

APPENDIX

NORTH HERTS MUSEUMS POTTERY FABRIC SERIES

Late Pre-Roman Iron Age
Romano-British
and Sub-Roman

Compiled by

Helen Ashworth, BA AIFA

The Late Pre-Roman Iron Age and Romano-British Pottery Fabric Series

Fabric 1 Black grog-tempered wares

Sandy textured ware, with translucent and opaque quartz inclusions, grog and organic matter. Bonfire-fired to dark grey, brown or black. Handmade vessels only. Exterior normally burnished.

Locally made.

Early to late first century BC, although continues into early first century AD.

Fabric 2 Grog-tempered wares

Sandy-textured, heavily tempered with grog; also some organic inclusions. Grey or brown core - though colour can vary from buff to black - with grey or brown surfaces. Bonfire-fired, but often with short period of oxidation. Handmade and wheel-thrown vessels.

'Fine' wares and combed 'cooking-pots'.

Locally made: probably some from the Hadham area.

Mid first century BC to mid first century AD.

2A - "grain jar".

2B - "finer ware", also with shell inclusions.

Fabric 3 Mixed grog and shelly wares

Sandy textured matrix, tempered with coarse quartz sand, some grog, organic, flint or shell inclusions, some pebble-sized. Usually oxidised to orange or orange-brown surfaces with blue or grey core. Usually handmade and bonfire-fired. Colours range from red to grey.

Mostly cooking pots.

Late Pre-Roman Iron Age.

Fabric 4 Shelly wares

Sandy-textured matrix heavily tempered with shell, up to 5mm in length. In use from the first century AD to the fourth century. Early vessels were bonfire-fired, surfaces oxidised when fuel spent; orange-red in first century AD; yellowish-buff or light orange in second century; later pots variegated pink/grey. Shell temper suggests source in Lias clays of Lower Jurassic. Handmade and wheel thrown.

Basic cooking pots, storage jars, dishes and bowls.

Early versions had several sources. From the mid-second century on they became increasingly standardised, perhaps a single large-scale regional production.

First century to fourth century AD.

Fabric 5 Yellow-buff fine sandy wares

Fine sandy, micaceous wares with incidental grog and organic grits and natural clay pellets. Often with dark grey or blue core and oxidised orange-buff surfaces. Can be totally reduced.

Used for wheel thrown copies of imported fine table wares, eg. girth and butt beakers and platters.

Similarities with Fabric 11 suggest the Much Hadham area as the source.

Mid to late first century AD.

Fabric 6 Fine white sandy wares

Fairly iron-free clay matrix, tempered with fine quartz sand. Occasional grog grits and clay pellets. Wheel thrown, usually white, sometimes with smoky grey or mauve haze over exterior, or with pink tones. The grog inclusions streak the surfaces with a burnished finish.

Used for butt beakers - Camulodunum Form 113.

Northern Gaul?

Early to mid first century AD.

Fabric 7 Fine white pipeclay wares

Fine-grained iron-free white clay with occasional grog grits or iron pellets, well levigated. Also less pure, creamier-coloured version. Used for large flagons, Camulodunum forms 140, 161 and 163. Northern Gaul. Early to mid first century AD.

Fabric 8 Gritty-textured grog-tempered wares

Sandy matrix with coarse sand tempering with additional grog temper and occasional translucent brown quartz grits. Usually fired grey or brown, frequently with a very dark grey core; also some lighter red-brown versions. Handmade or handmade/wheel finished vessels. Locally made. Mid to late first century AD.

Fabric 9 Smooth and 'pimpled' wares

Fine grained matrix, tempered with varying amounts of coarse coloured sand grits, clay pellets, grog and organic grits. When worn the surfaces are abrasive. Fired to brown or grey-brown. Wheel thrown. Locally made. Late first to early second century AD.

Fabric 10 Black polished ware

Micaceous, fine-grained sand-tempered grey ware. Highly-polished black slip on exterior. Gaul. Late first century AD.

Fabric 11 Fine sand-tempered grey wares

Even textured fine sand tempered micaceous ware. Usually self-coloured grey or blue-grey, more rarely grey-black or orange. One version fired to produce dark sooty finish, similar to BB1 ware (Fabric 38). Also various slips used to produce different colours.

A with thin white slip on exterior only.
B with dark blue micaceous slip over exterior.
C with grey black slip over whole vessel.
Used for wheel-thrown vessels, but not cooking pots.
Probably local, from the Much Hadham area.
The most common Romano-British ware.
In use from the late first to fourth century AD.

Fabric 12 Coarse sand-tempered grey and red wares

Coarser version of Fabric 11. Fine micaceous sand matrix, heavily tempered with coarse sand grits and occasionally with grog grits. Sometimes has white slip on the exterior. Usually self-coloured grey or blue-grey, more rarely orange. Cooking pots. Locally made, perhaps from the Much Hadham area. Late first to fourth century AD.

Fabric 13 Coarse-grained sandy wares

Sandy textured matrix with coarse sand tempering and brown quartz grits. Occasional iron ore pellets. Dark grey or black with orange core. Similar to Fabric 8. Probably local. Mainly wheel thrown vessels. Late first or early second century AD.

Fabric 14 Soapy gritty wares

Fine-grained smooth matrix with some coarse angular quartz tempering and varying amounts of calcareous gritting. Rough, pimply surface when worn. Wheelthrown. Usually pale grey or buff, occasionally black.

Bowls and jars.

Nene Valley?

Late first to late second centuries AD.

Fabric 15 Pale sandy wares

Iron-free, fine-grained matrix, tempered with black and white sand grains and coarse quartz grits. Surface has coarse, pimply feel when worn. Dirty cream colour. Handmade flagons and bowls.

Late first century AD.

Fabric 16 Coarse sand-tempered wares

Matrix heavily tempered with coarse sand. Ware gritty textured with coarse surfaces. Some examples slip-covered to mask coarse tempering. Colour varies white to dirty brown to red. Wheel thrown.

Flagons, mortaria, bowls and jars.

Verulamium Region; Oxfordshire; and Nene Valley (mostly *Verulamium* Region).

Late first century to late second or early third century AD.

Fabric 17 Highly-micaceous red wares

Fine grained oxidised sandy ware, highly micaceous. Self-coloured and also with thick cream slip overlying thin red under-slip over exterior.

Flagons.

Imported?

Late first century AD.

Fabric 18 Soapy smooth wares

Dense, fine-grained matrix, no coarse inclusions. Light grey or buff with glossy burnished finish. Wheelthrown.

Decorated bowls and jars.

Nene Valley?

Late first to early second century AD.

Fabric 19 Fine white pipeclay wares

White or cream fairly iron-free fine grained matrix, smooth in texture with occasional grog grit or iron pellets. Similar to Fabric 17.

Flagons, decorated bowls and beakers.

Late first or early second century AD.

Fabric 20 Cream sandy wares

Sand-tempered ware, finer than Fabric 16, but similar. Cream or off-white with grey or orange core. Wheelthrown.

Flagons mainly - also necked jars and carinated bowls.

Probably from the *Verulamium* Region, also possibly Nene Valley and Oxfordshire potteries.

Early to mid second century AD.

Fabric 21 Grey sandy ware

Sandy textured matrix, heavily tempered with translucent brown quartz grits, up to 3mm in length. Blue grey colour.

Kitchen wares, mostly "cooking pots".

Possibly from the Upper Greensand.

Second century AD.

Fabric 22

Fine-grained, iron-rich, smooth matrix. Tempered with mixed white calcareous and black sand grits. Oxidised to pink or pale orange.

Flagons.

Second century AD.

Fabric 23

Fine-textured matrix, heavily tempered with mixed sand. Rough feel when worn. Oxidised, sometimes with grey core. Wheel made.

Second century AD.

Fabric 24

Coarse-grained sandy-textured matrix, tempered with quartz grits, grog and occasional chalk pellets. Brown or grey.

Second century AD.

Fabric 25

Fine-grained grey sandy ware, tempered with chalk and flint grits.

Second century AD.

Fabric 26

Fine-grained micaceous sandy ware. Tempered with black sand, iron pellets and occasional quartz and calcareous grains. Cream slip over exterior, buff fabric.

Second century AD?

Fabric 27 Smooth cream ware

Fairly iron-free fine-grained dense matrix with incidental grog or clay pellets. Treated to produce a pale buff, highly burnished finish. Painted decoration on some vessels.

Lower Nene Valley?

Decorated bowls and jars. Also flagons.

Second century AD.

Fabric 28

Iron-rich, hard fine-grained sandy micaceous fabric. Tempered with rounded quartz grains, visible mica pellets, occasional black organic flecks. Cream coloured.

Flagons? (one sherd only).

Unknown date.

Fabric 29 Fine shelly wares

Coarse-grained micaceous sandy ware with fine shell tempering. Buff surfaces, dark inner core.

Late first or early second century AD.

Fabric 30

Fine-grained dense matrix, tempered with coarse sand, crushed shell and calcareous pellets. Gritty feel when worn.

One sherd only.

Fabric 31

Densely-gritted fabric. Fine, hard matrix heavily tempered with small, sub-angular quartz grains, up to 0.15mm across. Sand-paper feel. Coarser than Fabric 16. Interior surface pink, dark grey core and external surface.

Source unknown.

Sherds only.

Date unknown.

Fabric 32

Iron-rich fine smooth matrix, virtually no grain visible, with small opaque quartz grains. Black surfaces, grey core.
Second century AD?

Fabric 33

Fine-grained sandy texture with occasional grog and quartz grits.
Probably imported from Gaul.

Fabric 34

Coarse-grained sandy matrix, heavily tempered with chalk or limestone lumps up to 3mm in length. Occasional black organic and translucent quartz grits. Brown surface, grey core.
Traded piece.

Fabric 35

Sandy textured ware, with mixed tempering of white shell, grog and translucent quartz grits.

Fabric 36

Fine grained ware, heavily tempered with translucent brown quartz grits. Brown with grey/brown core. Coarse tempering gives gritty feel. Can also be oxidised.

Fabric 37 Sandy-textured painted wares

Coarse-grained, iron-rich sandy-textured ware, with thin matt brown slip and painted. Oxidised.
Source unknown.
Early second century onwards.

Fabric 38 Black-burnished ware, type 1

Typical BB1 ware from Dorset.

Fabric 39 Black-burnished ware, type 2.

Fine-grained micaceous, powdery textured ware. Ochre core and dark grey surfaces, similar to Black Burnished Ware type 2. Also sandy-textured ware, fired to a BB2 type finish. Both confined to the Black Burnished Ware type 2 range of forms.
Locally made, or Colchester.
Mid second to fourth century AD.

Fabric 40

Fine-grained evenly textured sandy ware, no coarse inclusions. Fired to a brown core with black surfaces.

Fabric 41

Sandy textured ware with additional grog grits. Burnished grey finish, like BB2 (Fabric 39).
Mid second to fourth century AD.

Fabric 42

Sandy-textured matrix, heavily tempered with small quartz grits and incidental clay pellets. Brown or buff. Decoration of incised diagonal lines, similar in style to "Romano-Saxon".
Late Roman or Sub-Roman.

Fabric 43 Grog-tempered cream wares

Dense, fine-grained matrix, heavily tempered with grog and fine shell and often covered by a slip. Cream or orange coloured ware, with grey or orange core. Possibly from the Upper Nene Valley. Third or fourth century AD.

Fabric 44

Fine textured matrix with natural clay pellets. Thick matt slip on exterior.

Fabric 45 Lower Nene Valley parchment wares

Parchment Wares from the Lower Nene Valley. Black ironstone trituration grits. For definition and discussion see Howe et al. (1981).

Fabric 46 Oxfordshire parchment wares

Parchment Wares from Oxfordshire potteries (Young 1977). Late second to fourth century AD.

Fabric 47 Oxfordshire oxidised wares

Oxfordshire oxidised ware, Fabrics 1 and 2 (Young 1977).

47A Oxfordshire oxidised ware fabric 1.
Late second to fourth centuries AD.

47B Oxfordshire oxidised ware fabric 2.

Fabric 48 Colchester "Romano-Saxon" wares

Fine-grained matrix, heavily tempered with coarse sand which feels rough when worn. "Roman-Saxon" ware. Perhaps from the Colchester region. Fourth century AD.

Fabric 49 Much Hadham "Romano-Saxon" wares

Oxidised, fine-grained micaceous fabric, similar to Fabric 11. Much Hadham. Fourth century AD.

A Self-coloured polished finish.

B Darker-firing slip with highly-polished finish.

Fabric 50

Coarse sandy-textured ware, heavily tempered with quartz grits up to 1mm in length, resulting in a rough feel. Grey throughout. Wiped interior. Hand-made? One sherd only. Sub-Roman?

Fabric 51

Coarse sandy micaceous ware with mixed tempering of quartz, grog, crushed shell and chalk grits. Bonfire-fired to black or red. Exterior surface burnished. Hand-made. Sub-Roman?

Fabric 52

Sandy-textured ware, tempered with quartz and organic material. Oxidised. Exterior has burnished band. Hand-made and possibly wheel finished. Sub-Roman?

Fabric 53

Coarse grained matrix, tempered with quartz and organic material. Exterior light brown, interior and core grey. Equivalent to Bedford Fabric A1. Sixth century AD.

Fabric 54

Micaceous fine-grained matrix with mixed tempering of grog, crushed shell and organic material. Similar to Fabric 11. Grey. Probably hand-made.
One sherd only.
Sub-Roman?

Fabric 55 Yellow gritty ware

Dense fine fabric, tempered with coarse sand. Soft and easily abraded. Oxidised to yellowish buff with grey core. Grits protrude when worn.

Fabric 56

Coarse sandy matrix, heavily tempered with quartz grits, calcareous material and flint chips. Dirty grey colour. Hand-made and very poor.
Sixth century AD?

Fabric 57 Green-glazed ware

Fine-grained sandy ware. Oxidised, with grey core. Thin, crackled green glaze over vessel, white slip under glaze on exterior.

Fabric 58 Brown-glazed ware

Fine-grained, iron-rich, sandy-textured ware. Oxidised. Thick brown glaze over entire vessel, tending to greenish shade in patches.
Used for Samian copies.
South-East England and East Anglia.
Second century AD (?)

Fabric 59 Brown-glazed white-slipped ware

Iron-rich fine-grained micaceous ware with coarse, coloured sand tempering. Fabric oxidised. Brown glaze, with white slip decoration under glaze. Also a version covered in highly micaceous cream slip over entire vessel.

Fabric 60 St Rémy ware

Fine-grained, sandy matrix, tempered with small (crushed?) quartz grains. Hard fired. Grey core, brown surfaces. Black slip on exterior and *en barbotine* decoration. Imported, perhaps from Trier. (Greene in Arthur and Marsh 1978).

Fabric 61 Oxfordshire fine white ware

See Young 1977 p.93.

Fabric 62 Mica-coated ware

Sandy micaceous ware with mixed tempering of white sand and coloured quartz grits. Oxidised. Mica-dusted on exterior.
Imported. Similar to Samian?

Fabric 63 Mica-coated sandy-textured ware

Sandy textured ware, tempered with translucent brown quartz grits. Oxidised with a grey core. Mica coating on rim and exterior only.
Beakers, dishes and bowls.
South-eastern Britain?
First to third centuries AD.

Fabric 64 Coarse mica-coated sandy-textured ware

Sandy textured ware, similar to Fabric 63. Rough and uneven finish on exterior. Mica coating on rim and exterior.
Late first to second century AD.

Fabric 65 Mica-coated even-textured sandy ware

Micaceous sandy ware, similar to Fabric 11 with clay pellets up to 3mm in length and occasional rock fragments. Mica coating confined to rim and upper shoulder. Central Gaul.

Fabric 66 Mica-coated fine-grained ware

Iron-rich, fine-grained ware, thick mica coating covers entire vessel.

Fabric 67 Mancetter-Hartshill parchment wares

Mixed red and black grog trituration grits. Finer and with a distinct spiral pattern after AD c240.

Mortaria.

Mancetter-Hartshill.

Fabric 68 Colchester parchment wares

Mortaria.

Colchester.

Fabric 69

Evenly-textured ware, heavily tempered with coloured sand and white calcareous grits. When worn grits give sand-papery feel. Oxidised to buff. Thin white slip to mask some of tempering.

Mortaria.

Source unknown.

Fabric 70

Sandy textured ware, brown and often covered with a cream slip. Black ironstone trituration grits.

Fabric 71

Sandy-textured ware. White and grey trituration grits.

Fabric 72

Sandy ware, heavily tempered with coarse sand, similar to Fabric 16.

Fabric 73

Iron-rich, coarse sandy ware. Cream, with grey core. Similar to Fabric 20.

Fabric 74

Sandy ware, evenly textured. Cream. Grey and white trituration grits. Probably south-eastern Britain or Northern Gaul.

Fabric 75

Sandy ware, heavily tempered with quartz grits. Feels coarse and gritty. Black. Handmade and bonfire fired.

Fabric CC1

Iron-free fine-grained powdery ware; metallic slip in varying shades of brown. Fine sand rough-casting inside, below the slip; rough-cast or *en barbotine* decoration outside.

Central Gaul.

Early first century AD.

Fabric CC2

Iron-free fine-grained dense ware, usually white in colour; thick good-quality metallic green or brown slip.

Central Gaul or Rhineland.

Second century AD.

Fabric CC3 Nene Valley colour-coated wares

Varies from fairly iron-free cream to iron-rich orange or grey wares; slip varies from orange to dark brown. The commonest colour-coated fabric in the third and fourth centuries at Baldock.

Lower Nene Valley potteries.

Late second to fourth century AD.

Fabric CC4

Iron-rich fine-grained sandy matrix; metallic slip in varying shades of brown or bluish grey.

Possibly East Gaulish.

Late second to fourth century AD.

Fabric CC5 Colchester colour-coated wares

Iron-rich fine-grained sandy matrix; variable slip in colour and quality. Colchester.

Second to fourth century AD.

Fabric CC6

Iron-rich fine-grained smooth dense matrix, resembling Central Gaulish samian in colour and texture; thick metallic brownish-black slip.

Central Gaul, probably Lezoux.

Second century AD.

Fabric CC7 Rhenish colour-coated wares

Iron-free sandy matrix; metallic slip on exterior only. Rhineland.

Fabric CC8 Oxfordshire red-slipped ware

Iron-rich, fine-grained matrix; brown slip, varying in tone. Oxidised. Oxfordshire.

Third to fourth century AD.

Fabric CC9 Oxfordshire red-slipped ware

Iron-rich highly micaceous fine-grained matrix; oxidised, usually with a buff or khaki core; micaceous red slip. Oxfordshire.

Third to fourth century AD.

Fabric CC10 Oxfordshire red-slipped ware

Iron-rich, fine-grained matrix; frequently has blue-grey core; red slip. Oxfordshire.

Third to fourth century AD.

Fabric CC11 Oxfordshire white-slipped ware

Iron-rich, fine-grained matrix with a thin white slip, oxidised; but frequently with grey core. Oxfordshire.

Third to fourth century AD.

Fabric CC12 Local red-slipped wares

Iron-rich sandy-textured matrix; oxidised, frequently with grey core; brownish red slip, sometimes slightly metallic. Probably an imitation of Oxfordshire red-slipped wares (CC8-CC10), in a similar range of forms. Similar to Fabric 49.

Much Hadham area?

Third to fourth century AD.

Fabric CC13 Local white-slipped wares

Iron-rich sandy-textured matrix; oxidised, frequently with grey core; white slip. Probably an imitation of Oxfordshire white-slipped ware (CC11).
Locally made.
Third to fourth century AD.

Fabric CC14

Iron-rich micaceous matrix, very similar to Fabric 11; dark red haematite slip.
Central Gaul?

Fabric CC15

Fabric CC16

RF is the fabric number used in Miss V Rigby's pottery report (Stead and Rigby 1986).

Bibliography

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