

**Pierced pottery (research text and tables)**

By Joyce Compton

Vessels which have been pierced either before or after firing (and before or after breakage) have long been recovered from excavations. Analysis, particularly of post-firing holes, is informative and various interpretations are proffered. Pottery with one or more piercings falls into several groupings; the principal separation is into perforations made either before firing, or afterwards. Perforations made while the clay was malleable indicate that the vessel was manufactured to perform a specific function. Those made after the pot had been fired might have been for a variety of reasons, including shortage of purpose-made vessels, or opportunistic use of broken pottery.

Position	Number of holes per vessel									Total
	1	2	3	4	5	7	12	13		
Base	68	9	12	5	3	1				98
Body	28	7	3			1	1	1		41
Rim	12									12
Total	108	16	15	5	3	2	1	1		151
Percentage	72	11	10	3	2	1	<1	<1		100

Table 00. Number of holes per vessel, with their position in the vessel

Feature type	Fill status				Total
	top	inter.	bottom	single	
Ditch	9	1	3	9	22
Pit	22	29	6	18	75
Total	31	30	9	27	97
Percentage	32	31	9	28	

Table 00. Location of pierced sherds within pits and ditches

Position	Hole diameter (mm)																		Total
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	17	18	19	20	
Base	5	3	8	9	6	8	3	7	10	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	73
Percent	7	4	11	12	8	11	4	10	14	3	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	3	
Body	1	11	6	1	3	2	2	2	2	1	1		2			1	1		38
Percent	3	29	16	3	8	5	5	5	5	3	3		5			3	3		
Rim	2	6	1	1	1	1													12
Percent	17	50	8	8	8	8													
Total	8	20	15	11	10	11	5	9	12	3	2	1	4	2	1	2	2	2	123
Percent	7	16	12	9	8	9	4	7	10	2	2	1	3	2	1	2	2	2	

Table 00. Hole diameter in vessels pierced after firing

Zone	Northern	Central	Southern	Hinterland
Holed vessels	38	29	74	9
M1 Strainers	4	1	6	-
M2 Strainers	1	2	5	2
Cheese Presses	3	2	1	-
Funnels	3	2	8	-
Total, minus holed vessels	9	7	20	2
Totals	49	36	94	11

Table 00. Distribution of all pierced pottery types by zone

**Archive Tables:**

The first set of tables below presents the details for the categories of vessel which have pre-firing holes, along with comparanda. The extensive table, which follows this set, details the vessels which have post-firing holes.

**M1 Strainer (11)**

In general, only those sherds with definite identifying details were classed as M1 strainers. Fragments of spout are grouped with funnels, and indeterminate pierced sherds classed as M2 strainers. Carinated sherds not readily identifiable as strainer-bowls have been categorised as *Cam 242* bowls (there were five of these at Elms Farm). A number have also been found in London (Marsh 1978, figs 6.20 and 6.21, type 46), most of which are in local mica-dusted ware. A mica-dusted vessel has also been found at Silchester (May 1916, type 62). The mica coating on many of these vessels may confirm that pottery strainer-bowls are derived from metal prototypes (Sealey 1999, 121).

<i>Context</i>	<i>Archive</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Wt/Dim.</i>	<i>Comments</i>
4027	-	GROG	12g	Probable rim sherd, inner surface has closely-spaced needle-point holes into, but not through, the wall as a result of piercing the strainer-plate
4916	3032	GROG	50g	Carinated rim sherd from Cam 323 strainer-bowl, part of strainer-plate still attached. Rows of needle-point holes in, but not through, internal wall surface show that the plate was pierced after attachment to the vessel
7576	-	GROGRF	16g/thickness 3mm	Four sherds, non-joining, three from body of vessel, one of which is carinated, with grooves along the carination. The strainer-plate sherd has a curved scar where the spout was once fixed, one 1mm pre-firing hole and one part-hole survive, evenly-spaced within the curved area
8271	-	GROG	6g/thickness 6mm	Small fragment of strainer-plate, one edge upturned where detached from body. Panel of pre-firing holes to one side of sherd, three 1mm holes and four part-holes survive
9048	233	GROG	46g/thickness 10mm	Large, uneven strainer-plate fragment, small part of edge upturned where detached from body. Twenty-four 2.5mm pre-firing holes and eleven part-holes survive, forming five rows arranged in a concentric pattern
9418	-	GROG	6g/thickness 5mm	Small fragment of strainer-plate, one edge upturned where detached from body, two 2mm pre-firing holes and one part-hole survive
15969	-	GROG	12g	Triangular-shaped sherd with one finished edge, possibly part of a strainer-plate, no holes
15971	2257	GROG	385g	Cam 322 strainer-bowl, whole profile. Strainer-plate is still in position, twenty-eight holes poked through from inside, more or less concentrically. Average hole dia. 3mm

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17140	-	GROG	12g/thickness 7mm	Fragment of strainer-plate, one edge upturned where detached from body. Panel of 1.5mm pre-firing holes arranged in lines, twelve holes and eight part-holes survive
18174	-	GROG	12g/thickness 7mm	Fragment of strainer-plate, no edges. Pre-firing holes arranged concentrically, thirty closely-spaced 1.5mm holes and fourteen part-holes survive
20331	-	GROG	16g/thickness 8mm	Fragment of strainer-plate, thick, one edge upturned where detached from body. Three 3.5mm holes and three part-holes survive

### M2 Strainer (11)

These vessels usually take the form of shallow wide-mouthed bowls, sometimes with round or sagging bases, but more often flat-based. Several base fragments were found at Colchester (Symonds and Wade 1999, fig.6.82, nos 810 and 813-5) and a half-complete strainer in Hadham oxidised ware was found at Ivy Chimneys, Witham (Turner-Walker and Wallace 1999, fig.91.79).

<i>Context</i>	<i>Archive</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Wt/Dim.</i>	<i>Comments</i>
2170	-	BSW	4g	Base sherd, broken at wall junction, five 2mm pre-firing holes and three part-holes survive poked through from outside
3517	-	GROG	16g/base dia. c.170mm	Base sherd, broken at wall junction, twenty 2mm pre-firing holes and eleven part-holes survive poked through from outside, holes are arranged in rows
3999	-	GROG	30g/base dia. c.70mm	Lower wall sherd with small part of base extant, seven 1mm pre-firing holes and five part-holes survive poked through from outside
4045	-	GROG	12g/base dia. c.80mm	Lower wall sherd with small part of base extant, five 2mm pre-firing holes and seven part-holes survive poked through from outside
4992	1208	BSW	28g/base dia. c.80mm	Part of flat base and lower wall, thirteen 3mm pre-firing holes and seven part-holes survive poked through from inside the vessel, holes are arranged concentrically
5427	-	GRS	4g	Small sherd with edge of base extant, one 1mm pre-firing hole and two part-holes survive poked through from outside
5601	-	BSW	10g/base dia. c.70mm	Base sherd with small section of wall extant, nineteen 1.5mm pre-firing holes and eight part-holes survive poked through from outside, holes are arranged concentrically
8587	-	GROG	4g	Very small base sherd, four 1.5mm pre-firing holes and eight part-holes survive poked through from outside
10315	-	GROG	10g/base dia. c.80mm	Lower wall and part of base, one 1mm pre-firing hole and four part-holes survive poked through from outside
14613	-	BSW	24g/thickness 7mm	Curved ?base sherd, forty-nine closely-spaced 1mm pre-firing holes and eighteen part-holes survive poked through randomly from inside
24133	-	GROG	10g/base dia. c.70mm	Lower wall and part of base, three <1mm pre-firing holes and five part-holes survive poked through from outside

## N2 Funnel (13)

Going (1987) gives the vessel class four sub-types, two are in local coarseware and two are in Hadham oxidised ware.

<i>Context</i>	<i>Archive</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Wt/Dim.</i>	<i>Comments</i>
4993	-	GROGC	38g/dia. at tip c.100mm	Large sherd, grooved inside funnel tip
5885	3033	COLB	44g/length c.46mm, dia. at tip 26mm	Full length and circumference, broken at join to body, multiple grooves at funnel/body junction
6131	-	BSW	32g/dia. at tip 31mm	Full circumference, grooved at funnel tip externally
7652	-	GROG	10g	Small sherd, broken at body join
9370	270	GROG	70g	Full circumference, but funnel tip absent, no grooving
9610	336	GROGC	240g/length c.106mm, dia. at tip 33mm	Full length and circumference and part of bowl extant, no grooving
11014	428	BSW	46g/dia. at tip 32mm	Full circumference, broken below body join, ridged along length
11325	3034	GROGC	70g	Large sherd, recovered from sample 1633, remains of internal strainer-plate at funnel/body junction
11408	-	GROG	6g	Small sherd, broken at tip of funnel
20203	-	BSW	28g/dia. at tip 20mm	Full circumference, broken below body join, no grooving; from same feature as 20221
20221	3035	BSW	66g/length c. 55mm, dia. at tip 22mm	Full length and circumference, break at tip, groove/cordon at funnel/body junction; from same feature as 20203
23027	-	BSW	10g	Small body sherd, possibly the same funnel as 23030 (same feature)
23030	-	BSW	40g/dia. at tip 24mm	Full circumference, broken at ?mid point, grooved inside funnel tip

N.B. Length measured from tip to join of funnel/body; diameter at tip measured externally

## Cam 199/M Cheese Press (6)

These vessels are also not common in Britain, although a type-example is published in Webster's student's guide (1976, fig.1, no.9). The vessel type was presumed to have been manufactured for cheese making, and Webster (1976, 17) notes that corresponding ridged lids without holes are also known. Complete examples of both are shown in the British Museum guide (1964, fig.16, nos 10 and 10a), although here the 'lid' is perforated. Cheese presses were also made at Ardleigh, Essex, mainly in Roman grey ware (Going 1999, fig.103, nos 137-40), although Going seems doubtful of their use for cheese making, remarking that the function of these vessels remains as obscure as ever (1999, 154). Two cheese presses were found at York (Monaghan 1997, fig.410, nos 4118/9), four at Usk (Greene 1993, fig.6, type 28) and two at Dragonby (May *et al.* 1996, fig.20.19, no.1155; fig.20.32, no.1417). In his discussion of the type, Greene sees no reason to doubt the traditional identification of these vessels as cheese presses (1993, 41).

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<i>Context</i>	<i>Archive</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Wt/Dim.</i>	<i>Comments</i>
6153	613	BSW	54g/dia. 190mm	Cheese press 'lid', flat, ridged, thick and crudely made, underside has finger-nail marks as a result of hand-moulding, one round 8mm pre-firing hole and one part-hole survive between rim and first ridge, small 'ridge' of clay around edges of hole
9427	306	BSW	28g/dia. 135mm	Cheese press 'lid', flat, ridged, one round 5mm ?pre-firing hole survives between rim and first ridge
6316	643	COLB	22g/wall height 41mm, vessel dia. 130mm	Cheese press wall sherd, vertical wall broken at junction with base, one square 3mm pre-firing hole survives halfway down vessel wall
7000	3008	BSW	46g/wall height c.24mm, vessel dia. 130mm	Cheese press wall sherd, curved wall broken at first internal 'ridge', three round 3mm pre-firing holes and three part-holes in lower part of vessel, randomly spaced, may have been made with a sharpened stick
10359	-	COLB	6g	Cheese press wall sherd, internally abraded, part of one square 3mm pre-firing hole survives at edge of sherd (not same vessel)
24003	2149	BSW	18g/wall height 44mm, vessel dia. 160mm	Wall sherd with bead rim, one round 4mm pre-firing hole in wall 9mm above base

See also appended list prepared by Colin Wallace

### Vessels/sherds with post-firing holes (158)

Vessels with post-firing holes are common site finds, with a widespread distribution in Britain, but very many are noted without further comment. At King Harry Lane, for example, a list is given for the fifteen repaired vessels present in the cemetery (Rigby 1989, table 44), but four others pierced only by either one or two holes are given just a mention (Rigby 1989, 203). Several vessels with holes were found at Baldock (Stead and Rigby 1986). Most are centrally pierced through the base, but a beaker is illustrated which has at least two holes below the rim (Rigby 1986, fig.111.81), and it is noted that these are not obviously for repair. Holes in vessels found at Skeleton Green are noted only in passing (Partridge 1981, 84), but nicely illustrated (Partridge 1981, fig.31.83 and fig.49.93). In Essex, a large number of vessels have been recorded at Colchester (Symonds and Wade 1999), where they are described as sieves or strainers (*e.g.* 1999, 416; fig.6.82). Four vessels from Ivy Chimneys, Witham are illustrated (Turner-Walker and Wallace, 1999, fig.87.23; fig.88.34 and fig.89, nos 46 and 47), but no further comment is made. At Kelvedon, several pierced vessels are illustrated, including three recovered from graves. All three contained the cremated bone; one jar had four holes drilled in the base, and the other two jars each had a single central hole made after firing (Rodwell 1988, figs 87 and 88). Vessels with post-firing holes were found in the cemetery at Westhampnett, West Sussex (Mephram 1997, 130). The jar in Burial 20384 had two holes just under the rim, one either side of a dunting crack. Another from Burial 20029 had a row of repair holes on either side of an ancient break, but the third, a bowl from burial 20451, had perforations not obviously used for repair, but whose function was not immediately apparent.

A study of sorts was made for vessels found at the Meare Lake village, Somerset, occupied from *c.* 150BC to *c.* AD50 (Bulleid and Gray 1948). The number of vessels with holes recorded was seventeen, most made after firing (1948, 20). The number of holes pierced through the base varied from one to six (see table below) and in the side of the pot from one to three. Use as sieves is implied, but one vessel had a 12mm mid-body hole; another had a single hole just beneath the rim, and it was noted that the purpose for these is obscure. In addition, two holes were made before firing below the rim of a 'thumb-pot'. The table gives details for the illustrated vessels at Meare; no separate note was made for the remainder.

Number of holes per base	1	2	3	4	6	Total
Number of bases	4	1	2	4	1	12

Possible functions (culled from many pottery reports), besides repair holes:  
 suspension - cheese-making - funnels - strainers - sieves - chafing dishes - braziers -  
 flower pots - fish breeding - beehives - and ritual killing of the pot!

#### Table of vessels/sherds with post-firing holes

Full details for the recorded examples are listed, with measurements and descriptions, in context order. Here, the full diversity of the methods used in both inserting and positioning of holes can be appreciated. The table gives details for all holes, whether positioned in bases or elsewhere on the vessel. Each entry represents a separate sherd/vessel (or a separate context if there are joining sherds between contexts). Obviously accidental or other piercings (four, noted in the table below) have been excluded from the study and three unstratified examples were accidentally omitted. All measurements were taken in millimetres, using a vernier gauge, to the nearest half-millimetre. An Excel table was constructed from the information in order to facilitate analysis. (In the Excel table hole diameters have been rounded up to the nearest whole number, denoted as sub-square where the hole is large and irregular, and a zero has been entered where multiple holes have different diameters or where the diameter could not be measured).

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Hole number</i>	<i>Hole diameter</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Comments</i>
404	GRS	1	40 x 48mm	base	W	Reconstructed G23, single sub-square perforation knocked carefully through from below. Base dia. 80mm
404	GRS	1	32mm x ?	base	W	Part-reconstructed G23, single sub-square perforation knocked carefully through from below. Base dia. <i>c.</i> 80mm, not all survives
444	GROG	1	15mm	base	W	Small sherd, one part-hole survives, neatly drilled
517	GROG	>12	3mm	shoulder	W	Cordoned jar shoulder, with eleven holes and one part-hole, drilled from outside. Possibly pierced for repair, using organic ties?
567	GRS	1	27mm	base	W	Reconstructed G23, single sub-square perforation knocked carefully through from below. Base dia. 67mm

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<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Hole number</i>	<i>Hole diameter</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Comments</i>
567	BSW	1	5 x 7mm	base	W	Complete, but cracked, G23, full thickness of base not extant, possible deliberate removal. Oval hole to one side of base may thus be accidental. Base dia. 70mm
623	GROG	1	4mm	body	W	Large body sherd, one drilled hole survives
3628	GROG	5	6mm	base	W	Reconstructed Cam 218, five uniform holes drilled from below, one centrally, the remainder spaced unequally around it. Base dia. 98mm
3830	GROGC	2	3mm	body	N	Large, combed body sherd, two identical drilled holes to one side, 12mm apart
3999	STOR	1	18mm	shoulder	u/s	Fragment of storage jar rim, pre-firing hole between rim and body
4005	STOR	>2	7-10mm	base	K	Storage jar base, one hole and one part-hole survive, both drilled from both sides
4015	BSW	-	-	base	K	Beaker base with possible central perforation, accidental damage more likely [Not included in study]
4017	GROGC	1	c.20mm	base	K	Thick crudely-made storage jar sherd, remains of large hole, not obviously drilled, edges of hole are worn smooth
4039	GROG	1	-	base	K	Lower wall sherd and edge of base with one part-hole
4140	GROG	1	3mm	shoulder	K	Bead-rimmed jar rim sherd, hole on shoulder, drilled from outside, near break - repair?
4148	GROGC	2	14mm, 8mm	base	K	Reconstructed G3, two holes, one central, now with rough edges, and one smaller towards edge of base. The latter has been drilled from below Base dia. 82mm
4200	GROGC	1	9-12mm	base	K	Storage jar sherd, one hole drilled from both sides survives, probably central
4225	GROGC	1	5mm	rim	K	Storage jar rim sherd, one hole drilled through neck under rim survives
4277	BSW	1	4mm	base	K	Small dish base sherd with part of carination, one drilled part-hole survives
4485	GROGC	2	-	base	K	Not located for study - database says 'storage jar base with two post-firing perforations'
4579	STOR	1	18 x 20mm	body	K	Near-complete storage jar, hole in lower wall, poked through roughly from outside. May be accidental damage
4692	BSW	3	7mm	base	K	Small base sherd, and non-joining lower wall sherds, all have internal lime-scale deposit, three part-holes survive, drilled from below
4699	GROG	1	19mm	base	K	Pedestal base, and three detached lower wall sherds, with remains of a central circular hole which could be result of pedestal detaching where luted onto the body
4794	GROG	2	-	body	K	Not located for study, database says 'jar body sherd, two perforations post-firing'
4881	GRS	1	4mm	body	K	Lower wall, or possibly shoulder, sherd, one drilled part-hole survives [omitted from study]
4881	HAX	1	4mm	rim	K	Four joining jar rim sherds, part-hole drilled from below, 8mm from rim edge, survives at break, joining sherd not present [omitted from study]
5000	BSW	3	9mm	base	J	Incomplete base, small frag. missing. Two holes and one part-hole survive, equally-spaced, drilled through from below. Three holes

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<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Hole number</i>	<i>Hole diameter</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Comments</i>
						originally. Base dia. 88mm
5148	BSW	1	6mm	base	J	Tiny, thick, flat sherd, probably from a dish base, one drilled part-hole survives
5161	GRS	1	2mm	base	J	Lower wall sherd with small part of base extant, part-hole towards edge of base may be the result of a manufacturing fault
5271	GROG	1	6.5mm	rim	J	Cordoned rim sherd from large straight-sided vessel, hole drilled from outside just below rim, above cordon
5418	GRS	1	17mm	base	J	Jar sherd, very little of base survives, one part-hole with chipped edges may have been central and quite large
5597	STOR	1	-	base	I	Unstratified - database says 'perforated base'
5602	BSW	1	2mm	base	I	Complete base with pre-firing, slightly off-centre hole. External surface of base is extremely abraded - dia. 79mm
5610	GRS	1	10mm	base	I	Sherd with one part-hole drilled from below towards edge of base
6528	GRS	3	c.10mm	base	H	Two joining base sherds, broken across holes, with large (triangular) piece missing. Holes drilled from below. Base dia. 80mm
6652	BSW	1	10mm	base	H	Incomplete pedestal base, possible central drilling ?halted by large (pebble) inclusion
6790	GROG	1	9mm	base	H	Complete base, central perforation drilled from below. Base dia. 60mm
6807	GROG	1	15mm	base	H	Pedestal base, pedestal broken off where luted onto body, off-centre hole drilled from below
6872	GROG	2	4mm	base	H	Jar/bowl sherd, two part-holes drilled from below survive close to edge of base
6909	GROGC	1	16mm	base	H	Incomplete base, one off-centre part-hole survives. Base dia. c.125mm
7000	GRF	1	15 x 17mm	base	G	Triangular hole cut/sawn through from below, complete base, dia. 90mm
7037	BSW	1	3mm	rim	G	Small rim sherd, probably a jar, hole drilled 14mm beneath edge of rim
7073	GROGC	1	8mm	body	G	Combed body sherd, irregular shape but newly broken edges. Hole is drilled from both sides, probably a spindle whorl
7078	GROG	1	7mm	base	G	Three joining sherds from a cordoned jar, one hole drilled from below survives close to edge of base
7123	BSW	1	4mm	base	G	Lower wall sherd with part of base extant. One part-hole drilled from below survives to one side of base. Base dia 50-55mm
7123	BSW	>4	-	base	G	Three joining sherds, but most of base missing. Remains of four holes unevenly spaced around edge of base - dia. 115mm
7123	BSW	1	28 x 30mm	base	G	Three joining base sherds, central sub-square hole poked through from below. Base dia 70mm
7128	HAWO	3	3mm	body	G	Cream-slipped flagon body sherd, two holes and one larger part-hole survive drilled from <u>inside</u> . Sherd is 3mm thick
7150	GROG	1	24mm	base	G	Two joining sherds, central ?sub-square hole poked through from below. Base dia. 69mm
7151	GROGC	1	14mm	body	G	Thick body sherd with one part-hole drilled from outside surviving. Sherd 16mm thick
7232	GROGC	1	6mm	body	G	Combed body sherd, one part-hole survives

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<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Hole number</i>	<i>Hole diameter</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Comments</i>
						drilled from outside
7268	GROG	1	6mm	base	G	Incomplete base with central hole drilled from below. Exterior of base is very worn - dia 93mm
7310	GROG	3	5mm	base	G	Four joining sherds, small central section of base missing. One central hole and two part-holes drilled from below survive. Base dia. 180mm
8009	GROG	1	9 x 24mm	body	D	Keyhole-shaped hole, perhaps the result of two drilled holes enlarged to form a single. Holes may have been drilled from both sides but single has been finished from both sides. Large body sherd, 8mm thick
8014	TN	1	2mm	base	E	Platter base sherd, one part-hole drilled from above survives, in floor of platter outside the footing
8018	GROG	1	10mm	shoulder	E	Part-hole drilled from outside through cordon
8077	GRS	3	7mm	base	E	Incomplete base in two joining frags, three holes drilled from below, two towards edge of base, third towards, but not at, centre. Possibility of further hole(s) in missing sherd. Base dia. 95mm
8229	GROG	-	-	base x 2	F	Two base sherds, different vessels, each with one part-hole, neither central [Counted as two vessels]
8500	TN[M]	1	3mm	rim	P	Platter rim sherd, hole drilled 5mm below edge of rim, alongside break - repair?
8500	GROGC	1	14mm	base	P	Storage jar base sherd, one hole survives towards edge of base, drilled from below
8500	GROG	1	12mm	body	P	Large body sherd from large vessel, hole drilled from outside, ?tapping hole
8554	HAWOM	1	4mm	body	P	Mortarium body sherd with drilled part-hole surviving. Probable repair/rivet hole
8596	GROG	3	4mm, 6mm, 6-10mm	base	P	Reconstructed Cam 220, three off-centre holes drilled from below, one is not circular (bean-shaped). Base dia. 94mm
8747	GROG	1	3mm	rim	P	Jar/bowl rim sherd, hole drilled from outside 10mm beneath edge of rim
8785	GROG	>13	4mm	body	P	Many combed body sherds, all same vessel, twelve of which are pierced. Three holes and ten part-holes survive, drilled from outside. ?Repair
9048	GROGC	1	8.5mm	base	D	Complete base in three joining sherds, off-centre hole drilled through from below. Base dia. 105mm
9048	GROG	1	3mm	rim	D	Rim/shoulder sherd, one part-hole survives, drilled through shoulder from outside
9163	GROGC	>2	10mm	base	D	Incomplete base in two joining sherds, remains of two part-holes, one central and one towards edge of base, drilled from outside. Base dia. 125mm
9290	GRS	1	8mm	body	D	Large body sherd with part-hole drilled from outside [omitted from study]
9392	GRS	1	12mm	base	D	Central hole drilled from below, complete base - dia. 100mm
9426	GROG	2	3mm	body	D	Small sherd with two surviving part-holes drilled from outside
9498	STOR	1	9mm	base	D	Large incomplete storage jar base with single hole drilled from below, base 27mm thick
9569	GROG	1	?14mm	base	D	Incomplete base in three joining sherds, central





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<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Hole number</i>	<i>Hole diameter</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Comments</i>
						hole now incomplete, possibly drilled from inside. Footring is very worn and interior of base may have suffered from ?stirring (no surface). Base dia. 93mm
9860	GROG	1	9mm	body	D	Pre-firing hole survives in burnt body sherd
10060	BSW	1	2mm	rim	E	Wide-mouthed vessel, one part-hole survives drilled from inside, just below the rim
10104	GRF	1	1.5mm	base	F	Beaker base with hole drilled from inside in angle of base and wall. Base dia. 36mm
10104	GRF	1	4mm	base	F	Beaker base with central hole drilled from below, hole tapers from 13mm at outer surface to 4mm at inner. Base dia. 43mm
10200	GROG	2	3mm	body	F	Joining lower wall sherds, two holes drilled from outside, 50mm apart, ?repair
10256	GROG	1	6mm	rim	F	Pre-firing hole in neck 14mm beneath edge of rim
10330	GROG	1	11mm	base	F	Sherd with one part-hole drilled from below, possibly central
10330	GROG	1	2.5mm	shoulder	F	Cordoned shoulder sherd with part-hole drilled through cordon from outside, much flaking round the hole
10364	BSW	1	2mm	rim	F	Dish rim sherd with hole drilled from outside in shoulder just below angle of rim
10514	STOR	1	8 x 14mm	base	F	Base sherd with remains of 'double' hole drilled from below towards edge of base
10604	GROG	1	11mm	body	F	Large body sherd, broken at shoulder, hole drilled from outside 77mm below shoulder-break
10606	GROG	1	3mm	base	F	Sherd with one part-hole towards edge of base. Abrasion/damage precludes further comment
10846	GROG	1	9mm	base	N	Small sherd with one part-hole drilled from below towards edge of base
10846	GROG	1	4mm	base	N	Small sherd with one part-hole drilled from below towards edge of base, different vessel
10891	BSW	4	4mm (square)	base	N	Complete base, four square holes randomly spaced across base, possibly drilled holes enlarged with a nail, poked through from below resulting in entire inner surface of base flaking off. Base dia. 50mm
10922	GROG	1	4mm	body	N	Hole drilled from outside
11300	TR	>8	-	base	N	Platter sherd with eight needle-point holes grouped together on underside, not fully piercing and not central either [Not included in study]
11343	GROGC	>7	10mm	base	N	Part of base and lower wall, one hole and six part-holes survive, some close to edge of base, drilled from below. Base dia. 109mm
11354	BSW	4	10mm	base	N	Incomplete base in four joining sherds with one hole and three part-holes drilled from outside. Base dia. 100mm
11390	GROG	1	7mm	body	N	Jar body sherd, hole drilled from both sides, not centrally-placed
11464	GROG	2	14mm	body	N	Jar body sherd with two part-holes drilled from outside
11471	GROGC	>2	10-15mm	base	N	Two joining sherds from storage jar, two holes survive, drilled from both sides. Holes probably arranged concentrically in a line midway

LIA/Roman Pottery: Pierced Pottery  
Research Archive (inc. notes for strainer bowls and cheese presses)

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Hole number</i>	<i>Hole diameter</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Comments</i>
						between centre and edge of base [six holes extrapolated, perhaps one centrally, also]
11720	GROG	1	17 x 22mm	base	N	Pedestal base (pedestal broken off just below cordon) with sub-square hole poked roughly through from inside. 'Base' dia. 47mm
11742	GROG	3	10mm	body	N	Jar body sherd with one hole and two part-hole drilled from outside
11755	GROG	1	8mm	body	N	Jar body sherd with hole drilled from outside, probably
11755	GROG	1	6mm	body	N	Jar body sherd with hole drilled from inside, may be from the same vessel as above
12059	STOR	1	7mm	body	R	Lower wall and part of base, hole drilled through from outside c.60mm above base. Outer surface of base is very worn
13361	BSW	1	10mm	base	J	Complete base with central hole drilled through from below. Base dia. 50mm N.B. footring base - not a jar
13377	GROG	1	-	body	J	Thick body sherd with remains of large diameter perforation, edges of hole are very smooth, ?from wear
13460	GRS	1	16 x 20mm	base	I	Complete base with slightly off-centre hole chipped through from below. Base dia. 61mm
13669	STOR	1	6mm	body	I	Hole drilled from outside
13681	BSW	>2	7mm	base	I	Incomplete base, one hole and part of central hole survive drilled from below. Base dia. >95mm
13834	GROGC	>3	9mm	body	I	Two joining body sherds from storage jar, one hole drilled from both sides, third non-joining sherd has part-hole at one corner
13844	BSW	1	48mm	base	I	Base in three joining sherds, centre has been carefully removed leaving a 'border' of 19mm around edge. Base dia. 86mm
13887	BSW	3	4mm	base	J	Incomplete base with two holes and one part-hole drilled from below, evenly-spaced (no other holes likely). Base dia. 78mm
14235	GROG	1	11mm	base	L	Sherd with central part-hole drilled from both sides, hole tapers from 16mm at inner and outer surfaces to 11mm at centre. Base dia. 110mm
14235	GROG	1	10mm	base	L	Pedestal sherd (half), very knocked but probably quoit-shaped, central hole drilled from both sides, tapers from 11mm at outer surface and 17mm at inner to 10mm at centre, 'length' of hole 22mm. 'Base' dia. 66mm
14489	GROGC	3	5mm	base	L	Small sherd with one hole and two part-holes drilled from below. [Holes are small for a storage jar base]
14589	GROG	2?	16mm	body	L	Reconstructed Cam 204, pedestal missing, possibly detached where luted onto the body, but seems abraded. Hole at mid-girth, part of edge now chipped, but probably deliberately made. Second small (5mm) hole on shoulder also looks deliberate
14679	GRS	3	3mm	base	L	Sherd from small base, one hole and two part-holes drilled from below survive. Base dia. c.55mm
14691	GRS	2	2mm	base	L	Small base sherd from same vessel as above, one hole and one part-hole drilled from below

LIA/Roman Pottery: Pierced Pottery  
Research Archive (inc. notes for strainer bowls and cheese presses)

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Hole number</i>	<i>Hole diameter</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Comments</i>
						survive
14995	HAX	1	3mm	rim	L	Cordoned and stabbed shoulder sherd, rim missing, hole drilled from outside through neck
15003	GROG	>7	3mm	shoulder	M	Cordoned jar shoulder, with five holes and three part-holes drilled from outside. Probable repair with ?organic ties (and see 15082)
15044	GROG	1	4 x 3mm	rim	M	Cam 21 1/2 rim sherd with 'double' hole drilled from outside, mid way between rim and mid-body cordon
15082	GROG	2	3mm	body	M	Three joining body sherds with two holes drilled from outside, joins shoulder sherds from 15003
15224	BSW	1	18mm	base	M	Incomplete base with ?central pre-firing part-hole, probably poked through from inside. Edge of base is abraded. N.B. not a jar
15637	GROG	5	4mm	base	M	Incomplete base, two joining sherds, central part-hole, another part-hole, and three other holes, equally-spaced, survive. ?Five holes originally. Base dia. 64mm
16230	STOR	1	7 x 9mm	base	H	Incomplete base with one off-centre, oval hole badly drilled from below
17056	BSW	1	5mm	base	Q	Three non-joining sherds from the same base indicate a central hole drilled from below
17070	GROG	1	20mm	base	Q	Reconstructed Cam 260, hole drilled centrally from below. Base dia. 95mm
17089	BSW	1	13mm	base	Q	Complete base in two joining sherds, central hole, roughly made, poked through from below. Exterior of base is abraded - dia. 83mm
17178	GRS	1	19mm	base	Q	Incomplete base in four joining sherds, central sub-square hole poked through from below, but only half remains. Base dia. c.75mm
17178	BSW	>3	7mm	base	Q	Incomplete base with three part-holes surviving. Exterior of base is very abraded - dia. 90mm
17191	BSW	3	5mm	base	Q	Incomplete base in four joining sherds, three equally-spaced but roughly made part-holes survive, possibility of central hole. Base dia. 70mm
17191	BSW	1	5mm	base	Q	Base sherd, one part-hole survives, may be accidental (obscured by modern chip)
17211	GROGC	4	5mm	base	Q	Incomplete base in three sherds, one central hole and three others, randomly spaced drilled from outside. Most of lower part of vessel extant (recorded as STOR, but isn't). Base dia. 120mm
17211	BSW	1	16 x 17mm	base	Q	Complete base in two joining sherds, almost central sub-square hole poked through from below. Base dia. 62mm
17211	BSW	5	5, 6 and 8mm	base	Q	Complete base in two joining sherds, holes drilled from below, equally-spaced but towards one side of base - dia. 67mm
17211	BSW	1	6mm	base	Q	Complete base with off-centre hole drilled from below. Base dia. 79mm
17211	BSW	>1	5mm	base	Q	Incomplete base with one hole and one part-hole drilled from below. Base dia. 75mm
17211	BSW	>1	7mm	base	Q	Incomplete base with one hole and one part-hole drilled from below, exterior of base is abraded. Base dia. 87mm
17211	BSW	1	5mm	base	Q	Incomplete base with one off-centre hole drilled from below. Base dia. 76mm

LIA/Roman Pottery: Pierced Pottery  
Research Archive (inc. notes for strainer bowls and cheese presses)

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Hole number</i>	<i>Hole diameter</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Comments</i>
17211	BSW	1	10mm	base	Q	Incomplete base with one ?sub-square part-hole poked through from below
17267	BSW	1	-	base	Q	Incomplete base in four joining sherds, central section missing. One ?part-hole, but not enough of the base remains to say more. Base dia 60mm
17313	GROG	1	4mm	body	Q	Jar body sherd with hole drilled from both sides
17336	GROG	1	5mm	base	Q	Base sherd, one part-hole drilled from inside survives. More than one hole originally
18021	GRS	3	1 x 12mm, 2 x 9mm	base	I	Jar base half, broken at wall and across holes, all drilled from below, central hole is the largest, all three are in a line across base - dia. 86mm
18216	GROG	2	8mm	base	I	Incomplete base in three joining sherds, with a small piece missing, one hole and one part-hole drilled from below survive, the part-hole is central, room for at least one other hole. Edge of base is abraded - dia. 77mm
18482	GROG	1	7mm	body	J	Hole drilled from outside
18764	GROG	1	3mm	shoulder	J	Small cordoned sherd with hole drilled from outside through cordon
18764	GROG	1	4mm	body	J	Small sherd with one part-hole drilled from outside, may be from same vessel as above
19109	GROG	1	-	base	P	Pedestal base (pedestal ?removed) with large irregular hole poked through from below, joins with 19110
19110	GROG	1	-	base	P	Two joining body sherds, joins vessel above [Counted as single hole/vessel]
20009	BSW	3	base, 28 x 35mm; body, 20 x 21mm and 20 x 23mm	base and body	L	Nearly complete G19.4 (Cam 220), slightly misshapen with spalls. Irregular sub-square hole chipped through from inside, two irregular holes side by side in lower wall. Probable votive deposition
20031	GROGC	1	3.5mm	rim	L	Jar with stabbing along shoulder, hole drilled from outside through neck, c.20mm beneath rim
20101	GROG	1	6mm	base	L	Base sherd with one part-hole towards edge of base. Modern damage prevents any comment
20265	BSW	1	7mm	base	L	Base sherd with one part-hole drilled from inside, probably once central
20280	STOR	1	16mm	body	L	Thick body sherd with hole poked roughly through from both sides
21503	GROG	2	8mm	base	J	Small sherd from a large base with one hole and one part-hole drilled from ?below
23001	BSW	1	6 x 2mm	top	N	This is a large lid-grip, with vent hole pierced through wet clay. Dia. 70mm [Not included in study]
23057	GROG	1	3mm	body	N	Burnt body sherd with hole drilled through cordon from outside, ?repair
24003	COLBM	1	4.5mm	body	M	Mortarium worn smooth from use, complete profile. Hole drilled through lower wall from inside. Probable repair, signs of caulking (black deposit) along edge of break
24079	GROG	1	2mm	body	M	Jar body sherd, hole drilled from both sides, tapers from 6mm at each surface to 2mm at centre, possible spindle whorl
24187	GROGC	1	9mm	base	M	Incomplete base with part-hole drilled from both sides towards edge of base, hole tapers from 7mm at outer surface and 12mm at inner

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Hole number</i>	<i>Hole diameter</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Comments</i>
						to 9mm at narrowest
24243	GRS	4	3mm	base	M	Complete base in five joining sherds, randomly-spaced holes drilled from outside. Base dia. 80mm

## THE LATE IRON AGE CERAMIC SPOUTED STRAINER BOWLS

By P. R. Sealey (June 2001)

### *Quantification and Fabrics*

The excavations produced thirty sherds from spouted strainer bowls, weighing 568g. Nine vessels are represented. Eight have the standard local grog-tempered fabric (GROG); the ninth has the red (oxidised) grog-tempered fabric (GROGRF) (4 sherds weighing 18g from context 7576).

### *Typology and Identification*

Two forms are present; a rounded bowl represented by the two vessels from contexts 4027 and 15971 (Fig.00 no.00), and a carinated form represented by the two vessels from contexts 4916 (Fig.00 no.00) and 7576. They correspond essentially to *Cam* forms 322 and 323 respectively (Hull 1958, fig.121, 288; 1963, fig.105, 187). Although there is significant variation in detail within both forms, the broad categories are useful because they derive from quite different *metal* prototypes, a rounded and a carinated form respectively (Sealey 1999, 119, 121). Both of the carinated bowls from Elms Farm has one or two horizontal grooves along the carination, otherwise these vessels are undecorated and plain. Rims are everted or upright. Throw marks on the larger bowl sherds show they were made on the wheel, but the one spout (Fig.00 no.00) is hand-made and asymmetrical. The strainer panels were luted into their bowls when the fabric was leather hard; holes on the interiors of bowls around the spout opposite the panels show the perforations were made when the strainer panel was in place. In some cases it is clear that a tapered (pointed) instrument such as a sharpened twig had been used to make the holes because the perforations are slightly wider where the tool entered the strainer panel. Perforation size is typically about 2.5mm across but can be as much as 4mm (Fig.00 no.00). Apart from a suggestion of concentric ovals on the bowl from context 15971 (Fig.00 no.00), no attempt had been made to create patterns with the perforations. Care needs to be taken to distinguish sherds of spouted strainer bowls from ceramic funnels and colanders (pots with perforations in the base).

### *Chronology*

Spouted strainer bowls are a late Iron Age vessel form at Heybridge, current c.25BC-AD 50+. All were made in the grog-tempered fabrics that appeared at the settlement in the last decades BC. The two strainers with the rounded bowl form (Fig.00 no.00) are the only examples of the *Cam* 322 family from late Iron Age contexts in Britain. Production of strainer bowls in the early Roman period at Heybridge is possible, because grog-tempered pottery was not displaced here by sandy Roman grey wares and other fabrics until the seventies AD. None of our strainers, however, has the more developed typology of a Roman example from Langford Junction at Heybridge

(Wickenden 1986, fig.26 no.31, 58). The three vessels from contexts 7576, 9048 and 20331 that could be early Roman are more likely instead to be residual.

	25-1 BC	AD 1-25	AD 25-50	AD 50-75	AD 75-100
4027					
4916					
7576					
8271					
9048					
9418					
15971					
17140					
18174					
20331					

Fig.00. Dates for Contexts with Pottery Spouted Strainer Bowls

### Function

Pottery spouted strainer bowls of the kind found at Elms Farm are copies of bronze vessels traditionally thought of as wine strainers. This connection with wine is misconceived: it would now seem that they were used for a local drink (Sealey 1999, 119-24). The best candidate is the so-called Celtic beer attested in texts such as the Vindolanda Tablets, and known in antiquity as *cervesia* (Bowman and Thomas 1983, 91 no.12). Technically the drink was ale because beer was only introduced in the Middle Ages with the advent of hops (Mabey 1996, 64). P. J. Crummy tells me that study of the residues in a bronze spouted strainer bowl from a c.AD43-50 grave at Stanway (Essex) by P. E. J. Wiltshire has indicated the presence of wormwood, a plant native to Britain and used in historical times to flavour ale and other drinks. It also had medicinal uses and that might better explain the Stanway strainer, where the associations included a set of surgical instruments (Crummy 1977, 5-7; Jackson 1997). Only three of the ten contexts with spouted strainer bowls at Elms Farm have wine amphoras and this dearth of consistent association between strainer and wine amphora lends weight to the view that the drink served was a native brew. It is significant that there were no spouted strainers among the impressive suite of imported crockery, native vessels and Dressel 1 wine amphoras from the late Iron Age pyre-debris pit 15417 (the so-called Event Pit). It only remains to point out that perforated grog-tempered funnels from the site could have fulfilled the same function as spouted strainer bowls.

### Descriptions of Illustrated Vessels

Fig.00.00. Pit 9034, fill 9048. Fabric GROG. Part of the perforated panel of a strainer bowl. At the top the sherd has become detached from a segmental horizontal plate that prevented spillage of the contents when they were decanted through the spout.

Fig.00.00. Slot 4928, fill 4916. Fabric GROG. Spouted strainer bowl with carinated profile and everted rim with flat top. The inner edge of the strainer panel is present; on the wall of the bowl can be seen the impressions made when the strainer panel was perforated. Wheel-made.

Fig.00.00. Pit 15968, fill 15971. Fabric GROG. Spouted strainer bowl with rounded profile and upright tapered rim, forced outwards where the perforated panel was fitted. The spout and bowl are burnished. Wheel-made.

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Appendix: Notes supplied by Colin Wallace, 16/6/01:

**THE CHEESE PRESS:** notes on a Romano-British vessel form and its modern description

*Cheese-squeeze, in the form of a small dish with straight sloping sides, plain rim, and base divided into three concentric grooves by three conical ridges... and a central hollow cone... In each groove are three holes triangularly arranged opposite the blanks in the grooves adjoining*

(May 1912, 96)

*Cheese press or wring – A small, shallow, flat-bottomed dish with holes and concentric ridges in the bottom; presumed to have been manufactured for cheese-making*

(Webster 1964, 9 = 1969, 9 = 1976, 17)

#### Introduction

The term originates in early twentieth-century Romano-British pottery literature: for example, in his catalogue of the York collection, Thomas May described a 'cheese-squeeze' and recorded five more finds. May expanded on this in the later Colchester catalogue, crediting the idea for the probable use to R.A. Smith of the British Museum. Francis Haverfield had previously used it unattributed, observing that 'various suggestions have been made as to their purpose: the one which finds most favour with competent judges is that they were cheese presses'. None of these writers gives any more explanation; perhaps every early twentieth-century Romanist made his own cheese! As far as I understand it, one adds an agent (*e.g.* lemon juice) to milk or simply leaves it to age, then drains the whey off and presses the curds into a cake; the 'cheese-press', with its holes and ridges and matching lid, is certainly suited to this process for making cottage cheese.

At the same time, others suggested the squeezing of fruit or preferred the neutral term 'strainer'. James Curle seems not to have found any at Newstead, so his thoughts on the form do not survive. Joseph Anderson described one in detail, but ventured no suggestions as to its purpose.

By the time that Philip Corder was active, the term 'cheese press' had stuck and by middle of the century, datable finds at Colchester allowed MR Hull to venture an early-mid Roman date-range for what had become known there as form *Cam 199*. There is now enough evidence to extend this to include the whole Roman period. The form was in the repertoire of several late Roman industries too (though not, it seems, of earlier ones like Severn Valley or Alice Holt). The form is absent from continental summaries like Gose's *Göfasstypen*, Santrot and Santrot's *Ceramiques communes...Aquitaine* and Tuffreau-Libre's *Ceramique Commune Nord*.

The form is rare enough not to have prompted any serious work on it, other than to mark it out as an introduction from the continent by the Roman army. Matching lids are known from the late Roman New Forest and Oxfordshire industries.

Perforated, flat-bottomed vessels are not unique to Romano-British or Gallo-Roman contexts: see for example certain Bronze Age pygmy cups (McInnes 1966, 58/64 and fig 3.93; Gibson and Wood 1990, 186 and fig 181.3), though ridged interiors are

peculiar to the R-B 'cheese-press'. Similar vessels to the Roman ones are found in early medieval Mayen ware (Redknapp 1999, Abb 43.A59.1-8: I am grateful to Franziska Dövenner for this and other references). A related, but larger medieval English form did duty as a chicken feeder (example in London).

A slight complication is provided by the recent mention of either a round-based or flat-bottomed *strainer-bowl* (cf. Gillam 348/Young C118 or *Cam* 298/Going M2) being identical to a vessel 'used, in a very old farmhouse in Morvan in the Burgundy region of France, for straining soft home-made cheese' (Luckett 2000, 228). That is to say, the cheese-press could be another form entirely (or part of a set: draining in one vessel-type and pressing in another)!

The descriptions:

- 1892: 'perforated for use as a strainer' (*Proc Soc Antiq London 2ser* 14, 1891-92, 172-73)  
1897: 'a so-called "strainer"... cheese presses' (Haverfield 1897, 426-27 and pl. III)  
1902: 'cheese strainers' (Haverfield 1902, 186)  
1906: 'perhaps for squeezing fruit' (Hopkinson 1906, 91)  
1909: 'strainer(?)' (Bruton 1909, 32 and fig 1)  
1912: 'cheese-squeeze' (May 1912, 96-97 and pl. XXII.20)  
1913: 'strainer' (Bushe-Fox 1913, 75)  
1922: 'probably used as a cheese-press' (Smith 1922, 118)  
1928: 'cheese-squeeze' (Bushe-Fox 1928, 101)  
1928: 'cheese-press' (Corder 1928 [1989], 22)  
1930: 'cheese-squeeze' (May 1930, 160 and pl. LVIII.283)  
1930: 'cheese-squeezes' (Grimes 1930, 168 and fig 72.206/208)  
1947: 'cheese-presses' (Hawkes and Hull 1947, 256)  
1957: 'cheese-wring' (Gillam 1957 [1968], 35)  
1981: 'there seems no reason to differ with the traditional identification of these vessels as cheese presses' (Greene 1993, 41)  
1992: 'les tèles participent à la preparation du fromage' (Tuffreau-Libre 1992, 23)  
1999: 'pour la fabrication du fromage' (Meylan-Krause 1999, 17 and fig 10)  
1999: 'the function of these enigmatic vessels remains as obscure as ever' (Going and Belton 1999, 154)

The dated examples:

*Early Roman/1st century AD*

- Neronian Usk (Fortress Type 28: Greene 1993, 41 and fig 6): the example illustrated comes from the major dump deposit DTZ, in an oxidised fabric  
pre-Flavian Sheepen (*Cam* 199: Hawkes and Hull 1947, 256 and pl. LXVIII): buff  
late Neronian-early Flavian Caistor by Norwich (Swan 1981, 143 and fig 8.5, nos. 31 and 32): grey ware  
pre-Flavian Eccles (Detsicas 1977, 25 and fig 3.4 no. 97): oxidised  
Colchester (Symonds and Wade 1999, 262 and fig 5.29 no. 165): oxidised  
Flavian Castleford (Rush *et al.* 2000, 11\* and fig 50.139; 11\* and fig 53.181): coarse oxidised/oxidised

*Mid Roman/2nd century AD*

Later C1-mid C2 Ardleigh (Going and Belton 1999, 154 and fig 103.137-40): grey ware

Later C1-early/mid C2 West Stow (West 1990, 86 and fig 60.297): black-surfaced ware

Antonine Mumrills (Gillam 1963, 122 and fig 14.70; Gillam Type 350 from earlier excavations): grey ware

Antonine Bar Hill (Robertson *et al.* 1975, 161 and fig 54.21): oxidised

Antonine Castlecary (Anderson 1903, 334-35 and fig 34)

mid-late C2 York (Monaghan 1997, 1022 and fig 410.4119): (oxidised) Ebor ware

Antonine Wroxeter (Bushe-Fox 1913, 75 and fig 16.38): grey ware

C2 Colchester (Symonds and Wade 1999, 262 and fig 5.29 no. 164; 346 and fig 6.27 nos. 798 and 801; 416 and fig 6.82; cf. also Hull 1963, 183): oxidised, buff and grey wares

Middleborough, Colchester (Symonds and Wade 1999, 346 and fig 6.27 nos. 800, 802-09): grey ware

*Late Roman/3rd-4th century AD*

LR Werrington (Perrin and Cameron, in Mackreth 1988, 140 and fig 35.72): LNV grey

mid C3+ Castleford (Rush *et al.* 2000, 1\*\* and fig 75.511): grey ware

LC3+ Richborough (Bushe-Fox 1928, 101 and pl.XXXI.152): grey ware

first ½ C4 Castleford (Rush *et al.* 2000, 14\* and fig 77.523): Dales ware!!

C4 Crambeck (Corder 1989 [1928], pl. VII.188): grey ware

LC4+ York (Monaghan 1997, 1022 and fig 410.4118): Crambeck grey-slipped

A New Forest product, Type 36 (Fulford 1975, 103 and fig 36): grey ware (including lid)

An Oxfordshire product, Type R78 (Young 1977, 228 and fig 84): grey ware (+lid R79) and Type O58 (*op cit.*, 199 and fig 73): oxidised. The rare examples in Oxfordshire parchment and red-slipped wares are undated, but ought to belong in this date-bracket too (Young 1977, type P39: 91 and fig 28; type C119: 176 and fig 68).

Other site-finds include Aldborough, Birdoswald, Castor, Chesters, Lower Halstow, Kent (Brailsford 1951, fig 16.10), Towcester, Twywell (samian, allegedly), West Heslerton and Birrens (Robertson 1975, 221 and fig 77.27): grey ware. On the Continent: Avenches, Contern, Dalheim (pers. comm. F Dövenner).

The associations:

Robin Symonds and Sue Wade did at one time wonder about an association with pottery production sites (pers. inf., c.1988). Examples are known from such sites at Eccles, Caistor-by-Norwich, Ardleigh (waste dumps), West Stow (fill of Kiln 5), Colchester Middleborough (accumulation over the top of the late 1st-early 2nd century kiln: Symonds, in Crummy 1984, 362), Colchester Sheepen (uncertain association with 2nd century pot production: Hull 1963, 134) and Crambeck; that is to say, of both early-mid and late Roman date-ranges. However, there is really no more of a particular link here than in the case of any other vessel-form. Otherwise, there is nothing distinctive about the contexts in which the other examples above were found.

Colin Wallace, 12/00-02/01 and 06/01

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LIA/Roman Pottery: Pierced pottery  
Research Archive (inc. notes for strainer bowls and cheese presses)

Archive Drawings list: Post-firing Perforations

Pub. No.	Context	Archive	Details
16	3628	3128	Cam 218 with pierced base
17	8596	2050	Cam 220, base pierced three times
18	17211	3	Base with perforation
19	17211	1	Base with off-centre perforation
20	17211	2	Base with perforation
21	7000	3012	Jar base with central perforation
22	10891	419	Perforated base (four square holes)
23	4140	1308	G3 with hole under rim
24	517	3105	Jar shoulder with multiple piercings, cf.15003
25	15003/82	2183	Pierced jar shoulder, cf.517
26	14589	845	Cam 204 with trimmed off pedestal and two perforations in body
	8009	352	Bodysherd with keyhole-shaped piercing
	9048	235	Jar sherd, pierced below rim
	9048	238	Almost complete jar Cam 259, base pierced once [Typology]
	20031	896	Jar with stabbed shoulder, pierced under rim [Typology]
	20009	873	Complete G19/Cam 220, hole in base and two in lower wall [KPG17]
	10060	1099	Dish sherd, pierced below rim
	13681	1760	Pierced base
	24003	2272	Mini mortarium drilled for repair [Roman intrinsics]
	8500	3000	Cam 1 with perforated rim
	5602	3019	Jar base with pre-firing hole
	5000	3026	Pierced base
	15637	3029	Pierced base
	4148	1697	G3 with graffito and perforated base [Ritual – lion pot pit]
	404	3103	Whole jar, G23, pierced through base [Ritual]
	404	3104	Whole jar, pierced through base [Ritual]
	567	3106	Whole jar, pierced through base [Ritual]
	567	3107	Whole jar, pierced through base [Ritual]