

AREA N PHASING

Area N was the second most easterly 20m-strip across Area A2. This area can be subdivided into two basic blocks, referred to here as north and south, based on actual land-use divisions of the settlement (Fig. N1).

The north block was an intensively sampled 25m square area within the strip. It was chosen because of good feature clarity and variety, with both large pits and structural features being present within the well-defined north-west corner of an enclosure.

The south block lay within the next enclosure to the west, and focused upon a pottery kiln. Work was undertaken initially within a 10m square in an attempt to identify buildings or waster pits associated with the kiln and a nearby boundary ditch. The intercutting pit complexes which covered much of this south end, were generally avoided at this stage, though further trenching work subsequently sampled some in order to gain an insight into their dates and contents. Peripheral pits were clearer and so were half-sectioned. A further area of mostly structural features was also excavated to the west of the arbitrary 20m-strip.

As was the case elsewhere across the site, the Period II features were most numerous and varied. It would appear that settlement activity in Area N was at its most dynamic during the Late Iron Age and earliest Roman periods. Two sub-phases of this period were dictated by boundary features at the north end of the area, the earlier predating the imposition of Track 3, the other post-dating it. The later sub-phases was the more tangible, being represented by parallel rectangular enclosures fronting onto the Track. Within these plots were the remains of subdivisions and clustering of buildings and pits which suggest zonation of activities within the enclosures. Metal-working took place in close association with the building along the track-frontage. **Archive folder contains NrepKeep.doc which should allow 3 subphases to be restored within II if necessary**

Although the late Iron Age plot boundary features were not particularly long-lived, broadly the same system of land division continued into the early Roman period, perpetuated by boundaries such as fences or, more likely, hedges. The metalworking activity within the eastern plot did not continue long into the Roman period, if at all. However, the plots were subjected to further subdivision, hinting at a change of use at a detailed scale.

The middle and late Roman periods were almost solely represented by a low density of pitting, apart from two 3rd century kilns. While the contents of the pits were predominantly domestic in character, the presence of the kilns indicated that activity may have been more specialized than first appears. However, no later Roman buildings could be disentangled from the mass of undated post-holes which occurred within the excavated areas and it is possible to postulate less intensive use for this area of the settlement from the late 2nd century onwards. A manufacturing element, whether metalworking or kiln-based, however, seems to persist through most of the occupation of this area.

Phasing Summary

Period	Period description	Sub-period	Date
I	-		MIA/LIA transition
II	Enclosure & settlement activity + metalworking?	A B Enclosure	LIA & transition
III	Continuing occupation in enclosures		Early Roman
IV	Decline in occupation; marginal area, industrial?		Mid Roman
V	?Occupation activity		Late Roman
VI	A single pit		Latest Roman/Saxon
VII	-		Post early Saxon

Period I:

No features of this date have been identified.

Period II: (Fig N2)

Archive folder contains NrepKeep.doc which should allow 3 subphases to be restored if desired. I've tried to follow through implications of having only 2 subphases here, but I'm sure I'll have missed a lot [SP, 18/10/2000]

The dominant features in plan for this area were the Period II boundary features, which took the form of NNW-SSE aligned ditches and defined two phases of activity (Sub-phases II A and II B) within the Late Iron Age and earliest Roman transition periods. First, a pair of minor parallel ditches 25166 and 25264 (possibly merely gullies), some 8m apart, ran marginally more west of NNW than the later lines in the north-west corner of the area. A more substantial ditch at the south of the area (25266), corresponding with a similar feature in Area P (25174), may belong to this period, but seems likely to be later. The early ditches were replaced by a major rectilinear enclosure which comprised two parallel boundary ditches, 25089 and 25092, defining the north-west corner of a land plot fronting onto Track 3 and also encompassing Area P, where 25178 completes the east side of the plot. Within this enclosure and along its frontage with Track 3, there were traces of at least two buildings (Buildings 12 and 31; these can hardly be contemporary, and Building 12 probably belongs to II A, Building 31 to II B) in this area, in addition to Building 32 in Area P. These were accompanied by a distinct, dense cluster of large intercutting pits to the south. Immediately east of the buildings lay a concentration of hearths and small, sub-square pits which contained evidence of metalworking. Indeed, one of the large pits, 11316=11387, had a secondary function as the site of a metalworking hearth.

Track 3 ran just to the north of the northern excavated block of Area N. There was no positive evidence of any prepared surface to the track at this point, but its line was clearly marked by the consistent positioning of features alongside it, at least after sub-phase ii a. At this point, the exposed natural gravel may have served as sufficient surfacing.

While the excavated north block of Area N includes the 'front' of an enclosure, the South block contains the middle to 'rear' portion of the adjacent plot to its west. The entire width of this western plot may be defined by ditches 25092 and 25265 (a width of 32m), although the latter was not traced far enough northward to be sure was not just an internal subdivision of a larger enclosure. Adjacent to 25265 was a large cluster of post-holes and slots which formed at least two buildings (Buildings 13 and 30). Contemporary pits were conspicuously absent from the vicinity of the buildings, but were present in quantity along the east edge of this enclosure.

Sub-phase II a

In Area N, Sub-phase ii a spanned the mid 1st century BC to early 1st century AD and comprised only a few parallel ditch/gully features together with the many Period II pits which can be closely dated to early in this Period. The ditches were amongst the earliest features to display the NNW-SSE alignment which is so characteristic of the succeeding pattern of land division. However, at the same time they appeared to predate the imposition of the road and track infrastructure. The two buildings assigned to this sub-phase could as easily belong later.

Ditches 25166 (segs. 11776, 11726), 25264 (segs. 10850, 10857, 10913) (Fig. N3)

Cuts 25166 and 25264 were shallow, narrow features running NNW-SSE, parallel to one another at a distance of 8m apart. Both ditches were c.0.8m wide and 0.44m deep with steep sides and flat bases. Their northwards extents were not ascertained, as they ran under the line of later Track 3. Although heavily truncated by later ditches and pits, 25166 was traced for a total of 18m. While 25264 (segment 10850) was recorded as less than 6m long, it is possible that it also originally continued

further south and it certainly did continue northwards. Even if the recorded terminals were real, there was nothing to stop either feature consisting of interrupted lengths of ditch. 25166 cut across minor slot 11035/11746, which had no obvious purpose, no finds and could be prehistoric.

Given the mere 8m between them, and their remarkable coincidence with the line of 25092, it may be supposed that 25166 marked a major boundary, later perpetuated by 25092, and 25264 marked the opposite side of a corridor along the boundary. There is no sign that this corridor was surfaced at any point, nor did its line survive the alterations of sub-phase II B. Coupled with the number of pits of similar date, this shows occupation of some sort by the start of the 1st century AD at latest and probably as much as half a century before. Although the major line of the boundary was later preserved, these gullies would have run across the line of Track 3, which thus cannot have existed at this time. Another factor considered as evidence that 25166 continued further south along the same line as II B ditch 25089 is that the pits of this period all seem to lie within the plot defined by 25089.

Ditches 25166 (11776, 11726), **25264** (10850, 10857, 10913)

10913	Pottery fabric GROG
10850	Amphora Dr.1 (AITAL AITAE) Other pottery fabric GROG

The small amount of amphora and grog-tempered pottery recovered from just two segments is consistent with a Late Iron Age infilling date.

Building 12 (Fig. N4)

Building 12 was a small circular structure consisting of a total of nine post-holes. These defined a 3.5m diameter circle, open to the south. Enclosing a floor area of 8.25m², this is perhaps more likely as an outbuilding, rather than a dwelling and, given the contents of the adjacent pits, perhaps a workshop. The building occupied a clear space in the corner of the enclosure defined by ditch 25089 (or its predecessor, 25166). Ditch 25264 came to an end some 1.5m to the north, suggesting it respected the building. It was not encroached upon by either the large rubbish pits to its south or the hearths to its east and was most likely contemporary with them. Its close proximity to a kiln in 11477, incorporating the slump hollow of earlier pit 11742, is also significant and it seems likely that the building was intended for the use of the kiln's operator.

Building 12 (10807, 10809, 10827, 10830, 10840, 10880, 11155, 11175, 11188, 11196)

10840	Pottery fabric GROG
11005	Pottery fabric GROG
11155	Pottery fabric GROG
11188	Pottery fabric GROG

A few sherds of Late Iron Age grog-tempered pottery were recovered.

Building 13 (Fig. N5)

23151, 11434, 11542, 11554, 23195, 23206, 23207, 23219, 23221, 23229, 23233, 23245, 23269, 23273, 23275, 23277, 23291, 23301, 23327, 23334, 23352, 23358, 23360, 23367, 23375, 23377, 23428, 23383, 23431

Building 13 may belong here, though the evidence is again insufficient to sub-phase it confidently. Building 13 was a roundhouse of some 8m diameter (c.50m² floor area) formed of 15 posts (three with signs of replacement) in the outer arc and perhaps an inner arc of 8 more. The inner arc was much less convincing than the outer and need not be insisted upon. The east side may have been obscured or simply not explored, or there may have been a real gap between 11434 and 23233 in the outer arc. Other posts in the interior area could be added as possible roof supports, but are more likely to be unrelated. The post hole sizes were generally similar to one another, unlike some suggested buildings. None of the few finds from the post-holes is really capable of providing positive dating, and there were few contemporary features in the vicinity. It may, however, be assumed that the contents of the south group of pits of this date derived largely from the use(s) of Building 13.

Building 13 (23151, 11434, 11542, 11554, 23195, 23206, 23207, 23219, 23221, 23229, 23233, 23245, 23269, 23273, 23275, 23277, 23291, 23301, 23327, 23334, 23358, 23360, 23367, 23375, 23377, 23383, 23431)

23150	Pottery fabric GROG
11542	Pottery fabric BSW
23205	Pottery fabric GROG
23229	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW BUFM
23360	Pottery fabric GROG

Five post-holes produced meagre quantities of Late Iron Age and Roman pottery.

Hearth 11477

A small hearth, or possibly a kiln, was constructed in sub-rectangular cut 11477, to the south of Building 12. Though little of the structure survived, *in situ* burnt clay deposit 11438 was suggestive of the position of walls and perhaps a central pedestal (Fig. 0). This construction incorporated the slump hollow of pits 11745 and 11774, opening out onto this hollow and using it as a stoke hole / rake-out. The hollow was lined with a clay (11408) and then a gravel (11370) layer, creating a solid working surface. This surfacing was overlain by charcoal-rich silts containing small amounts of slag, crucible, and metal lumps – perhaps cast waste. Fragments (almost 7kg) of ‘kiln material’ were also present and presumably derived from the degradation of the structure itself. Black, charcoal-rich fill 11294 extended out of the stoke-hole and into adjacent Period II a pit 11342 which was clearly open at the time, or more likely re-opened. This deposit was the last which related to the use-life of the feature. The gravelly-silt fills in the remainder of the slump hollow were probably accumulations after disuse. While these did not yield significant amounts of charcoal, they contained more copper alloy objects and waste. The pottery from the use deposits within both kiln and stoke-hole gives an early 1st century AD date, although the upper fills indicate that the in-filling process continued for some time afterwards, into Period III. The metalworking waste in contemporary pits nearby is presumed to have derived, at least in part, from the workings of this feature. Further hearths in the vicinity could not be sub-phased (below, p.): it seems that some form of metalworking activity was carried out in this area throughout Period II.

Hearth 11477

11477*	Amphora Dr.1 (AITAB) Other pottery fabrics TN(M) ESH GROG MICW
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While no pottery was recovered from the upper fills, that from the lower deposits can be given a late Iron Age date. Bottom fill 11465 is tentatively dated to the early 1st century AD, on account of the micaceous *terra nigra* present, but the Dressel 1 amphora sherds provide a late 1st century BC date.

Pits 10896, 11167, 11224=11344, 11254, 11337, 11342, 11385, 11387, 11397, 11437, 11450, 11463, 11477, 11745, 11771, 11774, 11780, 11788, 23055, 23092, 23128, 23158, 23393, 23398, 23399 (Fig. N6)

The pits of this period were of variable size but almost all those recognized were concentrated within a small area of the **north block**, with just three, possibly five, in the **south**.

The largest was 11774, an oval cut of 4.7m by 4m and in excess of 1.4m deep. Its complex fill sequence contained a likely recut 11745, although the section through the feature (Fig. 0) is suggestive of a well, with 11774 representing the construction cut and 11745 the shaft. However, excavation of this feature was not undertaken beyond the water-table so this cannot be confirmed. Conversely, the fills and artefact assemblages suggest that this really was a single feature as far up the sequence as fill 11742. The remaining fills of 11745 displayed a different character altogether, and, as discussed above, this partially-filled feature was subsequently used as the site of a hearth.

The finds assemblages from these early pits are largely composed of pottery, baked clay and daub, briquetage, loomweight fragments and small amounts of animal bone. However, 11774 is notable for the sheer quantity of its pottery, while 11385 also contained a copper-alloy brooch (SF6989) and pin (SF6993). Small amounts of slag or metal waste were found in a number of pits (the largest amounts being 577g and 410g in 11167 and 11342 respectively, while small fragments of crucible came from 11344 and 11745. Although meagre, these finds may suggest metalworking in the vicinity, centred on hearth/kiln 11477.

The **southern group** of late 1st century BC to early 1st century AD pits, though the excavated examples were comparatively few, appeared to contain less artefactual material than the **northern** pits. Here assemblages were generally limited to pottery and small quantities of animal bone. Only 23158 contained a copper alloy pin (SF7849).

Pits 10896, 11167, 11224=11344, 11254, 11337, 11342, 11385, 11387, 11397, 11437, 11450, 11463, 11477, 11745, 11771, 11774, 11780, 11788, 23055, 23128, 23158, 23393, 23398, 23399

10896	Amphora Dr.1/Dr.2-4 (AITAL) Other pottery fabric GROG
11167	Amphora Dr.2-4 (AWINC) Other pottery platter <i>Cam</i> 5 (TN), jar G23 (BSW), beakers <i>Cam</i> 112 (TR) <i>Cam</i> 113 (NGWF), fabrics ESH GROG PR
11224	Pottery fabrics GROG TR
11344*	Amphora Pascual 1 (ARCAT) Other pottery platter <i>Cam</i> 5 (TR), bowls <i>Cam</i> 51 (TN(M)) <i>Cam</i> 52B (TN(M)) § (GROG), beakers <i>Cam</i> 102 (CGMIC) <i>Cam</i> 112 (TR), fabrics TN CGFCS
11254	Pottery : fabrics GROG, GROGC
11337	Arretine platter <i>Conspectus</i> 12.2 (ITSW) Amphora Dr.2-4 (ABSAN) Other pottery platter <i>Cam</i> 1 (TN(M)), beaker <i>Cam</i> 113 (NGWFS), fabrics TR CGFCS
11342*	Amphoras Dr.1 (AITAD) Pascual 1 (AWCAT) <i>salazon</i> (ASALA) Other pottery platters <i>Cam</i> 2 (TN) <i>Cam</i> 4 (TR) <i>Cam</i> 5 (TN), beaker <i>Cam</i> 113 (NGWFS), flagon <i>Cam</i> 165 (CGFCS), fabric THORN
11385	Amphoras Dr.1/Dr.2-4 (AWINE) Pascual 1 (ARCAT) Other pottery platters § (PR) <i>Cam</i> 5 (TR), bowl <i>Cam</i> 51 (TN(M)), beakers <i>Cam</i> 79 (TR) <i>Cam</i> 112 (TR) <i>Cam</i> 113 (NGWF) Brooch Colchester (SF 6989)
11387	Amphora : Dr.1 (AITAD) Other pottery : Jar <i>Cam</i> 249 (GROG); flagon J- (CGFCS), Platter A- (TR); jar G- (GROGC); fabric GROGC
11397	Amphora Dr.1 (AITAG) Other pottery platter <i>Cam</i> 1 (TN(M)), bowls <i>Cam</i> 51 (TN(M)) <i>Cam</i> 52B (TN(M)), beakers <i>Cam</i> 79 (TR) <i>Cam</i> 112 (TR) <i>Cam</i> 113 (NGWF NGWFS) Coins AE unit (SF6999), AE4 House of Constantine (SF6998)
11437	Amphora Dr.1 (AITAL) Other pottery jar <i>Cam</i> 254 (ESH), fabric GROG
11450	Amphora Dr.1 (AITAB) Other pottery beaker § (TR), fabric GROG
11463	Amphoras : Dr.1 (AITAB), Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery : Platter A- new form (GROG); bowls <i>Cam</i> 210 (GROG); <i>Cam</i> 212 (GROG); jars <i>Cam</i> 229 (GROG); <i>Cam</i> 249 (GROG); <i>Cam</i> 218 (GROG); <i>Cam</i> 266 (GROGC); G- (ESH); beakers <i>Cam</i> 112 (TR); <i>Cam</i> 113 (NGWFS); fabrics GROGRS, GRF, MICW
11477	Amphora : Dr.1 (AITAB) Other pottery : Platter A- (GROG); Bowl <i>Cam</i> 210 (GROG); jars <i>Cam</i> 117 (GROG); <i>Cam</i> 249 (GROG); <i>Cam</i> 219 (GROG); <i>Cam</i> 271 (GROGC); G- (ESH); G- (GROGC); flagon J- (MICW); lid K- [cf. Hawkes & Hull 1947; pl. LXXXV, no. 9 (GROG)]; fabric TN(M)
11745	Amphoras Dr.1 (AITAB AITAL) Other pottery platter <i>Cam</i> 1 (TR(M)), jars <i>Cam</i> 254 (ESH) § (GROG), fabric CGFCS
11774	Amphoras Dr.1 (AITAB AITAL AITAC) Other pottery jars <i>Cam</i> 254 (ESH) § (GROG), fabric CGFCS
23055	Pottery fabric GROG
23092	Pottery fabric GROG
23128	Amphora Dr.1/Dr.2-4 (AITAL) Other pottery fabric TR
23158	Pottery beaker <i>Cam</i> 85 (TR), fabric GROG
23393	Amphora salazon (ASALA) Other pottery fabrics TR TN(M) GROG GRS BSW
23399	Samian platter f18 (SGSW) Amphora Beltrán I (ASALA) Other pottery platter <i>Cam</i> 12 (TN), beaker <i>Cam</i> 113 (NGWF), fabrics TR GROG BSW GRS BUFM

These pits received large volumes of grog-tempered pottery and Gallo-Belgic imports during the late 1st century BC and the early 1st century AD. 11342 (key pottery group 4), 11745 and 11774, well stocked with Dressel 1 amphoras, were among the first to be filled along with 10896, probably before the end of the 1st century BC. The late Roman coin in 11397 must be intrusive, while the other cannot be positively identified.

Sub-phase II B (Fig. N2)

Sub-phase II B spanned the early to mid 1st century AD and was principally characterized by a widespread reorganisation of the land divisions into large rectilinear plots. Track 3 may also have been created as part of this reorganisation. The newly constructed boundary ditches defined the track edge and were the only evidence of its presence. There was no artificial surface, as the natural surface in the area was composed largely of gravel. This seems to have been exposed, with no soil cover.

It is unclear if parallel ditches 25092 and 25089 belonged to two distinct phases in the development of this enclosure system, simply represented replacement of one by the other, or were contemporary features. The latter seems the simplest explanation. Whichever was the case, these boundary ditches defined an enclosure approximately 71m long and possibly 45m wide (see [discussion of land division](#)), extending east to encompass Area P. It is noteworthy that both ditch lines were clearly defined over their whole length, and almost wholly uninterrupted by later features, a trait also seen in Area P.

Buildings 13 and 30 are difficult to assign to a specific sub-phase. (Although it is most likely that Building 13 was earlier than 30 there is no real evidence for this. Equally, there was no positive evidence for Building 31 being later than Building 12). As might be expected of post-hole structures, intrinsic dating evidence was minimal and there was little stratigraphy; even assigning them to Phase II rests largely on the fact that pits of this phase clearly avoided encroaching on the area they occupied. While virtually all the constructions formed from post holes anywhere on site are regarded by the authors as tentative, these two are among the better candidates.

Pits were filled mainly with domestic rubbish, but a small group with more ‘industrial’ contents was noticeable, while Area N had more features containing loomweights than any other Area.. The locations and contents of the pits closely mirrored those of Period II A, suggesting that the new boundary markers produced little disruption to the locations and nature of other activities. This may strengthen the suggestion that in fact the line of 25092 had already been marked in IIA.

Ditch 25092 (Fig. N7)

Ditch 25092 was a major, NNW-SSE aligned boundary feature which was traced for a distance of c.60m across Area N. Its north terminal coincided with the edge of Track 3 and, perhaps coincidentally, with a possible terminal of Period ii a ditch/gully 25166. Although the ditch extended beyond the south limit of the site, it is postulated either to have terminated or to have turned at the edge of the gravel terrace, therefore making it some 70m long in its entirety. Averaging a width of 1.3m and depth of 0.4m, it generally contained a single fill, though traces of a possible recut were identified within a segment located around the centre of its north-south extent.

The ditch cut early to mid 1st century AD pit 11723, indicating a mid 1st century date for its imposition. Its fills included pottery of mainly uncertain late Iron Age dates, so that its infilling seems to have occurred quite quickly after its cutting. As such, it was probably broadly contemporary with ditch 25089 which ran in parallel, immediately to its east, the only hint that it could be marginally earlier being its lack of more distinctively datable material.

Ditch 25092 (11259, 11328, 11405, 11718, 11782, 23047, 23048, 23116, 23533)

11259	Pottery fabrics GROG NGWF
11328	Pottery bowls <i>Cam 51</i> (TN(M)) <i>Cam 52</i> (TN(M))
11718	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery fabric GROG
11782	Pottery fabrics TR NGWF GROG
23047	Pottery jar G17 (GROG), fabrics BSW LOND GRS
23048	Pottery fabric GROG
23116	Pottery fabric GROG
23533	Pottery fabric GROG

The presence of micaceous *terra nigra* and North Gaulish white ware suggests that parts of the ditch were infilled during the first half of the 1st century AD. The pottery from context 23047 was deposited later during the second half of the 1st century AD.

Ditched enclosure 25089, 25090, 25091 (Fig. N8)

Ditch line 25089 ran parallel with ditch 25092 at a distance of less than 1m. Averaging a width of 0.8m and depth of 0.34m, it was also of similar proportion. In the excavated segments, at no point did either ditch actually cut the other; the impression from the plans that they must have done so being caused by some spreading of fills beyond the features themselves. It then made a right-angled turn as

25090 to define two sides of a rectilinear enclosure alongside Track 3. 25091 continued the north side of the plot after a gap of less than 1m from the end of 25090, creating a minor entrance at this point. Post-hole 10849 could constitute the remains of a gate at this point. Like 25092, 25089 is postulated to extend south as far as the edge of the gravel terrace; a distance of some 70m. Its 'frontage' alongside Track 3 was traced for over 34m, and continuations of the same line can be tentatively identified on the pre-excavation plans for both Areas A3 and A4. Ditch 25178 (Area P) marked the east side of the large rectangular plot so defined, giving a width of 45m.

Few segments had more than a single sandy silt and gravel fill, which mostly yielded typical assemblages of pottery, daub, baked clay and briquetage. However, segment 10882, a terminal marking the likely entrance through the ditch, contained a greater quantity of animal bone (2kg) than elsewhere along its length, together with loomweight fragments and a quantity of pottery. It is possible that this was a structured deposit within the ditch. (Ref bone report. Only 2kg, hardly a massive concentration)

This enclosure was one of the most clearly defined in Area A2. It is clearly to be assigned to this sub-phase on the basis of the pottery in its ditch fills, which is mainly of mid-1st century date; it is not impossible it was dug at the same time as 25092 but only allowed to fill later. Mid-1st century pits encroached onto the line at the north end, so this ditch appears to have been short lived.

As with similar ditches in Area P, this ditch line was remarkably free from later truncation, suggesting it was still marked somehow after the ditch filled, in the mid 1st century. However, there was no room between 25089 and 25092 for a bank, and probably not enough even for a fence or hedge. Nor was there much room east of 25089 either, as pits encroached very close to it. There was a line of posts running just east of 25089 at the north end, but these have been incorporated into Building 31, so they cannot serve as a convenient fence. It is possible that a hedge could have been bedded in such a ditch.

Within this enclosure, Buildings 31 and 32 occupied prominent roadside positions, and other activities (pits, working hearths, well) clustered near these buildings. The southern part of the plot may have been subdivided by other minor ditches but seems to have been largely undisturbed. This southern section of the plot could have been garden or paddock. IN the next plot to the west, a different pattern can be observed.

Ditches 25089 (11529, 11489, 11258, 11462, 11200), **25090** (10804, 10882, 11062), **25091** (10824, 11100, 11264),

11529	Pottery bowl C1 (GROG), jar G19 (GROG), beaker H1 (COLCE)
11489	Pottery jars G20 (BSW), fabrics GRS GROG
11258	Pottery dish B7 (MICW), jar G22 (GROG), fabric BSW
11200	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET)
10804	Amphora salazon (ASALA) Other pottery jar <i>Cam</i> 258 (ESH), fabrics GROG TR
10882	Pottery fabric GROG
11062*	Amphora salazon (ASALA) Other pottery cup <i>Cam</i> 56 (TR), fabrics GROG ESH
10824	Pottery beaker H1 (GRF), fabric GROG
11100	Pottery mortarium <i>Cam</i> 191 (IBUFM), beaker <i>Cam</i> 113 (NGWF)
11264	Pottery fabrics GROG GRS

The pottery recovered from 25089 and much of 25091 is mid 1st century AD in date; that from 25090, devoid of Roman wares, belongs to the early 1st century AD, suggesting that parts of the enclosure were infilled separately.

Ditches 25265 (23175, 23209) (Fig. N9)

The western side of the next enclosure west from 25089/25092 was perhaps marked by ditch terminal 23209. However, it is much more likely that this was just an internal subdivision between 25081/25082 (Area M) and 25092. Though little of its course was traced, at 1.2m wide and 0.4m deep, it appeared to be a similar feature to ditch 25092, running parallel to it at a distance of c.32m.

Curving ditch fragment 23175 lay immediately to its west and terminated in more or less the same place. Its exact course south was unclear. While this could have been a forerunner of 23209, there was sufficient overlap in the ceramic date ranges of both to allow them to be contemporary and

therefore perhaps a parallel of 25092 and 25089. However, even allowing for an interruption, neither line could be traced further north than their excavated terminals and it is likely that 23209, in particular, constituted a subdivision within the rear of a larger enclosure.

Ditch **25265** (23175, 23209)

23175	Pottery jar <i>Cam</i> 254 (ESH), fabrics GROG NGWFS CGFCS TN
23209	Pottery beaker <i>Cam</i> 113 (NGWF), fabric GROG

While the pottery recovered from this segment carries a broad late 1st century BC to mid 1st century AD date range, the presence of North Gaulish white ware, supported by early shell-tempered ware suggests that the ditch was infilled during the first half of the 1st century AD.

Ditch **25266** (Seg. 11516) (Fig. N10)

Rounded terminal 11516 was part of a ditch aligned NNW-SSE (25266), which was traced for some 15m across the south part of Area N. Being of similar proportion to ditches 25092/25089 and 25265, to its east and west, which it paralleled, 25266 was the remains of a central subdivision of Area N's western enclosure. On the grounds of its similarities with adjacent boundary features, the little mid to late Roman pottery in its fill must be regarded as intrusive.

It is possible that pit 11508 was positioned in relation to the end of this ditch and that it was designed to stop short of the area of Buildings 13 and 30.

Ditch 25266 (11516)

11516	Pottery fabrics STOR BSW
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The mid to late Roman B6 dish recovered from this segment is intrusive. The remaining pottery is dated to the Roman period only.

These two subdividing ditches (25265, 25266) display a pattern similar to that in the neighbouring plot to the east (in which the southern sector of the plot only is subdivided, the northern sector apparently being occupied and the southern or rear part used as garden or paddock. However, unlike within the plot defined by 25089 *et al.*, buildings and significant pitting reach further towards this southern end in the plot between 25082 and 25092. While this impression may in part be attributed to the excavation strategy, with clear areas of pitting simply not explored in many instances, it cannot be wholly due to this: although the south part of the interior of the 25089 enclosure was not explored in Area N, it was in Area P and among several pit clusters explored there, II B pits were mainly absent.

Building 30 (Fig. N11)

Building 30 was a rectilinear building tentatively extracted from a mass of post-holes excavated in the south part of Area N (Fig.0). Its north-west wall was reliably defined by a line of 10 closely-spaced post-holes including larger corner posts at either end. Its north-east and south-west walls were far more arbitrary and the south-east remains more-or-less undefined. This formed a building 8m by 7.5m. Various post-holes within this building could be construed to constitute the remains of internal walls; in particular 23420, 23438, 23440, 23442 and 23444.

The orientation of this building is problematical, being at odds with the prevailing NNW-SSE alignments of all linear features in the vicinity. In addition, its almost square plan seems out of character with the architectural style of the round and strip buildings seen elsewhere across the settlement, although structures of this shape in plan do appear in later periods. Perhaps its location so far back from the track frontage suggests a totally different function from the strip structures. It is possible to propose an alternative building plan which conforms to the more usual alignment (Fig.0), though this is equally tentative as an interpretation of the excavated evidence. It is possible that both were real and one a replacement of the other.

As is usual for early structural features, there was no direct evidence of function nor clear indication of date for either construction or disuse. While post-holes 23204, 23282, 23494 and 23500

contained LIA pottery, 23483 yielded material of the late 1st or possibly early 2nd centuries and 23415 had some undiagnostic Roman pottery. The nature of this assemblage is unclear; i.e. whether it derived from construction, destruction, or a mixture of both.

If post-hole 23363 were included in the building, it would have to predate pit 23361 (whose pottery is no better dated than LIA but which itself post-dates mid 1st century AD pit 23365). It is unlikely the building would have been built over so recent a large pit, so it was probably earlier than both 23361 and 23365.

Building 30 (23164, 23198, 23204, 23218, 23263, 23265, 23277, 23282, 23285, 23289, 23293, 23297, 23355, 23415, 23420, 23438, 23440, 24442, 23444, 23455, 23460, 23481, 23483, 23490, 23494, 23500, 23519)

23204	Pottery jar G19 (GROG)
23282	Pottery fabric GROG
23415	Pottery fabric GRF
23455	Pottery fabric GROG
23483	Pottery fabrics GRS GROG BB1
23494	Pottery fabric GROG
23500	Pottery fabric GROG

Most of the small quantities of pottery recovered is grog-tempered, which, in association with Roman wares, may provide an early to mid 1st century date for construction. The sherd of BB1 in 23483 is possibly a later intrusion.

Building 31 (Fig. N12)

Building 31 consisted of 21 post holes (Fig.0) and a slot 10876/10822/10837 with a couple more post-holes within it. These formed a narrow strip building alongside ditch 25089 in the very corner of the enclosure. Based upon the surviving structural evidence it was at least 11.5m long by only 2.5m wide; no definite south end was identified. Post-holes 11127 and 11353 could be the corner posts of the south wall, which would reduce the length to 8.5m. Two further post-holes 11010 and 11023 may represent a porched doorway in its east side. There were no internal structural arrangements, apart from a possible subdivision of the north end, nor hearths, nor any hint of function. The constituent features contained virtually no dating evidence but, as it is presumed to post-date Period ii a pit 11337, a construction date of mid 1st century AD seems likely. The building clearly passed out of use by the end of the 1st century, by which time further pits were dug on its site.

Given its location so close to the ditch, and very restricted width, some ancillary function seems most plausible for this building, conceivably as a livestock pen (or even stable?), although small shop premises could be possible.

Building 31 (10807, 10860, 10867, 10949, 10950, 10984, 10989, 10991, 11007, 11010, 11018, 11028, 11032, 11044, 11069, 11071, 11073, 11075, 11077, 11119, 11127, 11257, 11351, 11353, 11443, 11446, 11448, 11457)

10984	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS GROG
10989	Pottery fabric GROG
10991	Pottery fabrics GROG MICW
11032	Pottery fabric GROG
11044	Pottery fabric GROG
11127	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS GROG
11351	Pottery fabric GROG
11353	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW COLB
11448	Pottery fabrics GROG BSW GRS

Though none of the pottery can be closely dated, the general predominance of grog-tempered pottery and occasional Roman wares support a mid 1st century construction date.

Well 11341

Well 11341 was a large circular cut, 3.4m diameter, with near-vertical sides lined with clayey sands and gravels. At centre was a vertical shaft 11711. This feature was only excavated as far as the water-table, a depth of approximately 1m, so no shaft-lining, if present, was encountered, nor were any waterlogged deposits investigated. What was recorded in the field as separate 'pit' 11303 was more

likely an erosion cone and final accumulation in the top of this well. A construction date in the early 1st century AD is likely, or even earlier (although it cut into pit 11437 and thus could not be much earlier). The date range of its use is unclear. This feature continued to accumulate material in its top until well into the 3rd century (this may even be a separate cut). Some mixing of finds from primary fills and later slumping seems to have occurred during excavation. As Area P contained a well of probable late 1st to early 2nd century construction, serving the same land plot, it seems likely that this one had passed completely out of use by then.

Well 11341 Early filling

11341	Pottery jar G20 (GROG), beakers <i>Cam</i> 102 (CGMIC) <i>Cam</i> 113 (NGWFS NGWF), fabrics PR CGFCS TR TN(M)
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The earliest filling of the well is dated to the early 1st century AD by the presence of *terra rubra* and micaceous *terra nigra*, supported by other early imports and grog-tempered fabrics.

What stuff is in 'shaft' 11711?

Pits (Fig. N15)

North: 10816, 10873, 10893, 11148, 11192, 11197, 11221, 11228, 11248, 11263, 11316= 11387, 11324, 11358, 11376, 11467, 11723, 11724, 11730, 11777;

South: 23005, 23057, 23023, 23059, 23084, 23124, 23361, 23365, 23424

The Period II B pits fell into two distinct categories on both spatial and size grounds.

The large, generally circular, pits at the north end of Area N occupied the same location as those of Period II A, containing the same kinds of finds assemblages and probably constituting continuity of both activities and rubbish disposal into the mid 1st century AD. Finds were typically limited to pottery, daub, briquetage and loomweight fragments. A few contained small quantities of slag. Pit 11221 contained a copper alloy hairpin (SF5803) and a coin of Cunobelin (SF5819). Pit 11324 was notable for its large quantity of slag (2kg).

To the north of the large pit cluster, were four small, sub-square, pits 11197, 11228, 11248 and 11050 (**plan of 11050 may be misleading, as its edges seem to have been disturbed by later ?trampling; at its core was a small square pit like the others**). Sizes ranged from 0.70m by 0.90m to 1m by 1.3m, depths from 0.19m to 0.35m. All (**not 11228**) consistently contained small quantities of slag, hammerscale, and copper alloy and **?iron cast** waste, with both 11197 and 11228 yielding crucible fragments. Of these four, pits 11197 and 11228 differed only in their relatively high pottery content. However, this may be a product of their infilling with domestic rubbish rather than an indicator of their function. All of these pits are likely to be associated with hearth 11477 or the undated hearths (below) which lay to the pits' south. Comparison with the form and contexts of the 'industrial' pits in Areas M and K reveals a very close affinity across these areas. All of these features were also located just south of Track 3. There appears to have been a clear preference for this location for metalworking activities.

A cluster of pits including 11376, 11467 was excavated outside, to the north of, the enclosure. 11376 is notable for its mould and crucible fragments, while all show that there was either a narrow strip of unenclosed land between the plot and Track 3 or that the track edge was sporadically encroached upon in this period.

The pits at the south end of Area N, in the western enclosure, were similar to the larger rubbish pits at the north end. Again, these largely contained pottery, daub, baked clay and briquetage. 23005 also included loomweight fragments and spindle whorls. Pit 23124 also had loomweight fragments, along with a glass bead and a Knotenfibel. The pits, particularly the larger examples, tended to congregate to the east in this enclosure, away from the post-hole Building 30 implying an internal division of the rear part of the enclosure into occupation and rubbish disposal areas.

Several of the pits of this sub-phase, both north and south, contained small quantities of ceramic building materials, almost invariably from upper fills (11316 had the most, just over 600g). This suggests a transitional, mid-first century, rather than purely pre-conquest, dating may be

appropriate for the end of this phase. It is also worth noting that several show a marked progression in the nature of the pottery in different fills from pre-conquest to transitional assemblages.

Pits 10816, 10873, 10893, 11148, 11192, 11197, 11221, 11228, 11248, 11263, 11316=11387, 11324, 11358, 11376, 11467, 11723, 11724, 11730, 11777

10873	Amphora: Dr.1 (AITAL, AITAE)
10816	Pottery: Jar <i>Cam</i> 249 (GROGC); fabrics GROG, NGWFS, RED
10893	Pottery: Jar G- (GROG); fabric GROGC
11148	Pottery: Platter A- (GROG); Bowl C- (GROG); Bowl C- new form (GROG); Jar <i>Cam</i> 249 (GROG); Jar G- (GROG); : Beaker <i>Cam</i> 92 (GROG); flagon J- handle (GROG); fabrics ESH, GROGRS, GROGC, GRS, BSW, BUF, TN, STOR, MICW
11192	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS NKG GROG MICW
11197	Pottery jars G19 (GROG) G20 (GROG), beaker H2 (GROG), fabric CGFCS
11221	Pottery platter <i>Cam</i> 5 (TN), fabrics MICW GROG ESH CGFCS GRS BSW Coin AE unit Cunobelin (SF 5819)
11228	Pottery bowl \$ (GROG), jar \$ (GROG), fabrics MICW GRS
11248	Pottery fabrics NGWFS GROG
11263	Pottery: Beaker H (NGWFS); fabric GROGC
11316*	Amphoras Dr.1 Dr.1/Dr.2-4 (AITAD) Dr.2-4 (AWINC) Pascual 1 (ARCAT) Other pottery platters <i>Cam</i> 1 <i>Cam</i> 4 (TN(M)) <i>Cam</i> 2 (TN) <i>Cam</i> 4 (TR) <i>Cam</i> 17 (PR), bowl <i>Cam</i> 51 (TN(M)), jars G19 G20 (GROG), beakers <i>Cam</i> 113 (NGWF) <i>Cam</i> 82 <i>Cam</i> 112 (TR) <i>Cam</i> 102 (CGMIC) H1 (GROG), flagon <i>Cam</i> 165 (CGFCS)
11324	Amphora Pascual 1 (ARCAT) Other pottery Platters <i>Cam</i> 1 (TN(M)) <i>Cam</i> 2 (TN), bowls <i>Cam</i> 51 (TN(M)) C16 (GROG), jar G23.2 (GRS), beakers <i>Cam</i> 112 (TR) <i>Cam</i> 113 (NGWF)
11358	Pottery fabric GROG
11376	Pottery jars \$ (GROG), fabrics BSW GRS
11467	Pottery fabrics GRS GROG BSW
11723*	Samian bowl f29 (SGSW) Other pottery jars G19 (GROG) G23 (GRS) <i>Cam</i> 262 (CGMIC), beaker <i>Cam</i> 113 (NGWFS), fabrics TN(M) BSW COLB CGGLZ
11724	Pottery jar <i>Cam</i> 254 (ESH), fabrics COLB GROG
11730	Amphora Beltrán I (ASALA) Other pottery jars G21 (GROG) <i>Cam</i> 254 (ESH), fabrics GRS BSW
11777	Pottery fabric GROG

Pit 10873 with its Dr.1 amphoras may have been the earliest to be filled, as early as the late 1st century BC, although this material may be residual. Most features, such as 11148, 11221, 11723, 11724 and 11730 acquired rubbish during the early 1st century AD, but continued to accumulate material well into the middle of the century (or beyond, as 11316's upper fills are 2nd century). The coin in 11221 provides an early 1st century date.

Pits 23005, 23023, 23057, 23059, 23084, 23124, 23361, 23365, 23424

23005	Pottery Fabric GROG ESH GRS
23023	Pottery jar G19 (BSW), fabrics GROG GRS
23057	Pottery beakers <i>Cam</i> 113 (NGWF), fabrics GROG GRS
23059	Pottery fabrics GROG GRS BSW TR
23084	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS NKG GROG CGFCS TR
23124	Pottery platter A2 (GROG), jar G19 (BSW), fabrics NGWF TR Brooch Knotenfibel (SF 7844)
23361	Amphora Dr.1 (AITAL) Other pottery fabric GROG
23365	Pottery dish B7 (BSW), fabric GROG
23424	Samian bowl f30 or f37 (SGSW) Other pottery fabrics GROG GRS BSW

While Late Iron Age grog-tempered pottery was predominant within these assemblages, the small quantities of Roman wares recovered from the upper fills suggest that the pits continued to fill into the middle of the 1st century AD.

Period II: Not sub-phased (?Fig. N16)

Other hearths 10894, 10929, 11045, (23018/23063/23064/23065). (Fig. N14)

To the east of Building 12 were three small areas of burning, 10894, 10929 and 11045. Composed of roughly circular patches of burnt clay and concentrations of burnt pebbles, each was no more than 1.5m across. Only 10894 included datable pottery (of late 1st century BC to early 1st century AD range,

albeit based upon a single diagnostic sherd). These three features were all cut into unexcavated deposits (presumed pit fills) and were located immediately to the south of four small distinctive pits (10871, 11197, 11228, 11248) which contained metal-working waste and were likely to be associated with them. This activity seems to have spanned the whole of Period II.

A further, single hearth was excavated within the southern part of Area N. It was composed of a patch of cobbles 23018, overlain by a sequence of deposits of baked clay and charcoal layers (23063, 23064, 23065), which had been preserved in the slump hollow of the Period II A pit 23055. Finds included a piece of silver ring, tiny amounts of slag and hammerscale, briquetage and LIA pottery. It is possible it was also associated with metalworking, though the evidence is slight.

Hearths 10894, 10929, 11045, 23018, 23063, 23064, 23065

10894	Pottery fabrics CGFCS GROG
10929	Pottery fabrics GROG ESH
11045	Pottery fabric GROG
23063	Pottery fabric GROG
23064	Pottery fabric GROG
23065	Pottery fabric GROG

Text?

Pits 10871, 11050, 11508, 23038, 23083, 23113, 23148, 23413, 23422

Not noticeably different from the more securely dated examples. 11508 was surrounded by six post holes which must have formed some sort of structure, but was not an otherwise very exciting pit. Perhaps the daub which is its only find other than pottery derived from whatever this post-structure was.

Pits 10871, 11050, 11508, 23038, 23083, 23113, 23148

10871	Pottery fabrics GROG MICW
11050	Pottery fabrics GROG MICW
11508	Pottery fabric GROG
23038	Pottery fabric GROG
23083	Pottery fabric GROG
23113	Pottery fabric GROG
23148	Pottery fabric GROG

Pottery of uniformly Late Iron Age date was recovered from these features.

Period III: (Fig. N17)

This early Roman period covered the mid/late 1st to mid 2nd centuries AD. There were no grounds for subdividing this period.

At the north end, the Period II B hearth/kiln, 11477, seems to have passed out of use by the early Roman period though its stoke-hole slump hollow continued to accumulate further fills in this period. There were few other northern features that can be attributed to this period: a mere handful of pits and two slots which might represent the foundations of a rectangular building. The pits suggest continued use of the area, but primarily now for occupation, rather than metal-working, and it appears that the intensity of activity in the area was now reduced.

As is the case with Area P, after the apparent demise of the Period II boundary ditches, no replacements were dug. However, the now defunct earlier ditches were rarely truncated by other features over the succeeding centuries. Those pits which were found tended to lie close to the ditch lines without actually encroaching very far, as if located along a hedge or bank associated with the ditch rather than the ditch itself.

Building 31 cannot have survived long into this period. Its north end was lost under pit 11092 (filled in the 2nd century). There was no sign of what might have replaced it, although there were numerous unphased post holes in the same general position: it should not be assumed that there was no building at all here, only that we cannot pinpoint it.

Activity in this area seems to represent essential continuity, with pitting being very similar to that of Phase II though lacking the metalworking evidence. The odd find suggests either continuity of craft practices (spindle whorls, loomweights) or simple residuality. Each pit does seem to have more bulk to its finds, if not strikingly new *types* of find. This may suggest some mechanism whereby material accumulates for a longer period before finding its way into (fewer) pits.

Though the enclosing ditches surrounding both plots seem to have been filled up by this time, long thin slots of early Roman date (in the north, 11190, 11238; in the south, 11415, 11582, 23300, 23385) ran on the same alignment, or perpendicular to the boundary ditches, which might suggest that the plots survived and were being subdivided into smaller areas - perhaps marking changes in their use; though there is no evidence of what this changed use was.

The presence of a single hearth (23008) of likely early Roman date at the south end attests some continuing occupation in the vicinity.

Pits (Fig. N18)

North: 11013, 11060, 11092, 11347, 11731

South: 11533, 11599, 11602, 11603, 11604, 11605, 11606, 11607, 23024, 23032, 23118, 23140, 23391, 23395.

In comparison with the preceding period, the northern end of Area N contained very few pits, all of small size and generally in peripheral locations within the enclosure. It is perhaps worthy of note that the largest, 11731, is actually outside the enclosure and further provides evidence of pitting encroaching onto the edge of Track 3. The southern pits shared much the same distribution pattern as Period II pits in the same vicinity, clustered in the eastern half of the plot defined by the Period II ditches. Most of these pits were large, often over 3m diameter, but their depths did not exceed 0.54m.

All these pits contained mid 1st to early 2nd century pottery. Finds assemblages were not particularly different from those of earlier pits, with baked clay present in some quantity. However, oyster shell, glass, worked stone, brick and tile were also now evident. Evidence of metalworking was infrequent.

Pits 11013, 11060, 11092, 11347, 11731

11013	Pottery jar G17 (BSW), funnel N2 (BSW), fabric VRW
11060	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery fabrics GRS ESH
11092	Pottery dish B2/B4 (BSW), mortarium D1 (BUFM)
11347	Pottery jars G9 (BB1) G19 (BSW) G20.1 (GRS) G23.1 (GRS)

11731	Pottery dishes B2/B4 (BSW) B3.2 (BSW) B7 (GRS), jars G16.2 (BSW) G19 (BSW GRS), beakers H26 (BSW) H32 (NVC)
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The pottery provides a later 1st to early 2nd century AD date for deposition., though the presence of a dish and mortarium suggests that 11092 was filled closer to the middle of the 2nd century. Pit 11731 seems to have continued to accumulate material into the 3rd century.

Pits 11533, 11599, 11602, 11603, 11604, 11605, 11606, 11607, 23024, 23032, 23118, 23140, 23391, 23395

11533	Pottery bowl C16 (GRS), jar G17.1 (BSW)
11599	Pottery dishes B2 (GRF), jar G5.2 (ESH), fabrics COLC NVC
11602	Pottery platter A2 (BSW), bowl C1.2 (BSW) jars G17 (BSW) G40 (BSW), fabric NKG
11605	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW GROG
11606	Pottery fabrics GROG GRS
23024	Samian dishes f31 (CGSW) f31R (CGSW), cup f27 (SGSW) Other pottery dishes B3.2 (BSW) B7 (BSW), mortarium D1 (BUFM), jars G5.1 (ESH) G5.2 (STOR) G5.5 (GRS) G17 (GRS) G20 (GRS), beakers H1 (GRF BSW) H6 (NKG) H10 (NKG) H20.2 (COLC), funnel N2 (BSW), fabric NVC
23032	Samian platter f15/17 (CGSW) Other pottery dish B7 (BSW GRS), jars G8 (BSW) G17 (BSW)
23118	Samian dish f18/31R-31R (CGSW), cup f33 (CGSW EGSW) Other pottery dish B2 (BB2), bowl C2 (GRF), jar G22 (STOR), beaker H20 (COLC)
23140	Samian fabric SGSW Other pottery platter A2 (BSW), jar G19 (BSW)
23391	Pottery jars G3 (STOR) G23 (GROG), fabric BUFM

Most pits were filled during the late 1st and early 2nd century AD. Three pits, 11599, 23024 and 23118, contained additional later 2nd century pottery, suggesting continuing deposition up to the 3rd century, as evidenced by the presence of Nene Valley colour-coated ware.

Slots 11190, 11238, 11415, 23066, 23079, 23300, 23385, 25172 (Fig. N19)

A number of narrow, early Roman, slots were present within each of the two enclosures in Area N and all were aligned NNW-SSE or at right angles to this.

Structure 30:

In the north block, 25162 (11190) and 11238 were of similar proportion, at 0.2-0.3m wide and 0.14m deep, though 11238 was probably just a fragment of a much longer slot fortuitously preserved only in the top of the fills of pit 11316. Together, they possibly once formed a right angle.

More examples were present in the southern block. Again, these were similar in size and alignment. Although as excavated, these were found to be relatively short with apparent terminals, pre-excavation plans hint at their continuation, or at least similar lines further east and west.

Need to sort out these numbers: not quite sure which is which!

Structure 31: 25164 (23300) + unnumbered NW-SE aligned 'slot'.

Structure 32: 25163 (11415), **25172** (11582, 11584, 11586) + pre-ex traces

Structure 33: 25168 (23079), **25169** (23066)

25165 (23385) constitutes the same sort of thing in the next door plot?

Given the location of 11190 and 11238 over the Period II northern pit cluster, it is unlikely that they constituted the remains of a building. Instead, they probably marked the positions of sub-divisions, such as fences, within the plot. There was evidence that this new system replaced the old internal divisions with 25172 cutting Period II ditch 11516, and 23385 looking like a replacement for ditches 25265. Parallel slots 23300, 11415 and 25172 were evenly spaced at 11m intervals. Just to the east of 11415 was an unexcavated slot running at right-angles to 11415 and parallel to 23385 at a distance of just under 22m. It is therefore apparent that these slots defined regular sub-plots of 11m x 22m within this enclosure and indicated a pattern of land use somewhat different from that of Period II.

Although few of the slots contained finds assemblages of consistently early Roman character, given their stratigraphic positions above Period II features and likely association with one another, a late 1st century AD date is postulated for all of these.

Slots **25162** (11190), 11238, **25163** (11415), **25164** (23300), **25165** (23385), **25168** (23079), **25169** (23066), **25172** (11582, 11584, 11586)

11190	Samian cup/bowl f35/36 (CGSW) Other pottery beakers H6 (NKG) H10 (NKG)
11238	Pottery fabrics BSW STOR
23300	Samian bowl f29 (SGSW) Other pottery fabrics NVC BSW
23385	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS GRF
23079	Pottery jars G3 (BSW) G23 (GRS)
23066	Pottery fabric GROG
11584	Pottery fabric GROG
11586	Pottery fabrics GRS BUF

Two North Kent grey ware beakers from 11190, supported by the samian, provide a date within the first half of the 2nd century AD. The date of the remaining pottery is unlikely to extend into the 2nd century, and is confined to the second half of the 1st century AD. The sherd of Nene Valley colour-coated ware, in conflict with the samian from 23300, is probably intrusive.

Hearth 23157 (Fig. N20)

Feature 23157 was the only hearth dated to the early Roman period. Located in the top of early Roman pit 23032, in the south of Area N, it survived as an oval concentration of burnt flint cobbles, lava quern, daub and tile fragments (23008). In its constituents, and its positioning in the top of a recent pit fill, it was very similar to the hearths of Period II B. While no distinct function can be assigned to this feature, it does suggest similar patterns of activity continuing from Period II to III.

Hearth 23157

23157	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery fabrics GRS STOR
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The pottery is dated no closer than Roman.

Period IV: (Fig. N21)

Well 11341 had already passed out of use long before the start of the mid Roman period, but material continued to accumulate within its top. No structural features of this period were identified, though this is not to say that there can have been no structures: there were many unphased post-holes in this Area. However, evidence of recognisable mid Roman activity was restricted to a single pit in the north, and two kilns. As demonstrated elsewhere, such structures were often located on the margins of the settlement (e.g., pottery kilns in Area W) and perhaps their presence in Area N may be used to emphasize how its location had become peripheral by this period. Evidence from Areas P and Q can be used to suggest that they, immediately east of N, were largely open space by this time too. Both kilns seem to have been in use in the early to mid 3rd centuries AD. It may be that the settlement had contracted away from its eastern fringe by this time. The drop in density of features of the later phases from Area M to N is very marked, and abandonment is the simplest explanation.

Well 11341 slump filling

11341	Samian dish f31 (EGSW), bowl f30 or f37 (EGSW) Other pottery dishes B2/B4 (GRF BB2) B3.2 (GRF BSW), mortarium D2 (COLBM), jars G5.4 (GRS) G5.5 (GRS) G9 (BB1), lid K7 (NVC), fabrics HAR HAWO NVM
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The numerous dish forms in conjunction with Nene Valley products and black burnished wares can be dated up to the mid third century. This later pottery may have been thrown as rubbish into a convenient slump hollow at the top of the well.

Kiln 10906 (Fig. N22)

Oval construction cut 10906 contained what appeared to be the remains of a small kiln. Its sides were lined with baked clay, with an oval pedestal, 0.4m wide and 0.1m high, occupying the centre of the chamber and sitting on a 'floor' of fire-reddened compacted gravel. The lack of a clay floor around the pedestal may have been due to its removal during raking out. The stoke-hole 11372, was a small circular cut on the east side of the kiln, some 0.6m wide. Four stake-holes 10924, 10926, 10993 and 11015, containing the carbonized tips of narrow stakes, indicated the presence of a framework supporting the kiln superstructure. Overlying burnt clay layer 10829 may have been the remains of collapsed superstructure.

No use deposits were identified within the kiln itself and, other than the baked clay of its construction, there was little evidence of burning. Though its morphology was that of a Wattisfield-type Kiln (Swann, 1984, 115), at only 1.2m maximum width, this structure seems very small for a potter's kiln. It is perhaps more likely that it was used in the firing of small items. **It remains to be seen if the presence of apparent kiln furniture and large numbers of iron ?hobnails (109) from the disuse fills prove significant.**

Pottery from the kiln construction deposits is dated to the early 3rd century AD. The disuse fills include material ranging from the mid 3rd to late 4th centuries AD. **(Archaeomagnetic results were unsuitable for dating; see Noel, 1995, where it is Kiln 3)**

Kiln construction 10906

10906	Pottery dish B4 (GRF HAB), mortaria D1 (BUFM) D3 (BUFM), bowl-jars E2 (GRF) E5.4 (GRF), jar G5.5 (GRS), beaker H34 (GRF) H35.2 (BSW), fabrics NVC LSH
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The presence of an H35 beaker and a bead-rimmed dish from a construction deposit places kiln use firmly within the first half of the 3rd century AD. The kiln was out of use probably by the mid 3rd century, but continued to accumulate material up to the end of the 4th century.

Kiln 11423 + stokehole 11424 (Fig. N23)

At the south end of Area N, a slightly oval construction cut, 11423, some 1.5m by 1.3m and 0.5m deep, contained a larger and better preserved kiln. It was lined with walls of burnt clay of 0.10m to 0.15m thickness. The flue was located to the east, opening out onto an oval rake-out pit some 1.6m long by 1.3m wide and also 0.5m deep. Enough of the walls of the flue survived to show that its

arched entrance had been repaired at least once with baked clay bricks. Within the kiln chamber was a central oval pedestal, 0.65m by 0.47m and 0.14m high. The bottom of the chamber contained a charcoal-rich primary use deposit (11571) while dark silts (11567 and 11559) also contained charcoal along with large fragments of kiln wall collapse. This structure was again of standard East Anglian, Wattisford-type, pottery kiln (Swann, 1984, 115), but neither the chamber nor stoke-hole appear to have contained remains of any of its products (review the pot: is the low % of fineware suggestive?). In the absence of evidence for pottery production the only other possible associated artefact was a clay phallus (SF7625) from stoke-hole fill 11597.

Pottery from the construction cut packing, dates the construction of the kiln to the later 2nd century AD, while archaeomagnetic dating produced a date range of c.AD 225-250 for its last firing (Noel, 1995: referred to there as 'Kiln 4'). Disuse fills, containing rubbish assemblages, date to the mid to later 3rd century with some dumping/levelling continuing as late as 4th century AD.

Kiln construction 11423 (add evidence from stokehole 11424)

11423	Samian dish f18/31 (CGSW) Other pottery dishes B1 (GRF) B2 (GRF), jar G42 (STOR), beaker H20 (COLC), fabrics RET BB2 NVM Coin AE3 (SF 5225) 3rd/4th century
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While not particularly diagnostic, the pottery recovered from construction and use deposits dates to the 2nd century, possibly the second half of this century, on account of the BB2 fabric present. A context associated with the repair of the flue contained a Nene Valley mortarium sherd, indicating continued use into the 3rd century. Kiln disuse cannot be dated closely, though the upper fill yielded material of late 3rd century date.

Pits 10953, 10995, 11304, 11361, 23012 (Fig. N24)

Evidence for pitting was limited to only a small number of excavated examples, all but one located in the north of Area N.

Northern pits 10953, 10995, 11304 and 11361 varied in size but all contained significantly larger artefact assemblages than pits of the preceding periods. Animal bone and ceramic building materials accounted for most of this increase, though smaller artefacts, particularly ironwork, were also more prolific. These pits spanned the 3rd century AD and so do not seem to indicate an intense period of occupation. None was in close proximity to kiln 10906 or contained evidence of close association with it. However, little excavation was undertaken around southern kiln 11423 so it is not known if this was also the case there.

The southern pit 23012 was a large irregular cut 3.1m by 2.8m. Although not fully bottomed, it was probably not much deeper than the 0.6m excavated. Its fill sequence was relatively complex, and suggests a couple of episodes of deposition. Among the finds from fill 23020 were 5kg of animal bone including articulated vertebrae (species not yet established), and two complete ceramic vessels (Fig.). Other fills also yielded animal bone, together with quern fragments, a sharpening stone, unworked pieces of sarsen and septaria and 13.5kg of pottery. The presence of articulated bone and complete pottery vessels may indicate a ritual or structured element in the deposition of material within this pit. The pottery dates also suggest separate episodes of deposition, stretching from the late 2nd/ mid 3rd century range of lower fill 23020 through the mid 3rd century date for mid fills 23019, 23087 and a later 3rd century date in top fill 23010. Some later pot (late 4th century) was also retrieved from somewhere unspecified within the cut, but may be intrusive. It is tempting to draw attention to the fact that there was no later feature in the southern part of Area N, so that a conscious closure rite on abandonment may be a possibility. If this really did take place over the course of half a century or more, it would be all the more interesting.

Pits 10953, 10995, 11304, 11361, 23012

10953	Samian mortarium f45 (EGSW) Other pottery dishes B1 (BB1) B6.3 (BB1), bowl C18 (NVC), fabrics RET EGRHN
10995	Pottery dish B3.2 (GRF), beaker H32 (NVC)
11304	Samian cup f33 (EGSW) Other pottery dishes B3.2 (BSW) B6.1 (GRF) B6.2 (GRS), mortarium D5/D7 (OXWM), jars G5.4 (GRS) G5.5 (BSW) G9 (BB1) lid K7 (NVC), fabric HAX

	Brooch P-shaped (SF 6981)
11361	Pottery dishes B1 (BB2) B4 (GRF) B5.1 (GRF) B6 (BB1), bowl C8 (OXRC), mortarium D14 (NVM)
23012	Samian bowls f30 or f37 (EGSW) f38 (EGSW) Other pottery dishes B1 (HAB) B4 (GRF) B3.2 (HAB) B5 (GRF) B6.1 (GRF), mortarium D11.1 (BUFM), bowl-jars E3.4 (GRF) E5.4 (GRF), jars G5.5 (BSW) G5.6 (GRS) G9.3 (BSW) G27 (LSH), beakers H24 (COLC) H34 (GRF), fabrics NVC HAX RET

The pottery indicates a 3rd century date for the principal infilling of these pits. Only 10995 is likely to have filled by the middle of the 3rd century; the remaining features continued to receive material well into the second half of the century and into the 4th. Possibly intrusive late 4th century pottery was recovered from 11361 and 23012

Period V: (Fig. N25)

Both kilns were redundant by the late 3rd century AD, but apparently survived in a ruinous state and continued to accumulate rubbish of late Roman date within their chambers. The only further evidence for continuing activity in this area was in the form of pits. It is therefore difficult to posit any great intensity of occupation or land-use of this vicinity of the settlement during the 4th century AD.

Pits 10910, 11303, 11713 (Fig. N26)

The late Roman pits were restricted to only three excavated examples at the north end of Area N. All were small (*c.* 2m diameter, depth varied from 0.33m to 0.66m) and round to oval in plan. Despite their relatively limited capacity, their fills contained large and varied assemblages which appear to be a mixture of demolition and domestic debris. Demolition was represented by quantities of tile, plaster, mortar, *opus signinum*, particularly in pits 10910 and 11303. Domestic activity was represented by animal bone and pottery and personal items such as the **bsm** pin (5768) and bone pins (SFs 5772, 5776) from 10910, buckle (SF6976) from 11303 and perhaps the spindle whorl (SF5771) from 10910 (if it is accepted that spinning and weaving were undertaken as domestic crafts, in and around the dwelling). In addition, pit 11713 contained a fragment of litharge (SF7009) and 11303 had an iron ingot, and a large number of other iron objects, mostly unidentified, all of which hints at late Roman metal-working in the vicinity. Box fittings (SF5769 from 10910) and even a padlock barb spring (SF6977 from 11303) could represent some of the items being fashioned, or personal belongings of the inhabitants. A mould fragment in pit 10910 is thought to be residual and derived from the Period II B metalworking activity.

This pitting activity would seem to present basic continuity of activities between the middle and late Roman periods, particularly given the locations, such as 10910 which cut into the top of Period IV pit 10953. This impression is reinforced by the similarity of finds assemblages between the two. It is likely that the pits were associated with domestic occupation though late buildings within Area N were simply not recognized within the areas subjected to excavation, but it is clear that any occupation was at a much less intense level than earlier.

Pits 10910, 11303, 11713

10910	Pottery dishes B1.4 (BB1) B5.1 (GRF) B6 (NVC) B6.2 (BSW), jars G9.3 (BB1) G42 (GRS) G Fulford 1975, fig. 191, no. 137 (PORD), beakers H41 (NVC) H42.1 (NVC), lid K7 (NVC), fabrics RET LSH MHM Coin AE3 House of Constantine (SF 5801) 335-340
11303*	Pottery dishes B3.2 (HAR HAB) B6.3 (BB1), D14 (NVM), jars G25 (GRS) G42 (GRS), beakers H34 (BSW), lid K7 (NVC) fabrics RET ALH
11713	Pottery dish B1 (GRF), mortarium D12 (NVCM)

Despite the mass of 3rd century and earlier pottery recovered from these pits, the latest pottery, including Nene Valley beakers and mortaria, suggests that infilling did not take place until the late 3rd century AD and first half of the 4th century. The top fills of 10910 and 11303 yielded pottery of later date, suggesting some deposition in the late 4th century.

Period VI: (Fig. N25)

The latest Roman to early Saxon transition period was represented in Area N by a single pit, 11507. Even this is not securely dated. This lack of recognisably late features could be interpreted as further evidence of less intensive land use, a trend which had already begun by the mid Roman period.

Pit 11507 (Fig. N26)

A small, shallow, oval pit. Its single fill contains two sherds of Saxon pot. It cut undated (but Roman) pit 11510. There were also two flints, but no other finds.

Period VII

No features of this date have been identified.