

AREA W - KILN CONTEXTS

Cleaning layer 409 (1 sherd, 22g)

context 409	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Mortarium D? (BUFM).
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This context represents the cleaning layer over the two kilns (features 1223 and 1618) and contained a bodysherd from a mortarium, not closely datable within the Roman period.
Date: Roman (15)

Kiln construction 1223 [Kiln 2] (344 sherds; 3680g)

context 1000	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Beaker H- (RED); fabrics BSW, GRS, GRF, BUFM, MWSRS, BUF, GROG
context 1001	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Fabrics RED, NVC, GRS
context 1029	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Mortarium D11.1 (BUFM); ?jar ?G- (GRS); beakers H35.2 (GRS), H- (UCC); fabrics GRF, STOR, HAWG, NVC, RED
context 1030	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Dish B2 (BSW); mortarium D11.1 (BUFM); jar G- (BSW); fabrics GRS, GRF, RED, NVC, UCC, MWSRS, STOR
context 1044	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Mortarium D- (BUFM); flagon J- handle (UPOT)
context 1164	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Mortarium D11.1 (BUFM); fabrics GRS, BSW, UCC, MWSRS
context 1165	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Fabrics GRS, MWSGS, MWSRS
context 1166	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> ?Dish B- (BSW); jars G26 (BUF), G- (GRS); jar/beaker G-/H- (BSW); flagon J- (MWSRS); fabrics GRF, BUFM, RED, MWSGS
context 1168	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Fabrics GRS, BSW, NVC
context 1171	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Fabric GRS
context 1172	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Fabric GRS
context 1173	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Fabric GRF
context 1174	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Fabric BSW

The deposits that form this kiln construction can be assigned to its period of construction and use or disuse. The pottery recovered from its 'use' deposits cannot be closely dated. Bottom fills 1172, 1173 and 1174 contained undiagnostic Roman pottery. Quinary fill 1166 is dated from the 3rd century on the basis of the G26 jar rim. Its burnt and friable condition suggests that it was subjected to repeated firings. Sextiary fill 1164 contained a D11 mortarium, which dates from the late 2nd century. On this evidence, then, construction and use of the kiln can be placed within the late 2nd and early 3rd century. The pottery recovered from its disuse deposits suggests that the kiln fell out of use during the first half of the 3rd century. Septiary fill 1030, containing a sherd of Nene Valley colour-coated ware and a D11 mortarium, may date to the early 3rd century. This date is shared by double fill 1029 and top fill 1168. There is little evidence to show what the kiln produced. Much of the pottery is abraded and/or burnt, comprising small sherds. There is a small quantity of spalled sherds, particularly amongst the groups of mortaria. However, these are not present in any great quantity and then mostly in disuse deposits, and so cannot be attributed to the kiln with certainty. Three separate 'kiln-stamped' mortarium rims were recovered from the kiln.

Date: Late 2nd to early 3rd century [construction/use] (19-20)
Early 3rd century [disuse] (20)

Stoke-hole 1589 (1868 sherds; 16573g)

context 1002	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Dishes B2/B4 (UPOT); mortaria D3 (BUFM), D11.1 (BUFM); bowl-jar/jar E2/G5 (UPOT); jars G5.5 (GRS), G23/G24 (GRS), G- (GRS); flagon J- (UPOT); fabrics BSW, STOR, BUF, UCC, GROGC, GROG
context 1004	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Mortarium D11 (BUFM); jars G26 (BUF), G- (GRS); fabrics GRF, BSW, RED
context 1007	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Jar G- (GRS); fabrics BUFM, UPOT
context 1018	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Jar G5 (GRS); fabrics GRF, BUFM
context 1026	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Mortarium D3 (BUFM)
context 1027	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Mortarium D3 (BUFM)
context 1028	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Mortarium D11 (BUFM); fabric GRS
context 1029	see [1223]
context 1180	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Fabrics BUFM, UPOT
context 1202	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Mortarium D3 (BUFM); jar G- (GRS); jar/beaker G-/H- (GRF); fabrics UCC, BUF, UPOT
context 1205	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Dish B2/B4 (GRF, UPOT); mortarium D11.1 (BUFM); jar G5

	(GRS); ?beaker ?H- (UPOT); fabrics BSW, UCC, BUF, GROG, STOR
context 1211	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Mortaria D3 (BUFM), D11.1 (BUFM), D11 (BUFM), D- (GRM); jars G3 (BSW), G5.5 (GRS); jar/beaker G-/H- (GRF); flagon J- handle (UPOT); fabrics UCC, MWSRS, BUF, GROG, HAB, NVC
context 1502	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Mortaria D11.2 (BUFM), D11 (BUFM); jar G5.6 (GRS); fabrics GRF, GROGC
context 1518	<i>Samian: Misc. pottery:</i> Dishes B2 (GRS), B2/B4 (GRS, UPOT); mortaria D3 (BUFM), D11.1 (BUFM), D11.2 (BUFM), D11 (GRM); jars G5.5 (GRS, BSW), G25.1 (GRS), G- (UPOT); beakers H- (UPOT, UCC), ?H- (GRS); flagon J- (BSW); fabrics BUF, MWSRS, GROG, GROGC
context 1519	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Fabric BSW
context 1563	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Dishes B1 (GRF), ?B2/B4 (UPOT); mortarium D- (BUFM); jar G26 (BUF); fabrics GRS, BSW, HAB
context 1564	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Fabrics GRS, GRF, BUF, BUFM, COLC, UPOT
context 1569	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Dish B2/B4 (GRS, HAB); mortarium D11.1 (BUFM); jar G- (GRF); fabrics HAX, UPOT
context 1571	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Fabrics GRS, GRF, UPOT, BUF
context 1585	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Mortarium D- (BUFM); fabrics GROG, BSW, GRS, GRF, UPOT

Both kilns share a single stokehole [1589]. Two of its three deposits associated with its use contain pottery. Quaternary fill 1211 contained a large amount of pottery. The presence of a burnt sherd of Nene Valley colour-coated ware may date the context to the 3rd century, but with little else to support this, a range commencing from the late 2nd century is offered. Secondary fill 1585 cannot be closely dated. Of the remaining deposits, quinary fill 1569, sextiary fill 1205, nonary fill 1518, and top fill 1002 share a late 2nd to early 3rd century date range. This range is consistent with the dating suggested for kiln use and disuse. Some pottery was collected with pieces of fired clay, most of it fitting within the offered date range.

Date: Late 2nd to early 3rd century (19-20)

Pit 1590 (3 sherds; 30g)

context 1586	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Fabric HAX
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This pit contained a single fill, yielding a small quantity of oxidised Hadham ware, which typically dates from the early 3rd century.

Date: 3rd century+ (20-25)

Kiln construction 1618 [Kiln 1] (2715 sherds; 43938g)

context 1213	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Mortaria D3 (BUFM), D11.1 (BUFM), D11 (BUFM); jar G- (GRS); fabrics BSW, UPOT
context 1500	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Dish B1 (GRS); jars G5.5 (GRS); fabrics BSW, GRF, UPOT, BUFM
context 1505	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Jar G5.5 (GRS); fabric GRF
context 1506	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Fabrics GRS, GRF
context 1509	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Fabric GRS, STOR
context 1511	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Mortaria D3 (BUFM), D11.1 (BUFM); jars ?G9 (GRF), G- (GRS); beaker H- (BSW); fabrics RED, UCC, UPOT
context 1512	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Mortaria D3 (BUFM), D11.1 (BUFM), D11.2 (BUFM)
context 1513	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Fabric UPOT
context 1517	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Dishes B2 (GRS), B2/B4 (GRF); mortarium D11.2 (BUFM); jars G5.5 (GRS), G5 miniature (GRS), G24 (GRS), G25.1 (GRS), ?G- (BSW); jar/beaker G-/H- (GRF); beakers H35.2 (GRS), H- (BSW), ?H- (HAR)
context 1532	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Mortaria D11.1 (BUFM), D11.2 (BUFM); fabrics HAX, GRS
context 1533	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Dish B4 (GRF); mortarium D11.2 (BUFM); jars G5 miniature (GRS), G- (GRF), ?G- (GRS); jar/beaker G- (GRF); beaker H- (GRF, COLC); fabrics HAR, STOR, BSW, RED, UPOT
context 1534	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Jars G5.5 (GRS); beaker H35 (GRF)
context 1535	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Dish B2/B4 (GRF); mortaria D3 (BUFM); fabrics GRS, BSW
context 1539	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Dish B2/B4 (GRF); mortarium D- (BUFM); jars G5.5 (GRS), G5 miniature (GRS), G9 (GRF, BSW), G25.1 (GRS), G- (HAR); beakers H21 (GRF), H35 (GRF), H- (UPOT); fabric HAX, RED, BUF
context 1567	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Dishes B2/B4 (GRF), B4 (GRF); jars G5.5 (GRS), G25.1 (GRS), G- (MWSRS); beaker H- (GRF); fabrics HAX, BUFM, RED

context 1574	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Dish B2/B4 (GRS); ?jar ?G- (GRS); fabric UCC
context 1575	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Fabric GRS
context 1576	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Dish B2/B4 (BSW); jars G5.5 (GRS), G5 miniature vessel G5 (GRS), G25.1 (GRS); beaker H35.2 (UPOT); fabrics GRF, MWSRS, BUFM, BUF
context 1577	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Dish B2/B4 (GRF); mortarium D11.2 (BUFM); jar G5.5 (GRS); fabric UPOT
context 1578	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Dish B2/B4 (GRF), ?B2 (GRF); fabrics GRS, BUFM
context 1581	<i>Amphora:</i> Dr.20 (ABAET) <i>Misc. pottery:</i> Mortarium D11 (BUFM); fabric GRS
context 1582	<i>Amphora:</i> Dr.20 (ABAET) <i>Misc. pottery:</i> Mortaria D11.2 (BUFM), D11 (BUFM); fabrics GRS, STOR
context 1615	<i>Amphora:</i> Dr.20 (ABAET) <i>Misc. pottery:</i> Mortaria D11.2 (BUFM), D11 (BUF), D11 name-stamps (BUFM); bowl-jar E- (GRF); flagon <i>Cam</i> 370 (GRS); fabric STOR
context 1619	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> D3 (BUFM), D11.2 (BUFM), D11 (BUFM)

As with kiln 1223, the deposits from this kiln can be assigned to its construction/use or disuse phases. One of the earliest datable episodes is the construction of a pedestal (1578). This mainly comprised two layers of mortaria sherds; the lower layer was set in a radial fashion, with some rim sherds facing the edge of the pedestal and large body sherds placed in the centre. The upper layer was set similarly, although few rims faced the edge. Some grey ware was also placed within the pedestal, including a complete neck and rim of a *Cam* 270 flagon, set in the lower level. This form dates to the late 2nd century at Colchester (Hull 1963). With the absence of any pottery that is exclusively later, this date can be applied to the construction of the pedestal. The flue construction (contexts 1581 and 1582) also utilised mortaria sherds. The pottery provides a broad late 2nd to early 3rd century date range, although, with no evidence of repair, one can presume that the flue was constructed at the same time as the pedestal. The packing behind the flue walls (contexts 1213, 1512 and 1619), which also comprised mortaria sherds, shares the late 2nd to early 3rd century date range. Context 1517 overlay the pedestal. The deposit yielded a large amount of pottery (mainly sandy grey ware). The presence of an H35 beaker with roller-stamped decoration in association with B2/B4 dishes and G5 jars is likely to date the context to the early 3rd century. The pottery is generally abraded and occasionally spalled; burnt sherds are absent. This suggests that the context was possibly deposited as the kiln fell out of use. Context 1539, from the floor at the base of the pedestal also contained a lot of pottery and can be similarly dated to the early 3rd century. There are at least four G5.5 and two G25 jars present. The sherds, in a homogeneous quartz fabric, are relatively large and unabraded, and show slight signs of spalling. Much of the remaining pottery is, in contrast, abraded. The G5 and G25 jars, therefore, are tentatively identified as kiln waste and possible kiln 1 products. Context 1533 overlay 1539. Containing a D11 mortarium and roller-stamped sherds, the context can be dated to the early 3rd century. This date is reinforced by the larger pieces of a G5.5 jar and H35 roller-stamped beaker, recorded as context 1534 and part of 1533. Over half of the rim of the G5.5 is present and joins a number of large body sherds. The vessel on the whole is overfired, and may also represent waste pottery from kiln 1. The pottery recovered from disuse deposits 1500 and 1511 shares a broad late 2nd to early 3rd century date range. As much of the pottery is abraded with a low average sherd weight, the emphasis, perhaps, is on the later end of the range. Seven separate 'kiln stamps' on mortaria were recovered from kiln 1. Pedestal context 1615 yielded six name-stamps from mortaria. All but one is illegible. The remaining stamp is only partially legible and, at present, unrecognised.

Date: Late 2nd to early 3rd century [construction/use] (19-20)

Early 3rd century [disuse] (20)

Pit 1621 (14 sherds; 723g)

context 1620	<i>Misc. pottery:</i> Mortaria D3 (BUFM), D11.2 (BUFM), D13 (BUFM); jar G- (GRS)
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This feature contained a single fill 1620, which is equated with context 1586. The pottery recovered from 1620 is likely to date to the late 2nd century.

Date: Late 2nd century (19)

Discussion

Despite the large quantity of pottery recovered from both kilns and the stokehole, some aspects remain unclear:

Were the kilns constructed at the same time? While construction and use was broadly contemporary, the different methods of construction suggest that the kilns were not built at the same time. Mortaria sherds, for example, were reused exclusively in the structure of kiln 1. Unfortunately, the pottery

evidence is not sufficiently defined to show this sequence, since the period between construction of the kilns is likely to be small, perhaps expressed in weeks and months, rather than years. Perhaps kiln 2 produced mortaria and supplied kiln 1, making kiln 1 a later construction. The evidence is unconvincing. Thicker vessels, such as mortaria and amphorae, tend to waste differently to thin-walled vessels, cracking before fracturing into 'cubes'. The mortaria from kiln 2 are generally present in this condition. However, they are not present in great quantity; some sherds are abraded, while others have become friable through repeated heating. The construction methods may actually reflect functional or technological, rather than chronological differences, which might be very minimal and undetectable.

Where did the mortaria in kiln 1 come from? There are principally two forms represented, the bead and flanged D3 and the hammer-headed D11. There are variants: some D11 mortaria have a ledge rim, rather than a flat rim, while the D3 bead varies in prominence. Both forms were produced at Colchester during the second half of the 2nd century. However, a number of rims are stamped with a design apparently not found in Colchester. The only known example that is not from Heybridge was found at Brampton (unpublished). Context 1615 contained six name-stamps, all of which appear to be the same, though only one is at all legible. At present, no parallel has been found. While the forms are distributed across the site, the stamps are limited to area W, with the exception of a single example in area D, and one found during the 1972 Heybridge excavations (Wickenden 1986, fig. 24.199); most, in fact, were found in the kiln. This is curious, as one would expect a wider distribution assuming local production. However, if mortaria were stamped for specific reasons (not necessarily for widespread public consumption) and that the practice was short-lived, then a very limited distribution might result.

How many mortaria are represented? Despite the large quantity of sherds, few pieces join, although it is possible to link a number of sherds on the basis of shape. It is therefore possible to give an approximate number of vessels (something of a mixture between minimum and maximum vessel counts), which totals 103. This is a 'ball-park' figure only. An accurate number is likely to be lower.

What did the kilns produce? There is little evidence to show what kiln 2 produced. There are a very small number of spalled sherds, including mortaria and grey ware. The latter is limited to body sherds. The absence of good evidence suggests that the kiln was cleared of production waste. The evidence from kiln 1 is more plausible, comprising a number of spalled and overfired grey ware sherds. At least four G5.5 and two G25 jars were recovered from septiary fill 1539. Nonary fill 1517 also contained G5.5 and G25 vessels. Context 1534 contained a single G5.5 jar, its pieces large and unabraded. These forms are also present in other contexts within the kiln and the stokehole. Not every sherd shows signs of spalling, but all appear to share the same fabric, made a little distinctive due to its frequent white quartz inclusions. These are tentatively identified as kiln 1 waste, due to the frequent presence of the forms and the homogeneity and good condition of the fabric. The H35 folded beaker is another common form within kiln 1 and the stokehole, although the examples are limited mainly to abraded body sherds.

Did production end at the same time? Both kilns are likely to have ceased production during the early 3rd century, probably at the same time. Kiln 2 contained a far smaller amount of pottery than kiln 1, perhaps suggesting that material accumulated differently. Any differences may also be accounted for by the presence of ditch [447] truncating kiln 2. However, forms present in kiln 1, notably G5 and G25 jars, are absent from the disuse fills of kiln 2 (although waster sherds, including a G5 rim) were found in the ditch), possibly suggesting that the latter remained in use for a time after the former ceased production.