

AREA W

Area W was a seven hectare area located immediately to the north east of the 1994 site. It occupied the higher gravel terrace which sloped gently north to south. Its excavation was undertaken in 1993 as a separate phase of work from that in 1994. Originally subdivided into six areas, as dictated by the need for clearance either side of overhead electricity cables, these have since been amalgamated and the whole is referred to here as Area W.

In contrast to the areas of the lower terrace (*i.e.*, Areas D to R), almost no stratification occurred across Area W, most features being cut straight into the natural gravel. Modern ploughing had truncated all features. The nature of the past land-use was also very different, resulting in a far lower density of features and of cultural material within them. Much of the phasing therefore relies upon the relationships of intercutting ditches, a predominant feature of the area. Virtually all of the features revealed in Area W were investigated, the exception being some of those in the south-east corner of the site which was prone to flooding, particularly as excavation was undertaken in October to December.

Area W is primarily of importance as a large swathe of agricultural hinterland which extended northwards from the periphery of the settlement. As such, it gave the opportunity to investigate the nature of land-use beyond the settlement and of the relationship between settlement and hinterland.

Phasing Summary

Period	Sub-period	Period description	Date
I		-	MIA/LIA transition
II	A	Simple land division	LPRIA
	B	Land divisions and funerary activity	LIA to Roman transition
III		Agricultural landscape; manufacturing and pits to south	Early Roman
IV		Rectangular enclosure, parallel fields	Mid Roman
V		-	Late Roman
VI		Limited occupation	Latest Roman/Saxon trans
VII		Post-medieval agricultural use	Post-Saxon

Due to the nature and low density of succeeding land-use, Area W had a far greater survival of identifiably prehistoric features than any other area. These included both funerary and settlement features of Neolithic, Bronze Age and possibly early to middle Iron Age dates. This prehistoric land-use had no direct association with that of later periods and has been reported separately (Atkinson and Preston 2000a.).

In general, the archaeology of this area bears upon the agricultural hinterland of the settlement, only the south extreme (down a step in the gravel terrace) having domestic features (chiefly rubbish pits).

In common with other areas, Area W's activity is heavily weighted towards the Late Iron Age and earliest Roman periods. In the late Iron Age there was a flurry of activity, involving laying out a vast field boundary system, a cremation cemetery, and the digging of numerous rubbish pits. In the early Roman phase, the field system was overhauled, although broadly retaining the same shape. A small rectangular enclosure was created. Several structures indicate that a variety of activities took place in this area, including two pottery kilns at the south end of the area, close to the settlement, and two ovens/corn driers much further out into the fields. All of these features seem to have been in use during the 2nd and perhaps into the early 3rd centuries.

Although the ditch systems seem to have been frequently recut, nearly all other activity in the Area which might leave traces below ground ceased by the 3rd century. The area was then presumably given over entirely to open fields. No new archaeological features were created until, in the early Saxon period, a single SFB and some post holes demonstrate that the occupation already revealed in

earlier excavations in the vicinity (Drury and Wickenden, 1982) just crept into the south-eastern corner of Area W. This seems typical of the kind of location favoured for a Saxon settlement, around the margins of a Roman site.

PERIOD I

No features of this date have been identified, though there are ditches which predate the Late Iron Age-proper (curving ditch 25205, and an enclosure system comprising 25107, 25201, 25202, 25203). These are considered as prehistoric features and so have already been published as part of the Elms Farm Prehistoric Project, along with the many remains of Neolithic and Bronze Age date which were found here (Atkinson, Brown and Preston, 2000). *Should we summarize these?? – yes, when pottery ID has been resolved. Some MIA may just become early LIA!*

PERIOD II (Fig. W1)

The 1st century BC landscape was occupied by a single ditch, 25102, which ran on a NW-SE alignment and divided the upper gravel terrace. Although no contemporary boundaries were identified, a simple and large-scale system of land division is postulated. By the early 1st century AD a more new, more substantial, system of boundaries subdivided the terrace, although influences from preceding landscape features are noted. The southern limit of this broadly marked the boundary between settlement and hinterland; to the south occurred pits, denoting the peripheries of occupation, and to the north funerary features occupied peripheral locations within fields.

Sub-period II A

The earliest evidence of late Iron Age activity was represented by a single ditch which dated to the late 1st century BC and ran across virtually the whole of Area W. An ephemeral, poorly dated, ring-gully is thought to be contemporary. Although not particularly substantial, the ditch's singularity would seem to indicate its importance as a major boundary, dividing the upper gravel terrace. How this feature related to the wider use of the terrace during this period is unknown. No other features can be related to it with any certainty.

Ditch 25102 (segs. 2008, 2265, 2459, 2464, 2477, 2553) (Fig. W2)

Continuous ditch 25102 ran across almost the whole length of Area W on a NW-SE alignment. It was excavated in several segments along its 280m exposed length. It was most substantial at its north end as investigated in segment 2004, at 2.3m wide and 0.56m deep, but averaged 1.0-1.2m wide and 0.3m deep along the greater part of its length.

It ran south, presumably terminating just short of the edge of the upper gravel terrace. Its use was probably short-lived, there being no evidence for its recutting or maintenance. In addition, its fills contained no artefactual material, other than residual prehistoric pottery sherds in segment 2265. The ditch clearly passed out of use during the late Iron Age but continued to exert an influence over succeeding alignments and the locations of individual features. Although infilled, must have been still a visible landscape feature, perhaps marked by surviving remnants of its postulated upcast bank. The siting of a group of LIA pyre sites (ref.) on and alongside this feature indicated that it remained an important border at least as late as the early 1st century AD. **Note poss location relat to ring-gully 25230 and ring-ditch 2206.**

Structure 6: Ring-gully 25230 (Fig. W5)

Circular gully 25230 survived plough truncation only as a very ephemeral and intermittent ring. Although planned, it proved impossible to investigate by excavation. The gully cut itself was only an estimated 0.3-0.4m wide and enclosed a circle of approximately 13m diameter. It lay just west of ditch 25102 and is very tentatively associated with it. However, lacking any dating evidence it is possible that it either predated this ditch or belonged to Period II B.

Although its function is uncertain, Period II B cremation burial 2379, and pyre site 2934 above it, lay just inside or on the reconstructed perimeter of the ring gully. It is speculated that it marked the position of a ploughed out mound or barrow into the edge of which the earliest of the funerary features was inserted. However, though less likely, it remains possible that the ring-gully represented the eaves-drip gully of an unrelated structure.

Move in front of 25201 and infer poss earlier date?

Sub-period II B

In the 1st century AD, the Period II A ditch (25102) was replaced with a more substantial system of ditches which may be seen to sub-divide the terrace landscape into more tangible units of land; perhaps large field enclosures. Their alignment appears to have been influenced by ditch 25102, with replacement ditch 25199 incorporating it at the north end of Area W but diverging gradually

southwards; possibly using the remains of Bronze Age barrow 25200 as a point of reference in the landscape. Ditches 25194 and 25188 form the southern limit of the major sub-division of the terrace; their stepped pattern being reminiscent of the relic field systems seen elsewhere in the county, such as the Dengie and perhaps Shoebury areas (refs.). This stepped ditch defined the boundary between the settlement and its hinterland. The area to the south was occupied almost exclusively by pits which presumably indicate the periphery of an occupation area. To the north, what appear to be a disproportionately large number of **pyre sites and related features** occupied peripheral locations alongside the major boundary ditches. Interestingly, the pyre-related features formed a linear arrangement some 25.5m distant from but parallel to the east side of ditch 25199, while also appearing to broadly overlie and follow the line of earlier ditch 25102. Whether the latter phenomenon was coincidental or not, the gap between the pyre related features and contemporary boundary 25199 suggests that it (**the gap?**) had a use. **But what?** It is presumed that the interiors of these likely fields were used for agricultural purposes.

Ditches 25199 (segs. 2004, 2400, 2336, 2539, 2864, 2935), **25194** (segs. 2192, 2924), **25188** (segs. 415, 496, 577, 585) (Fig. W3)

Substantial ditch 25199 ran almost the whole length of Area W on a roughly NNW-SSE alignment. It overlay earlier ditch 25102 at its north end, apparently following its line northward beyond the limit of excavation. To the south, its line progressively diverged westward from that of ditch 25102 (bearing 342° rather than 333° from north). 25199 was traced across Area W for a distance of 275m, extending into an unexcavated area but revealed on aerial photographs to turn to the east and join with ditch 25194.

Ditch 25194 ran for some 48m where it again turned southwards, extending beyond the limit of excavation. Although the aerial photographs are unclear at this point, it is postulated that this southern leg joined ditch 25188.

Ditch 25188 was a 60m length which ran on a NE-SW alignment across the south-eastern part of Area W. Although truncated along one side by later replacement ditch 25273, it survived to a width of up to 1.6m and averaged a depth of c.0.4m.

Ditch 25199 / 25194 was clearly a replacement of ditch 25102, cutting it at both its north and south exposed extremes. It would seem that this new boundary both followed and diverged from the earlier line and represented the re-laying of the landscape on roughly the same lines, though defining a southern limit as denoted by stepped ditch lines 25194 and 25188. Judging by the number of times this boundary was subsequently recut, it was an important and enduring feature of the agricultural landscape. While there is evidence for an early to mid 1st century AD date for ditch 25188, the other parts of this boundary had undergone frequent recutting and so their early dating is largely conjectural. Although the ditch sections would appear to have conflicting dates, the later-dated sections probably originated in the early Roman period, either being recut or accumulating material into the 3rd century.

Ditch 25199

2400	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW
2336	Pottery dishes B1 B2 (BSW), fabric GRS Coin Dupondius/As (SF 109), 1st/2nd century
2539	Pottery fabric GRS

This section of ditch contained pottery dating to the mid 2nd to mid 3rd centuries, with a quantity of residual material.

Ditch 25194

2192	Pottery dish B1 (BSW), fabrics NVC GRS
2924	Pottery mortarium D11 (BUFM), jar G26 (GRS)

This section of ditch contained pottery dating to the late 2nd to mid 3rd centuries, with some residual material.

Ditch 25188

415*	Amphora Dr.1/Dr.2-4 (AITAL) Other pottery Cup <i>Cam</i> 56 (TN), jars <i>Cam</i> 254 (ESH) G19 (GROG),
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	fabrics NGWFS GRS
496	Amphora Dr.2-4 (ARCAT) Other pottery jar G19 (GROG)
577	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW GROG
585	Pottery jar <i>Cam</i> 254 (ESH), fabrics BSW GRS GROG

This ditch section contained pottery dating to the early to mid 1st century AD.

Ditches 25272 (seg. 625) and 25190/25211 (segs. 443, 520, 438) (Fig. W4)(Sort out the numbering!)

To the south of the corner formed by ditches 25194 and 25188 were two minor, parallel, ditches 25272 and 25190/25211. These were exposed in the corner of one of the sub-divisions of Area W and are presumed to have extended northwards to terminate either just short of, or adjoin with, the ditch corner. Ditch 25272 seems to have been the earlier and was generally 1.0m wide and 0.35m deep. 25190/25211 is postulated to be its replacement and was slightly more substantial at 1.8m wide and 0.6m deep. Ditch 25272 contained burnt grog-tempered bodysherds with adhering burnt bone suggesting that its use of may have been closely linked to that of ditch 25188 within which cremation burial 581 had been placed and alongside which others were also located. These ditches presumably marked subdivisions of the area between the major ditch 25194/25188 and the gravel terrace edge.

Ditch 25272 (625)

625	Pottery jar <i>Cam</i> 254 (ESH), fabric GROG
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This ditch section contained pottery dating to the first half of the 1st century AD.

Ditch 25190

443	Pottery jar G19 (GROG), fabric GRS
520	Pottery beaker H1 (GRS), fabrics NGWFS GROG

This ditch section contained pottery dating to the second half of the 1st century AD.

Ditch section 25211 contained prehistoric pottery only.

Cremation burial 2379 (Fig. W6)

Rectangular cut 2379 contained an assemblage of three ceramic vessels and a lid, all positioned at its north end. The largest vessel, jar 2483, contained a quantity of cremated human bone. A further, smaller, amount was collected from one of the backfills. The ancillary items were placed to its west. While the three vessels were complete, the lid was broken in two. The northern half of the cut, around the cremation assemblage, was backfilled with a clean orange-brown sand silt 2417 which contained occasional charcoal flecks and small cremated bone fragments throughout. The southern half was backfilled with a pebbly mid-brown silty sand which overlay the northern fill at their interface.

Located in the same vicinity of Area W as the pyre sites (discussed below), this feature would appear to be broadly contemporary. However, being the most southerly and westerly of these funerary features, it could be construed as being the earliest, providing a point of origin for the northward spread of subsequent pyre sites. Furthermore, aligned roughly NNW-SSE, the cut was parallel to ditch 25102 which lay 10m to the east, perhaps suggesting that that boundary was still functioning at the time. On the basis of its structured and relatively rich content and its conjectured association with ring-gully 25230, it appears that this was an important burial, perhaps providing a focal point through having a small mound over it? It would certainly appear to have been marked in some way to allow the positioning of pyre site 2934 on top.

2379: rectangular cut, 1.55m by 1.14m and 0.25m deep. Two sand silt fills. Contained a jar, two ?beakers and a lid, all complete. Cremated human bone (392g) in jar 2483. Fill contained scattered charcoal and small cremated bone fragments (44g). Samples 287-9.

Cremation burial 2379

2379	Pottery jar \$ (GROG)
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This feature contained three grog-tempered jars, one of which contained the cremation, and a lid. The vessels provide a Late Iron Age date.

Pyre sites 526, 2164, 2181, 2189, 2196, 2201, 2237/2908, 2254, 2332, 2422/2465, 2443, 2455, 2490, 2609, 2672, 2673, 2705, 2906/2910, 2934 (Figs. W7 & W8)

A total of 19 distinctive features, initially interpreted as cremation burials, were identified in Area W. They formed a cohesive group on grounds of shape, content and spatial distribution and were in close association with the 'pyre-related features' (see below).

All were of elongated oval or oblong shape, shallow with near-vertical sides and generally flat, sometimes stepped, bases. Generally 0.8-1.3m long by 0.5-0.8m, generally 0.15-0.20m deep, many of these had an integral, small, notch-like projection in their sides; the majority on the west, though two (features 2237/2908 and 2443) had notches on their eastern side.

All contained charcoal-rich, deposits. These fills generally contained burnt flint pebbles, and in some cases the fills and even the cuts themselves showed signs of *in situ* burning; particularly those with the integral notches. Within the charcoal-rich fills were generally small quantities of burnt bone, at least some of which was identifiably human. This was accompanied by pottery, metalwork (including iron nails and copper alloy brooches) and glass, most of which was also burnt. Many of the features contained primary silting fills, showing that the cuts had probably remained open for a period of time before receiving their burnt deposits. Some also contained backfill deposits over the burnt deposits, though it is noted that modern plough truncation is likely to have removed the upper portions of the features, undoubtedly resulting in the loss of some of their artefactual contents, particularly as these tended to have been in the upper fills. This would seem to be confirmed by the incidence of only the lower parts of ceramic vessels in such features as 2201/2195, 2332 and 2455.

Spatially, these features displayed a linear distribution, being spread across a distance of between 70m and 90m on a general NNW-SSE alignment. This spread clearly mirrors the line of ditch 25102, the majority of the individual features lying in close proximity to either side. However, features 2196, 2254 and 2609 were recorded as cutting the ditch edges while 2181 was cut directly into its top. It is apparent that ditch 25102 was all but defunct by this time, though it remains possible that these features were sited in relation to its remnants – perhaps an upcast bank. Although collectively spread along a NNW-SSE axis, many of the individual oblong cuts clearly displayed contrary alignments, tending toward a more nearly north-south alignment. It is possible that they were aligned on contemporary ditch 25199 instead, although it was probably too far away (25m+) for this. The exceptions, features 2189, 2254, 2443, 2455 and 2672, do appear to be parallel to the ditch. In addition, the spread of features appears fairly even, particularly amongst the southern oblong cuts. Here, spacing of those features between 2189 and 2422 is almost precisely 5m centre to centre.

These pyre sites date from the late 1st century BC to early 1st century AD and are closely paralleled in many ways by those identified on the Westhampnett Bypass (Fitzpatrick 1997). All of the other pottery appears to have been burnt on the pyre and what was present represented only a fraction of the vessels. A function as flues beneath pyre sites is postulated and the issues of structure, function and location considered in detail elsewhere (Vol.1, Section 7).

526: Roughly-fashioned, rounded, T-shaped cut, just over 1.0m in each direction and 0.25m deep, with a very rounded profile. The side 'arm' is shallower than the main section. Four fills; the first possibly just weathering of the sides, the second a near-continuous layer of charcoal, the third closely bound up with the second and including a lot of charcoal, burnt pebbles and most of the finds, the final one is post-use accumulation. Contained heavily burnt pottery, slag (31g) and a lava quern fragment.

2164: irregular ?oblong cut, 0.85m by 0.55m and 0.3m deep. Single fill with charcoal concentrations, containing a horizontal charred timber. Contained two small pottery sherds (grog and sand tempered. **Burnt?**) and many burnt pebbles.

2181: Oblong cut, 1.25m by 0.6m and 0.18m deep. Single charcoal-rich fill including burnt pebbles. Contained grog-tempered sherds, probably from two vessels. Sample 93.

2189: Oblong cut, 1.3m by 0.8m and 0.2m deep, with integral notch on western edge. Two charcoal-rich fills including burnt pebbles and white flecks which were probably cremated bone. Large charcoal fragments, up to 8cm long, noted to lie against the sides of the cut; interpreted as collapsed pyre fuel. Contained grog-tempered pottery and *Cam* 165 flagon sherds all of which were burnt, 2 flint blades and a flake. Samples 94 and 96.

2196: Slightly irregular, oblong cut, 1.2m by 0.66m and 0.31m deep, with notch on western edge. Three charcoal-rich fills

including burnt pebbles. Also contained a single bone fragment (1g) and a *terra nigra* bodysherd, both burnt and a flint flake. Samples 148 and 149.

2201: Truncated oblong cut, 0.8m+ by 0.5m and 0.13m deep. North end cut by pyre-related feature 2195. Three charcoal-rich fills including burnt pebbles. Also contained human bone (593g), the lower part of a burnt grog-tempered jar and four or five brooches, some burnt, and an iron nail (SF95). Burnt Dr 1 amphora sherds in top fill. Samples 123 and 127.

2237/2908: slightly irregular oblong cut, 1.76m x 0.8m and 0.5m deep, with a 'tail' extending off to the south east. Also possible trace of a notch on its western side and an integral deeper 'cut' 2931 at its south end. Five fills, the upper two charcoal-rich with burnt pebbles. Contained a tiny amount of burnt bone (<2g), burnt Dr2-4 amphora sherds and a copper alloy brooch. Samples 116-20.

2254: Slightly irregular oblong, 1.6m by 0.8m and 0.25m deep. Single charcoal-rich fill including many burnt pebbles. Possible traces of *in situ* burning. Contained human bone (88g) and parts of a grog-tempered bowl, both burnt. Cut into ditch 25102. Sample 138.

2332: Irregular ?oval cut, 1.3m by 0.8m and 0.17m deep with possible wide notch on west side. Really a truncated oblong cut with a two-level base? Base and sides of the cut scorched and reddened, suggesting *in situ* burning. Three charcoal-rich fills with burnt pebbles. Contained human bone (1g), base and body sherds of a grog-tempered vessel and two copper alloy brooches toward the north end of the cut, all of which were burnt. Samples 143, 144 and 145.

2422/2465: Oblong cut, 1.3m by 0.5m and 0.27 deep. Notch on west side initially mistaken for a separate cut, 2465. Stepped base. Two charcoal-rich fills containing many burnt pebbles. Tiny amount of burnt bone present (<2g) and a small glass sherd. Samples 147 and 157.

2443: Oblong cut, 1.25m by 0.65m and 0.25m deep, with integral notch on eastern edge (pre-ex plan may hint at a notch on west side too). Five charcoal-rich fills containing many burnt pebbles. Contained dispersed burnt human bone (83g), burnt sherds of grog-tempered, early shell-tempered and *terra nigra* pottery, baked clay, iron plate (SF131), slag (240g). Samples 166-170.

2455: Oblong cut, 1.4m by 0.6m and 0.18 deep. Two fills, lower was charcoal-rich and included burnt pebbles. Contained burnt human bone (421g), burnt grog-tempered base and wall sherds from a single vessel, a burnt flint flake and a glass sherd. Mostly toward north end of cut. Samples 150 and 153.

2490: Oblong cut, 1.3m by 0.5m and 0.22m deep. Four fills, upper ones charcoal-rich including burnt pebbles. Contained burnt human bone (445g) (also animal?), small burnt grog-tempered and burnt Dr2-4 amphora sherds and a copper alloy brooch (SF133). Sample 155.

2609: Oblong cut, 1.45m by 0.55m and 0.25m deep, with notch on eastern side. Two fills, the lower charcoal-rich including burnt pebbles. Contained burnt human bone (103g) and slag (334g). Samples 180 and 183.

2672: Oblong cut, 1.4m by 0.5m and 0.16m deep, with integral notch on the western side. Three fills, the upper ones charcoal-rich including many burnt pebbles. Contained burnt human bone (32g), a daub fragment and two iron nails. Samples 191 and 192.

2673: Slightly irregular oblong cut, 1.3m by 0.6m and 0.15m deep. Two charcoal-rich fills including many burnt pebbles. Also contained burnt human bone (112g) and, much iron corrosion/panning which may have been poorly surviving objects. Large lumps of charcoal, retaining their wood structure lined the sides of the cut. Also a flint burin. Samples 184 and 198.

2705: Oblong cut, 1.3m x 0.6m and 0.22m deep, with a slight bulge on western side; possibly a notch. Three charcoal-rich fills including many burnt pebbles. Contained burnt bone (26g), 3 iron nails and a flint flake. Samples 200 and 201.

2906/2910: Irregular oblong cut, 1.6m by 1.0m, with pronounced notch on western side. Two fills, lower charcoal-rich with burnt pebbles. Contained, burnt bone (2g), burnt grog-tempered and butt beaker sherds; large base sherd in the notch. Samples 246 and 262.

2934: Oblong cut, 0.8m by 0.6m and 0.28m deep. Cut into top of cremation burial 2379, apparently following its western edge. Two fills, lower charcoal-rich including burnt pebbles. Contained burnt human bone (262g), copper alloy fragments (SF118 and 119), burnt grog-tempered pottery and a flint flake. Sample 136.

Pyre sites 526, 2181, 2189, 2196, 2201, 2237/2908, 2254, 2332, 2422/2465 2443, 2455, 2490, 2606, 2609, 2672, 2673, 2705, 2906, 2910, 2934

526	Pottery fabrics GRS GROG
2181	Pottery fabric GROG
2189	Pottery flagon Cam 165 (CGFCS), fabric GROG
2196	Pottery fabric TN
2201	Amphora Dr.1 (AITAL) Other pottery fabric GROG Brooches Lion bow (SF 96), Langton Down (SF 56, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 237)
2254	Pottery fabric GROG
2332	Pottery fabric GROG Brooches Langton Down (SF 103, 104, 117)
2443	Pottery fabrics GROG ESH TN
2455	Pottery fabric GROG
2490	Amphora Dr.2-4 (AITAL) Other pottery fabric GROG

	Brooch Langton Down (SF 133)
2906	Pottery fabric GROG
2908	Amphora Dr.2-4 (ARCAT) Brooch Simple Gallic (SF 87)
2934	Pottery fabric GROG

Most of the pottery recovered consists of either burnt amphora, burnt *terra nigra* or burnt grog-tempered ware. Most features date to the Late Iron Age; 2189, 2201 and 2908 are perhaps more closely dated to the late 1st century BC to early 1st century AD, although the brooches appear to carry a first half of 1st century AD date. Only pyre site 2181 contains pottery which is not burnt.

Pyre-related features: 510, 513, 537, 561, 581, 2119, 2129, 2135, 2195 2202, 2212, 2218, 2533, 2606, 3585 (Fig. W9)

A total of 15 further features contained apparent pyre material but lacked the distinctive oblong-shaped cuts of the pyre sites. It is highly likely that these features were contemporary with the pyre sites along ditch 25102. Generally 0.5-1.0m wide and 0.11-0.27m deep (although feature 2218 was 0.53m deep), these shallow oval cuts shared common fill characteristics with the pyre sites, though were generally less structured and artefact-rich. Features 2119, 2533 and perhaps 2135 are amongst the most doubtful as regards a LIA pyre connection. These are regarded as pits containing redeposited pyre debris (mini versions of 15416, Area M?).

Although a few (2195, 2533, 2606), were amongst the main linear distribution of pyre sites aligned on, or associated with, ditch 25102, most were peripheral to this grouping. Features 513, 516 and 2212 may be construed to be associated with nearby ‘satellite’ pyre sites, but the majority of the pyre-related pits were located in relation to major ditches 25188 and 25194 to the south.

Pyre-related feature 2195 is particularly noteworthy, being the only one to cut an actual pyre site. While much of its charcoal and bone content may well be derived from pyre site 2201, the *Cam* 165 flagon base is the only example of a vessel that has been buried whole and unburnt in one of these features. Whether it really contained cremated remains is debatable – the feature being heavily truncated and a bit disturbed. However, it does seem to have been deliberately positioned – perhaps an offering (even a burial?) at the pyre site?

Pit 3585 is the most distant from a pyre site. Its assemblage of burnt artefacts, along with 2195, displayed greatest similarity with those from the pyre sites themselves.

510: Oval cut, 0.57m by 0.5m and 0.13m deep. Three fills, middle fill charcoal-rich and containing burnt human bone (160g). A few grog-tempered bodysherds and five iron nails also present. Samples 37, 38 and 41.

513: Oval cut, 0.8m by 0.35m and 0.07m deep. Single fill containing charcoal concentration toward centre. Sample 43.

537: Oval cut, 0.76m by 0.5m and 0.2m deep. Single charcoal-rich fill. Contained burnt human bone (12g), a grog-tempered bodysherd and residual prehistoric pottery. Sample 55.

561: Irregular oval cut (possibly two features?), 1.25m by 1.2m and 0.28m deep. Markedly deeper at one end than the other. Single charcoal-rich fill containing burnt pebbles, a charred timber fragment, burnt bone (1g), burnt grog-tempered pottery and a daub fragment.

581: Oval ‘cut’, 0.5m by 0.3m and 0.12m deep. Two charcoal-rich fills. Part of a burnt *Cam* 210 tazza-bowl contained burnt human bone (8g). However, this may have been coincidental, as it seems unlikely that the tazza-bowl was deposited to hold the cremated material - the vessel having been burnt on the pyre. Deposits 516 and 562, originally recorded as a fills of ditch 605, were probably related to this cremation deposit. 562 contained charcoal, burnt pebbles and a tiny amount of burnt bone (<1g).; 516 contained 2g of burnt bone. Samples 59 and 84.

2119: Oval cut 0.75m by 0.66m and 0.35m deep. Single charcoal-rich fill containing burnt pebbles, slag, briquetage, ?tile and Roman pottery.

2129: Oval cut, 1.0m by 0.7m and 0.27m deep. Four charcoal-rich fills including burnt pebbles. Possible signs of *in situ* burning. Contained a small amount of burnt bone (18g). Burnt sherds of a grog-tempered jar in top fill. Sample 85.

2135: Shallow oval cut, 1.18m by 0.9m and 0.14m deep. Two charcoal-rich fills, containing burnt pebbles, slag, burnt bone, 1 Fe nail, heavily burnt grog-tempered and Romanising pottery.

2195: Circular cut, 0.65m diameter and 0.24m deep. Cut into north end of pyre site 2201. Five fills, some charcoal- and ash-rich, including burnt pebbles and human bone (307g). Large burnt wood fragments lined upper part of cut. Some of the cremated bone apparently within an unburnt *Cam* 165 flagon, truncated by ploughing. A burnt Dr1 or 2-4 amphora bodysherd also present. Also contained an iron nail (SF2310), a flint flake and baked clay. Samples 106, ?113, 290.

2202: Small charcoal-rich deposit, 0.17m by 0.14m and 0.09m deep. No cut discerned/recorded. No finds. Sample 115.
2212: Oval cut, 0.55 x 0.38m and 0.16m deep. Single charcoal-rich fill including burnt stones. Tiny amount of burnt bone (<1g), but no other artefacts. Sample 103.
2218: Circular cut, 0.65m diameter and 0.53m deep. Two fills, the upper charcoal-rich and containing burnt base sherds of a single grog-tempered jar, the breakage of which was probably the result of pyre-damage.
2533: Oval cut, 0.31m by 0.18m and 0.04m deep. Single fill containing charcoal fragments. No finds. Sample 159.
2606: Circular cut, 0.6m diameter and 0.11m deep. Two charcoal-rich fills including burnt pebbles. Also contained tiny amount of burnt bone (2g) and slag (408g). Samples 178 and 179.
3585: Irregular-shaped cut, 0.93m by 0.76m and 0.16m deep. Cut comprises two 'scoops' with a single fill. Contained only a tiny amount of burnt bone (<1g), burnt sherds of up to six small beakers, some with burnt bone adhering, a copper alloy brooch fragment (SF 169), an iron nail, glass sherd and charcoal. Samples 202 and 203.

Pyre-related features 510, 537, 559, 561, 581, 2129, 2212, 2218

510	Pottery fabric GROG
537	Pottery fabric GROG
561	Pottery fabric GROG
581	Pottery fabrics GROG BSW
2119	Samian fabric SGSW Other pottery fabric BSW
2129	Pottery jar G16 (GROG)
2135	Pottery fabrics GROG BSW GRS
2195	Amphora Dr.1/Dr.2-4 (ABSAN) Other pottery fabric CGFCS
2218	Pottery fabric GROG
3585	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS Brooch Langton Down (SF 169)

The pottery from these pyre-related features consists mainly of burnt grog-tempered bodysherds, in small quantities, dating to the Late Iron Age. Feature 537 also contained prehistoric pottery.

Pits 425, 442, 462, 481, 498, 505, 507, 518, 522, 544, 547, 592, 594, 602, 610, 633, 636, 647, 3513, 3518, 3525, 3528, 3543, 3589, 3601, 3606, 3613, 3659, 3660, 3679, 3694, 3698, 3780, 3789 (Fig. W10)

Period II B pits were all located toward the south end of Area W, the majority south of ditch 25188 and the remainder being less than 10m north. All were oval to sub-rectangular, generally between 1.4m and 1.8m wide, and a maximum of 0.5m deep. Pits 442, 3580, 3736 were exceptions, being in excess of 2.5m wide.

In general, finds assemblages were fairly small and limited, pottery, daub and briquetage forming the bulk. Larger pits 442, 3597 and 3736 were exceptional in having larger and more varied assemblages while pits 3601 and 3660 contained a lot of pottery, but little else. Metalwork was rare and animal bone all but absent due to the highly acidic nature of the gravels on this upper river terrace.

The gravel terrace was an important factor in the spatial distribution of these pits, most occurring on or at the foot of the terrace slope. This topographical feature probably marked the northward limit of the settlement, the upper terrace beyond being principally agricultural land. Although clearly the area between the terrace step and ditch 25188 saw a mixed usage.

It is not possible to impose much chronological subdivision on these Period II pits with none distinctively 1st century BC in date, hence none can be assigned to II A with certainty.

Pits 425, 442, 462, 481, 498, 505, 507, 518, 522, 544, 547, 592, 594, 602, 610, 633, 636, 647, 3513, 3518, 3525, 3528, 3543, 3589, 3601, 3606, 3613, 3659, 3660, 3679, 3694, 3698, 3780, 3789

425	Pottery jar <i>Cam</i> 254 (ESH), fabric GROG
442	Amphora Dr.1/Dr.2-4 (AITAH) Other pottery jars G17 G19 (GROG), beaker <i>Cam</i> 112 (TR), fabrics NGWFS GRS BSW
462	Pottery jar G3 (GROG), fabrics BSW GRS
481	Pottery jar G3 (GROG)
498	Pottery fabric GROG
505	Pottery fabrics GROG GRS

507	Pottery beaker <i>Cam</i> 113 (NGWF), fabrics GROG MICW
518	Pottery fabric GROG
522	Pottery fabrics GROG ESH
544	Pottery jar <i>Cam</i> 254 (ESH), fabrics GROG MICW
547	Pottery jar \$ (GROG), fabric MICW
592	Pottery fabrics GROG MICW
594	Pottery fabric GROG
602	Pottery fabric GROG
610	Pottery fabric GROG
633	Pottery fabrics GROG NGWF
636	Pottery fabric GROG
647	Pottery fabric GROG
3513	Amphora Dr.2-4 (ABSAN) Other pottery fabrics GROG BSW
3518	Pottery jar <i>Cam</i> 254 (ESH), fabric GROG
3525	Pottery flagon \$ (CGGLZ), fabric BSW
3528	Amphoras Dr.2-4 (ARCAT) Dr.1/Dr.2-4 (AITAH) Other pottery jars G19 \$ (GROG), fabric NGWF
3543	Pottery fabric GROG
3589	Pottery fabric GROG
3601	Pottery jars G17 G19 (GROG), fabric MICW
3606	Pottery fabric RED
3659	Pottery fabric GROG
3660	Amphoras <i>salazon</i> (ASALA) Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery cup <i>Cam</i> 56 (TR), jar \$ (GROG), beaker <i>Cam</i> 114 (CAMF), fabrics CGCFS NGWFS BSW MICW
3679	Pottery jar G19 (GROG)
3694	Pottery jar G16 (GROG), fabrics NGWFS MICW
3698	Pottery fabric BSW
3780	Pottery fabric GROG
3789	Pottery fabric GROG

Most of the pottery recovered is grog-tempered, providing a Late Iron Age date. There are a few handmade forms present, plus sherds which are sand-tempered, and pit 647 contained mainly prehistoric pottery. Pits 442, 3513, 3518, 3528 and 3660 are more closely dated to the first half of the 1st century AD, and pit 3525 to the mid 1st century AD. Of note is the deposition of two large jar halves, one inside the other, in the top of pit 3601; this may be a structured deposit.

Silty layer 3501 (=3763, 3764, 3765) **Period III?**

Running along the foot of the slope at the south of Area W was an extensive rich brown clay silt deposit with a substantial fine gravel component. 3763, 3764, 3765 were separate deposits all virtually identical, and plausibly regarded as part of the same thing: the gap between them and 3501 may be the result of slightly deeper machining or just a result of topography (this area was around 10cm lower than where 3501 survives). This deposit obscured numerous features below it, and was only excavated around its edges. All the features sealed below it date no later than the late 1st century AD, and the pottery in 3501 is also of this date, although there is also a later knee brooch (SF128). Pit 3507 also lay partially below this layer, but not entirely sealed by it: 3507 has some later pot, which could conceivably have arrived when the feature was already largely filled in.

So while the evidence is not incontrovertible, it is possible that 3501 accumulated in a relatively short span of time towards the end of the 1st century AD. It remains puzzling that such an extensive deposit should have acquired (virtually) no later finds, nor have been cut by any later features except in two places. It is tempting to speculate that this was soil creep from areas (slightly upslope) to the north, *i.e.*, to the south of ditch line 25194, and to wonder if this marked a specific change in land-use, either the first ploughing of the area to the north, or increased soil mobility due to loss of grass cover, but it is probably more likely that some more direct and deliberate human agency must be invoked to account for it. There is little other evidence of a major change in land-use in the area south of ditch 25194. It may have been no more than the mixed and spread top fills of the many features below, although during excavation it did seem convincingly to be a separate entity.

PERIOD III (Fig. W12)

The Iron Age field boundaries seem to have continued to function throughout much of the early Roman period with little sign of change until relatively late in the period. This field system seems to have been extensive, as hinted by early Roman ditch 25207 located at the far north end of the site, near Langford Road. All of the major ditches were maintained, evidenced by episodes of recutting. The incidence and location of early Roman cremation burials represented another aspect of continuity from Period II B. A small number continued to be interred at marginal locations within these fields, though this activity was perhaps less structured by this time and probably represented the final stage of this traditional practice during the middle to later 1st century AD. The gap between the field system and the gravel terrace edge, at the south end of Area W, again showed a different use from land to the north, while pit-digging became less intense.

It was not until the very end of the period, around the late 2nd century, that significant changes to the landscape were made when ditch 25199 was modified by the creation of a large entrance gap denoted by the termini of recut 25103. This seems to have initiated a number of further developments and modifications which are described in Period IV.

Recut ditches 25103 (segs. 2312, 2355, 2879, 2936) and **25105** (segs. 2274, 2308, 2310?, 2314, 2437) **red = these should really be in Periods IV or V** (Fig. W3)

Ditches 25103 and 25105 were recuts of the major Period II boundary ditch 25199 which had largely silted up during the late 1st and early 2nd centuries AD. The line of the former ditch was perpetuated or reinstated, around the mid 2nd century AD, by the excavation of shallow recuts such as excavated examples 2355 and 2437 in its top. These did not retain the full length of the original ditch, but introduced a 45m-wide gap, approximately in the middle of its exposed length. Clearly this constituted a point of access between fields either side of the boundary as perhaps indicated by the subsequent siting of a crop-processing structure adjacent to each terminal (*i.e.*, corn-drier 2338 and drying floor 3014). The lengths of recut ditch were relatively shallow, generally only surviving as they appear to have been flanked by a gravel bank, suggested by the gravelly nature and angle of accumulation of their fills.

This practice of maintaining the boundary by means of multiple lengths of shallow recut ditches seems to have continued as late as the 4th century AD as denoted by cuts 2308 and 2312. From the demands of the rest of the landscape layout through the Roman period, it is clear that this ditch line was continuously used and cannot be dated simply by reference to its latest fills.

Recut Ditch 25103

2312	Pottery bowl-jar E5 (HAR), fabrics BSW GRS
2355	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS

Recut Ditch 25105

2308	Pottery dish B1 (GRF), bowl-jar E5 (HAR), fabrics BSW GRS
2310	Pottery fabrics GRS HAR
2314	Pottery fabric BSW
2437	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW

These sections of ditch contained pottery dating to the late 3rd to mid 4th centuries. There are cross-context joins between segments 2312, 2310 and 2437. Segments 2355 and 2314 both contained pottery which proved inconclusive for dating purposes.

Recut ditches 25273, 25274 (segments, 418, 422, 465, 553) (Fig. W3)

Probably as part of the same mid 2nd century AD activity as the maintenance/reinstatement of earlier ditch 25199, the southern parts of this boundary system, ditches 25194, 25188 and associated ditch 25190 were all subject to recutting.

Ditch segments 418, 422, 465, 553 constitute a series of recuts along ditch 25188. These did not necessarily form a single continuous cut but may have been a number of *ad hoc* partial cleanings undertaken to perpetuate its line, but have been combined as 25273 anyway. The individual segments were all between 2-3m wide and around 0.5m deep and largely contained silting deposits. The fills of 418 and 553 were of mid 2nd century AD date while the late 3rd to 4th century AD date for segment 465 shows that this must have been an enduring practice.

Earlier minor ditch 25190 also contained likely irregular recut 25274 (segments 401, 568, 638) suggesting that the whole of the 1st century system of land division was maintained throughout the early Roman period and beyond.

Recut ditches 401, 418, 422, 465, 553

401	Pottery jar G23 (GRS), fabric BB1
418	Pottery jars G5 (BSW GRS) G23 (GRS)
465	Pottery dishes B5 (BSW) B6 (GRS), fabric BB1
553	Pottery dish B2 (BSW), fabric GRS

These ditch sections produced pottery mainly dating to the mid 2nd to early 3rd centuries. Section 401 contained pottery which may be slightly earlier in date, thus probably residual, and section 422 contained pottery which is wholly residual. (Section 465 must belong in Period V – late 3rd/mid 4th.)

N.B. Section 401 (=568=638?); this contained two ?buried-complete, perforated-base jars; ditto for 568. I dated these late 1st century, although the form (G23) is 1st/2nd century in Going, but then I noted that 638 dated to late 2nd/mid 3rd century. I suppose it's possible that deposition of the two pairs of jars occurred later than late 1st, but there is no way of being sure exactly when.

Ditch 25191 could use a mention – Period IV or V?

Pits 410, 445, 2131, 2132, 2171, 2190, 2213, 2926, 3511, 3520, 3565, 3567, 3580, 3597, 3701, 3751, 3769 (Fig. W14)

The early Roman pits were relatively few in number compared with those of the preceding period and more specifically located. All excavated examples either lay to the south of ditch 25194 and west of ditch 401 in what was evidently a single land unit. Although these pits tended to be larger than those of the LIA, their finds assemblages were often smaller, though perhaps slightly more varied (primarily supplemented by small quantities of tile)

Pits 410, 445, 2131, 2132, 2171, 2190, 2213, 2926, 3511, 3520, 3565, 3567, 3580, 3597, 3701, 3751, 3769

410	Samian fabric CGSW Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery dish B3 (GRS), mortarium D1.4 (BUFM), fabrics NKG BSW
445	Pottery dish B2 (BB2), fabrics NKG GRS BSW
2131	Pottery beaker H1 (GRF), fabrics NKG BSW
2132	Samian dish f31 (CGSW), bowl f37 (CGSW) Other pottery dish B2 (GRS), fabrics COLC BSW
2171	Pottery fabric BSW
2213	Pottery dish B1 (BSW), fabric GRS
2926	Pottery jar G29 (BSW), fabric GRS
3511	Pottery fabric BSW Coin As, Antoninus Pius (SF 124), 154-155
3520	Pottery platter A2 (BSW), dish B1 (BSW), beaker H1 (RED), fabrics COLC GRS
3565	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery fabrics BSW GRS
3567	Pottery platter A2 (BSW), dish B7 (BSW), fabric GRS
3580	Samian platter f18R (SGSW), bowl f37 (SGSW) Other pottery bowls C1 (GRF) C15 (GROG), jars G5.1 (ESH) G3 (GRS BSW), beaker H1 (BSW), fabric CGGLZ
3597	Pottery bowl C1 (GRS), jars G3 (BSW) G5.1 (ESH) G19 G20 (GROG), fabrics NKG COLB NGWF
3701	Pottery bowl C12 (GROG), jars \$ (BSW) G20 (GROG), fabrics GRS COLB
3751	Pottery jars G3 (STOR) G19 G20 (GROG), beaker H7 (BSW), fabrics COLB GRS TR
3769	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS

These pits produced pottery mostly dating to the mid to late 1st century AD, with nothing present which is necessarily later than late 2nd century. Pit 2190 contained pottery which is not closely datable and also probably residual.

Cremation burials 43, 554, 557, 559, 564, 572 (Fig. W15)

Rewrite this whole group text

In contrast to those of Period II, early Roman cremation burials were scattered, superficially randomly, across the southern half of Area W. Only a single small cluster of four such burials occurred alongside ditch recuts 25273. (*i.e.*, 554, 557, 564 and 572). Burial 43 may have been located alongside ditch 25189. It would seem that these early Roman burials display a degree of continuity of practice, at least as regards the location of burials alongside boundaries. Overall, this looks like the tail end of a traditional practice which did not survive long after the middle of the 1st century AD.

43: Circular cut, 0.4m diam and 0.06m deep. Single fill. Truncated remains of a greyware jar containing cremated human bone (276g) and charcoal. Samples 277 and 278.

554: Sub-circular cut, 0.8m diameter and 0.18m deep. Single fill. Truncated remains of a sandy greyware jar placed toward north end of cut. Jar contained cremated human bone (498g), charcoal and burnt pebbles. **Cut into top of 564, these are supposedly wholly separate, but they seem to make more sense combined?** Samples 60 and 73.

557: Sub-circular cut, 0.6m diameter and 0.2m deep. Single fill. Truncated remains of a sandy greyware jar containing cremated human bone (154g) and charcoal flecks and an iron ?hobnail (SF 227). Samples 71 and 72.

559: ?Circular cut, 0.4m diameter and 0.1m deep. Single fill. Contained small fragments of burnt human bone (160g). No finds. Sample 54.

564: Rectangular cut, 1.6m by 1.5m and 0.43m deep. Stepped base, deeper to south. Single fill. Contained unurned cremated human bone (19g) with a complete narrow-necked flask alongside. Also small amount of charcoal and burnt pebbles. Seven iron nails and an iron ?fitting (SFs 88-93, 111- 113) suggest the presence of a box placed at the south end. **Could be associated with 554 (Sandy greyware sherds are from different vessels – pottery does not suggest a link).** Samples 124 and 131.

572: Sub-circular cut, approx. 0.5m diameter and 0.11m deep. Single fill. Truncated remains of a black surfaced ware jar. Jar contained burnt bone (<2g). Also Iron nail (SF 228). Samples 62 and 82.

Cremation burials 43, 554, 557, 564, 572, 3585

043	Pottery fabric GRS
554	Pottery fabric GRS
557	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW
564	Pottery flask G40 (GRF), fabrics GROG BSW GRS
572	Pottery fabric BSW

Truncation by ploughing has removed most of the dating evidence from these cremations; in four cases only the base of the cremation vessel remained. Burial 572 contained a flask, more commonly found in Antonine cremations.

PERIOD IV (Fig. W18)

As mentioned above, the creation of a gap in ditch 25103 at the end of Period III seems to have been the catalyst for further modification of the field system at the beginning of the 3rd century. Rectangular enclosure 25104 *et al* was incorporated into the system. The lack of interior features indicate that this was not a domestic enclosure, such as a farmstead; it probably functioned as a livestock enclosure, as suggested by a funnel-like entrance arrangement in its south-east corner. It is possible that the creation of this enclosure represented a shift in emphasis from arable to pastoral farming. However, even if this were the case, this shift was not complete, as drying structures 3042 and 2647 were constructed adjacent to each of the terminals of the gap in ditch 25103. These indicate that initial crop processing, most likely of cereals, was carried out in the fields. Probably contemporary with these changes in the north and central parts of Area W, a pair of pottery kilns (Features 1618 and 1223) constructed to the south, showed that such marginal areas, between the settlement and its fields, were used for undertaking some of the dirtier manufacturing activities (or was there a convenient source of clay not far away?).

While maintenance and modification of the existing field system was carried out at the start of the mid Roman period, all the main ditches had apparently ceased to be maintained, having either silted up or been backfilled, by its end (mid-late 3rd century). It is difficult to determine whether this necessarily indicates that the field system was no longer present, or was simply defined only by hedges or banks. The square sub-enclosure was maintained throughout the period and contained fences or perhaps even a building. However, such evidence for its occupation was slight, with only a single mid Roman pit occurring within this enclosure, and it is more likely that it was not inhabited but used for stock control. The rest of the pits of this period, again, lay to the south.

The only obviously late activity in this period was the creation of two, possibly three, new parallel ditches to the south and east of the main field system.

Sub-enclosure: 25104 (segs. 2225, 2262, 2287, 2394), **25198** (segs. 2365, 2431, 2306), **25193** (segs. 431, 2161, 2159, 2168, ?2902), **25194** (2192, 2924), **25206** (seg. 2913) (Fig. W13)

While the LIA ditch system was maintained throughout the early Roman period, modifications were made around the beginning of the 3rd century AD. A rectangular enclosure, c.55m by 45m, was inserted into the corner of the existing ditch system. The lines of former ditches 25199 and 25194 were incorporated into this plan by means of recuts in their tops. North and east sides to this new enclosure were created by ditches 25104 and 25193, respectively. Both recuts and newly established boundary ditches were uniformly slight, generally surviving to around 1.0m wide and 0.25m deep. There was no trace of structural remains, such as a palisade, within these and it is possible that they represented bedding trenches for hedges. All of the ditches were recut at some point, and some sections continued to receive fills until the late Roman period, but the nature of the filling suggests that it is unlikely that the whole ditch system continued to function (as ditches) for this long. This may again argue for these lines' having been maintained as hedgerows.

The principal entranceway appears to have been located at the south-east corner of this enclosure, where the perpetuated southward continuation of ditch 25194 was used, along with a splayed projection of ditch 25193 to form a funnel-like arrangement. The splayed arm of ditch 25193 appeared to terminate in a position corresponding to the line of recut ditch 25273. The later recuts of 25273 did not appear to have extended beyond this point, being infilled to the west, so facilitating access into the enclosure and incorporating it into the eastern part of the system. Just inside the entrance was an additional length of broad, shallow, ditch 25206 which was presumably associated with its funnelling function. Simpler, more minor, entranceways were also located at the north-east and, possibly, north-west corners.

The enclosure interior contained a number of post-holes, many of which formed minor linear arrangements. Due to the paucity of dating evidence, their association with the enclosure can only be

assumed. If correct, they probably represented animal pens, internal subdividing fences or (less likely) a building.

Ditches 25104 (segs. 2225, 2262, 2287, 2394), **25198** (segs. 2365, 2431, 2306), **25193** (segs. 431, 2161, 2159, 2168, ?2902), **25194** (2192, 2924), **25206** (seg. 2913)

Ditch 25104

2225	Samian fabric SGSW Other pottery fabrics BSW GRS
2262	Pottery fabric GRS
2287	Samian bowl f37 (CGSW) Other pottery fabrics BSW GRS

Ditch 25198

2365	Pottery fabric BSW
2306	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW LSH

Ditch 25193

431	Pottery jar G9 (GRS), fabric BSW
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Ditch 25194

2192	Pottery dish B1 (BSW), fabrics NVC GRS
2924	Pottery mortarium D11 (BUFM), jar G26 (GRS)

Ditch 25206

2913	Samian fabric CGSW Other pottery fabrics BSW GRS
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Most of the pottery evidence is inconclusive for dating purposes. Two ditch sections, 25193 and 25194, contained pottery dating from the 2nd to mid 3rd centuries, and section 25198 contained sherds dating to the late 4th century+. There is much residual material and segment 2161 contained pottery which is wholly residual.

Drying floor 3014/3059/3042 (inc. 3005, 3013, 3014, 3026, 3043, 3052, 3055, 3056, 3057, 3060, 3063) and **gully 3063** (Fig. W 16)

Drying floor 3014 *et al* was the remains of a square foundation incorporating under-floor vents or flues fed by an integral stokehole or fire pit. Two, possibly three major phases of remodelling have been identified. Its closest parallels are to be found in Corndriers 4 and 5 at Foxholes Farm in Hertfordshire (Partridge 1989, 36-40).

The below-ground structure of this feature occupied construction cut 3014 which measured some 3.0m square and was 0.4m deep. This was filled with a clean yellow-brown clay into which square-sectioned flue channel 3055/3052 had been cut. The flue probably originally extended around three sides of the construction cut, though it had been truncated by later features at either end. It is likely that it extended eastward, beyond the confines of 3014, to join the original stoke-hole 3059. Located approximately 1m from the north-east corner of the main structure, little of this first phase of stoke-hole survived, being largely removed by replacement stoke-hole 3042. Only the very eastern edge survived and this was filled with scorched clays and silts. The later cut was a rough circle some 1.4m in diameter. It too contained layers of silting, scorched clay and charcoal. On the surface of this build-up was a crushed, inverted dish 3048, overlain by fragments of orange fired clay lining which bore wattle impressions.

The first phase of alterations to the structure involved the repositioning of the stoke-hole closer to the main construction. A new, sub-rectangular stoke-hole 3026 was cut to the east side of the old one which had presumably become blocked up. This resulted in the recutting and shortening of the flue (3056/3057) and possibly the increasing of its heating efficiency. The other end of the flue channel was also shortened, probably to make way for the insertion of a rectangular, clay-lined, chamber 3013. The sides and base of this chamber had been scorched and contained a sequence of charcoal, sand (the surface of which had been vitrified) and further charcoal deposits, all apparently associated with its use.

When the drying floor structure passed out of use, chamber 3013 was filled with fired clay debris. In stoke-hole 3026, tile was dumped on top of charcoal-rich use accumulations and then infilled with silt and capped with clay.

Above this clay, a series of further deposits, containing burnt material and fired clay fragments

(3025, 3029), seemed to indicate a second period of use followed by disuse and infilling (3017, 3019, 3021, 3022, 3030) in the form of gravelly, brown, sand-silts and clean clays.

Following the infilling of pit 3013, a centrally-positioned circular pit 3005 was dug within its confines. Measuring *c.*1.25m in diameter, it occupied as much of the former chamber interior as possible and therefore seems to have been deliberately located within it. Although its clay fill contained charcoal and fired clay debris, it is not clear whether it was part of a functioning structure.

It is clear from the morphology of this structure that it functioned as some sort of drying floor. Evidence for an overlying superstructure was non-existent, with no structural remains such as post-holes either around or within the construction cut. At very least, it must be presumed that the flues and chamber were covered by a floor, presumably wooden. The only associated feature was arcing gully 3063. Located to the north of the drying structure, this 9.1m length of shallow gully or slot was probably the truncated remains of a larger feature, which may mark the position of a wind-break fence or have had a drainage purpose, possibly preventing water running downslope into the subterranean ducts of the drying floor. The ground surface here sloped gently from north to south (a drop of *c.*0.2m in 20m)

There is little evidence for its precise use. The various phases of flue channels, despite recutting and remodelling, were all filled with relatively clean clays largely derived from the fill of the construction cut itself. The stokeholes contained charcoal-rich deposits... **check samples**. The location of the structure adjacent to a point of access between fields, mirrored by that of T-shaped drying structure 2338 to the north, suggests that it was used in the processing of cereal crops.

Drying floor 3014/3059/3042/3014 (3005, 3013, 3014, 3026, 3043, 3052, 3055, 3056, 3057, 3060, 3063) and **gully 3063**

3014	Pottery fabrics GRS BSW
3026	Samian fabric CGSW Other pottery fabric GRS
3042	Pottery dish B2 (BSW), fabric GRS
3043	Pottery fabric GRS

Most of the pottery recovered consists of small, burnt, and undiagnostic bodysherds. Context 3042 contained most of a flanged dish, which provides a mid 2nd to mid 3rd century date. Residual prehistoric pottery was present in some contexts.

T-shaped drying floor 2338 (inc.2647) (Fig. W 17)

T-shaped structure 2338 was 3.88m long and 1.15m wide with a 2.7m-long bar across its ‘top’. Although heavily truncated by ploughing, its foundation cut survived to a depth of 0.15m and contained remnants of unbonded tile walls up to four courses deep.

The majority of the walls had been completely robbed, as evidenced by empty ‘slot’ 2647 around the perimeter of the structure, which had been backfilled with silt and tile fragments derived from this robbing activity. Two further, complete, tiles survived *in situ* at the north end, flanking the flue entrance and marking the position of a likely arch. The interior floor of the structure was lined with clay, on top of which lay charcoal-rich, silty clays probably deriving from its use. No formal stoke-hole existed in front of the flue, but the structure entrance opened out onto recut ditch 25103 and probably utilized its hollow.

Morphologically, this feature can be interpreted as a ‘corn-drier’. However, it lacked charred grain deposits often found in conjunction with such features and, other than tile, diagnostic artefacts were absent. Its location, adjacent to the terminal of recut ditch 25103, mirrored that of drying floor 3014. These structures are thus likely to have been contemporary, and used in the processing of crops gathered from the surrounding fields.

T-shaped drying floor 2338 (inc.2647)

2338	Pottery fabric GRS
2647	Pottery dish B2 (BSW), mortarium D2 (BUFM), fabric GRS

Most of the pottery recovered is very burnt, but the forms present date to the mid 2nd to mid 3rd centuries.

Kilns 1618 and 1223 and stokehole 1589 (Fig. W19)

Two adjacent pottery kilns were located towards the south end of Area W. Sharing a single stoke-hole and being of broadly similar construction, they appear to have been closely associated, perhaps functioning together, rather than one replacing the other. Both were Wattisfield-type (East Anglian), single-chambered, single-flued, kilns with integral 'bollard'-type pedestals (Swan 1984, 77 & 115-6). However, there are details of their construction and subsequent use which raise questions.

Kiln 1618:

Kiln 1618 was a circular construction of 1.45m external diameter (1.35m internally) with remains of a short flue extending off to the NNE. The clay-lined chamber survived to a depth of 0.32m and contained a broad, low, integral bollard pedestal which, at 1.0m diameter, occupied most of the kiln floor. The flatness of the top of the pedestal and the lack of sockets or a ledge, for seating flooring bars, around the walls, indicate that the pots were stacked directly on its surface.

This kiln displayed some interesting detail, with its wall apparently constructed as free-standing within the cut before the void between them was backfilled with a fine sand silt. Wiping marks were evident on the internal wall surface indicating it was smoothed during construction. The pedestal incorporated two layers of mortaria sherds and occasional large fired clay lumps, set in a radial pattern and packed with clay. The flue walls also included mortaria, particularly at the splayed cheeks of the flue entrance where sherds were piled (up to 6 high) and also used as packing material behind (ref. to pot report). No evidence for repair or rebuilding of the kiln chamber was identified. Indeed, the kiln seems to have been of a single build throughout, with no distinction between walls, floor or pedestal detected. However, there were signs of wear and tear to the flue walls and floor.

Although the tops of the kiln walls were clearly truncated, there were indications as to the nature of the superstructure above. The charred remains of 12, possibly 14, stake-holes (1591 to 1602), averaging 0.07m diameter and 0.29m deep, were positioned at regular intervals around the edge of the kiln wall, having been inserted into the construction cut backfill. The charcoal-rich nature of their fills was presumably derived from the *in situ* charring of the thin poles during the kiln's use. These poles are presumed to have provided the supporting framework for a domed clay superstructure.

Few reliable use-deposits were identified within the kiln chamber and flue. Thin deposits of black, charcoal-rich silts covered the pedestal top and kiln floor. The latter contained ?pottery (what kind) but no wasters or kiln furniture. The majority of deposits within the structure were clearly related to its disuse and were generally orange-brown silts containing large quantities of distinctive fired vegetable-tempered clay fragments (ref. to baked clay report) which may have derived from the superstructure itself.

Kiln 1223:

Kiln 1223 was a circular construction 1.60m external diameter (1.35m internally) with remains of a short flue extending off to the north-east. The kiln chamber survived to a depth of 0.2m. Much of the western and central area of the kiln had been obliterated by ditch 25106, but part of a probably circular, bollard pedestal survived. It is estimated to have been of 0.75m diameter and 0.2m high. The chamber wall was substantially thicker than that of kiln 1618, at 0.1-0.2m wide. It incorporated large lumps of previously fired clay, within some of which were embedded greyware sherds and tile fragments. Unlike Kiln 1618, this structure did not purposefully include pottery sherds in its construction. The internal surface of the chamber wall was clearly vitrified, and the construction cut backfill behind it was scorched and reddened, indicating that intense heating of the structure had taken place.

Intense or prolonged use was suggested by evidence of repair to the flue floor. The pedestal was recorded as being of two builds, a core and an outer layer, and also interpreted as signs of repair. However, this was as likely to be the product of differential heating of a solid mass of clay which, admittedly, could have been made in two stages. Although the kiln floor lapped up against the

chamber wall, this was merely a detail of the single sequence of kiln construction, rather than evidence of two phases of construction or repair.

Use-deposits of charcoal-rich fine silts were tentatively identified within the kiln chamber, thinning out towards the flue, perhaps the result of their partial raking out in the final stages of the kiln's use. Above these were backfill deposits of brown sand-silts which, like the disuse deposits of kiln 1618, included large quantities of fired clay ([ref. to baked clay report](#)).

Stokehole 1589:

The irregularly-shaped shallow stokehole was an integral feature of both the pottery kilns which opened onto it. Probably constant reshaping of the cut during the course of stoking and raking-out had made it impossible to determine if the feature had served one, then the other, or both simultaneously. Similarly, distinctions between deposits in the kiln flue and in the stoke-hole were difficult to perceive, with both use and disuse deposits tending to merge imperceptibly in the vicinity of the flue entrance.

Cut 1589, itself, was a broad shallow scoop, of some 2.4m by 1.9m and 0.29m depth, into the underlying natural gravel and the fills of Period II ditch 25272. It was lined by charcoal-rich deposits derived from the raking-out of the kilns, overlain by disuse deposits. Although generally darker, the latter were similar to those filling the two kiln chambers, being sand-silts containing distinctive fragments of baked vegetable-tempered clay ([ref. to baked clay report](#)) and pottery sherds. However, the lowest of these disuse deposits, which extended into Kiln 1, was of greater clay content which is perhaps indicative of a slow, natural wash, accumulation within the abandoned feature prior to its destruction and infilling. Amongst the baked clay debris at least four, possibly seven, fire-bars have been identified, although it is not clear that these were necessarily used in either of these kilns, although that must be the simplest interpretation.

[What about small pit 1621 in stoke-hole base – inc. big bit of mortarium.](#)

The dating of the kilns, and therefore of the pottery manufacturing activity, is not particularly clear. The pottery incorporated into the structure of kiln 1618 indicates at the earliest a late 2nd century construction, with which the archaeomagnetic date of AD 140-170 for its last firing could concur ([ref. to archaeomag report](#)). Lacking diagnostic pottery in its structure, the construction date of kiln 1223 is more vague and not clarified by an archaeomagnetic date of AD 90-210 ([ref. to archaeomag report](#)). The use and disuse deposits from both kilns suggest early third century dates, somewhat against the evidence of the archaeomagnetic dating ([need to investigate error margins on this a bit more; like are there any?](#)). Kiln 1223 was cut by ditch 25106 which was probably also of early 3rd century date. It is concluded that the two kilns were at least broadly contemporary, functioning, if not constructed, at the same time. Further discussion of their use is presented in [another section](#).

Kilns 1618 and 1223 and stokehole 1589 – construction

1618	Amphora Dr.20 (ABAET) Other pottery mortarium D11.2 (BUFM), flagon <i>Cam</i> 370 (GRS)
1223	Pottery fabrics GRF GRS BSW

The construction 1618 is dated to the late 2nd century or early 3rd century AD. The pottery from 1223 is considerably less well-dated, and is assigned to the Roman period only.

Kilns 1618 and 1223 and stokehole 1589 – use

1618	Pottery dishes B2 (GRS) B4 (GRF), mortarium D11.2 (BUFM), jars G5.5 (GRS) G24 (GRS) G25.1 (GRS), beaker H35.2 (GRS)
1223	Pottery jar G26 (BUF)
1589*	Pottery mortaria D3 (BUFM) D11.1 (BUFM), jar G5.5 (GRS), fabrics HAB NVC

The G26 jar and H35 beaker suggest that both kilns were almost certainly in use during the early 3rd century AD. The pottery recovered from stoke-hole, which included Nene Valley colour-coated ware, supports an early 3rd century date for the main period of use for both kilns.

Kilns 1618 and 1223 and stokehole 1589 – disuse

409	Pottery fabric BUFM
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1618*	Pottery dish B4 (GRF), mortarium D11.2 (BUFM), jar G5.5 (GRS), fabrics HAR COLC
1223*	Pottery dish B2 (BSW), mortarium D11.1 (BUFM), beaker H35.2 (GRS), fabric NVC
1589*	Samian bowl f37 (CGSW) Other pottery dish B2 (GRS), mortaria D3 (BUFM) D11.1 (BUFM) D11.2 (BUFM), jars G5.5 (GRS BSW) G25.1 (GRS) G26 (BUF), fabrics HAB HAX

It is likely that the life of both kilns was short and confined to the early 3rd century AD. The range of pottery from their disuse fills and stoke-hole is broadly identical to that from use deposits, and there is no firm evidence to suggest continued use beyond this date.

Ditches 25101 (segs. 539, 3547), **25106** (segs. 447, 519, 634, 3684, 3782), **25187** (seg. 58), **25189** (segs. 48, 94) (Fig. W20)

The only new land divisions to be created in the mid Roman period were a series of three minor parallel ditches in the south-east of Area W. Running on a near north-to-south alignment, they appear to have subdivided the land which lay between ditch 25188's recuts and the edge of the gravel terrace. Most significantly, their alignment was a clear departure from that of all earlier boundaries.

Ditches 25101 and 25106 were approximately 35m apart and similar in shape and size. Both sloped down to the south and probably had a drainage function. Ditch 25106 post-dated kiln 1223, being cut through its chamber. Ditch 25189, some 45-50m further east, was not a simple linear feature but had an entrance in it. Minor ditch 48 ran at right angles to 25189, immediately south of its entrance terminus and seems to have been a subdivision of the eastward plot interior. The major north-to-south boundary was later replaced by more substantial ditch 25187. Neither end of this ditch sequence was located, but it serves to indicate that further enclosures lay along the terrace edge.

The imposition of this new set of ditches appears to date to the first half of the 3rd century AD, after the kilns had passed out of use.

Ditch 25101

539	Pottery fabric GRS
3547	Pottery fabrics COLC GRS BSW

Ditch 25106

447	Pottery dish B2 (BSW), mortarium D11 (BUFM), jar G5 (GRS)
634	Pottery jar G25 (GRS), fabric COLC

Ditch 25189

048	Pottery fabrics BSW GRS
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Most of the pottery recovered consists of undiagnostic bodysherds. The forms present date the ditch fills to the mid 2nd century onwards. Segments 519, 3684 and 3782 contained pottery which is wholly residual, and segment 094 and ditch 25187 produced storage jar fragments only.

Pits 55, 2103, 2178, 2329, 3507, 3557, 3572, 3574, 3736, 3737, 3796 (Fig. W21)

The mid Roman pits varied in both size and shape, from small oval pit 55 (1.5m by 0.8m) to the very large rectangular pit 3557 (3.4m by 2.2m). Like those of the preceding period, almost all were located to the south of ditch 25194 and most of these on or at the foot of the gravel terrace step. A notable exception to this distribution was pit 2178 which was located within the interior of the sub-enclosure immediately north of 25194. It is possible that pits 3557 and 3796 were deliberately located at the ends of ditches 25101 and 25106, respectively.

The finds assemblages within these pits were very limited in range and rarely comprised more than pottery and tile. Only large pits 3557 and 3736 contained such items as metalwork and worked stone, though the majority of material from the former could be argued to have been residual.

3557 had over 650 sherds of LIA pot, one radiate coin, and virtually no other finds. Which all looks like a perfectly decent (and huge) LIA haul of finds, except for the late coin, but its stratigraphy puts it at least no earlier than 3572 (mid-Roman). There is no apparent reason to question the strat. One can only assume that the fill of 3557 contains material dug out of the (mainly) LIA features into which it was cut. 3574 gets its date purely from the same bit of stratigraphy. It is perhaps possible that the LIA date is correct and there was some error in excavation; in which case the middle Roman period would look very bare indeed in this area. A middle Roman date gains marginal support from the location of this pit right on the line of ditch 25101 (a similar arrangement can be seen with 3796 and ditch 25106, and with other pits across the site).

[A great pity if this IS a later pit, the pot is very juicy! And, nothing is 'out of place' except the coin]

Pits 55, 2103, 2178, 2329, 3507, 3557, 3572, 3574, 3736, 3737, 3796

055	Pottery dish B2 (BSW), fabric GRS
2103	Pottery dishes B2 (GRS BSW) B3 (GRS)
2178	Pottery mortarium D11 (BUFM), jar G5 (GRS), fabric BSW
2329	Pottery dish B2 (BSW), fabric GRS
3507	Samian bowl f37 (CGSW) Other pottery dish B2 (BSW), fabric GRS
3557	Coin Radiate (SF 168), 3rd/4th century
3572	Pottery dish B1 (BSW), mortarium D13 (BUFM), fabric GRS
3736	Samian Other pottery dishes B2 (BSW GRF) B3 (BSW), bowl-jar E2 (BSW GRS), fabrics HAX NVC COLC
3737	Pottery dishes B1 B2 (BSW), mortarium D11 (BUFM), fabrics NVC GRS
3796	Pottery dishes B1 B2 B4 (BSW), fabrics GRS COLC

Most of these pits produced either dishes or mortarium fragments providing a date of mid 2nd to mid 3rd century. Some pottery present in many of the contexts is burnt. Pits 3557 and 3574 contained pottery which is wholly residual.

[It occurred to me, somewhat too late, that a number of features in IV - and the drying floors of III - contain pottery which obviously (obviously now!) originated in the kilns. This pot, usually mortaria, G5 jars or B2 dishes, dates the contexts in which they appear. It seems possible that this deposition of the pottery could be happening later than the apparent date. If I had noticed the pattern earlier, I would have made note of the contexts, (but then I couldn't have noticed the pattern until it became a pattern). Anyway, Edward is going to be on the case from here.....]

Structure 50: Post-hole line within sub-enclosure?

2157, 2186, 2227, 2247, 2268, 2868

This was a group of substantial, similarly-proportioned post holes running almost parallel to the side of enclosure 25193/25194 etc., leading north from 25194 for a length of only 7m. Nothing else in the vicinity appeared to be related closely, so that these must have formed a short fence line rather than one wall of a building. Only 2247 could be dated closer than simply 'Roman' and it is no better than 2nd century or later.

PERIOD V:

No features have been identified as belonging to this period, though it is possible that some of the Period IV boundary features, particularly north-to-south ditch 25187, and perhaps sub-enclosure 25193/25194 etc., survived. Minor recuts were occasionally recorded (e.g. 2306, 2308, 2312), but it is more likely that the long-since silted up ditches simply occasionally acquired later material in their tops, possibly accumulating under the shelter of hedges.

It is difficult to know what conclusions can legitimately be drawn from this lack of newly cut features. Were all the earlier land divisions abandoned, and the terrain allowed to revert to one undivided block? This fits with a common theory about the nature of later Roman farming, especially in East Anglia, envisaging a landscape of huge open ranch ranges. (Compare the bone assemblages? Are there vastly more cattle in the later period?). But need the fact that there were no new ditches being created necessarily mean the landscape is undivided? And need the open spaces have been grassland? Woodland regeneration is another possibility, perhaps.

Develop / rewrite this Period summary. Much of this speculation can probably appear elsewhere.

PERIOD VI: (Fig. W22)

Only a single SFB and a scatter of associated post-holes have been recognized for this period. These were confined to the south-east corner of Area W and were no doubt related to the late activity in Area R and Drury's 1972 site which was very close by. The concentration of Saxon pottery in this small area is quite marked and sets it apart from the rest of the Area, although some of the many unphased

features could also be of this date, simply lacking the diagnostic material. It is possible that ditch 25187, or at least vestiges of it endured into this period. The SFB (Building 69) may have been aligned upon it and located within an existing late Roman land unit. Elsewhere across Area W, only very tiny amounts of late Roman pottery were recovered, mostly from the top fills of earlier features which were already largely infilled by this time.

Building 69 (Fig. W23)

Building 69 was represented by large rectangular cut 015. Measuring 6.45m long, 3.9m wide and approximately 0.55m deep, its sides sloped inward at 45-65° down to a flat base. Although excavated in very waterlogged conditions, a sequence of brown-grey to dark grey clayey silt fills (becoming sandier towards bottom) was defined. These contained moderate quantities of pottery and tile. A concentration of animal bone was recorded at the centre of the feature, within the lowest deposit. Oval post-hole 074 cut the west end of 015.

On morphological grounds Building 69 was almost certainly an early Saxon SFB rather than merely a large pit, with post-hole 074 and other unexcavated possible post-holes representing remains of the super-structure over it. No specific occupation deposits were identified within the SFB, the fills essentially denoting a rapid and deliberate episode of backfilling, perhaps as part of an abandonment ritual. The fills of cut 015 contained a wide date-range of Roman pottery, and only post-hole 074 contained early Saxon pottery. [Check this.](#)

Structure 58: Post-holes 32, 60, 62, 71, 75, 81, 82, 84, 85, 88, 90, 92

A number of post-holes in the vicinity of Building 69 were also of tentative early Saxon date, containing a few Saxon sherds in their fills. These may constitute associated structures such as fence lines, although a surface-built timber building should not be ruled out. Waterlogged conditions in this south-east corner of Area W were severe at the time of excavation and the distribution of small late features is by no means reliably complete. Of note, is the location of post-holes 81 and 82. These occurred within the entrance gap in apparently defunct ditch 25189. Although this may be coincidental, it is tempting to interpret them as some sort of gateway structure and allow the ditch to have an extended life.

PERIOD VII (Fig. W24?)

In contrast to the areas of the lower gravel terrace (*i.e.*, Areas D to R), Area W contained a significant quantity of modern features. These comprised field ditches and drainage features related to the agricultural use of the land, but also a number of post-hole alignments; the presence of which cannot be easily interpreted in such terms. All of the features which post-dated the early Saxon period were in fact post-medieval, some dated to as late as the 19th and 20th centuries.

Ditch 25204 (segs. 2716, 2340, 2855)

To the south of the modern post-holes was 2340/2716/2855 which was found to be a fossilized LIA/Roman ditch - presumably recut - the fill of which contained post-medieval brick, glass and pottery. Only the eastern half of the earlier feature (as exposed) had been reused with the western limit of the modern phase beginning at the dog-leg and extending approximately 60m eastward before disappearing off the edge of excavation.

As for the modern recut 2855, aerial photographs clearly show it extending eastward, beyond the area of excavation, all the way to the access track off Crescent Road with which it was roughly aligned. It would seem that this is a very long-lived field boundary. Ditch 2855 included 19th century materials in its fills. Segment 2716 contained ?medieval/post-medieval pottery.

Ditch 2279 = 25195

To the south of the 'dog-leg' ditch was another modern linear cut 2279, on a different, WNW-ESE alignment. It ran across the entire width of Area W, a distance of 190m, beyond which it apparently stopped - presumably at the watercourse running between the excavated areas at the east of the Area. Some 3.3m wide at its east end, it narrowed to less than a metre at its western extreme. This feature was not excavated, but post-medieval material was collected from its surface and it clearly cut all other features in its path.

Ditch/drains 2317 = 25196, and pre-ex unnumbered one too

To the south of this was a far less substantial linear cut 2317, extending 50m on a NNE-SSW alignment, cutting all features in its path. Only 0.57m at its widest, it had an odd V-shaped profile and contained a dark brown, gravelly silt-clay fill. This was interpreted as a modern field drainage gully, an idea supported by the ex-landowner who observed it during excavation.

Similarly, a 0.66m wide linear cut ran NW-SE for a distance of 80m. It trailed off to nothing at its north end and adjoined 2340 *et al.* to the south. Another similarly proportioned cut, not numbered (only recorded on the pre-ex plan), ran E-W for 60m and intersected with it.

Brick drain 2893

2893 was a linear cut running in excess of 14m, roughly east-to-west orientated, with a square section up to 0.7m wide and approximately 0.5m deep and filled with a series of gravelly sandy silts. Along its length was an integral circular 'cut' filled with similar/same material. However, it was occupied by a bonded brick dome 2891/2898 some 0.6m diameter and some 0.26m high. When removed, it was found to cover a vertical brick-lined shaft, of the same diameter and 0.8m depth, which was water-filled. This feature was interpreted as some kind of drainage feature of probable Victorian construction.

Structure 60: Modern post-hole circle: 2739, 2746, etc.

The semi-circular line of posthole consisted of 12 planned features which contained very distinctive black, burnt, fills with frequent fragments of tar, concrete, barbed wire, iron nails and the occasional brick bat. Of these, only 2739 and 2746 were excavated and recorded further.

Structure 61: Modern post-hole line: 2486, 2805, 2883, 2885,

The straight NW-SE line of postholes comprised of a total of nine such features extending for a distance of over 50m. They displayed an alignment dissimilar to any other feature or group of features, but seemed to run off away from the track which ran around the edge of the field at approximately 90°. Of these, 2486, 2805, 2883 and 2885 were excavated and at least partially recorded. Though 2805 seems to have contained the distinctive black, rubbish-filled, deposit, the others recorded had loose silt fills reminiscent of the overlying topsoil, though two noted on a pre-ex plan also contained post-medieval tile.

These must have been 20th century features, judging from the concrete and barbed wire.