

## AREA L PHASING

Area L was the most westerly of the arbitrary 20m wide strips selected for investigation in Area A2 (Fig.0). Excavation was undertaken across this area only as far north as Track 4, due to severe and prolonged flooding to its north (*photo?*). The single exception was coin hoard pit 6383, located at the extreme north of the strip. The extent of the flooding was dictated by the southward extent of the underlying natural brickearths which more or less coincided with the position of the track. **Most of the component grid squares in this area were reasonably fully explored, with the proviso that rarely were sequences pursued below the cobbled/gravel surfaces.**

Area L is considered here in two plots either side of Road/Track 3. As might be expected, the different characters of the constituent features in these plots seem to define a real watershed of activity. South of Road 3 there seems to be a further division which is perhaps a sub-division within a single plot or enclosure fronting onto this track.

Late Iron Age occupation of Area L began in the late 1<sup>st</sup> century BC with both structures and pits present. However, it was not until the earlier 1<sup>st</sup> century AD that this part of the settlement took on a structured layout with the creation of regular land division fronting onto roads or tracks. Road 3 seems to have been an important boundary. The plot south of the road was occupied by at least two phases of roundhouse along with associated pits which, though essentially domestic in character, also contained metalworking debris and, later, textile manufacturing artefacts. To the north of Road 3 was an expanse of gravel surface which extended across Track 4 perhaps as far as Track 5. Indeed, at times it appears that the tracks and surface in between merged. This surface was not occupied, but was maintained as an open area in front of the temple complex of Area J. It is likely that it functioned as a public area beyond the restricted area of the temple precinct itself.

The early Roman period was characterized by continuity, with occupation in the south plot evinced by pits and hearths, though no identifiable structures. Major plot- and road-side boundaries passed out of use but were still respected, perhaps being perpetuated by hedges. Neither Road 3 nor Track 4 was maintained, and presumably they degenerated into tracks flanking the surface of the open space which must have similarly degenerated, though it remained free of pits and buildings.

Evidence of mid-Roman activity was sparse, the few pits and a single well being restricted to south of Track 3 until the 4<sup>th</sup> century. An increase in pit density and presence of a pottery kiln in the south plot suggest a degree of resurgence in occupation in the late Roman period. However, the more dramatic development was the change of use of the open area to the east of the temple and its flanking tracks which became the site of post-built structures, apparently set within small fenced enclosures.

Occupation endured perhaps as late as the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD with a sunken-floored building (SFB) and two pits identified at the south end of Area L. The orientation of this late building may betray some enduring adherence to, or knowledge of, the preceding Roman alignment while pit 14529 appears to have been deliberately sited above backfilled well 14984.

### Phasing Summary

Period	Period description	Sub-period	Date
I	-		MIA/LIA transition
II	Road 3 and Roadside surface & intensive occupation. Metalworking	A B C	LPRIA & LIA/ Roman transition
III	Continuity		Early Roman
IV	Decline in occupation activity? No metalworking		Mid-Roman
V	Buildings over roads, change in landuse. Pottery kiln		Late Roman
VI	One building, well, possibly more?		Roman/Saxon trans

## PERIOD I

No features of middle to later Iron Age date have been identified. However, very little of the Period II gravel surface which covered the north part of Area L was removed and so it is entirely possible that there were some early features in this area. Prehistoric features earlier than the LPRIA were encountered at the extreme south of the area (Atkinson and Preston, 2000a) including some early Iron Age pits, while the occasional sherd of earlier pottery turned up in later features, and the number of flints in most pits at the southern end of the area also hints at a level of early activity.

## PERIOD II (Fig. L1)

Area L, even more than other areas, was dominated by its late Iron Age features. The depth of the structural sequence within the features of this period allows a degree of sub-phasing. Few of the LIA pottery groups from this area have been assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC rather than AD, but this may be as much to do with a lack of imported fine-wares (i.e., a functional or social difference compared with other areas) as with any positive chronological indicators.

The most significant aspect of the late Iron Age to Roman transitional period in the north half of Area L was the imposition of Road/Track 3 together with the surfacing of the area between it and Road/Track 4 (*Photo?*). This initial surfacing seemed, as elsewhere, to be a single concerted episode. Although there is actually little direct evidence to date the broader surface better than 'no later than late Roman,' this seems to be the period most likely to have witnessed such an act. Road 3 seems to have been well used and it was already resurfaced and repaired within this period, and it is probable that the whole of the surfaced area had at least these two episodes. This was the latest surfacing of Road 3 to have survived. It is possible that there was no clear demarcation of the two roads as separate features with a surface between them, but rather that the whole area was one continuous surface, and what we have called Roads were in fact just the edges of this wider surface which stood out largely because their line was marked by other features (ditches and fences) running along the 'outside' edge. It is notable that there is no corresponding marking of the 'inside' edge (i.e., the edge leading onto the surfaced area) of either 'road'. (*Aerial photo*)

North of 'Road 3', the gravel surface was largely kept free of disturbance and seems to have served as an open space. Activity was limited to pits which clustered at the end of gully 20237, which ran along (and in fact defines) the edge of the road, and two small semi-circular constructions just north of the pits, whose form was very odd and function unknown. There was a group of post holes cut into the lower surface and sealed by the upper, which, if nothing else, at least confirms that there must have been some time lag between the two surfacing episodes. Undated and therefore unphased groups in this vicinity included fencelines which may have belonged to this period. Generally, there was the impression that the area between Roads 3 and 4 was open and free from occupation. However, this impression should be qualified: it applies only to the second surface. There was not enough evidence of what happened between the two surfacing episodes to project this backwards with confidence, as excavation reached below the upper surface only in one small area.

To the south was an array of structural features set in the midst of more pits. These included foundation slots marking the positions of roundhouses, together with lots of gullies. The apparently structural features must include at least three phases, and there must be a possibility that some of the others, here interpreted as drainage gullies associated with the buildings, may rather represent more phases of building. These structures were accompanied by large pits, a substantial proportion of which yielded metalworking waste. The pits seemed, on the whole, considerably larger than the average from other parts of the site (*Table*). There were also lots of pre-Roman post-holes scattered about which must constitute the truncated remains of more buildings and fences, *etc.*

All of these were contained within a long thin enclosure which fronted on to Road 3. Its western limit was defined by two phases of ditch. There were also fragments of other, lesser, ditches which may be the remains of internal subdivisions of this plot.

**Sub-phase II A** (Late 1<sup>st</sup> century BC to early 1<sup>st</sup> century AD) (Fig. L1)

The earliest evidence of late Iron Age activity consisted of very fragmentary structural remains below the Period II b and c structures, drainage gullies and some well-dated early pits. As well as attesting domestic occupation, the pit contents indicate that metalworking was already being undertaken by the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC. The normally ubiquitous loomweight fragments were absent from these pits, which may indicate a specific specialisation at this location. Although this Area was clearly occupied, the remains cannot be placed in a wider framework of land division due to the lack of boundary ditches in this sub-period.

**Pits 14207, 14225, 14257=20086, 14355, 14488, 20144, 20145, 20211, 20335=20489, 20481** (Fig. L2)

While the earliest pits of Period II, *i.e.*, those predating the mid-1<sup>st</sup> century AD, were not particularly numerous amongst the total of excavated pits, they were among the most interesting. Varying in width between 1.5 and 3.3m they were generally round to oval in plan and isolated from one another.

One of the most notable aspects of these pits is the relatively high incidence of metalwork in comparison with early pits in other areas. Along with many artefacts of both copper alloy and iron were small, but significant, quantities of metalworking debris from pits 14207, 14225, 20335 and especially 14257=20086. As is characteristic for all late Iron Age pits across the settlement, small quantities of briquetage were consistently present, but the normally ubiquitous triangular loomweight fragments were completely absent. Bone from pits 14207, 20481 may be significant (**follow up**). Pit 20211 contained a silver coin (SF 7473, a new type) of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC.

Some spatial variation in artefactual content is detectable between the north and south pits of the area, with a far lower incidence of metalworking debris present in the former.

**Pits 14207, 14225, 14257=20086, 14355, 14488, 20144, 20145, 20211, 20335=20489, 20481**

14207	<b>Amphora</b> <i>salazon</i> (ASALA) <b>Other pottery</b> beaker <i>Cam</i> 113 (NGWF), flagon <i>Cam</i> 165 (CGFCS), fabrics CGMIC TR SILT
14225	<b>Arretine</b> platter (ITSW) <b>Amphora</b> Haltern 70 (ABAET) <b>Other pottery</b> mortarium <i>Cam</i> 191 (BUFM), beaker <i>Cam</i> 112 (TR), flagon <i>Cam</i> 165 (CGFCS), fabrics SILT ESH CGMIC TN
14257	<b>Pottery</b> platters <i>Cam</i> 1 (TN(M)) <i>Cam</i> 5 (TR)
20086	<b>Amphoras</b> Dr.1 (AITAC) <i>salazon</i> (ASALA) <b>Other pottery</b> platters <i>Cam</i> 2 (TN) <i>Cam</i> 5 (TR), bowl <i>Cam</i> 51 (TN(M)), beakers <i>Cam</i> 74 (TR) <i>Cam</i> 112 (TR) <i>Cam</i> 113 (NGWF), fabrics CGMIC CGFCS
14355	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics MICW GROG
14488	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GROG
20145	<b>Amphora</b> Dr.1 (AITAL) <b>Other pottery</b> platter <i>Cam</i> 1 (TN(M)), fabrics NGWF TR BSW GRS GRF
20211	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GROG <b>Coin</b> AR unit (SF 7473)
20335	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics TN(M) PR GROG
20481	<b>Arretine</b> platter <i>Conspectus</i> 12.2 (ITSW) <b>Amphora</b> Pascual 1 (ARCAT) <b>Other pottery</b> platter <i>Cam</i> 1 (TN(M)), fabric CGFCS

While much of the pottery recovered dates initial periods of filling to the late 1st century BC and early 1st century AD, latest deposits dating to the mid-1st century AD can be identified. These include the top fills of 14225 and 20335, which contained an early Roman wall-sided mortarium and Pompeian red ware respectively. The coin in 20211 provides a late 1st century BC date.

**Gully 25144** (seg. 14350)

Curving gully 25144 was 8.5m long, broadly running north-to-south. At 0.4-0.5m wide and 0.35m deep, this was unlikely to have been a structural slot. No integral post-holes were found within the gully and so a drainage function is presumed, related to the structures outlined below. A rounded terminal was defined at its north end, but no south end determined, due to truncation by pit 20086.

**Gully 25144**

14350	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics GROG MICW CGFCS TR NGWFS
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Although this ditch segment contained no diagnostic forms, the range of fabrics present suggests that the feature was infilled during the late 1st century BC to early 1st century AD.

**Structure 5: Slot / gullies 14400, 14402, 25142 (seg. 14331), 14434**

Underlying structural features of succeeding sub-periods II b and II c, were two short gullies 14402 and 25142 set at a right angle to one another. They were similarly proportioned at 0.75m wide and 0.35m deep. The full extent of neither was established, both being truncated by later features. Smaller slot 14000 probably represented the eastward continuation of the line of 14402. Narrower slot 14434, alongside 25142 would also appear associated. These are tentatively interpreted as defining the corner of a structure, at least measuring 5m by 4m in extent.

Slots 14402, 25142, 14434

14402	Pottery fabric GROG
14331	Pottery fabric GROG
14434	Pottery fabric GROG

Grog-tempered pottery was recovered from three segments, providing a Late Iron Age date.

**Sub-phase IIB** (first half of 1<sup>st</sup> century AD)(Fig. L1)

In the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, occupation appears more formalized with the imposition of regular land division south of Road 3, as is the case in all of Areas K to P. Within Area L, only one ditch (25075) defining a boundary of a strip plot was revealed. This plot fronted onto Road 3 and was occupied by a roundhouse (Building 29) towards its south end. Contemporary pits were scattered across this same vicinity of the plot and, as in Period II a, were deficient in loomweight fragments. However, metalworking waste was by now less frequent, perhaps marking a decline in this particular activity.

Road 3 obviously marked an important boundary, the area to its north being devoid of both pits and structural features. Instead, the whole of the area between Tracks 3 and 4 was surfaced with gravel and maintained as an open area – perhaps associated with the temple complex in Area J, to the west.

**Building 29** (Fig. L3)

25143 (segs. 14337, 14413, 14487), 14263, 14267, 14270, 14272, 14292, 14398, 14468, 14472, 14483, 14496, 14509, 14598, 14685, 14695, 14699, 14788, 14804. Also 14483, 14628, 14702, 14708, 14814?

Building 29 was defined by curving slot 25143. Surviving as an arc some 8.0m long, it is probable that it was the northern part of a circular structure c.8.0-8.5m in diameter. It is possible that short slot length 14468 was a further part of this building's foundation on its south side. It seems unlikely that the identified slots originally extended further, or that further slots to complete the circular foundation were missed during excavation, as this area was intensively investigated. A number of post-holes (14685, 14695 and 14483) along the extrapolated circumference may have been integral parts of this structure.

In the building interior, post-hole 14598 was the most likely candidate for the location of a central roof support (if one was needed). A large number of other post-holes and small pits occurred within the interior of the building, some of which could have been associated either with the structure itself, or with its use; a very tentative inner ring of smaller post-holes may be discerned (14398, 14788, 14804, 14472, 14263).

Immediately to the north of slot 25143, a line of similar post-holes (14267, 14270, 14272, 14292, 14496 and 14699) followed its curve, perhaps denoting a more elaborate structure, but perhaps just an enclosing fence around the building. Is there a case for extending this outer ring to 14814, 14708, 14702, 14280; Also then include 14685, 14695, 14483 in the main ring? Leaves only a couple of gaps, all where later features occur, and an entrance to the SW.

**Building 29** 25143 (14337, 14413, 14487), 14468, 14685, 14695, 14483, 14598, 14398, 14788, 14804, 14472, 14263

14413	Pottery fabric GROG
14487	Pottery fabrics BSW GROG
14685	Pottery fabrics MICW GRS
14263	Pottery fabric GROG

A few features produced small quantities of indifferent pottery. While none of it can be closely dated, it is nevertheless consistent with a Late Iron Age or early Roman date.

**Post-holes** 14267, 14270, 14272, 14292

14267	Pottery fabric GROG
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A single sherd of grog-tempered pottery was recovered.

**Surfaces 20759, 20336, 20337** (Fig. L4)

Extensive surface 20759 was laid across the north part of Area L in the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. As revealed in a 2m-wide trench, this was a compact deposit of sandy gravel up to 0.2m thick, set with largeish rounded flint pebbles, like small cobbles. It was traced for a distance of 18m north-to-south, but no edges were identified. It is possible that surface remnants 20336 and/or 20337, partially underlying the south edge of Road 3 surface 20330, may also have been part of this. It is therefore postulated that the surface originally extended as far south as pits 20297 and 20199 which were subsequently located along its edge, in an area already used for earlier pitting (20335, 20481). It is possible that surface 20759 extended far beyond the limits of the Area L excavation, perhaps even reaching as far north as Road/Track 5. It is likely that it was laid as part of the same early surfacing of Areas H, I and J and extended west to merge with them. To the east, it appears that the surface petered out, being absent over all but the north extreme of Area M.

**Road 3: 20330, 20331, 20356, 20357, 20735, 20813, 20942** (Fig. L5) **Should this now be at the end of IIA? Or II B may need to be redated backwards a bit?**

Within Area L, Road 3, in contrast to the other tracks elsewhere across Area A2, was a very tangible construction. Indeed its substantial nature prompts this part of the thoroughfare to be regarded as a road more comparable to the road surfaces to the west than to the tracks further east, at least in its early years. Here, Road 3 was a well constructed gravel surface 20330=20357 with a pronounced slope down to the south – possibly a camber. This surface was laid upon clean sand make-up layers 20735 and 20942. Dark brown silt 20813, and possibly 20356, appear to have been an episode of use and accumulation upon the road surface.

Surface 20330 was noticeably more cemented on its higher northern side, where it was also heavily worn. To the south, it was less cemented, but also less worn. No definite northern track edge was in evidence, surface 20330 petering out and merging with the natural gravel. As it survived, Road 3 was almost 11m wide. However, it is postulated that there was never a formal northern edge, as the road merged with extensive surface 20759.

The south edge of the Road 3 surface was clearly truncated by pit 20481, which provides an late 1<sup>st</sup> century BC/early 1<sup>st</sup> century AD *terminus ante quem* for construction. In turn, this pit was sealed by the next phase of surfacing. The more ambiguous part of this layer (i.e. 20357, which was probably simply another part of 20330) was also recorded as being cut by pit 20335 which also dated to the late 1<sup>st</sup> century BC/early 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. These pits were some of the earliest components of an intercutting complex of Late Iron age features along the road, and would seem to be clear and unambiguous evidence of a LPRIA date for this road.

**Road 20331**

20331	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery fabric GROG
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This deposit contained pottery dating to the Late Iron Age.

**Track 4: 20706** (Fig. L6)

Though less convincing than Road 3, it is possible that Track 4 was also in evidence at this time. Silty sand and gravel deposit 20706 overlay surface 20759. Although only investigated within a 2m-wide trench, this 0.08m thick compacted deposit had a south edge which followed the prevailing alignment for the roads/tracks through Area A2. Becoming less distinct, it petered out some 12m to the north and may have constituted a more formal roadway built on top of the extensive gravel surface 20759.

Beyond the excavated area of Area L, this surface extended west as far as Areas J and H, but had petered out before reaching Area M to the east.

**Pits 14533, 14545, 14649, 14947, 14980, 20030, 20067, 20069, 20095, 20100, 20195, 20213, 20389, 20481** (Fig.L7)

As was the case with the Period II pits, the distribution of these 1<sup>st</sup> century AD pre-conquest pits did not extend north of Road 3. Although spread widely over the southern half of Area L, these pits now displayed a tendency to loose clustering and occasional intercutting. Pits seem either to be large and circular (2.5m to 3.0m+) or small and circular to oval (less than 1.5m).

The absence of loomweight fragments from the fills of these features was still conspicuous and now metalworking debris was far less common, with the exception of the copper alloy cast waste from pit 20030 and perhaps also from pit 14533. The majority of pits contained typical assemblages of pottery together with modest quantities of briquetage, animal bone and occasional items of metalwork. (Pit 20481 appears in both II a and II b, as its lower fill appears significantly earlier than what may be a later capping over the top).

**Pits 14533, 14545, 14649, 14947, 14980, 20030, 20067, 20069, 20095, 20100, 20195, 20213, 20389, 20481**

14533	<b>Pottery</b> platters <i>Cam 1</i> (TN(M)) <i>Cam 2</i> (TN), beakers <i>Cam 102</i> (CGMIC) <i>Cam 113</i> (NGWF), fabrics TR MICW GRS GRF COLB
14545	<b>Amphora salazon</b> (ASALA) <b>Other pottery</b> jar G19.4 (GROG), flagon <i>Cam 161</i> (NGWF), fabrics CGFCS TR
14649	<b>Pottery</b> bowl S (GROG), fabrics BSW GRS
14947	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics MICW GRS GROG
14980	<b>Amphora salazon</b> (ASALA) <b>Other pottery</b> platters <i>Cam 1</i> (TN(M)) <i>Cam 2</i> (TN), beaker <i>Cam 114</i> (CAMF), fabric CGFCS TR
20030	<b>Arretine</b> platter (ITSW) <b>Other pottery</b> platters <i>Cam 2</i> (TN), jars <i>Cam 254</i> (ESH), flagon J1 (GROG), fabrics MICW BSW GRS TR
20067	<b>Pottery</b> platter <i>Cam 12</i> (TN), beaker <i>Cam 102</i> (CGMIC), fabrics TR GRS GROG
20069	<b>Pottery</b> jars G3 (GRS) G17 (GRS), fabrics GRF BSW
20095	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics ESH GROG TR
20100	<b>Amphora salazon</b> (ASALA) <b>Other pottery</b> platters <i>Cam 2</i> (TN) <i>Cam 4</i> (TR), fabrics GRSM NGWFS
20195	<b>Amphora Dr.1</b> (AITAJ) <b>Other pottery</b> jar <i>Cam 254</i> (ESH), fabric GROG
20213	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics GROG VRW
20481	<b>Arretine</b> platter <i>Conspectus 12.2</i> (ITSW) <b>Other pottery</b> platter <i>Cam 1</i> (TN(M)), fabrics CGFCS GROG

In addition to grog-tempered pottery, which was predominant, and Gallo-Belgic wares, most features received small quantities of Roman wares. Filling is likely to have begun in the early 1st century AD, continuing into the mid-1st century AD.

**Ditch 25075** (segs.14557, 14798, 14832, 14836, 14954) (Fig. L8)

Ditch 25075 was the only major linear feature of this period. It ran on a NNW-SSE alignment, at the south end of Area L, and was traced for a distance of almost 18m. The ditch was 0.8 to 0.9m wide and 0.33 to 0.38m deep. Segment 14954 appeared much wider and deeper but it is possible that two different features were combined at this point. It contained a small but typical artefactual assemblage of pottery, animal bone and baked clay/daub.

The ditch represents a major land boundary, clearly part of the strip plot division which extended across the southern part of Area A2. Minor recuts appear to belong to sub-period II c.

**Ditch 25075 (14557, 14798, 14832, 14836, 14954)**

14557	<b>Pottery</b> jar <i>Cam</i> 254 (ESH), fabric GROG
14798	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GROG
14832	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics TR GROG
14954	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics GROG BSW

The pottery recovered from this ditch is not closely datable, though fits a Late Iron Age date.

**Sub-phase II C (Mid-1<sup>st</sup> century AD, *i.e.* transitional) (Fig. L1)**

The end of the late Iron Age saw continuity of use within the plot south of Road 3. Building 29 was replaced by a larger roundhouse (Building 36) and the frequency of contemporary pits increased across the whole of the plot, even encroaching upon the edge of Road 3. The pits contained both domestic and metalworking waste and, for the first time, loomweights. L-shaped hearth feature 14500 was in close association with a pit containing metalworking debris. Indications of sub-division within the plot were hinted at by likely fence slots, with the majority of the pits located to their south. Differences in prevailing alignments have also been noted between the ‘front’ and ‘rear’ of this plot.

Road 3 was probably maintained up until the conquest period, beyond which no further resurfacing was undertaken, despite the route continuing to be used and respected. Hereafter it is referred to as Track 3. Perhaps this is why a roadside fence, denoted by slot 20237 was now necessary along its south edge. The north side of Track 3 was not similarly delineated and remained open onto the surfaced space, which was itself resurfaced in the mid-1<sup>st</sup> century AD. Indeed, there were indications that Tracks 3 and 4 effectively merged with this surfaced area.

**Road 3 (20197, 20208, 20210 / 20303, 20328, 20495, 20497, 20662) (Fig. L5)**

Road 3 continued to be maintained into the mid-1<sup>st</sup> century AD and, like the Period II b surfaces, still merited the label of road. However, this was its last new surface, and in subsequent periods it becomes Track 3. A compacted gravel surface 20197 was laid without a bedding layer, although where underlying features had slumped these had been levelled with pebbly silt deposit 20208. On top of this road surface there was evidence of repair (20662), and a run-off deposit (20303=20210) built up along the south edge.

As with the earlier road surface, 20197 sloped down from north to south. This second episode of surfacing actually extended the width out over pit 20481. The fact that it showed signs of heavy use, necessitating further repair, indicates that it was an active thoroughfare and it is unlikely that it simply ceased to exist by the beginning of the Roman period. While it is possible that some minor surfaces may have been removed (possibly during machining, possibly in antiquity), it is far more likely that the road was not formally maintained beyond the mid-1<sup>st</sup> century AD, reverting to a track which remained in use through much of the Roman period.

Gravel surface 20197 contained both Late Iron Age pottery and a coin of Cunobelin (SF7481). Run-off accumulation 20303=20210 also contained pottery and a coin of Cunobelin (7480) along with a range of metal artefacts including cast waste (SF7509), brooch (SF7511) and tweezers (SF7510), though it is noted that this deposit may have gathered over a long period, and related to the use of the road, not its construction. It is possible that the top fill of pit 20481 was actually part of the preparation for this episode of road widening. This top fill also carried an early-mid 1st century date, in contrast to earlier material in the lower fill. Stratigraphic relationships, both above and below, bear out this mid-1<sup>st</sup> century AD dating.

**Surfaces 20197, 20208, 20210, 20303, 20328, 20495, 20497, 20662**

20197	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics GROG GRS <b>Coin</b> AE unit, Cunobelin, (SF 7481)
20208	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics ESH TR GRF GROG
20210	<b>Pottery</b> platters <i>Cam</i> 5 (TN), fabrics TR BSW GRS COLB VRW <b>Coin</b> AE unit, Cunobelin, (SF 7480)

20303	<b>Pottery fabric GROG</b>
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The pottery recovered from these deposits can be assigned an early to mid-1st century AD date. The appearance of Roman wares places the emphasis on the later end of this range.

**Surface 20422 (Photo) (Figs. L4, L6)**

Overlying both extensive surface 20759 and road surface 20706 of Period II b was another extensive gravel and flint-pebble deposit 20422 which seems to have been a renewal of 20759. Though not proven by excavation, it is likely that it extended southwards as far as the edge of Road 3. It consisted of rounded, fairly large stones, almost cobbles, set in gravel. The stones were slightly larger than those of 20759.

**Building 36 (Fig. L9)**

Building 36 was defined by a series of apparently intermittent arcing slots (14209, 14214, 14229, 14254, 14318, 14336) of varying length. The longest stretch of gully (14336) varied between 0.4-0.5m wide and 0.07-0.2m deep. It is possible that these slots were originally inter-connecting but had become disjointed by truncation. Although the eastern half of the circle had either been removed by or obscured amongst unexcavated pits, it is possible to reconstruct this structure as being 9.4m in diameter (internal area of c.60m<sup>2</sup>). Post-holes 14246 or 14282 could constitute the location of a central roof support within this building. The structure is therefore interpreted as the remains of a roundhouse of the mid-1<sup>st</sup> century AD, the slot constituting a wall foundation rather than an eavesdrip gully.

On the east side of the roundhouse interior was gravel layer 14408. Up to 0.13m deep, it was probably the remnant of a floor surface.

**Building 36 (14209, 14214, 14229, 14254, 14318, 14336), 14246, 14282, 14408**

14209	<b>Samian</b> platter f18 (SGSW) <b>Other pottery</b> fabrics GROG BSW
14254	<b>Pottery</b> jar \$ (GROG)
14336	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GROG
14247	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GROG
14408	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics MICW BSW

Small quantities of unexceptional pottery were recovered from a number of features. The mainly grog-tempered pottery, in association with a few sherds of black-surfaced wares, supports a mid-1st century date. Gully 14318 contained residual prehistoric pottery.

**Pits 14223, 14231, 14376, 14382, 14426, 14447, 14561, 14574, 14579, 14582, 14586, 14764, 14835, 14841, 14882, 14891, 20028, 20135, 20199, 20228?, 20258=20297, 20294, 20307 (Fig. L10; some also on Figs. L2, L7)**

The pits of the Late Iron Age to early Roman transitional period were generally smaller than those of preceding sub-periods. Most of these round to oval pits varied in size from 1.3-2.5m, although pits 14561 and 20199 were significantly larger at 4.0m diameter. Overall, finds assemblages were not significantly different from earlier pits, except for small quantities of Romanizing pottery. Pit 14382 is of particular note because of its metalworking content which included mould fragments, cast waste (SF8369, SF6228) and slag, along with cosmetic tools (SF5544). An association with hearth 14500 is likely for this pit.

A further significant aspect of these pits is the presence of triangular loomweights, previously absent from this area. Pits 14579, 14841, 20135 and 20258 all contained loomweight fragments. All were small to medium-sized features, with otherwise generally mundane finds assemblages.

**Pits 14223, 14231, 14376, 14382, 14426?, 14447, 14561, 14574, 14579, 14586, 14764, 14835, 14841, 14882, 14891, 20028, 20135, 20199, 20228?, 20258 = 20297, 20294, 20307**

14223	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GROG
14231	<b>Pottery</b> platter A4.1 (GROG), fabrics GRS BSW
14376	<b>Pottery</b> jar G3.2 (GROG), fabric BSW



14382	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GROG
14426	<b>Pottery</b> bowl \$ (GROG)
14447	<b>Pottery</b> beakers H1 (GROG), fabrics GRS BSW CGFCS
14561	<b>Pottery</b> platter A4 (NKG), jars G23 (GRS) <i>Cam</i> 254 (ESH), fabrics TN TR MICW CGFCS CGMIC COLB BSW
14574	<b>Pottery</b> jar <i>Cam</i> 254 (ESH), fabrics GROG MICW GRS <b>Brooch</b> ?Nauheim
14579	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics GROG BSW GRF
14582	<b>Pottery</b> platter A2.2 (GROG), flagon J3.2 (COLB), fabrics MICW, TR
14586	<b>Amphora</b> Gauloise 4 (AGAUL) <b>Other pottery</b> beaker <i>Cam</i> 85 (TR), fabrics BSW GRS NKG COLB NGWF
14764	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics GROG BSW PR NGWFS
14835	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GROG
14841	<b>Pottery</b> jars G19.4 (BSW) G20 (GRF), beaker H1.4 (GROG), fabrics ESH SILT NGWF TR
14882	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics GROG GRS
14891	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics GRS GROG TN
20028	<b>Pottery</b> jar G5.1 (GROG), fabric BSW
20135	<b>Samian</b> fabric SGSW <b>Other pottery</b> dish B7 (BSW), mortarium <i>Cam</i> 193 (BUFM), jars G23.1 (BSW) G34 (GRS)
20199	<b>Samian</b> platter f15/17 (SGSW), bowl f30 (SGSW) <b>Other pottery</b> bowl C19 (GRS), jars G3 (BSW) G8 (GRS) G17 (GRF) G20 (BSW) <i>Cam</i> 258 (ESH), beaker H7 (BSW), flagons J3.2 (VRW) <i>Cam</i> 167 (COLB)
20228	<b>Samian</b> fabric SGSW <b>Other pottery</b> jars G3 (BSW GRS) G23 (GRS), fabrics GROG PR
20258	<b>Amphora salazon</b> (ASALA) <b>Other pottery</b> jars G19.4 (GROG) <i>Cam</i> 254 (ESH), fabrics GRS BSW
20294	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GROG
20307	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GROG

Most pits contained large quantities of predominantly grog-tempered pottery. Also present was a small, but significant proportion of Roman wares, representing a wide range of forms dating to the second half of the 1st century AD. Infilling is likely to have taken place mainly during the mid-1st century AD.

### Hearth 14500 (Fig. L11)

Feature 14500 was an L-shaped cut 1.25m long. Its fill was composed almost completely of burnt clay. Its shape suggested a flue arrangement, although no superstructure had survived. While there was no evidence of any particular function, its location immediately north of metalworking debris in pit 14382 may suggest an association.

#### Hearth construction 14500

14500	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics GROG GRS
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The pottery is consistent with a mid-1st century date.

### Hearths 14912, 14977, 14990 (Fig. L11)

These were essentially small pits provided with orange clay linings. None actually showed much sign of burning but they were plausibly seen as hearth settings, with a sequence of cleaning out and replacement. The finds give little indication of function, perhaps because these features were regularly cleaned out. They seem to have been protected by fence slot/wind break Structure 21.

14912	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics GROG CGMIC BSW
14977	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics GROG BSW GRS ESH NGWFS TR CGFCS TN(M)
14990	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GROG

In addition to grog-tempered pottery, which was predominant, and Gallo-Belgic wares, these features received small quantities of Roman wares. Filling is likely to have begun in the early 1st century AD, continuing into the mid-1st century AD.

### Structure 19: Slot 25155 (Seg. 20237)

Parallel to Road/Track 3, and just to its south, was linear feature 20237 which was traced for a distance of only 9m within the confines of Area L. The cut was generally no more than 0.4m wide and 0.2m deep with a terminal at its south-west end, where it cut pit 20195. However, this was clearly only

part of a far more extensive line of slots running along the road frontage which can be intermittently traced eastwards as far as Area N. Slot 20237 was probably the remains of a fenceline marking the edge of Track 3 to the north and the 'front' of the strip plot to the south.

**25155 (20237)**

20237	Pottery beaker H7 (GRS), fabrics GROG ESH
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The pottery provides a mid-1st century AD date.

**Structure 20: Gully 25073** (Segs. 14219, 14327, 14362) (Fig. L12)

Feature 25073 was a gently curving cut, some 9.5m long, located at the south end of Area L. At 0.75m wide and up to 0.5m deep, this was a relatively substantial gully with a terminal at its north end; its south terminal had been removed by pit 14382. Post-holes 14536 and 14542 were set into its base. The gully cut Period II b Building 29 and may have been contemporary with Building 36. It is unlikely that this feature formed part of a complete circle (if it did, the structure would have been in the region of 20m in diameter), but was perhaps rather the foundation for a length of screening fence.

In terms of the degree of curvature, it resembled the earlier drainage gully 25144, but was much deeper and slightly wider, while the post holes in its base show it was structural.

**Gully 25073** (14219, 14327, 14362)

14219	Pottery fabric GROG
14362	Pottery jar \$ (GROG), fabrics MICW CGMIC

Segment 14362 contained handmade grog-tempered forms in addition to a sherd of white-slipped Central Gaulish ware, tentatively dating its filling to the Late Iron Age.

**Structure 21: Slot 25152** (segs. 20314, 14844, 14842) (Fig. L11)

Feature 25152 was a curving slot located immediately south of Track 3. It was never more than 0.37m wide or 0.14m deep. Though truncated by Roman pits, the slot was intermittently traced for 14m, defining approximately half of a circle of 13m diameter. If originally complete, the circle would have enclosed an area of 132m<sup>2</sup>. However, much of its internal area had been lost to later pitting and so no trace of associated structural features was evident. A function as a curving screening fence is thought more likely, as the only features which lay within the area it protected were hearths 14912, 14977 and 14990.

**25152** (14842, 14844, 20314)

20314	Pottery fabrics NGWFS ESH GROG
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The small quantity of pottery recovered is consistent with a Late Iron Age date, up to the mid-1st century AD.

**Structure 22: Slot(s) 25072 et al.** (Figs. L8, L9, L12)

What appeared to be a minor recut, represented by 14755, 14907 and 14950, was present in the top of Period II b boundary ditch 25075. This cut, 0.4m wide and 0.12m deep, followed the western edge of the earlier ditch. This recut did not run the entire length of the ditch; it was not recognized south of excavated segment 14755, nor was it traced further north than 14950.

A not-dissimilar slot, recorded as 14507, 14289 and 14217, ran parallel at a distance of 10.5m to the east. This 0.2m wide slot contained post-holes 14498, 14447 and 14358 and appears to have been structural. Just to the north of these slots, a further similar slot 14673 ran perpendicular to them.

It is postulated that, while these may not necessarily have been contiguous features, they formed a square enclosure – perhaps an animal pen – measuring 10.5 by 10.5m. No southern limit to this structure was identified and it may have been open on the south side. Interestingly the interior was occupied by pit 14561 (and others?) which appears to have been deliberately positioned centrally within it. Perhaps small pit 14586 could have been a large post-hole, providing some sort of marker for the south side.

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Slots 25072 (14217, 14289, 14507), 14755, 14907, 14950, 14673, 14498, 14426, 14358

14755	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GROG
14907	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GROG
14940	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics GROG GRS STOR ESH
14426	<b>Pottery</b> bowl \$ (GROG)

A small amount of Roman wares was recovered along with grog-tempered pottery, dating the enclosure/building up to the mid-1st century AD.

### PERIOD III (Fig. L13)

Within Area L, Roads 3 and 4 were not resurfaced or maintained beyond the end of the Late Iron Age. During the early Roman period they degenerated into unsurfaced tracks, their line marked by flanking features such as pits and perhaps the survival of fencelines such as that denoted by 20237. The area between these tracks appears to have remained open, perhaps indistinguishable from them, as a vacant expanse in front of the temple complex. There was no sign of structural features or pits of this date anywhere across this open space.

To the south of Track 3, occupation within the strip plots continued. As elsewhere across Area A2, the Period II boundaries (*e.g.*, ditch 25075 and perhaps fence slot 20237) seem to have passed out of use, but their lines exerted continuing influence, prompting the suggestion that they were may have been perpetuated by hedges. While the main evidence for continued occupation is in the form of rubbish pits with fills of a domestic character, there are other occasional features such as hearth 14491 which suggest that activity was not restricted solely to disposal. Rectilinear structures of early Roman date have not been identified and it may be that the areas investigated were simply not house locations in this period. Alternatively, the Period II c roundhouse (Building 36) may have survived as late as the early to mid-2<sup>nd</sup> century, which is the date of the earliest pits cut into its remains.

### Pits 14693, 14700, 14806, 20010, 20012, 20024, 20066, 20173, 20174, 20187 (Fig. L14; also two on Fig. L7)

The early Roman pits varied in size from 1.5m to 5.0m diameter. All were oval to round and they were dispersed across Area L south of Track 3. They tended to contain large but restricted finds assemblages composed mainly of pottery with small amounts of bone and daub. Metalwork content was low, with no sign of debris such as cast waste, slag or mould fragments. Modest quantities of tile and oyster shell were now present. The lack of residual material, in striking contrast to pits of, say, Area K of this date, may simply be due to location: these pits were not cut into earlier features so often as those further west and thus did not disturb earlier finds-bearing deposits.

#### Pits 14693, 14700, 14806, 20010, 20012, 20024, 20066, 20173, 20174, 21087

14693	<b>Pottery</b> beaker H20.2 (LRC), fabrics NKG COLC
14700	<b>Pottery</b> mortarium D2 (COLBM) <b>Coin</b> sestertius, Trajan, AD 98-117 (SF 6242)
14806	<b>Samian</b> platter f18 (SGSW), bowls f29 (SGSW) f30 (SGSW) <b>Other pottery</b> platter <i>Cam</i> 13 (TN), dish B7 (GRS), bowl C27 (GRF), jars G3 (BSW) G17 (GRS) G19.4 (BSW) G20 (GRS) G40 (GRF), beaker H1 (BSW), fabrics COLB NGWF VRW COLCE
20010	<b>Samian</b> platter f18 (SGSW), bowl f37 (CGSW SGWS) <b>Other pottery</b> dish B7 (BSW), bowls C12 (GRF) C16 (GRS) C29 (STOR), mortarium D1 'Q. Valerius Veranius' (NEGM), jars G3 (GRS) G17.1 (GRS) G20 (BSW GRS), beakers H1.3 (BSW GRF), flagon J3.2 (COLB)
20012	<b>Samian</b> dish f31 (CGSW), bowl f37 (CGSW), cup f33 (CGSW) <b>Other pottery</b> dishes B2.3 (BB2) B3.2 (BSW) B7 (BSW), mortarium D1.4 (COLBM), jars G5.5 (BSW GRS) G22.1 (BSW), beakers H1.3 (BSW) H6 (NKG) H20.2 (COLC) H20.3 (COLC) H24 (COLC)
20024	<b>Pottery</b> dishes B1 (GRS) B2.3 (BB2) B7 (GRS), beakers H6 (GRF)
20066	<b>Samian</b> dish f31 (CGSW), fabric COLSW <b>Other pottery</b> dishes B2.3 (BB2) B4.2 (BB2) B7 (BSW) B8 (BSW), jars G8 (GRS) G17.1 (GRS), beakers H6 (NKG) H10 (NKG), fabrics COLC LRC GLZE
20173	<b>Pottery</b> jars G20 (GROG) G23 (GRS)
20174	<b>Samian</b> beaker f67 (SGSW) <b>Other pottery</b> platter A4.3 (BSW), jars G3 (BSW) G20 (BSW), beaker H1.3 (GRF), fabric CGCC

Most pits, largely devoid of grog-tempered pottery, were filled between the late 1st and early 2nd century AD. Pits 14693, 20012, 20024 and 20066, yielding bead-rim dishes and colour-coated wares, and 14700 are unlikely to date to before the 2nd century, and their filling may have continued up to the mid-2nd century AD. The remaining pits were almost certainly filled by the end of the 1st century AD. Eleven complete or near-complete vessels, which appear to have formed a structured deposit, were recovered from pit 20008 (key pottery group 17).

### Pit 20008

'Pit' 20008 was exceptional, being a tiny feature (0.8m by 0.36m, 0.61m deep) crammed full of pottery: over 300 sherds including 11 complete or near-complete vessels and substantial parts of three more, with a minimum of 9 other vessels represented by at least one sherd (key pottery group 17). Other than the pottery, there were a few fragments of a lava quern, and a tiny amount of briquetage daub and bone. This contrasts with the much more mixed assemblage from the larger pit 20010 next to it. Clearly the material in 20008 had been carefully selected. [Ref to religion/structured deposits](#)

#### Pit 20008

20008*	<b>Samian</b> platter f18 (SGSW) <b>Other pottery</b> platters A2.3 (BSW), bowls C12 (GRF) C27 (BSW), jars G17 (BSW GRS) G19.4 (BSW) G20.1 (BSW) G40 (GRF), beakers H1.3 (BSW), H7.1 (GRF), flagon J3.2 (COLB), fabric HGG
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Eleven complete or near-complete vessels, which appear to have formed a structured deposit, were recovered from pit 20008 (key pottery group 17).

#### Hearth? 14491 (Fig. L15) (film 97)

Feature 14491 was a circular cut 0.7m diameter and 0.27m deep. The gravel apparently lining its sides was heavily scorched, and slot-like feature 14511, protruding to the north-west, may have been a small flue. Its silt fill, although containing charcoal flecks, did not reflect the burnt nature of its sides. Nor was the fill of the feature below (14530) burnt. Instead, the fill of 14491 was notable for its extremely high animal bone content (18kg) and for an iron bar or rod (SF7012) which lay across the top of the feature (context 14493). The bar was apparently set into the sides of the cut and held in place with lumps of clay, thus it may have been *in situ*, perhaps the remains of a grate. It is, however, unlikely that the bone had anything to do with this structure's primary function and it was merely the result of its infilling. Although no superstructure survived above the pit or flue, their fills contained fragments of daub which could have been derived from one. It appears that the cut of existing feature 14530 had been re-cut, lined with gravel and provided with a grate for use as a hearth, then backfilled primarily with bone (although other finds were also present).

#### Hearth 14491

14491	<b>Pottery</b> beakers H1 (BSW), fabric GRS
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A small amount of pottery dating to the second half of the 1st century AD was recovered.



**PERIOD IV** (Later 2<sup>nd</sup> to mid-3<sup>rd</sup> century AD) (Fig. L16)

Evidence of mid-Roman activity was sparse, even compared to the reduced activity of the previous period. Securely dated features amounted to a well and number of pits, all to the south of Track 3.

The area between Tracks 3 and 4 continued to be kept clear. Buildings were again absent within the excavated areas of the plot south of Track 3.

**Well 14984** (Fig. L17)

Feature 14984 was an irregular oval, vertical-sided cut in the natural gravel to a depth of 1.78m. At its centre was a square, plank-built shaft measuring 1.40m by 1.34m, around which a series of vertical supporting stakes (not seen in section) had been positioned. The cut had then been backfilled around the wooden lining with orange clay. Integral to the construction cut was a 2m-wide ramp sloping down into the south side of the well. The ramp was lined with the same orange clay but it is unclear whether it remained in use beyond the construction phase.

Construction elements of this feature contained a small amount of 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD material which concurs with dendrochronological date of the felling of the timbers in, or just after, AD 153/4 (ref to report). No primary use deposits were identified within the well shaft, though this may have been due to the waterlogged conditions in which excavation was undertaken. Fills within the well appear to date its disuse only, but do indicate that it was probably functioning as a water source throughout the mid-Roman period and perhaps as late as the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD (see Period V-VI for accounts of the disuse and subsequent reuse of this feature).

Well 14984 construction

14984	<b>Samian</b> dish f31 (CGSW) <b>Other pottery</b> fabric EGRHN
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The presence of samian and East Gaulish Rhenish ware dates initial accumulation within the well to the mid-2<sup>nd</sup> and early 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD. Much of the pottery and a brooch contained in these deposits were residual, dating no later than the early 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD.

**Pits 14442, 14520, 14599, 14611, 14715, 14758, 14933, 14940, 14994, 20019, 20138, 20185, 20225, 20308=20318** (Fig. L18)

Mid-Roman pits tended to occur in tight intercutting clusters. These were generally large and rounded, varying between 2-5m in diameter. However, there were also small isolated pits such as 14442, 14994 and 20138 scattered widely across Area L. No pits of this date were found north of Track 3.

Apart from quantities of pottery and tile, finds assemblages within these pits were both less numerous and less varied than in the preceding period. While animal bone was present in reasonable quantity, metalwork was very restricted with no copper alloy artefacts and the only iron objects being nails. The litharge fragment (SF6277) (is this still litharge?) in small pit 14994 was probably residual and not necessarily indicative of metalworking in this period.

Pits 14442, 14520, 14599, 14611, 14715, 14758, 14933, 14940, 20019, 20138, 20185, 20225, 20308, 20318

14442	<b>Pottery</b> dish B2/B4 (HAB), bowl-jar E2 (GRS), fabric BB1
14520	<b>Samian</b> cup f33 (CGSW) <b>Other pottery</b> dish B2/B4 (GRF), fabrics HAB NVC
14599	<b>Samian</b> cup f33 (CGSW) <b>Other pottery</b> bowl-jar E2 (GRF), fabric HAR
14611	<b>Pottery</b> dishes B1 (BB2) B2 (BB2), jar G24 (GRS)
14715	<b>Samian</b> mortarium f45 (EGSW) <b>Other pottery</b> dish B1 (BSW), beaker H33 (GRF)
14758	<b>Pottery</b> dishes B1 (BSW) B2 (HAR), jar G5.5 (BSW), fabrics HAX NVC NVP
14933	<b>Pottery</b> dish B1 (BSW), jar G5.5 (GRS), fabric NVC
20019	<b>Samian</b> dish f31R (EGSW), bowl f37 (CGSW) <b>Other pottery</b> dishes B2.3 (BB2) B3.2 (BSW GRF), mortarium D3 (BUFM), jars G5.5 (GRS) G24 (GRS), fabric BB1 COLC NVC HAR
20138	<b>Samian</b> cup f35 (CGSW) <b>Other pottery</b> dish B4 (GRF), fabric HAB
20185	<b>Samian</b> dish f18/31R (CGSW), cup f33 (CGSW) <b>Other pottery</b> dish B4.2 (BB2), bowl-jar E6 (GRF), jar G24 (GRS) <b>Coin</b> sestertius, Trajan, AD 98-117, (SF 7512)
20225	<b>Samian</b> dish f31R (CGSW) <b>Other pottery</b> fabrics BSW GRS GRF

20308	<b>Samian</b> dishes f31 (CGSW EGSW) f31R (CGSW) <b>Other pottery</b> fabrics GRS BSW
20318	<b>Amphora</b> Dr.20 (ABAET) <b>Other pottery</b> dish B4.2 (BB2)

While the majority of these pits contained material dated to the first half of the 2nd century AD or earlier, the strong presence of dishes, Nene Valley and Hadham ware products attests to later 2nd and first half of the 3rd century AD infilling.

### **PERIOD V** (Later 3<sup>rd</sup> to mid-4<sup>th</sup> century AD) (Fig. L19)

Late Roman activity in the southern part of Area L largely followed continuously from the previous pattern. Pit distribution mirrored that of the preceding period. While well 14984 ceased to function at some time early in the 4<sup>th</sup> century, and was deliberately infilled, the presence of new structures, such as pottery kiln 14858, indicated continuing, even increasing, levels of activity.

However, a striking change took place in the 4<sup>th</sup> century with the encroachment of buildings and associated fencelines upon the hitherto open area between and including Tracks 3 and 4. Indeed the new use of this location as an occupation area signals not only the disuse of the tracks themselves, but perhaps also a change in the fortunes and influence of the temple complex to its west.

### **Well 14984 continued** (Fig. L17)

The wood-lined well passed out of use during the earlier 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. It was probably deliberately backfilled, in a ceremony involving the insertion of the carcasses of three dogs and a cow, followed by selected capping deposits. Whether the deposition of either the animal carcasses or the subsequent backfills may be deemed deliberately structured is discussed elsewhere (Section 7). However, the fills did not contain a significant rubbish component; quantities of pottery were particularly low. It is possible that the presence of copper alloy artefacts may reflect a ritual aspect to the accumulation of deposits within this well. [See discussion of structured deposition.](#)

#### **Well 14984 back fills**

14984	<b>Pottery</b> mortarium D11 (BUFM), jars G32 (HAX), beaker H42 (NVC)
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The well received material during the first half of the 4th century. The small amount of this latest pottery is mixed with a greater proportion of residual material, and the well is likely to have served only occasionally as a rubbish pit.

### **Kiln 14858** (Fig. L20)

Feature 14858 was the circular construction cut of an East Anglian Wattisford-type kiln, some 1.3m in diameter and 0.4m deep. The clay walls of the kiln had been built up against its sides. The kiln itself comprised a firing chamber of c.0.9m diameter on the floor of which was a central pedestal roughly 0.5m diameter and 0.15m high. Both chamber floor and pedestal sloped gently down (the product of slumping into underlying pit fills?) towards a short flue located on the south-west side of the structure. The integral flue was also constructed of clay, with an exceptionally narrow channel (22cm at the mouth, narrowing to 14cm at narrowest point), and capped with a large tile fragment. It opened out into a recut sequence of stoke pits 14655, 14744 and 14809.

The floor of the kiln chamber was overlain by thick ash layer 14621 and a deposit of pottery sherds (14591) which presumably were the result of the final use and initial disuse of the structure. The latter included spalled waster sherds of greyware ([ref. to pottery section](#)) and seem to confirm the function of this structure as a pottery kiln. The upper fills of the chamber and those of the stokeholes consisted largely of disturbed and broken scorched clay fragments derived from the structure itself, along with general rubbish.

Pottery assemblages from the kiln and stokeholes dated to the late 3<sup>rd</sup> to early 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. The kiln was constructed above late Roman pit 14992 which may suggest a construction date in the 4<sup>th</sup> century. Determination of the date of last firing by archaeomagnetic dating did not refine this, producing a date range of either AD150-210 or AD270-400 ([ref. to archaeomag. rep.](#)).

### Kiln 14858

14858*	<b>Pottery</b> dishes B1.3 (BSW) B6.2 (BSW GRF), bowl-jar E5.4 (GRS), jar G24.2 (GRS BSW), beaker H39 (GRS), fabrics NVC HAX
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Pottery of late 3rd to early 4th century date was recovered from kiln disuse deposits. Some of this pottery, including B6 dishes and E5 bowl-jars, was burnt and spalled, and it is reasonable to assume that these represent kiln products.

### Building 59 (Fig. L21)

**Post holes** 20382, 20384, 20386, 20408, 20452, 20464, 20470, 20479, 20519, 20521, 20532, 20615, 20618, 20620, 20626, 20628, 20633, 20637, 20641, 20648, 20650, 20654, 20656, 20677, 20685, 20695, 20697, 20700, 20702, 20704, 20727, 20891, 20892, 20895, 20897

**Possibly** 20571, 20585, 20589, 20954

Building 59 was a large, rectilinear post-built structure located at the northern end of the excavated part of Area L. Within a proliferation of c.140 post-holes cut into the Period II gravel surfaces – including that of Track 4 - the general plan of a substantial building can be discerned. It comprised an arrangement of smaller post-holes which formed a 6.5m square. Within this was a 3.7m by 4.7m rectangle generally defined by larger post-holes. This inner rectangle was set into the south-east corner of the outer square, sharing the same southern wall. It is postulated that the inner arrangement constituted internal, load-bearing, roof supports, with the outer posts forming a framework for either a curtain wall or a verandah. The inner room would have had an approximate area of only 17m<sup>2</sup>, and the entire structure c.42m<sup>2</sup>. (*Plan & reconstructions?*).

A number of the constituent post-holes were intercut, perhaps denoting replacement of posts within the structure. However, given the number of additional post-holes which fall within and around the building that cannot be incorporated into its plan, it is more likely that there was more than one phase of late Roman buildings at this location.

A surprisingly large number of the Building 59 post-holes contained small, but cohesive, assemblages of late Roman pottery, tile and tessera.

(It is tempting to add 20571, 20585, 20589, 20954 and extend the outer rectangle to a more symmetrical arrangement around the inner rectangle. This building would then *overlie* ditch 25077 and be 5<sup>th</sup> century AD. Even if the north-eastern corner was part of something else, the rest of the building clearly closed off the gap between 25077 and 25262. The wiggle in the line of 25077 may argue that it respected the building, (and may partly explain why the nearest post to the ditch, 20626 had to be replaced). There was probably another building below which is an equally good cause for such a wiggle, and the logic of Building 59's location might be that the ditches were no longer functioning when it was constructed.

### Building 59

20382	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics STOR GRS BSW
20384	<b>Pottery</b> dish B6.2 (BSW)
20386	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics NVC <b>Coin</b> barbarous radiate, AD 260-290 (SF 7519)
20408	<b>Pottery</b> GRS
20452	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics LSH HAX NVC
20464	<b>Pottery</b> fabric OXRC
20470	<b>Pottery</b> dish B6.2 (GRF), fabrics OXRC LSH HAX
20479	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GRS
20519	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics GRS BSW GRF
20521	<b>Pottery</b> bowl C18 (NVC)
20532	<b>Pottery</b> dish B3.2 (HAB), bowl-jar E3 (HAX), fabrics HAR LSH OXRC
20615	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics GRF GRS
20620	<b>Pottery</b> fabric NVC
20626	<b>Pottery</b> fabric BSW GRS
20628	<b>Pottery</b> fabric BSW
20633	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics OXRC NVC
20637	<b>Pottery</b> fabric OXRC

20641	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics HAX
20648	<b>Pottery</b> fabric BSW
20650	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GRS
20697	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GRS
20700	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics HAX NVC
20702	<b>Pottery</b> fabric OXRC
20704	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GRS
20571	<b>Pottery</b> bowl-jar E2 (BSW)
20954	<b>Pottery</b> fabric GRF

The generally small quantities of pottery recovered from most post-holes dates consistently to the late Roman period, with very little that exclusively predates the late 3rd century AD. A small but significant proportion of pottery, principally late shell-tempered and Oxford colour-coated wares, dates from the late 4th century.

### Micellaneous late post-holes

As noted above, there were many post-holes in the immediate vicinity of Building 59 which could not be incorporated into its plan nor be construed to form an intelligible alternative building. Another mass of post-holes lay directly to the east of Building 59, constituting at least one further late Roman building of which the plan could not be discerned.

Other post-holes occurred across the once-surfaced area between Tracks 3 and 4 which are almost certainly of late Roman date. An apparent scatter is evident in the middle of this area and a cluster on what was formerly the surface of Track 3 itself. However, features were not easily defined within the disturbed (and reworked?) Period II c surface (20422) into which they were cut. Their recorded distribution is therefore more of a reflection of the extent of excavation rather than a reliable depiction of the structures they formed.(rewrite)

### Slots 20736, 20742, 20928, 25076 and 25156 (Segs. 20744, 20746)

Along with post-holes, a number of thin, shallow, slots were cut into the earlier surface 20422. Further traces of slots were recorded on pre-excavation plans though not later found during excavation. These reveal that the slots were extensive and most likely associated with one another, though two phases are perhaps evident. Some, such as slot 25076 contained post- or stake-holes along their length. These slots shared the same alignment as Building 59 and were presumably foundation cuts for fences which now divided the once open area between the former Tracks 3 and 4. Some of the miscellaneous post-holes mentioned above may have been part of this sub-division; e.g. post holes 20663, 20404, 20402 and 20406 ran perpendicular to slot 25076.

### Pits 14671, 14899, 14919, 14924, 14992, 20193, 20035, 20271, 20273, 20418, 20719, 20818 (Fig. L22; also one each on Figs. L7, L20)

The late Roman pits followed a similar pattern to those of the preceding period, with small single pits scattered across area L and larger examples tending to occur in intercutting complexes. Again, no encroachment in the area between the former Tracks 3 and 4 occurred, though pits 20418 and 20818 were located immediately to the north.

Pit 20193 was one of the largest at 2.7m diameter and 1m deep. This clay-lined pit contained a very large and varied assemblage of artefacts in comparison with the other pits of this date; though pottery was present only in modest quantity, personal items such as jet bracelet fragments (SF7491, 7494, 7495), a copper alloy ring with intaglio (SF 7486) and a bone hairpin (SF 7493) were conspicuous. The other pits generally only contained modest amounts of pottery, bone and tile. Pits 20418 and 20818, alongside Building 59, contained assemblages of pottery, tile and *tesserae* very similar to its component post-holes (though larger).

Pits 14671, 14899, 14919, 14924, 14992, 20193, 20035, 20271, 20273, 20418, 20818

14899	<b>Pottery</b> jar G38.3 (GRS) G45 (STOR)
14919	<b>Pottery</b> dish B6.1 (GRF), bowl C [Young 1977, fig. 27, type P24] (OXF), mortarium D [Young 1977, fig. 21, type M17] (OXWM), beaker H41 (NVC)

14924	<b>Coin</b> radiate, Claudius II, AD 268-270 (SF 6273)
14992	<b>Pottery</b> mortarium D14.1 (NVM), G27.2 (LSH)
20193	<b>Pottery</b> dish B6.2 (GRF), mortarium D14 (NVM), jars G9 (BSW) G24.2 (GRS RET) G27 (LSH), fabrics OXRC HAX NVC <b>Coin</b> radiate, AD 200-250 (SF 8398)
20035	<b>Pottery</b> jar G40 (BSW), fabric RET
20271	<b>Pottery</b> dish B4 (GRF), fabrics NVC HAX
20273	<b>Pottery</b> dish B1 (HAB), fabrics RET OXRC
20418	<b>Pottery</b> dish B6.2 (GRF), fabric NVC
20818	<b>Pottery</b> dishes B6.2 (HAR) B6.3 (BB1), fabrics HAX OXRC

Most pits are likely to have been infilled from the late 3rd century AD, although the frequent appearance of late shell-tempered, Oxford red colour-coated and Rettenden wares indicates some later 4th century AD deposition. Pit 14632 contained a very high proportion of abraded residual later 2nd century AD material, perhaps representing deliberate backfilling.

### Pit 6383

Pit 6383 was located on the northern edge of Area A2 and technically outside the excavated part of Area L. This feature was excavated in isolation due to the discovery of a coin hoard within. The small (1m by 0.84m) oval pit was only 0.13m deep. The 75 coins (ref. to coin rep.) were mostly barbarous radiates. The hoard was probably deposited in a bag and the feature backfilled with soil containing incidental rubbish. A capping of tile fragments was laid in the top of the cut, suggesting recovery was intended.

#### Pit 6383

6383	<b>Samian</b> dish f31R (CGSW) <b>Other pottery</b> dishes B2 (BSW) B3 (GRS), beaker H32 (NVC), fabric HAX <b>Coins</b> barbarous radiates, AD 260-290 (SF 3004, 3876, 4603-7, 4611-3, 4615-6, 4619, 4621-6, 4630, 4830-1, 4835, 483-9, 4842-3, 4848, 4850, 4855, 4856, 4858, 4869-70); barbarous radiates, AD 273-290 (SF 4617, 4629, 4837); barbarous radiates, AD 270-290 (SF 4841, 5400, 4618, 4620, 4628, 4832-4); AE4, AD 260+ (SF 4608-9, 4620, 4627, 4836, 4844-7, 4849, 4851-4, 4857, 4859, 4863, 4865-6, 4868, 4871-2, 5401)
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From the narrow date range provided by most of the coins, the hoard is likely to have been deposited during the late 3rd century AD. The pottery is broadly in keeping with this, dating from the mid-3rd to early 4th century AD.



**PERIOD VI:** (Fig. L23)

Activity clearly dateable within the late Roman/Saxon transition period was sparse, but significant. An SFB (Building 65) lay in close proximity to a pit cut in the top of the backfilled Roman well 14984. An oven or drying floor 20137 some 35m further north of the well was probably not closely related. A ditch which runs across most of Area A2 following the old line of Track 4, suggests that the Roman layout of the site was still capable of exerting an influence, though how conscious this may have been could be debated. The line also follows a change in the underlying geology which may have been reflected in surface topography at this time.

**Ditches 25077** (Segs. 20569, 20751, 20754) **and 25262** (seg. 20762=20814) (Fig. L4, L24)

Ditch 25077 was a very shallow cut, 0.9m at its widest and only a maximum of 0.13m deep, which ran across the northern end of Area L on an ENE-WSW alignment. Its sinuous line was most pronounced toward its western terminal where the ditch appears to have made a detour to avoid Period V Building 59, suggesting the latter still stood. At this point the ditch was at its shallowest, being only 0.08m deep and ending in a tapering, rounded, terminal.

Ditch 25262 constituted the interrupted, westward, continuation of this boundary. Only the rounded, bulbous, terminal of this ditch was excavated. At 1.8m wide and 0.35m deep, it was substantially larger than its counterpart 25077 but it is possible that this was due to the presence of a small pit at the terminal.

These two ditches were clearly part of an extensive boundary feature which ran westwards into Area H (ditch 16231) and eastwards into Area M (ditch 25078). Within Area L, the terminals of these ditches clearly defined a gap 2.5m wide. This gap coincides with west end of Building 59 and the general vicinity of further occupation of the area between Tracks 3 and 4. The location and alignment of this boundary was also determined by the line of Track 4 which, although it had apparently ceased to function as an access route, continued to exert an influence as a boundary marker within this area of the settlement.

The ditch fills contained mid-to late 4<sup>th</sup> century pottery along with substantial quantities of tile and occasional *tesserae*. It is possible that this ditch had its origins in Period V and it is clear that it and Building 59 were contemporary, at least for a time. The continuations of this ditch both east and west were also filled no earlier than the late fourth century, possibly even into the fifth.

Ditch 25077 (20569, 20751, 20754)

20569	<b>Pottery</b> dishes B1 (BSW) B6.2 (GRF), fabrics HAX LSH NVC
20751	<b>Samian</b> bowl f38 or f44 (EGSW) <b>Other pottery</b> dish B1 (GRS BSW), fabrics NVC
20754	<b>Pottery</b> dish B6.2 (GRS), fabric HAR

Ditch segment 20569 produced the strongest dating evidence with the presence of late shell-tempered ware suggesting that this part of the ditch was infilled during the late 4th century+. The pottery from the remaining segments carries a wider 3rd to mid/late 4th century date range.

Ditch 25262 (20762, 20814)

20762	<b>Coin</b> radiate Tetricus II (SF 7531) 270-274
20814	<b>Pottery</b> dish B6.2 (BSW), bowl-jars E6.1 (GRS), jar G27.2 (LSH), fabrics ALH NVC OXRC OXP

A large quantity of late 4th century+ pottery was recovered from segment 20814. Much of it was abraded and may have been redeposited. The coin of Tetricus II in 20762 is residual by this time.

**Building 65**

Building 65 was a sub-rectangular cut 14203 measuring 3.33m by 2.15m and 0.23m deep. Post-holes 14298 and 14373 were located at either end of the shallow cut, each containing a post pipe. Both post-holes were substantial, 14298 being 0.45m diameter and 0.4m deep and 14373, 0.5m diameter and 0.66m deep. **Structure 66** is interpreted as a sunken-floored building, albeit shallow compared to others on site. It followed the prevailing NNE-SSW alignment of earlier features and is likely to have

been positioned in relation to surviving late Roman landscape features such as ditch 25077. However, alignment on the edge of the gravel terrace only a short distance to the south cannot be discounted.

The single fill of construction cut 14203 contained a range of Roman material including 4<sup>th</sup> century pottery (key pottery group 36), tile and bone. A fragment of glass and a number of iron nails were also present. Copper alloy cast waste fragment (SF 5537) was probably residual.

Building 65 (14203, 14298, 14301, 14373, 20990)

14203*	<b>Pottery</b> dishes B1 (BB1) B6.1 (HAB) B6.2 (BSW GRF), bowl C8 (NVC), bowl-jar E6.1 (HAX), flagon J face-mask (HAX), fabrics NVM OXRC ALH
14298	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics BSW GRS
14301	<b>Pottery</b> fabric BSW
14373	<b>Pottery</b> fabrics GRS GRF

Cut 14203 yielded a profusion of late Roman pottery, dating the infilling of the feature to the second half of the 4th century AD. The pottery from the remaining features is less well-dated. Indeed, some of it is assuredly residual, including 2nd century Colchester colour-coated ware from 14298 and a bead-rim dish from 14373. [No Saxon pottery in this feature, according to Saxon pot report.]

### Oven/Drying floor 20137 (*Film 569*) (Fig. L26)

Shallow construction cut 20137 contained the remains of the base of an oven or drying floor – **is there really a cut?** The structure consisted of a 1.4m by 1.2m rectangular base (20092) constructed of tile, septaria, quern and storage jar fragments. This foundation course had been levelled off with clay layer 20114 on top of which a tile lined flue 20093 had been constructed and packed around with further stone and quern fragments on three sides. The south-west end of the flue opened out onto shallow circular pit 20090, interpreted as a stoke-hole. Abutting the west side of the flued structure was a similarly proportioned, 1.4m by 1.3m rectangular arrangement of stone (mainly septaria) and tile which was probably the foundation for a drying floor, originally indirectly heated via the adjacent flue. The structure had clearly been heated, the clay and much of the stone used in its construction being baked, reddened and fire-cracked, particularly in the area of the flue. The stokehole fill contained collapse debris from the super-structure, but no significant amounts of charcoal or other burnt organic remains (*Samples 824 + 822?*).

The stokehole 20090 contained late 4<sup>th</sup> century pottery as did various elements of the structure itself. *Constructed in Period V, along with lots of others along the s. side of site?*

Oven 20137

20137	<b>Pottery</b> dish B6.2 (GRS), bowl C8 (OXRC), mortarium D [Young 1977, fig. 21, type M17] (OXWM), bowl-jar E6.1 (BSW), jars G9 (BB1) G37.1 (GRS), beaker H41 (NVC), fabrics LSH RET
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The presence of late shell-tempered pottery in the bottom and top fills confines all episodes of infilling to the late 4th century+. Residual material was recovered from most deposits, much of it dating to the 1st century AD.

### Pits 14529, 14632 (Fig. L27)

Despite the presence of occupation features extending into, and perhaps beyond, the late 4<sup>th</sup> century, contemporary pitting was not well represented in Area L.

The few excavated examples of *latest* Roman pits cannot therefore be relied upon to supply much of an insight into the nature of occupation at this time, though it may be postulated that the disposal practices had changed by this time and no longer necessitated the digging of large numbers of pits.

Pit 14529 appears to have been a deliberate reuse of Period IV backfilled well 14984. Located at the centre of the large slump hollow of the earlier feature, 14529 was a 0.9m diameter, vertical-sided pit, cut into the slumped clay lining and backfills of the former well. The pit was 0.65m deep.

Pit 14632 was a larger, oval cut of 2.8m maximum width and 1.1m depth.

Although amounting to only two features, these pits were similar, vertical-sided and relatively deep. Both contained large artefact assemblages, of which much of the pottery was significantly broken, abraded and residual. Although not technically a feature of this period, Period V pit 20193

accumulated similar late 4<sup>th</sup> century+ material in its slump hollow. Animal bone was also a large component of their assemblages, pit 14529 being notable for its antler offcuts (SF 6121).

Pits 14529, 14632

14632	<b>Pottery</b> bowl-jar E5 (GRS), jars G5.5 (GRS) G9 (BSW) G27.2 (LSH), fabric HAX
14529	<b>Pottery</b> dishes B6.2 (GRS) B6 (ALH HAR) B10 (HAX), bowls C8 (OXRC NVC) C [cf. Young 1977, fig. 58, type C47, fig. 62, type C75, fig. 64, type C83 & fig. 61, type C70] (OXRC), mortaria D6 (OXRCM) D [cf. Young 1977, fig. 38, type WC7] (OXSWM), jars G24 (RET) G27 (LSH), fabrics OXP ALH HAX <b>Saxon</b> <b>Coins</b> radiate Postumus (SF 6530) 260-268, AE3 Constantius II (SF 8465) 335-337, AE3 Valens (SF 6237) 367-375

Late Roman fabrics, such as Oxford red colour-coated, late shell-tempered and Alice Holt wares, are well represented. Supported by a high proportion of Saxon pottery in 14529, this material is confidently assigned to the late 4th century+ AD (key pottery group 40).