

AREA K PHASING

Area K was bounded by Road 3 to the north, by Road 2 and the edge of excavation to the west, by the edge of excavation to the south, and by the A1/A2 division to the east. These limits defined a triangular area with maximum dimensions some 65m by 40m (c.1880m²), although work did drift out slightly to the east to examine well 4536 and amphora pit 4582.

Surface definition of features was very poor following machine stripping, with the result that it was difficult to characterise the area before excavation commenced. Excavation was restricted largely to specific 10m grid squares and ‘significant’ features; excavation even within these vicinities was selective. The dominant feature of Area K was its high density of intercut pit complexes. While a few of these complexes were targeted for detailed excavation, much of the investigation of these features took the form of ‘sondage’ slots through them. While the objective of this approach was to obtain an overview of the date and nature of these pits, the results have often turned out to be confused with both excavation and recording found wanting. Other foci for work were the remains of two tile-built hearths 4003 and 4284.

Earliest activity in Area K was almost exclusively represented by pits that spanned the late 1st century BC to mid-1st century AD (Period II). No contemporary boundary ditches were investigated, probably because the area fell wholly within a single land unit from the mid-1st century AD onwards (?); the only boundaries being denoted by the earliest, rather ephemeral, phases of Roads 2 and 3. A single building (Building 1) has been tentatively identified as occupying this plot but the presence of others was hinted by the widespread occurrence of uninterpreted structural features across Area K. It is noted that structural features do *appear* to cluster in gaps between the very widespread and often intense early pitting and that these could well constitute contemporary buildings, even if we can’t see their patterning nor date them on their artefactual content.

Evidence for the maintenance and use of both Roads 2 and 3 was present as only late as the earlier 2nd century AD, after which no further surfaces were recognized. By inference, however, the roads clearly continued to function far longer. The west side of the plot was occupied by a large rectangular building (Building 39) throughout the early Roman period (Period III). The plot was probably subdivided, with the eastern half largely being given over to rubbish disposal and manufacturing or processing, the latter evidenced by oven/drying floor structure 4021. Artefact assemblages from this area suggest both domestic and possibly metalworking activities. Further clusters of post-holes, which survived truncation by pits, suggest both circular and rectilinear structures amongst them, of broadly contemporary date.

A strand of continuity is evident between the early- and mid-Roman periods, with Building 39 probably surviving into the early 3rd century AD. The clear division between habitation and disposal/manufacture areas remained. Many of the Period IV pits were the result of continued use or reuse of early Roman features. Kiln/hearth 4287 and drying floor 4003 indicated the continuation of manufacturing or processing activity in this plot with evidence for metal- and perhaps bone-working.

Late and *latest* Roman activity (Periods V and VI) were very sparsely represented amongst the excavated features, being restricted only to scatters of pits and hearth 4378. No structural or boundary features of this date were recognized and no material of early Saxon date was present. However, occupation clearly continued into the late 4th century AD as evidenced by the large and varied artefact assemblages within pits.

A very significant proportion of excavated features remains unphased, mostly post-holes but also hearths, patches of possible gravel surface and the odd gully and ditch. This has biased description of this area in favour of the pits, whereas it is likely that the plot was occupied by many more buildings, fences and other structures than have been recognized – particularly in the earlier periods of the settlement.

Phasing Summary

Period	Period description	Sub-period	Date
I	-		MIA/LIA transition
II	Roads & pitting		LIA & LIA/ER transition
III	Roads, occupation & manufacturing/ processing activity		Early Roman
IV	?continued occupation & pitting		Mid-Roman
V	Pits		Late Roman
VI	-		Latest Roman/Saxon trans
VII	-		Post early Saxon

PERIOD I

No features of this date were identified.

PERIOD II (Fig. K1)

In this late Iron Age period, Area K consisted almost entirely of pits. Unlike the other areas along the southern edge of the site (i.e. Areas L to P), there were no features denoting land division, such as ditches. Clearly, Area K fell within a single plot; the pre-excavation plan indicates the presence of a NNW-SSE aligned ditch immediately to the east, in an unexcavated part of Area A2.

The early phases of Roads 2 and 3 defined the northern limit of a plot, at least in its latest Iron Age use. There were a couple of buildings (Buildings 1 and 2) occupying this plot which belong to this period. Both were very incompletely understood, and although they stood on much the same spot, even their relative sequence was unclear.

While there are thus no firm structural grounds for sub-phasing the late Iron Age activity in this area, there are enough pits with sufficient resolution in their dating to permit some chronological sub-division. In particular there are enough clearly *early* LIA features to allow us to highlight these, and so although sub-phasing has not been undertaken on the basis of pottery dates for the pits, these are discussed in groups by more precise dating. This is in contrast to other areas which are sub-phased on structural grounds, but this inconsistency seems justified, if only to highlight some spatial and artefactual patterning among the pits.

Roads 2 and 3, which constitute the northern edge of Area K, appear to have their origin in this period. Only a single surface and its make-up were recorded for Road 2, and its date is not later than mid-first century AD. The earliest Road 3 surfacing was clearly cut by a LIA pit. However, the layers which might be early road surfaces were so patchy, so degraded (and so poorly recorded) that it is uncertain they really were roads at all. They may just as easily have been natural gravelly layers. But they were clearly under features of the mid-first century, so if they were roads, they are of this date. By analogy with other areas, it certainly would not be out of place to allow them into this phase. Occasional small pits or post-holes were found to underlie the roads, and these should also belong to this phase.

The buildings in the area almost certainly included more which ought to belong to this period than just Building 1 and a further less certain Building (2).

Pits (Fig. K2)

Early = 4026, 4080, 4117, 4130, 4285, 4287, 4289, 4517, 4519, 4528, 4530, 4698

mid = 4018, 4031, 4155, 4203, 4376, 4499, 4522, 4776, 4786

later = 4193, 4258, 4291, 4327, 4329, 4331, 4463, 4496, 4655, 4658, 4984, 4998, 14064, 14074, 14077, 4917, 14057?

misc = 4157, 4240, 4275, 4372, 4374, 4482, 4504, 4509, 4931, 4933, 14007, 14031, 14039, 14047

WHAT ABOUT PIT 4779? – under road 3. cp10: needs discussing; note date is no longer 14-14 as originally thought.

NB. 4698=4329 and 4331=4786. However, they occur in different divisions of the LIA pits – resolve?

A large number (52) of late Iron Age pits were excavated across Area K and, judging by the further extensive pit complexes recorded on the pre-excavation plan (fig. K1), potentially many more were not excavated. Many of the pits contained good enough pottery assemblages to facilitate chronological subdivision; this is also supported by morphological and distributional traits. However, a degree of overlap in these divisions must be expected, as distinctions are largely based upon the presence or absence of gallo-belgic ceramic imports.

The earliest pits dated to the late 1st century BC to early 1st century AD. These formed a distinct cluster, all within 12m of one another, at the southern end of Area K. All but 4026 and 4117 formed a single, intercut, mass. The intercutting pits appeared oval to sub-square in plan and were 1.6m to 2.4m wide. Outliers 4026 and 4117 were larger and circular in plan. All these early pits were comparatively deep, generally being between 0.6m and 0.8m. This pit complex also had later

Iron Age pits and then Roman pits cut into its top. This phenomenon of intercutting of pits of similar date is recurrent all over the site, an aspect which is addressed elsewhere (ref).

Of the early- to mid-1st century AD pits, 4018 and 4155 were the only large examples excavated; both were in excess of 2m in diameter. The rest of these, pits 4018, 4031, 4155, 4203, 4376, 4499, 4522, 4776 and 4786, tended to be relatively small, at 1.4m diameter or less; this may explain their relative lack of finds. It is possible this lack of finds may have contributed to the dating of these pits, as they may not be necessarily very different from those earlier or later.

The latest of the Period II pits must fall within the LIA/early Roman transition in the middle of the first century. These pits tended to be generally larger than preceding examples, though still evinced a variety of sizes. Relatively few were intercutting. However, pits 4655 and 4658 were later additions to the large intercut complex on the southern edge of Area K, and may indicate that such concentrations of pitting developed over prolonged periods of time. Pits 4719 and 14057 underlay the earliest discernible surfaces of Roads 2 and 3 and 14057 also cut other less well-defined layers which *could* have been the earliest appearance of Road 2/3: these have important implications for the date of origin of the latter.

Other pits, with less datable assemblages, can only be broadly dated to the late Iron Age.

Artefact assemblages were dominated by pottery, together with quantities of burnt daub, briquetage and loomweight fragments. Animal bone was generally scarce, most probably a result of unfavourable conditions of preservation. Items such as loomweights, spindle whorls, and quern fragments all indicate a domestic origin for the materials filling these pits. However, the presence of a crucible and slag in pit 4517, and copper alloy cast waste (SF8346) in pit 4776, may indicate metal working activity close by. Potentially Roman metalwork, such as the iron key (SF1181) in pit 4285, was almost certainly intrusive. [This is actually a horse bit. HM](#)

The pottery assemblages of the latest of the pits included an element of Romanizing pottery, often together with a few fragments of tile. Typically the overall assemblages were more varied; pits [4258] and [4463] had notable quantities of metal objects and waste, while both [4698] and [4786] also included metalworking debris. Pits [4786] and [14007] included mould fragments (SF??). So too did silt layer 4937 into which pits 4984 and 4998 were cut. It is likely that this soil was a remnant of an expansive deposit that was broadly contemporary with this phase of pitting. [Did the LIA/Rom trans topsoil stripping which preceded imposition of road infrastructure and gravel surfaces NOT then extend this far south??? – Discuss.](#)

[Are there any small square pits like those in M and N?](#)

[Is metalworking restricted to BC or post-BC pits, or in both? Layer 4937 may hint that it was going on before transition period infrastructure change.](#)

Pits 4026, 4080, 4117, 4130, 4285, 4287, 4289, 4517, 4519, 4528, 4530, 4698, 4786

4026	Amphora Dr.1 (AITAL) Other pottery fabrics TR TN TN(M) CGFCS Brooch Colchester (SF 378)
4117	Pottery fabric GROG
4130	Amphora Beltrán I (ASALA) Other pottery bowl <i>Cam</i> 51 (TN(M)), beakers <i>Cam</i> 112 (TR) <i>Cam</i> 113 (NGWFS) <i>Cam</i> 114 (CAMF)
4285	Amphora Dr.1 (AITAB) Other pottery mortarium <i>Cam</i> 191 (IBUFM), beakers <i>Cam</i> 112 (TR) <i>Cam</i> 113 (NGWF), fabrics TN TN(M)
4287	Pottery beaker <i>Cam</i> 112 (TR)
4517	Amphora Beltrán I (ASALA) Other pottery platter <i>Cam</i> 5 (TR), jar <i>Cam</i> 254 (ESH), fabric GROG Brooch La Tène III (SF 1196)
4530	Pottery fabric GROG
4698	Amphora Dr.1/Dr.2-4 (AITAL) Other pottery fabrics GROG PR
4786	Amphora Dr.1 (AITAL) Other pottery fabric GROG Brooch Knotenfibel (SF 4147)

Grog-tempered wares predominate these pit assemblages and, with smaller proportions of Gallo-Belgic wares, date infilling to the late 1st century BC and the early 1st century AD. Pit 4786, which produced Dressel 1 amphora sherds, was possibly out of use by the end of the 1st century BC, a

date supported by the brooch. Feature 4130, yielding *Cam* 113 and 114 beakers, and 4026, which contained an early to mid-1st century brooch, were probably among the latest to be filled.

Pits 4018, 4031, 4155, 4203, 4376, 4499, 4522, 4776

4018	Pottery fabric GROG
4031	Pottery GROG
4155	Amphora Dr.1 (AITAL) Other pottery fabric GRS GROG
4203	Pottery fabrics COLB GROG TN(M)
4376	Pottery bowl <i>Cam</i> 51 (TN(M)), beaker <i>Cam</i> 112 (TR)
4499	Pottery beaker <i>Cam</i> 112 (TR)
4522	Pottery beaker <i>Cam</i> 112 (TR)
4776	Pottery fabric GROG

These features were filled during the Late Iron Age, no later than the mid-1st century AD.

Pits 4193, 4258, 4291, 4327, 4329, 4331, 4463, 4496, 4655, 4658, 4984, 4998, 14064, 14074, 14077

4193	Pottery jars G4 (GROG) G23.2 (BSW) <i>Cam</i> 258 (ESH), fabric GRS
4258	Pottery fabrics GROG GRS STOR
4327	Pottery fabric GROG BSW
4331	Pottery fabric GROG
4463	Pottery fabrics GROG ESH GRS Brooch Nauheim derivative (SF 1077)
4496	Arretine cup (ITSW) Amphora Dr.1/Dr.2-4 (AWIND) Other pottery jars G3 (GRS) G8 (GRS) G20 (GROG BSW) <i>Cam</i> 254 (ESH), fabric SILT
4655	Pottery fabrics ESH GROG BSW STOR
4984	Pottery fabric GROG
4998	Pottery jars <i>Cam</i> 254 (ESH), fabric GROG
14064	Amphora Dr.1/Dr.2-4 (AITAL) Other pottery fabric GROG
14074	Pottery fabric GROG
14077	Pottery fabric GROG Brooch Nauheim derivative (SF 1989)

The presence of Roman wares and two Nauheim derivative brooches suggests that a number of pits were filled during the first half of the 1st century AD. At least two pits, 4193 and 4496, received material mainly during the mid-1st century AD.

Pits 4157, 4240, 4275, 4372, 4374, 4482, 4504, 4509, 4931, 4933, 14007, 14031, 14039, 14047

4157	Pottery fabric GROG
4240	Pottery fabric GROG
4275	Pottery fabric GROG
4372	Pottery fabric GROG
4374	Pottery fabric GROG
4482	Pottery fabric GROG
4504	Pottery fabric GROG
4509	Pottery fabric GROG
4933	Pottery fabric GROG
14007	Pottery fabric GROG
14031	Samian fabric CGSW Other pottery fabric GROG
14047	Pottery fabric GROG

Though none of the pottery can be dated more closely than Late Iron Age, the samian present in 14031 suggests some deposition during or after the mid-1st century AD.

Add dating evidence for 14057?

Abandon Buildings 1 and 2 or amalgamate them into a general concentration of early ?structural features?

Building 1 (Fig. K3)

Slots 4891, 14015; Post holes 4278, 4561, 4980, 14017

A probable structure, Building 1, comprised two slots 4891 and 14015, set roughly at right angles. The whole of slot 4891 was revealed and found to be 2.2m long, 0.5m wide and 0.4m deep. Slot 14015 seemed to be a similarly proportioned feature; though neither end was determined, it is likely

to have been of similar length to 4891. Each slot had an apparently integral post-hole, 4278 and 14017, respectively, set into its base. It is likely that further structural components of this building lay unexcavated to the south and east.

A **possibly significant** amount of burnt daub fragments occurred in the fills of most of these features, as did a few sherds of late Iron Age grog-tempered pottery.

Building 1 4891, 14015, 4278, 4561, 4980, 14017

4891	Pottery fabric GROG
14015	Pottery fabric GROG
14017	Pottery fabric GROG

The pottery, while not very diagnostic, is consistent with a late Iron Age date.

Building 2: Post-holes 4903, 4915, 4920, 4971, 4996, 14020, 14081

A number of post-holes were sealed by layers 4848, 4918, 4937, 4938. Other posts in this vicinity (e.g., 4915) might be included, since this grouping is defined primarily by the relationship with layers, none of which is very extensive. Post-holes with no relationship to these layers could still belong to this structure. It is possible these might form a 5.2m diameter circle around a central post 4920.

Post-holes 4903, 4920, 4971, 4996, 14020, 14081

4903	Pottery fabric GROG
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A small quantity of Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from a single post-hole.

Road 2 Layers 4900, 14001, 14003, 14050

Both Roads 2 and 3 seem to have origins in this late Iron Age period. Earliest recognized compacted gravel surface 4900 overlay post-holes 4917 and 4942 and was, in turn, cut by small pit 14057. Both the pit and post-hole 4917 contained mid-1st century AD ceramic assemblages, comprising largely grog-tempered pottery with a small romanizing greyware component. This suggests that the imposition of this road dates to the LIA / early Roman transition period. A possible earlier surface could be represented by 14001, underlying 14003 and 14050 which were a make-up layer for a surface which has not survived. But it is just as likely that these lowest layers were just reworked or disturbed natural gravel.

Road 4900

4900	Pottery fabrics GROG GRS
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A small amount of Late Iron Age or early Roman pottery was recovered.

Road 3 (Fig. K4) 4662, 4663, 4851, 4626, 4671, 4850

As with Road 2, it is not certain if the earliest layers here (4662, 4663, 4851) were artificial surfaces or re-worked natural gravels. 4662 at least had finds incorporated into it, although these may include contamination from pit 4779. If these did form a road, it would have been at least 2m narrower than the surfaces which followed. The secure presence of Road 3 in Period II is evidenced by a solid gravel surface 4626, in places, over consolidation/ make-up layer 4671. A layer of silting 4850, presumably representing use of the road and trample, overlay the gravel surface. While the road deposits contained no dating evidence, this sequence overlay pit 4779, of only unspecific late Iron Age date. The upper fill of this feature contained a single sherd of Romanizing pottery; hinting that the road was established during the LIA/early Roman transition period, but intrusion here is also likely, and the start date need not be any different from road 3 in Area L to the east. The full width of Road 3 was not investigated, although pre-excavation plans indicate it to have been approximately 5m wide at this point. If an earlier road did survive, it was narrower, as suggested, and this phase of building saw a widening by a good 2m. This seems to be the profile it kept for the rest of its life. It is notable that there was no sign of a roadside ditch here.

Road 4662

4662	Samian fabric SGSW Other pottery jars G3 (BSW) G23 (GRS), fabrics GROG VRW
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The pottery recovered from this deposit is likely to date to the second half of the 1st century AD.

Hearths 4770 and 14104

Clay deposit 4770 formed a fragmentary ring around scorched patch (4850), at least 2m diameter. Interpreted as a likely hearth base. A small amount of earliest Roman pottery derived from 4770. Cut 14104 was a shallow scoop which contained a collection of flint cobbles and gravel. It had clearly been a seat of burning with the cobbles being cracked and reddened. No finds. These features would not merit mentioning except that they were the only potential source for the infrequent metalworking debris among the pit fills: it is unlikely either of these was used for metalworking, so the origin of the waste remains elusive.

Hearths 4770, 14104

4770	Pottery platter A2 (BSW), fabric GRS
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The pottery is likely to have been deposited during the second half of the 1st century AD.

Probably need to get 4993 in here somehow (baby bone, huge pottery assemblage).

PERIOD III (Fig. K5)

Both Roads 2 and 3 were more clearly in evidence in this early Roman period, with metalled surfaces being renewed and clearly used. This sequence is only well dated for Road 3, for which the latest resurfacing appears to have dated to the earlier 2nd century AD. However, with reference to the development of the temple precinct on the opposite side of the roads, it is possible to demonstrate that both must have remained in use throughout the period and considerably beyond, even if they were not being actively maintained.

It is likely that the roads, together with an unexcavated ditch immediately to the east of Area K, defined the north and east perimeters of a plot of land. A wide, shallow land unit, at least 81m along the line of Road 3 and around 51m running away from it, may be postulated in reference to the terrace step which is likely to have dictated its southern limit. Within this plot, a large rectangular building (Building 39) was located alongside the junction of Roads 2 and 3. Fronting onto the junction and surviving until the mid- to late 2nd century, the roads can be assumed to endure at least as late.

Two clusters of post-holes, only a few of which could be reliably dated to the early Roman period, were present to the east of Building 39. While both circular and rectilinear arrangements can be (very) tentatively discerned, the limited extent of excavation and potential distribution bias created by pit truncation (particularly by unexcavated examples) means that it has not proven possible to identify any further building plans with any degree of certainty. However, these post-holes must belong to what may be a multiplicity of potentially multi-phase structures, some of which may have occupied the plot contemporaneously with Building 39.

Pits, while being relatively numerous, were located deliberately away from Building 39, suggesting they were in contemporary use. There is an indication of a largely unexplored minor linear feature, [4676 / 4678], largely recorded only on the pre-excavation plan, which may represent a subdivision between the building and its pitting zone. These early Roman pits were not dissimilar from earlier ones and contained large mixed finds assemblages of a domestic nature together with a smaller ?metalworking waste component.

Amid the early Roman pits were two stone- and tile-built ovens or drying floors, one of which is likely to be of this early date, one later. These indicate that some sort of cereal processing or production was being undertaken within this plot. Alongside this activity was a well, 4536. While this lay to the east of the possible plot boundary, it is possible that it was the principal water source for both the occupation and production/processing activities undertaken in this area.

Road 2 (Fig. K6) 4862, 4863, 14048, 14049

Early Roman layers 4862=14048 and 4863=14049 were the latest surviving road deposits investigated at the junction between Roads 2 and 3. Compact gravel surface 4862 overlay a loose sandy gravel foundation deposit 4863, surviving either side of earlier protruding surface 4900 which marked the centre of the slightly cambered road. Neither make-up or road surface was traced across the full width of the road junction, though it is likely that these deposits did extend the full width of the road. At this point the road was probably some 11m wide - possibly more, if likely machine truncation of the south edge is taken into account.

Road 4862, 14048, 4863, 14049

4863	Samian fabric EGSW Other pottery fabric GRF Coin as, Antoninus Pius, AD 154-155 (SF 4160)
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The coin, probably deposited in the mid-2nd century AD, provides the best dating evidence. The pottery is given only a broad Roman date.

Road 3 4538, 4580, 4581, 4593, 4849

The earliest Roman Road 3 deposits were represented by degraded/worn gravel surface 4580 and overlying gravelly silt 4581, the latter perhaps accumulated through use. These were replaced by the

last surviving surface 4538, a substantial gravel deposit up to 0.1m thick. Apparently associated with the use of this surface was wheel rut 4593 which seems to have formed through subsidence into underlying Period II pit 4779 (forming a possible culprit for possible intrusion of Roman pottery into this pit). The remnant of a further road surface, 4849, overlay 4538, hinting that Road 3 continued to be maintained throughout Period III and beyond.

Road 4580, 4581, 4538, 4593, 4849

4581	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS COLC
4538	Pottery fabric GRS

Both surface 4538 and use-accumulation 4581 contained Roman pottery with the latter supplying a 2nd century AD date.

Building 39 (Fig. K 7)

Building 39 comprised the foundations of a large rectangular structure, immediately south of the junction of Roads 2 and 3. Substantial parts of the north and east sides were revealed, the remainder extending beyond the edge of the site. The positions of the external walls were marked by foundation slots 4810 and 4812=4814=4816 which were 0.4m wide but only survived to a depth of 0.05m. The slots contained a compact orange clay fill. Closely spaced post-holes (4929, 14059, 14078) were discerned within excavated slot portion 4812, with the clay fill packed around them. Other post-holes were also in evidence in the unexcavated parts of the foundation slots (*i.e.*, 4887, 4889, 14014). As recorded, the remains define a building at least 14m by 7m in area. The 3m-wide gap in the north wall foundation may well indicate the position of a doorway. If centrally located along this wall, the doorway may be used to postulate that the southward return of slot 4810 would have occurred just beyond the recorded extent. Applying such symmetry and the aesthetic of a 2:1 ratio of dimensions, it may be possible to suggest that more or less the full width and length of the building was exposed.

Expanses of gravelly silt 4794 and 14044 occupied the whole of the interior of Building 39. While only a single lead weight (SF5436) was collected from layer 14044, a range of material, including pottery, tile, bone, metalwork and a denarius (SF14145) dated to AD223 were collected from 4794. A function as a floor surface is probable. Beneath these floor deposits, it appeared that the site of the building had been deliberately levelled. Earlier pits (*e.g.*, 14006) had been infilled and consolidated and likely preparation layers (4855, 4899, 4953, 4992) put down.

Also within the building, cut into the floor deposits, were *storage jar ovens* 4760, 4859 and 4861. A further unexcavated hearth, 4921 lay just to the east of the building. These hearths/ovens cannot be closely dated and they need not be directly associated with the occupation of the building. As they appear to be a late 1st to mid-2nd century AD phenomenon across the settlement, they are thought to be likely contemporary with Building 39's use.

Outside Building 39, were fragments of gravel surfaces 4794 and 4990. In particular, 4990 was a distinct surface covering the area between the building and the road junction and would seem to support the inference of a doorway in the north wall.

It is possible that the quantity of finds present in supposed floor layer 4794 hints that the floor had, to some extent, been reworked and that they may have accumulated as late as the abandonment of the building, rather than being contemporary with its construction or occupation. The denarius, along with other datable material in this floor, may suggest a mid-to late 2nd century abandonment.

Building 39 4706, 4760, 4794, 4802, 4810, 4812, 4814, 4816, 4859, 4885, 4887, 4889, 4901, 4921, 4929, 4951, 4953, 4958, 4990, 14014, 14044, 14059, 14068, 14078

4706	Samian dish f18/31R (EGSW), bowl f37 (CGSW) Other pottery dishes B4 (BSW) B7 (BSW), jars G5.5 (GRS) G17 (BSW) G19 (GRS), beaker H1 (GRS), flagon J3.3/J3.4 (COLB), fabric COLC
4760	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS
4794	Samian dish f18/31R-31R (CGSW), bowl f37 (CGSW) Amphoras Dr.1 20 (ABAET) <i>salazon</i> (ASALA) Other pottery platter A2.2 (GRS), bowl C12 (LONT), mortarium D1.3 (COLBM), jars G5.5 (GRS) G8 (BSW) G17 (BSW GRS) G19 (BSW GRS) G20 (GRS) G29 (BSW), beakers H6.2 (NKG) H10 (NKG) H20.3 (COLC)

	Coin Denarius, Alexander Severus, AD 223 (SF 4145)
4812	Pottery beaker H6 (NKG), fabric COLC Coin as, Nero, AD 64-68 (SF 5435)
4816	Pottery dish B2/B4 (BSW)
4859	Pottery fabrics ESH GROG STOR
4887	Pottery fabric GRS
4901	Pottery fabric GRS
4929	Pottery fabric NVC
4953	Coin As, Antoninus Pius, AD 154-155 (SF 4184)
4990	Pottery jars G3 (GRS) G17 (BSW)

Two date ranges are discernible from the pottery. A late 1st to early 2nd century AD date is provided by such forms as B7, G17 and G29, and fabrics including North Kent grey ware. This date could well be applied to construction and use. The presence of dishes, G5 lid-seated jars and colour-coats suggests a mid-to late 2nd century AD date for episodes relating to the building's abandonment, perhaps extending into the 3rd century, as evidenced by the denarius of Severus.

Structure 27: 4676, 4678, 4680

A series of short slots or gullies were recorded on the pre-excitation plan. They appear to be associated, forming a single, though intermittent NNW-SSE alignment, parallel with Building 39. The two southernmost components were excavated as 4676 and 4678. Slot 4676 was 2.1m long and 0.3m wide and 4678, 3.8m by 0.3m. A shallow post-hole 4680 was located between them. None of these features survived to a depth in excess of 0.1m. Similar, unexcavated features, can be traced for at least a further 9m northwards. At this north end, the slots appear to proliferate and diverge from the basic line; perhaps an indication of later replacement and development.

While these remains could be part of an unrecognized building, they are more likely to be the foundation of a linear structure such as a fence. It is postulated that this boundary separated the occupation area, represented by Building 39, from the manufacturing / processing and disposal area to the east.

?Boundary features 4676, 4678, 4680

4676	Pottery jar G23 (GRS)
4680	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW

The pottery recovered from two of these features, while not closely datable, is consistent with an early Roman date, and almost certainly no later than the mid-2nd century AD.

Oven 4021 (Fig. K 9)

4007, 4019, 4020, 4021, 4033, 4034, 4035, 4036, 4042, 4043, 4054, 4055

This structure consisted of the truncated remains of a tile-built oven of which two courses of tile (4020), bonded with mortar and clay, survived. Further courses were represented by an overlying spread of disturbed tile (4019). The structure retained a vaguely rectangular form, some 1m by 0.9m in extent, though no tangible construction cut was discerned, possibly due to it largely overlying Period II pit [4117]. Fragments of burnt clay floor (4035) survived in its interior, overlain by demolition/collapse debris (4019) and dark silt infills (4033, 4034). Other than structural debris, such fills contained only small quantities of pottery and bone which offer little insight into the function of this oven/kiln. The small amount of non-residual pottery suggests a mid-2nd century AD date for its disuse.

Oven 4021, 4007, 4019, 4020, 4033, 4034, 4035, 4036, 4042, 4043, 4054, 4055

4021	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery jar G24 (GRS)
4019	Pottery dish B1 (BB1)
4020	Amphoras Dr.2-4 (AITAL) Dr.20 (ABAET)

Most deposits contained small amounts of residual grog-tempered pottery, while a dish recovered from 4019 provides a date commencing from the mid-2nd century AD.

Post-hole concentrations (Structure 28 if required)

Two concentrations of post-holes, centring on co-ordinates 4944/7962 and 4960/7970, were revealed by the selective excavation undertaken in Area K. While both circular and rectangular

patterning may be discerned within these, biases of pit truncation and restricted area of excavation, make it impossible to be certain of these and to interpret the resulting structures. There is no doubt that these post-holes represent structures, but they are most likely multi-phase and fragmentary – further interpretation could well be more misleading than useful.

However, many of these post-holes are likely to have been early Roman, perhaps parts of fences and even buildings contemporary with Building 39, as they are not encroached upon by contemporary or later pitting (hence their survival as a cluster).

Pits 4010, 4136, 4163, 4337, 4616, 4726, 4733, 4883, 4982, 4044, 4494, 4514, 4526, 4536, 4973, 14006, 14041, 4008, 4048, 4137, 4199, 4211, 4247, 4458, 4752, 4979] (Fig. K10)

Early Roman pits spanned the late 1st to early/mid-2nd centuries AD. Across this period, no particular trends in size, shape or content could be discerned by which to subdivide them. Of the excavated examples, there does appear to be a tendency toward clustering of pits in the south side of Area K, in what was probably the rear of the plot away from the Road 3 frontage.

Pit diameter varied considerably between 1.2m and 3m or even more, and these were generally deeper than pits elsewhere across the site (few were under 60cm deep, several over 1m).

Finds assemblages within these pits were large and more varied than those of Period II. Along with a generally large pottery component, modest amounts of tile and ironwork were present. Of possible significance was the relatively large amount of animal bone, though this could merely be due to enhanced conditions of preservation within the intercutting complexes. The incidence of metalworking waste such as slag, copper-alloy cast waste, crucibles and mould fragments is noteworthy. Triangular loomweight fragments were also fairly common, although the high degree of residuality among the pottery should caution against suggesting continued use of loomweights into the Roman period.

Feature 4536 was a 1.84m diameter cut which was only partially excavated to a depth of 0.58m. Judging from the pre-excavation plan of this feature, this apparent pit was located at the centre of a square cut, c.2.5m across, which was filled with a deposit of red/orange clay. Although this clay was not excavated, it is possible that this feature was the construction cut for a well and that ‘pit’ 4536 was the shaft within it. Finds appear to have been recorded only from the top fill 4537, really the last dump into the filled and slumping feature. These included large quantities of pottery, bone and tile, along with fragments of burnt daub, lava quern and occasional pieces of metalwork, including an iron knife blade (SF1979). Such a domestic assemblage can only reflect the secondary use for rubbish disposal. This infilling activity is dated to the mid-to late 2nd century AD and an early Roman date is presumed for construction and use.

?Well 4536

4536	Samian dish f31 (CGSW), bowl f37 (CGSW), cup f33 (CGSW) Other pottery dish B1.3 (BSW), jars G5.5 (BSW) G9.1 (BSW) G24.1 (GRS), beakers H6.2 (GRF) H20.3 (COLC) H25 (COLC) H30 (GRS), fabric NVC
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The latest material recovered from the top fill suggests that rubbish was disposed during the second half of the 2nd century AD. Given the range of beakers, the emphasis is very much on the earlier part of this date range.

Pits 4008, 4010, 4044, 4048, 4136, 4137, 4163, 4199, 4211, 4247, 4337, 4458, 4494, 4514, 4526, 4616, 4726, 4733, 4752, 4883, 4973, 4979, 4982, 14006, 14041

4008	Pottery fabric BB1
4010	Samian dish f31R (CGSW) Other pottery jar G22 (GRS), beaker H1.4 (BSW)
4044	Samian dish f31 (CGSW), cup f33 (CGSW) Other pottery dish B3.2 (BSW), mortarium D13.2 (COLBM), jars G8 (GRS) G9.1 (BSW) G19 (BSW) G23.2 (BSW) G29.1 (BSW), beaker H20.3 (COLC)
4048	Samian dish f18/31 or 31 (CGSW), bowl f30 (CGSW) Other pottery bowl-jar E5 (GRS), jars G9.2 (GRS) G19 (GROG) G24.1 (BSW) G29.1 (BSW), beakers H6 (GRF) H20.3 (COLC), fabric NKG
4136	Samian dish f18/31 (CGSW), cup f33 (CGSW) Amphora Gauloise 4 (AGAUL) Other pottery dish B8 (GRS), bowl C27 (BSW), mortaria D1.3 (COLBM), jars G9 (BSW) G17.1 (BSW) G19 (BSW) G20.1 (GRS) G22 (STOR) G23.2 (BSW), beakers H20 (COLC)
4137	Samian dish f31 (CGSW), bowl f38 (EGSW), cup f33 (CGSW) Amphora Gauloise 4 (AGAUL) Other pottery dish B3.2 (BB2), jars G5.5 (BSW) G9.1 (GRS) G24 (GRS), beaker H20.1 (COLC), flagon J8 (HAX),

	fabric LRC
4163	Samian platter f15/17 (SGSW) Other pottery jar G18.2 (BSW) G19 (GRF) Brooch Colchester B (SF 411)
4199	Samian dish 31 (CGSW), bowl f30 or f37 (CGSW) Other pottery dish B2.1 (GRS), jars G9 (BSW) G22 (GRS) G24.2 (GRS), beakers H6.1 (NKG) H6.3 (NKG) H20.2 (COLC) H20.3 (COLC)
4211	Samian dish f31 (CGSW), cups f27 (CGSW) f33 (CGSW) Tx (CGSW), inkwell Ritt.13 (SGSW) Amphora Gauloise 4 (AGAUL) Other pottery dishes B2.1 (BB2) B4.1 (GRS), bowl C16 (BSW), mortarium D2 (COLBM), jars G9.1 (BSW) G23 (GRS) G29 (BSW), beaker H20 (COLC)
4247	Samian dish f31 (CGSW), cup f33 (EGSW) Other pottery jars G24.1 (GRS), beakers H6 (GRF) H20 (LRC)
4337	Pottery jar G20 (GRS), fabric GROG
4458	Samian dish f31R (CGSW) Other pottery dish B2 (GRF), bowl jars G5.4 (GRS) G5.5 (BSW) G9 (BSW) G17 (BSW) G20.1 (GRS) G22 (GRS) G23.2 (GRS) G38 (GRS), fabric LRC
4526	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery fabrics COLBM BSW GRS
4726	Pottery dish B4 (BSW), bowl C16 (GRS), bowl-jar E2 (BSW), jars G9.2 (BSW) G19 (BSW)
4733	Samian bowl f37 (SGSW), cup f27g (SGSW) Other pottery dish B7 (BSW), jars G5.1 (ESH) G8 (GRS) G17.1 (BSW) G19 (GRF), G20.2 (BSW) G22 (STOR) G23 (GRS)
4883	Pottery fabrics COLB GRS
4973	Pottery dish B2/B4 (GRF)
4979	Samian dish f31 (EGSW), cup f27 (SGSW) Other pottery dish B1 (GRF) B2/B4 (HAB), jars G9 (GRS) G23.3 (GRS) G29 (BSW), beaker H6 (NKG), fabric COLC Coin denarius, AD C2-early C3 (SF 4189)
4982	Pottery fabric BSW
14006	Pottery dish B2/B4 (BSW), G24.2 (BSW)
14041	Pottery dishes B1 (BSW) B2.3 (BB2)

Three broad phases of deposition can be determined. Pits 4163, 4136, 4337, 4526 and 6733 are likely to have been filled during the late 1st and early 2nd century AD. Pits 4247, 4458, 4726 and 4979 are a little later, with deposition occurring probably exclusively in the first half of the 2nd century AD. Pottery recovered from the remaining pits places the emphasis of their infilling on the mid-2nd century AD, although these pits may have continued to receive material up to the end of the 2nd century AD. Most features yielded a high proportion of residual material, comprising mainly grog-tempered pottery.

Amphora pit 4582 (Fig. K, inc. photo? And reconstructed section?)

Feature 4582 was a circular pit some 0.66m wide and 0.4m deep. It contained the truncated remains of an inverted Dressel 20 amphora ([ref. to pot report](#)) around which was a gravel, sand and clay packing deposit 4583. The feature had been truncated by machining and may have been up to 0.20m deeper originally. The vessel itself contained a deposit of silt 4585 which contained 22 iron nails, a knife blade (SF 8241) and an assemblage of assorted pottery sherds, tile and briquetage. It is likely that this fill constitutes post-use infill of the remaining void, which took place once the inverted base had been broken. Disuse of the feature is dated by this material to the first half of the 2nd century AD.

It is speculated that the pit was purpose-made to accommodate the vessel, being only slightly wider than its girth and that, if inserted complete, the vessel base and spike must have protruded above ground perhaps by as much as 0.3m. Such vessels have been interpreted as surveying markers elsewhere ([refs. Peterson?](#)). Alternatively, the vessel base may have been removed in antiquity, perhaps to perform a drainage function, possibly even as a urinal ([refs. – e.g. Causeway Lane, Leics](#)). However, the vessel was not filled with a filtering deposit of cobbles or pebbles, nor were there any residues evident on its internal surfaces.

Pit 4582

4582	Samian fabric EGSW Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery dish B1 (BSW), jars G9 (BSW) G29 (BSW), flagon J3 (BUF), fabrics LRC NKG COLC
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Votive pit 4148

Small oval pit 4148 lay close to Road 3. Amongst other pottery, it contained two complete, decorated, samian bowls ([ref.](#)) which had been placed upright in the shallow cut. It is likely that these constituted a deliberate, structured, deposit. [Big lid and LIA coin](#). [Develop](#).

Pit 4148

4148	Samian bowl f30 (SGSW) Other pottery jars G3 (GROGC) G20 (GRS) Coin Class II potin (SF 409) mid 1 st century BC or earlier
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This deposit produced a predominantly grog-tempered ceramic assemblage along with two complete samian bowls. Assuming that the finds were deposited together, a mid 1st century AD date may be suggested. However, the coin and grog-tempered pottery may be residual. Instead, a date no later than the end of the 1st or beginning of the 2nd century AD is perhaps more appropriate.

PERIOD IV: (Fig. K11)

This mid-Roman period seems to exhibit continuity from Period III.

It seems likely that Building 39 survived into the mid-Roman period, though perhaps not much beyond the early 3rd century AD, judging by the latest material in what appears to be a disuse accumulation (4706) over its remains. Certainly, there is no evidence for encroachment upon it by pits or other features of this date.

The plot in which the building stood, continued to show a clear division between areas of habitation to the west and manufacture and disposal to the east. Many of the pits amount to little more than continued use or reuse of early Roman features. Manufacturing or processing activity was represented by a small kiln/hearth 4284 and a drying floor 4003. Adjacent pits contained evidence for the working of metals and perhaps bone.

Oven 4284 (Fig. K12)

Feature 4284 was a shallow, roughly rectilinear foundation cut for a tile-built oven or drying floor, cut into an extensive complex of unexcavated, intercut pits. The structure comprised two distinct elements: a square area of stone 4189 and tile 4283 to the north with an interconnecting stone-lined sub-square pit 4355 to the south.

The northern part of the cut was lined with a ‘foundation’ course of unworked stone rubble 4189 which extended south to consolidate the top edge of the stoke-hole 4355. A tile-lined flue or duct 4005, laid on a clay bed 4037, which had become baked through heating of the structure, was built on the east side of this foundation. The flue survived to a length of 1.8m and depth of 0.12m. The rest of the squared foundation was packed and levelled with silt layer 4188, on top of which was laid a deposit of tile 4283. Three tile courses survived, perhaps building up a platform adjacent to the flue, although it is possible that the flue was centrally located and that a further eastern extent had been lost.

The tile-lined flue opened out into square stoke-hole 4385 to its south. The stoke-hole, as mentioned above, was defined on three sides by a line of stone rubble. It appears that the stoke-hole was kept clean, its fill 4024 being post-use infill containing unrelated rubbish.

No traces of the superstructure survived, the whole clearly being very disturbed as denoted by the mass of tile (c.57kg) collected from overlying cleaning layer 4006. Clues as to the function of this structure were extremely sparse, with little charcoal or other burnt debris in evidence and infill deposits looking domestic in character.

Pottery collected from the structure itself was of mid-to-late-2nd century AD which would seem to reflect the approximate construction and use of the oven/drying floor. The infill of the stoke-hole / ‘ash-pit’ is dated to the early 3rd century. The coin (SF250) of Claudius II, from cleaning layer 4006, is considered to be intrusive.

Oven 4284

4355	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS COLC
4284	Samian bowls f37 (CGSW) Other pottery dishes B2.2 (GRF) B4 (BB2), bowl C16 (BSW), cup F2 (CGRHN), jars G5.4 (GRS) G9.1 (GRF), beakers H20.3 (COLC) H35 (GRF), fabrics NVC HAX BB1 Coin Radiate Claudius II (SF 250) 268-270
4282	Pottery dishes B1.3 (GRF) B3.2 (BSW), beakers H20.3 (COLC) H41 (NVC), fabric CGRHN

The pottery recovered from this feature can be dated to the second half of the 2nd century AD. The presence of Nene Valley colour-coated ware suggests some accumulation at the end of the 2nd century or the beginning of the 3rd century AD.

Kiln 4003 (Fig. K13)

4803, 4804, 4834, 4836, 4838, 4846, 4909 + 25139 (segs. 4868/14033)?

Feature 4003 was a tile-built construction, with no recognisable construction cut. It survived as a heavily disturbed L-shaped arrangement of broken tile and burnt clay. At its northern extent, thin

parallel deposits of burnt clay 4610 defined the position of a likely flue aligned roughly north-to-south, of which only a 1.1m length survived. Immediately to its south-west was a spread of tile and sporadic burnt patches 4611 on the top of the silt deposit which underlay this feature. The tile, (4003), seemed to have been deposited in an already broken state and, together with the scorched silt patches, defined what may have originally been a squared ‘platform’ alongside the flue. Shallow stake-holes 4804, 4834, 4836 and 4838 were found beneath tile and burnt clay 4611 and may well have been associated with the construction of this structure, all being filled with burnt clayey silt. Diminutive ‘slot’ 4846 ran parallel to the flue and was also filled with burnt clay; perhaps hinting at a further, above-ground, extent to this structure.

Though fragmentary, the remains suggest a function as a drying floor, rather than a structure in which intense heat was generated such as a kiln. However, the occurrence of small amounts of slag and mould fragments (SF8517) in burnt layer 4909 may suggest a metalworking function. It is notable that frequent finds of slags and copper alloy fragments/waste were recovered from many deposits in the vicinity.

Does adjacent curving gully 25139 constitute a windscreen?

Kiln 4003 (4803, 4804, 4834, 4836, 4838, 4846, 4909)

4003	Pottery fabric STOR
4838	Pottery fabric STOR

Just two sherds of Roman storage jar fabric, and eight sherds of residual grog-tempered fabric were recovered from these kiln deposits.

Pits 4016, 4022, 4241, 4294, 4426, 4943, 14013, 14124, 4083, 4102, 4487, 4956, 4961, 4013, 4014, 4084, 4701 (Fig. K14)

Allowing that some of the latest pits of period III may have actually extended into Period IV, there were still fewer excavated pits which have been dated as exclusively mid-Roman. However, it is evident that there was a close continuity in pitting activity between the two periods, with such sequences of ‘concentric’ pits as [4426/4487], [4010/4083] and [4016/4102] being continued, or perhaps renewed, use of the same feature for the purposes of rubbish disposal. However, it is also noted that while the Period III pits clustered to the south, the most marked cluster of Period IV pits was 20m north of this.

Apart from two slightly doubtful examples, all these pits were concentrated within the eastern part of the plot.

While there was essential continuity of location between Periods III and IV, there was a marked change evident in the artefactual assemblages. Pits no longer contained loomweights which, although already residual, continued to be found in Period III. It is possible this may be related to the nature of the residual material in the fills, too, as residual pottery is now mostly second century. Briquetage, on the other hand, remained common. Metal items were possibly less frequent and now more likely to be iron than copper alloy, while metalworking debris was absent. As in Period III, pottery and tile were present in quantity and animal bone appears increased. In particular, pit 4943 contained a very high finds density, including c.30kg of animal bone (and a single human baby bone) along with a metalwork assemblage which included three iron blades, a stylus, a number of unidentified iron and copper objects. Possibly associated with the high animal bone content of these pits was the incidence of bone artefacts such the bone weaving tool (SF5702) from 4943, needle (SF6836) and cut horn (SF7396) from 4083 and hairpin (SF385) from 4016; this cluster suggests these really were all signs of manufacture within Area K

Pits 4013, 4014, 4016, 4022, 4083, 4084, 4102, 4241, 4294, 4426, 4487, 4701, 4943, 4956, 4961, 14013, 14030, 14124

4014	Samian dish f31 (CGSW) Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery dish B3.2 (BSW), jars G5.5 (BSW) G9.3 (GRS), fabric RET LSH
4016	Samian bowl f37 (CGSW), cup f33 (CGSW) Other pottery dish B4.2 (BB2), fabric NVC
4022	Pottery dish B4.2 (BSW)

4083	Pottery dishes B3.2 (HAB) B5.1 (GRS HAB) B6 (HAB), mortarium D11.1 (COLBM), jars G5.4 (GRS) G5.5 (GRS) G9 (HAB), beaker H34 (HAB)
4102	Samian dish f31R (CGSW), bowl f37 (CGSW), cup f33 (CGSW) Other pottery dishes B3.2 (BSW) B4.1 (BSW), mortaria D6 (OXRCM) D11.2 (COLBM) D13.2 (COLBM), bowl-jars E5.2 (GRF) E5.4 (BSW), G24.2 (GRS) G25 (GRS), fabric HAX
4241	Samian dish f31R (CGSW), bowls f37 (CGSW) f30R (COLSW) Other pottery dish B1 (BB2), mortarium D11.1 (COLBM), jars G5.5 (GRS) G9.1 (BSW), fabric CGRHN
4294	Pottery mortarium D1.3 (BUFM)
4426	Samian fabric CGSW Other pottery dish B2/B4 (BSW BB2), bowl C8 (RED), mortarium D2.2 (COLBM), jar G24.2 (BSW), beaker H20.3 (COLC)
4487	Samian dish f31R (CGSW), cup f33 (CGSW) Other pottery dish B4 (BB2), mortaria D11 (BUFM) D13.2 (COLBM), jars G9.3 (BSW) G24.2 (GRS), beaker H35.2(GRF), fabric HAX
4701	Samian fabric CGSW Other pottery dish B4 (BSW), bowl-jar E2 (BSW), jar G42 (STOR), fabric NVC
4943	Samian Other pottery dishes B2 (BB2) B4.2 (BB2) B5.1 (GRF) B6.1 (BSW) B6.2 (GRF), bowl-jar E2.2 (GRF), jar G9.3 (GRS), beakers H20.3 (COLC) H23 (NVC), fabric NVP
4961	Pottery fabric COLB
14013	Pottery dish B2.1 (BSW), mortarium D11.1 (COLBM), fabric COLC
14124	Samian fabric CGSW Other pottery dish B1 (HAB), jar G5.4 (GRS), fabric NVC

Most pits are likely to have been filled during the late 2nd and early 3rd century AD. Features 4083 and 4943 appear to have received material well into the second half of the 3rd century AD. The presence of fabrics, such as Oxfordshire and late shell-tempered wares, and a C8 bowl suggests some deposition during the late 4th century AD. All pits contained residual pottery, mainly dating to the first half of the 2nd century AD.

PERIOD V: (Fig. K 15)

Late Roman activity was very sparsely represented in the excavated features and deposits. Evidence of 4th century activity was restricted solely to a scatter of pits amongst those of earlier periods, and a single hearth 4378 set into the top of one of these late pits. Given the proximity of this area to the temple, where considerable late Roman activity is attested, this apparent lack is of interest, and compares with a similar dearth of late activity in Area I just across the road.

Hearth 4378 (Fig. K16)

Shallow scoopy cut 4378 contained a burnt clay lining 4345 overlying a layer of black charcoal and clay 4364. The fills also included pottery, tile and flint pebbles, all of which were burnt. This apparent hearth was set into the middle of the fills of underlying, though broadly contemporary, pit 4379. It is likely that cut 4378 did not actually exist and that this hearth, or perhaps a simple fire base, was opportunistically sited within the slump hollow of the backfilled pit.

Hearth 4378

4378	Pottery dish B6.2 (HAB), beaker H42.1 (NVC) Coin radiate, Gallienus, AD 261-266 (SF 1178)
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The latest pottery was deposited during the late 3rd to mid-4th century AD. Residual pottery, dating no later than mid-3rd century AD, was also recovered.

Pits 4314, 4379, 4429, 4702, 4805, 4873, 14125 (Fig K17)

The late Roman pits varied in size from under 1m to 2.35m width and from 0.30m to 0.78m deep. All lay within 15m of the edge of Road 3 and of these only pit 4873 was further than 10m from it. From the excavated and dated sample, the pits appear to have been scattered and rarely intercutting.

While some of the pits contained relatively large and varied finds assemblages, they nonetheless appear smaller than those of comparable date in other areas of the settlement. While pottery and tile contents were generally high, the quantity of other material types varied from pit to pit. Many had significant metalwork content, largely iron, while pits 4379 and 4429 contained large animal bone components. It appears that only pits of this late date, such as 4429 and 14125 contained significant quantities of oyster shell.

Pits 4314, 4379, 4429, 4702, 4805, 4873, 14125

4314	Coin AE3, House of Constantine, AD 330-335 (SF 1174)
4379	Pottery dish B4 (GRF) B5.1 (HAB), bowl-jar E2.2 (BSW), fabric NVC Coin sestertius, Alexander Severus, AD 222-231 (SF 1193)
4429	Pottery dishes B5.1 (BSW HAB) B6.2 (GRS), bowl-jars E2.2 (BSW), jar G9 (BB1), H33 (GRS), fabrics NVC RET
4805	Pottery jar G9 (BB1), beaker H33 (NVC)
4873	Pottery bowl C11 (NVC)
14125*	Pottery dishes B1 (HAB), B6.2 (BSW), bowl-jars E1.1 (HAB) E5.4 (GRS), jar G9 (BB1)

Only the coin of Constantine is unequivocally dated to the 4th century AD; the pottery carries a wider late 3rd to mid-4th century AD date range. The pottery from 4702, which was cut into 14125, is almost entirely residual, probably dating to the later 1st century AD. Indeed, residual material is present in all features.

PERIOD VI: (Fig. K15)

Latest Roman features were least numerous and confined to pits. These features were even more scattered than those of the preceding period. Recognized structural and boundary features of this date were conspicuously absent, as were artefacts of a Saxon, rather than Roman, character.

Pits 4128, 4139, 4153, 4224, 4714 (Fig. K18)

Although scattered, this small quantity of pits was surprisingly homogenous; all between 1.6m and 2m wide and basically circular. Virtually all of these contained significant quantities of residual material, so their apparent richness in finds should not necessarily be interpreted as a straightforward resurgence in prosperity at the end of the 4th century AD; the overall picture of there being little activity is probably more accurate. Nevertheless, these latest pits contained significantly more finds than those of Period V, and by far the most varied assemblages of all periods in this area.

Of note was the large and varied assortment of metal objects. Many appear to be small personal possessions such as strigil (SF426), stylus (SF1150), knife (SF1936) and tweezers (SF1073), and occurred along with bone hairpins (SF416, 428), beads (SF6840) and shale bracelet fragments (SF1840). Following previous trends, bulk materials, such as tile, bone and, to a lesser extent, oyster shell showed increased presence.

Pits 4128, 4139, 4153, 4714

4128*	Pottery dishes B6.2 (GRS) B6.3 (BB1), bowls C8 (HAX), mortarium D7 (OXWM), bowl-jar E6.1 (HAX), jars G27.1 (LSH) G27.2 (LSH), beaker H42.1 (NVC), fabrics RET NVCM CEP Coins AE4, Theodora, AD 337-341 (SF 1151); AE3, Constantine II Caesar, AD 330-341 (SF 1152); AE3, Constantius II, AD 330-335 (SF 421); radiate, Gallienus, AD 263 (SF 1154)
4139*	Pottery dishes B6.2 (HAB) B6.3 (BB1), bowl C8.1 (OXRC), bowl-jars E1.1 (BSW) E5.4 (GRF) E6.1 (HAR), jar G9.3 (BB1), beaker H41 (NVC), fabrics HAX NVP
4153*	Pottery dish B6.2 (NVC), bowl C25 (OXRC), jar G27 (LSH), beaker H41 (NVC), fabrics HAX RET
4224	Pottery fabric GRS
4714	Pottery fabric GRF

All pits, except 4224 and 4714, produced a varied range of late 4th century AD pottery, and also high proportions of mainly 2nd and 3rd century residual material. 4714 was cut into 4139, while 4224 cut gully 25071, itself cut into mid-Roman pit 4102.