A2 (GRF BSW), dishes B2 (BB2) B1 (BSW) B7 (GRS BSW), bowls C1 C6 C12 (BSW), mortarium D1 (BUFM), jars G24 (GRS) G16 G19 (BSW) G20 G23 (GRS BSW), beakers H1 (GRF BSW) H4 (BSW), fabrics COLB VRW LOND
5156	Samian platter f18 (SGSW) Other pottery dish B7 (BSW), jar G19 (BSW), flagon J3 (VRW), fabric GRS
5158	Samian dish f18/31R (CGSW), cup f27 (CGSW) Other pottery platter A2 (BSW), dish B7 (GRS), fabrics LOND COLB BB2 NKG
5177	Pottery fabric BSW
13366	Samian platter f18R (SGSW), cup f27 (SGSW) Other pottery dish B7 (BSW), jars G23 G5 (GRS), beaker H1 (BSW), fabric NKG
13399	Samian dish f18/31 (CGSW) Other pottery dish B7 (BSW), fabric GRS
13401	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS

The fabrics and forms recovered indicate a late 1st to early 2nd century date. The BB2 dish fragments suggest continuation into the later 2nd century for 5147 (Key Pottery Group 21) and 5158.

PERIOD IV (Late 2nd to mid 3rd Century AD) (Fig. J17)

Little changed inside the temple precinct in the mid Roman period. The larger circular temple still stood, but the mortared plinth within it was demolished around the late 2nd century and replaced with flimsier wooden Structure 47 - presumably an altar/shrine. A monumental post was inserted into large pit 5232 inside the precinct, while another isolated but less massive post 21801 marked an important sight line just outside it.

The peripheries of the precinct however now became the scene of more intense and mixed activity. The wooden screening wall (Structure 39) along the front of the precinct was soon dismantled and a new one constructed, with at least a flint and rubble footing, on exactly the same line (Structure 45). The removal of Structure 39 can be placed in the mid Roman period from the pottery in the backfill of 21812. The second phase is not closely dated, but is assumed to have been an immediate replacement with major repairs to it undertaken in the 3rd century. **As it then stood until the late 4th century...** Relatively minor resurfacings were put down immediately outside (*i.e.* east of) the new precinct wall during this period, suggesting that the 'open space' in front of the precinct was maintained.

Both Roads 3 and 4 must have continued to function in this mid Roman period but now began to accumulate silty deposits on top and perhaps alongside. This period saw the last surviving resurfacing on Road 4, accompanied by a shallow roadside ditch and fenceline along the precinct perimeter. The third century also saw a further shift in depositional activity - this time to the northern precinct boundary, where a range of material was deposited in the roadside ditch and large pits subsequently cut into it. There was no comparable pattern of deposition alongside Road 3, except in probable defunct well 5394. It is likely that the substantial Period III B fenceline (Structure 38) continued to mark the south side of the precinct.

Pits 5093, 5145, 5245, 5394, 5510, 5524, 5940, 13084, 22114 (Fig. J18)

Compared to the clustered pitting of Period III, that of the mid Roman period was more dispersed, representing a shift of depositional practice to the peripheries of the temple precinct - particularly the northern. Pit 5145, although mid-Roman, was clearly the latest component of the otherwise Period III pit cluster next to the temple entrance. It is thus clear that the relocation of pit digging within the precinct occurred by the start of the 3rd century, if not slightly earlier. As was the case with the earlier clustered pits, a ritual function is indicated by old sheep and chicken remains in this pit and the presence of a stylus and iron door hinge base (SF 563) are likely to be significant too. Furthermore, the 4kg of oyster, rarely collected in quantity from any pit across the site, is also speculated to be deliberately deposited.

The northward shift was represented by sizeable pits 5510, 5524 and 5940 that occurred along the edge of Road 4. Though they differed in shape, all these pits were large and generally shallow and were characterized by the incidence of *tesserae*, along with quantities of tile, in their fills. Both pits 5524 and 5940 also contained chicken bones and oyster and a small range of other artefacts that may have been deliberately deposited. Further small pit 5245 contained a copper alloy ring (SF1292).

The few pits along the southern margins of the precinct seem to have a similar character to those on the northern edge. Pit 5093 may have been just a hollow which formed on the edge of Road 3, or a fusion of several smaller features, although the its finds assemblage includes oyster, tweezers, bone hairpin brooch fragment and a quantity of iron nails. Pit 5394 was one of the most substantial at over 3m diameter and in excess of 1m deep; reaching below the water-table. It was located at the west end of the precinct and contained a large deposit of clay. Although not fully excavated, it is possible that this was the upper portion of a well. Clay deposits 5447 and 5457 could therefore represent its slumped lining or a capping deposit. Above the clay, its mid Roman rubbishy fills included a 20kg oyster shell dump (**ref. to shell rep**) derived from its final use for rubbish disposal. Though smaller, adjacent pit 13084 contained a similar finds assemblage, including oyster shell, which may indicate an association between the two. Both also contained

chicken bones and 5394 a coin, hairpin and needle that would seem to confirm structured deposition in selected features along the southern side of the precinct.

22114 was a sub-rectangular pit that had seemingly been dug at the foot of the precinct wall. Subsequently, this pit created subsidence problems for the wall that necessitated its underpinning in Period V (see 21618 below). Mostly containing tile and animal bone, this pit does not appear to have attracted votive deposition.

Period IV pits

5093	Samian dish f31 (CGSW), bowl f38 or f44 (CGSW) Other pottery dishes B1 B3.2 B5.1 (BSW) B2/B4 (GRF), bowl-jar E2 (BSW), jar G9 (BSW), beaker H35 (GRF BSW), fabric NVC
5145	Samian fabric COLSW Other pottery dishes B1 B2/B4 (BSW), jars G42 (GRF) G24 (GRS), fabrics EGRHN HAX
5245	Pottery dishes B1 (BSW) B4 (GRS), beaker H34 (BSW)
5394	Samian dish f31 (EGSW), bowl f37 (CGSW) Other pottery dishes B1 B3.2 (BSW) B2 (BSW BB2), mortarium D1 (BUFM), jars G40 (GRS) G9 (BSW) G29 (BSW GRS), beakers H6 (NKG) H24 (NVC)
5510	Samian bowl f38 (EGSW) Other pottery dish B4 (BSW), fabric GRS
5524	Pottery bowl-jar E2 (GRF), fabric BSW
5940	Samian dish f31 (EGSW) Other pottery dishes B1 B3.2 (BSW) B4 (HAR BSW), jars G24 (GRS) G9 (GRF BSW), beaker H23 (NVC), fabrics NVP HAX
13084	Samian dish f31 (CGSW) Other pottery dishes B1 (BSW) B2 (BB2) B4 (GRF), jars G5.5 (GRS) G9 (BSW GRF), beakers H6 (GRF) H35 (BSW)
22114	Samian dish f31 (CGSW) Other pottery dishes B1 B2 B4 (BSW), beaker H32 (NVC), fabrics GRS HAR

The pottery recovered consists mainly of dishes and folded beakers, providing a late 2nd to mid 3rd century date. There is intrusive pottery and a late coin in 5394, but the coin in 5940 is residual. The samian present may not be residual.

Structure 45: 25069 (segs. 5442, 5639), 25225 (segs. 5201, 5461), 5186, 5218, 5444, 5452, 5455, 5446, 5634, 5650, 5652, 5697, 5700 (Fig. J17)

The line of an often truncated slot was traced alongside Roads 2 and 4 for a distance of c.58m. Some 0.25-0.35m wide and 0.10m deep, it was cut by a number of post-holes which may have been integral to the fence structure. It is likely that this fenceline was a continuous boundary although, as neither end was located, its relationship with the wall across the east side of the precinct remains undetermined. Judging by the degree of truncation by mid Roman pits and its removal by ditch 25070, fenceline structure 45 was probably the first of the major boundaries of this period, although fragmentary remains of post-hole lines suggest earlier structures along the same line, probably belonging to Period III B.

Structure 45

5201	Pottery dishes B1.4 B6.3 (BB1), fabrics NVC GRS BSW
5442	Pottery dish B3.2 (BSW), fabric GRS
5461	Pottery fabric GRS
5639	Pottery fabrics GRS NVM
5186	Pottery dish B4 (BSW), fabric GRS
5218	Pottery dishes B1 B2/B4 B6.2 (BSW), mortarium D14 (NVM), bowl-jar E2 (GRF), fabrics GRS NVC
5452	Pottery fabrics BSW GRF

Small amounts of pottery were recovered and this ranges in date from the early/mid 3rd century into the early 4th century. There are later pieces in 5218, some of which must be intrusive, and residual samian in 5455.

Boundary ditch 25070 (segs. 5267, 5437, 5525, 5695, 5928, 21061)

Ditch 25070 was an irregular linear which followed the curve of Road 4 and its junction with Road 1. Although the ditch width varied significantly, all the excavated segments were c.0.5m deep. Both terminals were located (5267 and 5928), so establishing a total length of c.28m. It is postulated that 5525 and 6595 were further, intermittent, elements of the same general roadside boundary; whether these marked a 12-16m-wide gap is uncertain.

Like the pits which occurred alongside, the ditch contained *tesserae*, tile and occasionally oyster shell and septaria rubble. The majority of the *tesserae* came from segment 5437 (ref to

tessera rep?). Like the pits, this ditch also contained a scatter of artefacts that may be deemed to have religious or votive connotations; segment 5437 yielded a copper alloy letter 'T' (SF2091), coin and chicken bones, while terminal segment 5928 contained a key (SF3556).

Boundary ditch 25070

5267	Pottery dishes B2/B4 (BSW) B3.2 (GRF), jars G5.5 G23 (GRS), fabric BB1
5437*	Samian dish f31R (EGSW), fabric COLSW Other pottery dishes B1.4 (BB1) B1 B3.2 B4 (BSW) B2 (BB2 BSW), bowl-jars E2 (GRF) E6 (HAR), jars G5.5 (GRF GRS), fabrics NKG NVC Coin Sestertius Commodus (SF 2090) 180-192
5525	Pottery fabrics NVC GRS BSW
5695	Pottery dish B2/B4 (GRF), bowl-jar E2 (BSW GRS), fabric NVC
5928*	Samian dish f32 (COLSW) Other pottery dishes B1 B2/B4 B5.1 (BSW) B3.2 (GRF BSW), jars G9 (BSW) G24.2 (GRS), beakers H32 (NVC) H34/35 (GRF), fabrics NVC HAX BB1 OXWM

These ditch sections contained pottery ranging in date from the late 2nd century to the mid 3rd century.

Structure 46: 18739, 18798, 21810, 21876, 21934, 21964, 21981, 22009 (Fig. J19)

Following the removal of the posts of the earlier, wholly wooden, precinct wall (Structure 39) a replacement was constructed in the same position. This survived as a linear arrangement of flint and septaria stone rubble, with occasional tile fragments. This rubble was bonded in places with clay, and was generally within a shallow construction cut; although this was often absent where there was a decent gravelled surface underlying. This wall footing extended across the 31m between Roads 3 and 4, broken only by a 3.1m entrance which was again aligned upon that of the temple *cella*. This position was not quite halfway along the length of the wall (15.2m from the south end but only 12.9m from the north).

Probably only the footing of this wall was constructed of stone rubble, although a dwarf wall is also possible - which may account for the lack of surviving post-settings. Judging by the shallow depth of its foundation, and the relative lack of loose stone in the vicinity, the majority of the wall was most likely of wooden construction. Whether this replacement was necessitated by deterioration of the earlier wall, or was part of an enhancement of the eastern façade, is unknown.

Dating of the construction of Structure 46 is not particularly clear. Given that repairs were probably carried out in the later 3rd century (see Period V), the wall could have been built anytime between mid/late 2nd and mid 3rd century. Given that a major component of this wall footing was septaria, as was plinth 5811/13520, **it is likely that the construction of both was contemporary. Text has the plinth already reduced by now!!!**. Thus the off-centre positioning of the precinct wall entrance was to facilitate an alignment (and so a clear line of sight) through the *cella* doorway to the plinth. The two coins (SFs 7687, 7689) collected from on top of truncated wall remains 21810 suggest a final demolition date in the mid to late 4th century (see Period VI).

2nd Precinct wall: 18739, 18798, 21810, 21876, 21934, 21964, 21981, 22009

21810	Pottery fabric GRS
21876	Pottery fabrics NVC GRS
22009	Pottery fabric GRS

Most of the pottery recovered is inconclusive for dating purposes, but the Nene Valley dish base found in 21876 indicates a late Roman date.

Post-hole 5232 (Fig. J20)

Pit 5232, located in the north-east corner of the temple precinct, was a 3.4m by 1.5m cut that survived to a depth of 0.5m. It contained a large post-pipe, up to 0.4m diameter, that was packed around with flints and the rest of the pit filled with clay. Apparently erected in the 3rd century, the post appears to have stood perhaps until the late 4th century. There were no features in obvious association with this post-hole and it seems likely that it stood in relative isolation - perhaps as a marker or 'totem pole' of some kind. While it did not occupy a prominent, or central place, such was the case with monumental post-hole F1977 at Witham Ivy Chimneys (Turner 1999, 40). The late

insertion of this feature into the complex may explain this, at least in part. Such a massive post by itself would have drawn attention whatever its position.

Post-hole 5232

5232	Pottery dishes B1 (GRS HAB BSW) B4 (BB2 GRF) B6.2 (GRF), bowl-jars E2 (GRF) E5/E6 (BSW); jars G5 G24 G42 (BSW) G9 G23 (GRS) G27.2 (LSH), beaker H32 (NVC), fabric OXRC
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Most of the pottery recovered from the posthole fill dates to the early to mid 3rd century. There are later pieces in the fill of the postpipe perhaps indicating accumulation in the slump hollow into the late 4th century+.

Post-hole 21801 (Fig. J20) **move to Period V**

Post-hole 21801 was located outside, to the east of the temple precinct. Though somewhat smaller, at 1.15m in diameter with a central post-pipe of 0.33m diameter, it was similar to the 'monumental post-hole' 5232. However, the apparent significance of this feature was indicated by its location - 11m directly in front of the doorway of the eastern precinct wall and ultimately aligned upon the *cella* entrance and the plinth within. It would therefore seem that this cut held a post which was integral to the temple complex. The location of this feature outside the precinct may suggest that religious rites were not held exclusively within its confines and that the gravel surfaced area to its east had an associated function. It was most likely erected in the late 3rd century and stood until the early/mid-4th century when it was removed and the pipe backfilled. While the stone and flint rubble packing around the post may indicate erection contemporaneous with the precinct wall, the coin and mirror fragment may represent a foundation 'offering'.

Post-hole 21801

21801	Pottery dishes B1 B2 B6.2 (BSW), jar G9 (BSW), fabric GRS Coin Radiate Tetricus II (SF 7694) 273-274
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The dishes present indicate a mid to late 3rd century date. This is supported by the coin evidence.

Gravel surfaces: 18740, 21816, 21901, ?21651, ?18793 (Fig. J17)

Upper silt: 18831, 21613, 21643, 21659, 21678, 21800, 21875, 21913, 21922, 21958, 22102,

Lower sand-silt: ?21630, 21633, 21649, 21652, 21758, 21772, 21908, 21912, 22107, 22126

Thin gravel layers 18740, 21816, 21901 and possibly 21651 represent the latest surviving gravel 'occupation' surface in Area J, most of which lay to the east of the precinct wall and therefore outside the temple complex. The rubble footings of the precinct wall were demonstrated to cut through some of these surface fragments. The surfaces themselves overlay silt deposits that can be broadly grouped into two types; a lower gravely sandy-silt that was probably in part derived from degradation of the Period III surface below and an upper dark silt. These represent ?use accumulation on the surfaces in front of the temple precinct - apparently after the new wall had been built.

Occupation layers:

18831	Pottery fabrics COLC GRS BSW
21613	Pottery dish B1 (GRS), bowl-jar E2 (GRS), fabrics HAX NVC
21678	Pottery dish B1 (GRS), fabric BSW
21758	Pottery fabric GRF
21816	Pottery fabric BSW Coin Barbarous Radiate (SF 7735) 270-290
21913	Samian dish f31R (CGSW) Other pottery dish B2 (BSW), fabrics COLC NKG GRS

The forms and fabrics present indicate a late 2nd to mid 3rd century date, although the coin and some fabrics suggest continuation later into the 3rd century. There is also intrusive pottery present in 21613 and 21816, and that in 21912 is wholly residual.

Road 3: (Fig. J17)

As noted previously, the latest surviving surfaces of Road 3 are only broadly dated from the 2nd century onwards. As the road clearly continued into use throughout the mid-Roman period, it is likely that at least some of the silt accumulations, included in the Period III B discussion, that

overlay it date to Period IV and beyond. That there was no evidence for any later maintenance of this road is perhaps surprising and it remains possible that later surfaces simply did not survive here. However, this apparent lack of maintenance is a common feature of the late roads across the site.

The only dated surfaces of Road 4 in this area can be assigned mid-late 2nd to 3rd century dates. There is no sign of any new surface later than this. This road is discussed more fully in Area H.

Structure 47: 5505, 5506, 5515, 5517, 5519, 5521, 5715/13428 (Fig. J15)

Following the reduction of the mortared plinth 5811/13520 and infilling of pit 5588 / 13432, the whole was levelled off and capped with orange clay deposit 5506/13428. A wooden post-built structure was then placed directly over the former site of the plinth; its four post-holes 5515, 5517, 5519 and 5521 penetrating the clay capping and using the underlying truncated plinth foundation to provide a solid footing. The post-holes described a rectangle of 1.2m by 1.4m and, given its location, it would seem that this was perhaps the remains of a replacement shrine within the still-standing circular temple.

To the east of this structure its north-east was almost-square cut 5505. Like the four post-holes, it was cut through the clay capping deposit. It was 'packed' with tile and stone rubble and was presumably a setting for a timber upright. A similar feature was recorded on the southern edge of the clay capping during the evaluation stage (Feature 3910, Trial Trench 7), but seems to have been removed during the subsequent machine stripping of Area A1. Features 3910 and 5505 could therefore conceivably have been the remains of a structure associated with the four-post 'shrine', perhaps forming a housing or canopy around/over it.

Structure 47

5506	Pottery fabrics COLC BSW
5515	Pottery fabrics COLC GRS

Small amounts of pottery, mainly bodysherds, were recovered. Colchester colour-coated ware is current from the mid 2nd to the mid 3rd centuries, and provides the date.

PERIOD V: (Fig. J21)

Although the circular temple still stood and presumably still functioned, it is impossible to tell anything about its interior in this period. The rest of the precinct was maintained with only minor changes. The northern precinct boundary became increasingly fragmented as pitting activity, that included an element of structured deposition, continued very much in the same vein as in Period IV. An exception was the location of pit 5026 in the precinct interior, this time to the south of the temple doorway.

Both monumental posts still stood through much of this period, being removed only at its end and leaving the temple itself as the only surviving religious construction. The precinct wall stood into the 4th century but was in need of repair. The mid Roman pit 22114 that had been dug at its foot now caused part of the wall to slump. An attempt was made to underpin the wall here (21618) and repairs were apparently made elsewhere along it too. However, this was a short-lived solution and parts of the wall collapsed before the whole lot was demolished at the end of this period or the start of the next. The demise of this wall left the temple standing in isolation, lacking even a formal precinct marked out around it; the boundary fences having also disappeared by the mid 4th century. Despite this the religious significance of the temple endured.

Pits 5026, 5165, 5178, 5282/5355, 5313, 5349 (Fig. J22)

The late Roman pits were all fairly large, but shallow, and almost exclusively restricted to a peripheral location along the side of Road 4. The exception, and one of the largest and most regularly-shaped, was earlier 4th century pit 5026. It occupied a position to the south-east of the temple *cella* entrance which is reminiscent of that of the Period III B pit cluster to its north-east. Whether this piece of 'ritual symmetry' was deliberate is unclear. Even if it were, it was limited to this single pit rather than a continuing practice as earlier.

Whether peripheral or central, these pits contained similar finds assemblages. Like those of Period IV, the incidence of *tesserae* and septaria is notable. However, the assemblages are both larger and more varied with a marked increase in tile, iron nails and animal bone. Amongst these apparently 'bulk' rubbish assemblages there are items which may have been votive. Pit 5026 contained 900g of oyster, 5178 a bracelet and stylus, 5282 an iron blade.

Pits 5026, 5165, 5178, 5282, 5313, 5349

5026	Pottery dishes B1.4 (BB1) B6.2 (BSW), bowl-jar E5.4 (GRF), jar G26 (GRS), fabrics NVC ALH
5165	Pottery fabric HAB
5178	Pottery dishes B1.4 (BB1) B6 (BSW), bowl-jar E2 (GRS), jars G9 (BB1) G24 (RET), beaker H32 (RED), fabrics HAX NVC
5282/ 5355	Samian fabric EGSW Other pottery dishes B1 (BSW) B4 (GRS) B6 (GRS), bowl-jar E2 (GRS), jars G9 (BB1) G5.5 (GRS), fabrics HAX NVC
5313	Pottery dish B6.1 (GRF)
5349	Pottery beaker H32 (NVC), fabrics NVM HAX BB1

The pottery recovered mainly dates to the late 3rd to mid 4th centuries. Some fabrics and forms present continue into the later 4th century.

Boundary ditches: 5404, 5428, 5435, 5473 (Fig. J23)

A number of shallow fragmentary linear cuts, representing a series of recut ditches, ran alongside Road 4. **Ditch 5473 was somewhat detached but was probably the same, or a very similar, ditch at the south-west corner of the area.** Although there is little evidence to demonstrate that this ditch ran all the way along the roadside, it could easily have done so but been masked by later pitting and overlying unexcavated silt layers.

Boundary ditches

5404	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW
5428	Pottery dish B2/B4 (HAB), fabrics GRS BSW
5473	Pottery dishes B6.2 (BSW) B6.3 (BB1), bowl-jar E3 (GRS), jar G24 (GRS), beakers H32 (NVC BSW) H39 (GRF), fabric NVM

The best dating evidence comes from section 5473. The pottery present indicates a late 3rd to mid 4th century date.

Structure 52: Fenceline: 5183, 5297, 5304, 5323, 5325, 5336, 5343, 5389, 5406, 5415, 5439, 5466, 5468, 5470, 5475, 5545, 5647, 5658, 5660, 5749, 5849, 5892, 5911, 13305, 13307 (Fig J24)

These post-holes ran along the south side of Road 4, marking the north and west limits of Area J. They need not all belong together but they do all represent the same idea of a fence along this line, continuing the same boundary as seen in the early and middle Roman periods. (It is not actually clear that all of these need be quite so late, some could belong in the earlier periods). It is very likely that more such post-holes will have been obliterated by the large pits of this and the next period. Only a couple of these are likely to belong to Period VI themselves (5336, 5545, based on 1 and 2 sherds respectively) but these only really make sense if they are grouped together, so they may belong here if the finds derived from disuse.

Structure 52

5297	Pottery fabric BSW
5304	Pottery jar G24 (RET), fabrics GRS BB1
5336	Pottery dish B6.2 (BSW), beaker H41 (NVC), fabric GRS
5343	Pottery dish B1 (HAB), fabric NVC
5415	Pottery fabric BSW
5468	Pottery fabric GRS
5545	Pottery dish B5.2 (BB1), fabric NVM
5658	Pottery fabric GRS
5749	Pottery fabrics NVC BSW
5892	Pottery fabric GRS
5911	Pottery fabrics BSW GRF

The pottery recovered consists mainly of bodysherds, but the forms and fabrics present indicate a late 3rd to mid 4th century date. The pottery from postholes 5297, 5415, 5468, 5658, 5892 and 5911 is inconclusive for dating purposes.

Structure 53: Precinct wall repair: 21618, 21667, 21778, 21876/21795, 22079 + 5234, 5236, 5238, 5299, 5339, 5378, 22083 (Fig. J24)

Although the precinct wall still stood into the late Roman period, it is clear that by now the insubstantial nature of its foundations had begun to cause severe problems. Pit 22114 had caused its foundations to subside into the soft fills and the wall to lean westwards. The shallow ‘pit’ or scoop 21618, which had been cut into the top of the pit, represents an attempt to consolidate the ground and perhaps to facilitate access to the wall foundation for the purpose of repairs. This consolidation work appears to have been enclosed by a line of post-holes 5234, 5236, 5238, 5299, 5339, 5378, and a small slot 22083 which may have formed some sort of a barrier or structure around the excavation; possibly even a scaffold.

5m-long slot 21795/21876 was the underpinning trench for the repairs which were subsequently undertaken. The west face of the wall footing was replaced with roughly coursed tile and mortar (22079) – in contrast to the largely unbonded stone rubble of the earlier build. Scoop 21618 was filled with tile rubble as part of this work. Ultimately, these repairs were not very effective and the wall continued to slip into pits 22114 and 21618. These repairs seem to have taken place in the late 3rd century and the entire wall was probably demolished in the first half or around the middle of the 4th century, judging by the date of Building 64 which straddled its former line. Its reduction down to ground level may well have been precipitated by the collapse of parts of the wall; an extensive spread of septaria and tile 21667 lay to the east of the underpinned section of precinct wall and could have been the result of either collapse or demolition, though it is conceded that it could have been the remains of a dump of material actually used in the repair of the wall.

Structure 53

21618	Pottery bowl-jar E5.4 (BSW), fabrics NVC BB1 GRS
21667	Pottery fabric NVC
21795	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS
21876	Pottery fabric NVC
22079	Pottery fabric GRS
5234	Samian dish f31 (EGSW) Other pottery fabrics GRS BSW

5236	Pottery jar G9 (BSW), fabrics GRS NVC
5238	Pottery fabric BSW
5339	Pottery jar G26 (MWSRS)
5378	Pottery fabrics RET GRS

The pottery recovered consists mainly of bodysherds, but the forms and fabrics present provide a 3rd century date. The pottery from 21795, 22079 5234 and 5238 is inconclusive for dating purposes.

Roads and tracks

There is little evidence for it, but Road 4 must have continued in use in this period. It certainly provided enough silty roadwash deposits to begin accumulating a considerable build-up along its southern edge, which continued into Period VI (see Fig. J26 for extent). There was no evidence of any new surfacing later than the 3rd century in this area, while in Area H it appeared that the process of silting over the top began as early as the end of the 3rd century. This is in apparent contrast with the evidence for continuing marking of the boundary along the line of the road, as represented in this period by a ditch and a fenceline, and later by large pits.

PERIOD VI: (Fig. J26)

The end of the Roman occupation witnessed significant developments in this area. There were, however, no features of early Saxon date.

The southern half of the east precinct façade was completely robbed out, and although evidence for this in the northern half is less conclusive, it may be presumed to have been the case there too. Indeed, the northern stretch of wall may simply have fallen over by the mid 4th century. Building 64 was then constructed over the former wall line; notably on the same alignment. This may have been one of the more elaborately embellished buildings on the site; its vicinity yielded several hundred *tesserae* and a small fragment of its tessellated interior survived *in situ*.

At the opposite end of the area, a small but solidly constructed square structure (Building 63) seems to have had a lead-working role. There is no evidence for what was being made there, and there do not appear to have been any lead objects with any religious connotations anywhere on site, so perhaps there is something of a diversification of the activities in the area, with not everything now revolving around the temple? Review and re-write

Between these two new buildings, the temple *cella* almost certainly survived in the by-now unenclosed precinct. Building 64 seems to have avoided impeding access to its doorway. While the physical state of the temple is unknown, it is apparent from the continuing deposition of likely votive material in pits to its north that it continued to function as a place of worship. Indeed, the total lack of encroaching features and absence of evidence for either demolition or robbing suggest that the temple stood, at very least as a revered ruin, into the 5th century and the eventual abandonment of the settlement. Further evidence for its continuance is present in well 22210. Having passed out of use sometime previously, a standing pool of water had most likely developed in its top. Located just outside the former precinct entrance, this pool had clearly become the focus of votive deposition by visitors to the temple in the final decades of the 4th century, accumulating quantities of coin and jewellery.

Note that monumental post-hole 5232 probably robbed out in later 4th cent – cite late pot in slumping into its post-pipe (5260).

Pits: 5179, 5180, 5189, 5209, 5341, 5359, 5379, (5429), 5471, 5509, 5736, 5805, (13873) (Fig. J27)

The latest Roman pits closely followed the patterning of those of Period V, being generally large and located along the edge of Road 4. Many of these were of elongated plan which suggests that there was a deliberate and tight restriction of these features to the confines of the precinct permitting no serious encroachment upon the adjacent thoroughfare. Thus, particularly at the north-east edge of the area, these begin to resemble a discontinuous roadside ditch. The most extreme of these elongated pits were 5359 and 5471, their almost rectilinear slot-like appearance perhaps suggesting

that they had other specific functions in association with this boundary. Indeed, the various personal items and tools in pit 5359 may comprise a structured deposit.

The only deposits of latest Roman material *within* the precinct interior were 5429 and 13873. Both survived within slump hollows of earlier features and may represent the last vestiges of remains of once extensive deposits. Deposit 5429 may have been associated with the occupation of Building 63, against the east wall of which it accumulated.

The finds assemblages from these latest Roman pits were very similar to those of Period V and perhaps serve to show, like their distribution, that these were a continuation of the same depositional trend. Most significantly, a number of them contained artefacts that may constitute votive offerings. Pit 5179 yielded face flagon and shale bracelet fragments, pit 5341 chicken bones, pit 5509 five coins, pit 5805 tools, keys, a hairpin and many iron nails. Most convincingly, pit 5209 contained 20 coins, iron tools, a glass bead, 8kg of oyster and chicken bones. Furthermore, the range of 'waste' iron, copper and lead present, large numbers of coin, and deposition of face pots in these latest pits is reminiscent of the ditch 25027 assemblage (Area F) which is also thought to be the product of votive deposition.

Period VI pits

5179	Pottery dishes B5.3 (LSH) B6.1 (BSW), bowl C8 (OXRC), fabrics OXP HAX NVC Coins AE3 Constantius II (SF 1273) 337-341, AE3 Valens (SF 1270) 367-375
5180	Pottery dish B5.3 (LSH), bowl C7.2 (BSW)
5189	Pottery jar G27.2 (LSH)
5209 KPG	Pottery dishes B1 (NVC) B6.3 (BB1), bowl C8 (OXRC), jar G27 (LSH), fabrics ALH OXSWM Coins AE3 Constantius II (SF 1892, 1897) 347-348, AE3 Valens (SF 1894) 367-375, AE4 Valentinian II (SF 1882) 388-392, AE4 House of Theodosius (SF 1881) 388-408
5341	Pottery dish B6 (NVC), bowl C8 (OXRC NVC), jar G27 (LSH), beaker H17 (HAX), fabrics CEP OXWM OXSWM
5359	Pottery fabrics OXP ALH LSH
5379	Pottery dish B6.3 (BB1), bowl C8 (HAX), jar G27.2 (LSH), fabrics OXRC NVC OXSWM
5429	Pottery jar G27.2 (LSH)
5471	Pottery dish B6.3 (BB1), fabric NVC
5509	Pottery dish B6 (NVC), bowl C8 (OXRC), jar G27.1 (LSH), fabrics OXWM CEP PORD Coins AE3 Valens (SF 2265) 364-367, AE3 Valentinian I (SF 2261) 364-375, AE4 Theodosius (SF 2260) 388-395
5736	Pottery fabrics LSH OXRC
5805	Pottery dish B6.3 (BB1), beaker H42 (NVC), fabrics NVP OXWM ALH
13873	Pottery dish B6 (NVC), fabrics OXRC OXWM

Most of the pottery recovered from these pits dates to the late 4th century+, and the fragmentary nature of all the pottery indicates agreement with this date. Late coins were found in three pits; the top fill of pit 5209 contained twenty, nearly all of late 4th century date. Most pits also contained residual material; in particular, high residuality was noted for pit 5189.

Roadside silt deposits 5148, 5159, 5153, 5227, 5228, 5275, 5305, 5306, 5307, 5401, 5409, 5413, 5414, 5453, 5543, 5580, 5605

These layers were all basically dark sandy silts overlying the latest Road 4 surfaces and the various features alongside. Although they have previously been regarded as little better than cleaning layers, they do seem to represent real archaeological deposits. All contained considerable quantities of finds, and all date to the late 4th century or later. The nature of the finds assemblages indicate that these deposits were largely the ill-defined upper portions of the roadside pits and ditches that they overlay - although an element of silting and roadwash is not discounted. Having identified an element of structured deposition in the features below, it is unsurprising that these deposits contained similar ranges of finds. This included some 126 mid to late Roman coins and ...

As such, these deposits should be interpreted in close conjunction with the late pits of this area. [Note that an element from the Period V roadside pits is very likely too.](#)

Period VI silt deposits

5148	Pottery dishes B1 B6 (NVC) B5.3 (LSH) B6.3 (BB1), jar G27 (LSH), fabrics ALH PORD OXSWM OXWM OXRC Coins AE3 Constantius II (SF 566) 352-360, AE3 Constans (SF 1271) 347-348, AE3 Valens (SF 571) 364-375, AE4 Valentinian (SF 1276) 367-375, AE4 House of Theodosius (SF 570) 388-402
5159	Pottery dishes B5.3 (LSH) B1 (NVC), bowl C8 (HAX OXRC), jar G27 (LSH), fabrics CEP ALH OXSWM OXWM Coin AE3 Valens (SF 1876) 367-375
5153	Pottery jar G27.2 (LSH), fabrics OXRC OXSWM Coins AE4 Theodosius (SF 1915) 388-395, AE4 Arcadius (SF 1913) 388-402
5227	Pottery bowl C8 (OXRC), jar G27.1 (LSH), fabrics CEP OXW
5228	Pottery dishes B5.3 (LSH) B1 (NVC), bowl C8 (OXRC), jar G27 (LSH), fabrics PORD OXP OXSWM OXWM
5275	Pottery fabrics LSH CEP OXRC OXWM OXSWM Coins AE3 Constans (SF 1314) 337-341, AE3 Constans (SF 1313) 347-348, AE4 Constantius II (SF 1302) 355-361, AE4 Honorius (SF 1870) 394-402
5305	Pottery dishes B1 B6 (NVC) B10 (OXRC), jar G27 (LSH), fabrics PORD OXWM OXSWM
5306	Pottery dishes B1 (LSH NVC) B6 (NVC) B10 (OXRC), bowl C8 (OXRC), bowl-jar E3 (BSW), jar G27 (LSH), fabrics ALH CEP PORD OXSWM OXWM
5307	Pottery dishes B1 (NVC) B5.3 (LSH) B10 (OXRC) B6.3 (BB1), bowl C8 (OXRC), jar G27 (LSH), fabric OXSWM
5401	Pottery dishes B1 B6 (NVC), bowl-jar E6 (HAX), jar G27.2 (LSH), fabrics OXSWM OXRC OXP Coins ; AE3 House of Constantine (SF 2076) 347-348, AE4 Valentinian II (SF 2074) 388-392, AE4 House of Theodosius (SF 2068 2085) 388-408
5409	Pottery dish B6.3 (BB1), jar G27.2 (LSH), fabrics OXRC OXSWM OXWM
5453	Pottery dishes B1 B6 (NVC) B5.3 (LSH) B10 (OXRC), bowl C8 (OXRC), jar G27.2 (LSH), fabrics OXSWM PORD Coin AE4 House of Theodosius (SF 3542) 388-408
5543	Pottery dishes B6.3 (BB1) B6 (NVC), fabrics OXRC OXSWM
5580	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS

Quantities of fragmentary and abraded pottery were recovered, providing a late 4th century+ date. Many latest Roman forms and fabrics are present along with plenty of late coins. There is some residual pottery present throughout with high residuality noted for 5543 only.

Precinct wall: collapse 21619, 21620, 21666, 21668, 21756, 21878, 21979; robbing 21815/21929, 21944, 22169 (Fig. J24)

The temple precinct wall seems to have collapsed and been only partially tidied up. We might have called this episode ‘robbing’ but it was a rather feeble exercise. The collapse deposits were mainly rubble and tile which seem to have accumulated along the foot of the wall line, contributing to layers over the tops of pits and other features in the vicinity. Only deposits 21878 and 21979 had the appearance of a real *in situ* collapse, but the rest must derive from the same process. None of these deposits has any clear relationship to the ‘robbing’ episodes, which confirms how half-hearted the ‘robbing’ was. All point to a period of silting following the collapse which might hint at a degree of inertia among the custodians of the precinct. None gives the impression of being any sort of deliberate levelling deposit, for example.

21815 was a shallow trench of about 1.6m width and never more than 0.20m deep. It followed the line of wall foundation 21810, running in all about 15m; essentially the whole south half of the former wall. If it was a robbing attempt, it was not pursued very hard. There was plenty of wall left below it. 21944 was an even less convincing and more restricted ‘robbing’ cut at the north end of the wall. 18742 has been included as it does appear to be a fill without stone where there ought to be stone. There is no indication that it occupies a cut of its own, though. It seems to be in **18986** (part of the wall). It could just also have been intended to flatten the area preparatory to erection of Building 64, especially as the fill was a silty clay and tile.

It may be more appropriate to call these ‘clearance’ or ‘tidying’ episodes rather than ‘robbing’. Given that the stone-footed walls seem to have been remarkably unsuccessful (or at least, required extensive repairs over their lives), it may be that ‘robbing’ is not really the appropriate term here; these will represent merely another aspect of the decay of the wall, although an explanation in terms of recovery of the stone may be appropriate. As Building 64 was to be built over the line of the wall, this episode may well have been more or less the least the builders could get away with in the preparation of the site.

Precinct wall collapse

21619	Pottery dish B1 (NVC), bowl C8 (OXRC), fabrics LSH HAX
21620	Pottery dish B6 (GRS), fabric NVC
21666	Pottery dish B6.2 (BSW), fabric HAX
21756	Pottery fabric NVC

Precinct wall robbing

21815	Pottery dishes B1 (NVC) B6 (GRS), fabrics LSH OXRC
22169	Pottery dish B6 (GRS), fabrics HAX OXRC OXSWM

These contexts produced pottery which does not provide a firm date. Most contexts contained early/mid 4th century pottery, but three, 21619, 21815 and 22169, also contained fabrics and forms of late 4th century+ date. The pottery from 21979 and 21944 consists of bodysherds which are not closely datable and also probably residual.

Well/pool 22210 (Fig. J25)

Although almost nothing is known about its earlier construction and use, probable well 22210 had been located outside the temple precinct, just north-east of its entrance. Although only partially excavated, it was established that the 3.5m diameter construction cut had been packed with orange clay around the postulated wooden well shaft lining. As a functioning well, this feature had probably passed out of use by the late 3rd century. In disuse, its lining had decayed and the clay construction backfill slumped to line a splayed erosion cone. This created a water-tight feature that is interpreted as forming a water-filled pool that was conveniently situated alongside the main line of access to the temple itself. Its deliberate conversion into a pool cannot be discounted, as neither can an association with the temple during its working life as a well. Deposition within this pool differed from that in contemporary pits, lacking large quantities of bulk materials such as building materials, pottery and bone. More significantly, its fills contained 63 coins ([ref to coin rep?](#)), the majority of which came from the upper fill. There appears to be a general division of dates between the coins of these two deposits, the lower being late 3rd century and the upper 4th century; anomalies between the two probably being due to cross-contamination during excavation. Along with the coins, were small quantities of copper alloy items such as pins (SFs 7954 =cosmetic probe, 7969, =possible bracelet 7992 =tube) and cosmetic tools (SF 8078 =possible catch) together with shale bracelet fragments (SFs 7953, 7968, 8049, 8076) and a knife (SF 7751).

It is speculated that this pool attracted the deposition of coins and personal items by visitors to the temple. This practice continued until the late 4th century and may not have been restricted to this one feature; adjacent late Roman 'post-hole' 22062 also contained three jet bracelet fragments. This might suggest that other, undated, small cuts in this vicinity may also have been the remains of further depositional activity that did not involve durable offerings.

Well / pool 22210

22210	Pottery jar G27.2 (LSH), fabrics OXRC OXSWM Coins AE2 Constantius II (SF 7952) 353-360, AE3 Valentinian I (SF 7772 7948 7963) 364-367, AE3 Valens (SF 7767 7962) 367-375, AE3 Gratian (SF 7950) 367-375, AE4 Theodosius (SF 7990) 388-395, AE4 Arcadius (SF 7983) 388-402, AE4 House of Theodosius (SF 7972 7984) 388-408
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The pottery from the upper fills included a range of late 4th century+ forms and fabrics and is similar in character to pottery recovered from upper fills elsewhere - an accumulation of debris in the slump hollows of backfilled features. Of note is the presence of sixty-three late coins. There is residual pottery present but this need not predate the 3rd century.

Building 63 and pits 5400, 5450 (Fig. J28) [Revamp lead-working interp](#)

Building 63 was a small 3.5m square building located at the western extreme of the area. Its foundation trench 5421, 0.5m wide and 0.4m deep, contained large flint pebbles, septaria rubble and tile in a silt fill. The trench was continuous, with no suggestion of the position of a doorway and no indications of the nature of the building above its footings, such as post-settings within the trench. However, the foundation trench contained tile-built vent or drain 5915 toward the northern corner of the building which probably would have sat at around ground level.

The interior of the building was surfaced with a 0.2m thick layer of small flint pebbles and silt 5477, through the centre of which small pit 5450 had been cut. The pit was only 0.3m deep but

contained a lead disc (SF 2109) and 722g of lead waste (SFs 2105, 2258, 8387) in its upper fill. Apart from these items, the finds content of this feature was seemingly insignificant. The infilled pit had been partially recut as pit 5400 and this also contained lead items (SFs 2069, 1004) along with a likely capping deposit of tile.

The building remains were covered with apparent abandonment and destruction deposits (5383, 5386, 5387, 5416, 5441) that included quantities of tile, stone rubble and pottery. Further lead waste (SFs 1919, 2030, 8386) was also present along with copper alloy items and late Roman coins in the overlying cleaning layer (5383).

Are the copper alloy balls (sfs 2027, 2108, 2257) in layer 5387 and pit 5450 significant? Along with other copper alloy objects?

It would appear that Building 63 was used for metalworking, primarily the casting of lead objects. Pit 5450 may have actually been a hearth or the fire-pit below such a hearth, with 'recut' 5400 perhaps relating to its disuse and the reconstitution of the floor, though it did contain an amount of charcoal. The tile vent 5915 was probably associated with this function, either as an air duct or drain.

This structure could represent a change in the sacred use of this space to the 'rear' of the temple. Of course, we should not assume that this lead-working cannot have been connected to the religious functions at all: casting of *defixiones* or other religious items is a very real possibility. Or the lead may be a red herring, and the 'vent' may be a drain: were they washing the floor a lot? Which might suggest it was, say, a slaughter-house (whether purely functional or sacrificial)?

Building 63: and pits 5400, 5450

5421	Pottery fabric GRS
5400	Pottery jar G35 (GRS), fabric BSW
5450	Pottery fabrics GRS NVC BSW

Very little pottery was recovered, but there is a 4th century jar form and the pottery is fragmentary, probably indicating a late Roman date. The pottery from 5400 has been burnt, and that from 5420 is wholly residual.

Destruction/abandonment layers 5383, 5386, 5387, 5416, 5441

5383	Pottery jar G27.2 (LSH), fabric OXRC
5387	Pottery fabrics OXRC LSH OXSWM

Most of the pottery recovered consists of fabrics and forms which provide a late 4th century+ date. The pottery from 5441 is wholly residual; the brooches from 5383, 5386 and 5441 are also residual.

Building 64: 18873, 18879, 18889, 18952, 18953, 18992, 21006, 21008, 21010, 21013, 21504, 21506, 21509, 21511, 21525, 21527, 21529, 21531, 21554, 21580, 21583, 21589, 21721, 21730, 21732, 21738, 21748, 21783, 21818, 21820, 21884, 21888, 21890, 21892, 21905, 21923, 21936, 21947, 22010, 21514, 18923 (Fig. J29)

Building 64 was a timber structure located on the east side of the area. Lines of closely-set post-holes of uniform size marked the walls of a rectangular structure at least 12m long and 7m wide. A smaller rectangular room, measuring approximately 4m by 5m extended off its western side. The different construction of this room, with a slot foundation, suggests that it may have been an addition to the main building. Whether these remains present the full northwards extent of the building is unknown, but it likely that it did not impede access from the east to the temple itself. An internal partition of the main room is postulated.

While the post-holes of the main part of the building were largely uniform, those at the corners (*i.e.*, 21884 and 21529) and occasional examples along the walls (*e.g.*, 21527) were larger and contained a gravelly clay packing. These presumably housed the main supporting timbers and help define the extents of the building. The slot foundations of the additional room were somewhat irregular with slot 21013 containing post-settings and 21006/18892 terminating in further integral post-holes. Of these, post-hole 18953 at the south end of the slot seems to have been replaced by a bonded tile, flint and chalk post-pad 18924. The bonding material was actually *opus signinum* and may hint that the interior, of at least the added room, was thus surfaced. Slot 18892 also contained large sandstone boulder 18963 and two smaller similar fragments. These were positioned at the

corner of the foundation in order to give it a solid footing. This smaller room had also clearly contained a plain tessellated floor. This survived as *in situ* fragments 18923 which overlay the south wall foundation and presumably originally ran up to the foot of the wall itself.

Silt layer 21514 and overlying cleaning layer 21500 may have been the remains of accumulated deposits within the main building. These contained quantities of *tesserae*, as did many of the structural features, but 21500 is noteworthy for the 21 late Roman coins collected from it, which may well have been related to the occupation of this building. Small 'post-hole' 21745, roughly in the centre of the building interior, contained a complete tazza bowl (Fig. ref.) and is tentatively associated with its occupation - perhaps being a foundation deposit.

Building 64 was the clearest demonstration of latest Roman activity within Area J. It straddled the remains of the demolished precinct wall and presented a major departure from the layout of this area which had prevailed for almost 400 years. At the same time, a degree of conformity was maintained in the alignment of the building, which followed that of the underlying wall. It is likely that Building 64 did not extend significantly further and that it respected the access to the temple. This is not to say that the building was necessarily associated with what survived of this religious complex and it could easily have been a secular structure. However, it is tempting to see the late coin assemblage from deposit 21500 as being similar to that in well 22210. Together with the tazza deposit in its floor, a shared religious association with the temple could be construed.

Building 64

18889	Pottery fabric GRS
18952	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS NVC
21010	Pottery fabric LSH
21504	Pottery fabric BSW
21511	Pottery fabric GRF
21531	Pottery fabric GRS
21554	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW
21580	Pottery fabric BSW
21589	Pottery fabric GRS
21748	Pottery bowl C8 (HAX), fabrics BSW GRS
21884	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS
22010	Pottery fabric BSW
21514	Pottery dish B5.3 (LSH), jar G27 (LSH), fabrics OXRC OXSWM

Much of the pottery recovered is inconclusive for dating purposes, but 21010, 21748 and 21514 contained pottery of late 4th century+ date. The pottery from 18879, 21006, 21525 and 21719 is wholly residual.

PERIOD VII (Fig. J26)

The post-medieval fenceline, identified across both Areas G and H, also continued across the eastern side of Area J, marking a former sub-division of the modern field. Although probably entirely coincidental, it is remarkable that this ran almost on the same line as that of the temple precinct wall. While it is tempting to speculate that there may have been some indication of land-division that somehow endured the centuries, no evidence for this was recorded. However, this field has been called 'Stoney Field' in the more recent past which may allude to the encountering of the wall foundations during the cutting of some of these very post-holes.

Structure 59: 18770, 21533, 21547, 21601, 21685, 21699, 21701, 21713, 21717, 21792, 21807, 21940, 21954, 21994, 22002, 22027, 22070 (Fig. J30)

A line of post-holes ran across the eastern end of Area J on a NNW-SSE alignment. These were generally sub-square in plan, of roughly uniform dimension (at 0.6-0.8m wide and 0.35-0.5m deep) and fairly regularly spaced. They were clearly a part of a line which was traced across Areas G and H to the north (ref.) and probably extended across Area K to the south. Although many contained tile, *tesserae*, septaria and pottery, of often late Roman date (post-hole 22002 even contained a late Roman coin; SF 7686), this material was wholly residual. Elsewhere along the line, a minority of post-holes contained post-medieval tile and stumps of *in situ* posts which may confirmed a relatively recent date.

As discussed elsewhere, these post-holes are interpreted as the remains of a fenceline which bisected the modern-day central field. Variations in their size and depth may be explained in terms of the degree of resistance encountered in their digging, dependent upon whether the remains of the precinct wall or perhaps the road surfaces coincided with their line.