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**The late Iron Age and Roman pottery from Leda
Cottages, Westwell, Kent (ARC 430/83+200)**

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Figure 1: Leda Cottages - Roman pottery, 1-30

1 INTRODUCTION

The site yielded 1882 sherds (21026 g) of Late Iron Age and Roman pottery from 107 contexts: a further 262 sherds (972 g) of pottery were recovered through the sieving of environmental samples from 14 of these contexts and 13 others. All the assemblages were quantified by numbers of sherds and their weights per fabric. These fabrics were classified using a x8 magnification lens with built-in graticule in order to determine the natures, forms, sizes and frequencies of added inclusions. Finer fabrics were further examined using a x30 magnification pocket-microscope with artificial illumination source. Fabrics were coded using the systems created by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust for Late Iron Age, Early Roman and Late Roman wares from East Kent (Macpherson-Grant *et al.* 1995).

2 FABRICS

A quantification of all of the excavated pottery from the site (Table 1) shows that the various grog-tempered ware fabrics (B1, B2, B2.1 and B2.3) are the most significant and account for nearly half of all of the material by sherd count. The various quantifications of the pottery in the Late Iron Age and late 2nd and early 3rd century assemblages (Tables 3, 4 and 5) show that such wares remained significant throughout the entire occupation of the site but with a decline in their importance during the early 3rd century.

Various Thameside coarse and fine ware fabrics (R14, R16, R17.1, R18.1, R73, R73.1, LR2.1 and LR2.2) make up another quarter of the sherds. The rest of the fabrics, with the exception of the locally produced coarse ware fabrics R155 and 156 (9%), are very insignificant and include Late Iron Age sherds in Medway valley glauconitic fabrics B9.1, B9.2 and B9.3 (1%) and sandy black fabric B8 from the Folkestone area (1%). Roman sherds in Canterbury fabrics R5, R6.1, R6.3, R8.1 and R8.3 (5%) are also insignificant as are sherds in Native Coarse Ware fabric R1 from production sites along the shores of the Wantsum Channel (4%).

South Gaulish samian ware is absent, as are Gallo-Belgic fine ware imports. Central Gaulish and East Gaulish samian between them make up a mere 3% of the pottery by sherd count. This paucity of Continental fine ware imports, coupled with a significant showing of both Late Iron Age and Roman handmade grog-tempered wares, suggests a site of low social status.

Table 1: Quantification of fabrics

Fabric	Summary Description	No. sherds	% sherds	Weight (g)	% weight
LIAB.4		2	0.1	4	0.1
LIAB.5		1	0.1	6	0.1
MLIA2.2		2	0.1	6	0.1
B1	'Belgic' fine grog-tempered	50	2.7	250	1.2
B2	'Belgic' coarse grog-tempered	437	23.2	5411	25.6
B2.1	'Belgic' coarse grog-tempered (pale grog)	303	16.1	4089	19.3
B2.3		102	5.4	1083	5.2
B3	'Belgic' grog-tempered with sparse flint	9	0.5	249	1.2
B5	'Belgic' grog-tempered with sand	1	0.1	12	0.1
B6	'Belgic' shell-tempered (?N Kent)	2	0.1	4	0.1
B8	'Belgic' fine sandy	24	1.3	313	1.5
B9.1	'Belgic' coarse sandy (glaucanite)	12	0.6	121	0.6
B9.2	'Belgic' coarse sandy (glaucanite & flint)	2	0.1	16	0.1
B9.3		1	0.1	16	0.1
BER15	Chaff-tempered ware (Macpherson-Grant 1980b)	11	0.6	15	0.1
R1	Romanised grog-tempered native coarse ware (NCW) (Pollard 1988, 98)	82	4.4	527	2.5
R5	Canterbury coarse grey sandy (Flavian/Antonine)	11	0.6	148	0.7
R6.1	?Canterbury coarse orange sandy (Flavian/Antonine)	5	0.3	212	1.0
R6.3	?Canterbury coarse buff sandy (Flavian/Antonine)	9	0.5	97	0.5
R8.1	Fine orange sandy (some CC)	39	2.1	534	2.5
R8.3	Fine buff sandy (some CC)	42	2.2	400	1.9
R14	Black burnished 2	57	3.0	689	3.3
R16	Fine grey 'Upchurch' fabrics I and II	230	12.2	1431	6.8
R17.1	Fine orange 'Upchurch'-type (some CC)	5	0.3	19	0.1
R18.1	Fine purple/grey 'Upchurch'-type CC flagon (slipped)	10	0.5	368	1.8
R43	Central Gaulish samian	49	2.6	1451	6.9
R46	Eastern Gaulish samian	2	0.1	12	0.1
R50	South Spanish Dressel 20 amphorae	7	0.4	704	3.3
R61	?Gaul/SE England fabric 1 mortaria	3	0.2	2	0.1
R63	?Colchester/Kent mortaria	16	0.9	120	0.6
R68.1		5	0.3	26	0.1
R71	Other pink buff wares (some CC)	1	0.1	66	0.3
R73	Coarse grey sandy ?Thameside	139	7.4	836	4.0
R73.1	Black burnished-type	6	0.3	176	0.8
R75	Other white cream wares ?source	6	0.3	20	0.1
R88.93	Flagon white ware: Rigby (1995, 651-2) fabrics WW2-8 undifferentiated	1	0.1	6	0.1
R98	Unidentified amphorae	1	0.1	10	0.1
R109	Other coarse ware	14	0.7	50	0.2
R155		153	8.1	1323	6.3
R156		18	0.9	134	0.5
LR2.1	?Local fine grey sandy	1	0.1	12	0.1
LR2.2	?Local fine grey sandy overfired	11	0.6	48	0.2
Total		1882		21026	

3 FORMS/TYPES

All of the rim sherds from the site were quantified by Estimated Vessel Equivalents (EVEs) and tabulated by form per fabric (Table 2): jars/cooking pots can be seen to be far more significant than open forms and beakers, further suggesting a site of low social status. One aspect of Table 2 is the high percentage (22%) of flagons, flasks and amphorae, all of which

are liquid containers and may perhaps have been used to hold water used for quenching during the production of iron on the site.

Table 2: Vessel form / fabric correlation (quantification by EVEs)

Form	I Flagon	II Jar	III Beaker	IV Bowl	IV Dish	V Plate	VI Cup	VII Mort- arium	IX Misc (lid)	X Amphora	Unce- rtain	Total
Fabric												
B1		0.41										0.41
B2		2.12		0.14					0.05		0.08	2.39
B2.1		2.57		0.49	0.05				0.05			3.16
B2.3		2.36										2.36
B3		0.37										0.37
B8		0.23										0.23
B9.1		0.11										0.11
R1		0.35										0.35
R6.1	1.00											1.00
R6.3								0.11				0.11
R8.1	0.70									0.47		1.17
R8.3	1.00											1.00
R14		0.35		0.74								1.09
R16	1.15	0.46	0.87		0.08							2.56
R17.1			0.12									0.12
R18.1	0.54											0.54
R43					1.29		0.10					1.39
R63								0.10				0.29
R71		0.29										0.10
R73		1.53			0.09							1.62
R73.1				0.18								0.18
R109		0.07										0.07
R155		1.30		0.07								1.37
R156		0.16										0.16
LR2.1		0.12										0.12
LR2.2		0.12										0.12
Total EVEs	4.39	12.92	0.99	1.62	1.51		0.10	0.21	0.10	0.47	0.08	22.39
%	19.6	57.7	4.4	7.3	6.8		0.4	0.9	0.4	2.1	0.4	

4 CHRONOLOGY AND PHASING

4.1 Phase 1. 'Belgic' Late Iron Age. c 50 BC-AD 70

Assemblage 1. From the fills of ditches 8624, 8626 and 8628 forming the earliest enclosure (contexts 8184, 8233, 8353, 8357, 8390, 8405, 8519, 8520, 8578, 8579, 8580 and 8584)

The 111 sherds (1658 g) of pottery from the various cuts across this ditch system were quantified by numbers of sherds and their weights per fabric (Table 3). This shows that coarse grog-tempered ware fabrics B1, B2 and B2.1 are by far the most significant (69% by sherd count) with just a few fragments in glauconitic Fabrics B9.1 and B9.3 from the area around Maidstone (Fig. 1, No. 8, 10%) and in sandy black fabric B8 from the Folkestone area (Fig 1, Nos 6-7, 9%). The latter wares may have been traded in with sea-salt as there are also five fragments from briquetage salt containers in chaff-tempered fabric BER15.

Table 3: Assemblage 1 fabric quantities

Fabric	No. sherds	% sherds	Weight (g)	% weight
MLIA2.2	1	0.9	4	0.2
B1	3	2.7	43	2.6
B2	27	24.3	338	20.4
B2.1	47	42.3	844	50.9
B3	5	4.5	231	13.9
B8	10	9.0	73	4.4
B9.1	10	9.0	102	6.2
B9.3	1	0.9	16	1.0
BER15	5	4.5	5	0.3
R16	2	1.8	2	0.1
Total	111		1658	

The sherds in grog-tempered ware include fragments from three vessels with Eastern Atrebatic type decoration (Fig. 1, Nos 2, 4 and 5), indicating a Wealden source for some, at least, of these wares: other such vessels may have a more local origin (Fig. 1, Nos 1 and 3). It is noticeable that only 15 of the 77 sherds in fabrics B1, B2 and B2.1 have the combed decoration so typical of most ‘Belgic’ grog-tempered ware vessels from the Canterbury area.

The assemblage from the upper fill of cut 8517 across ditch 8626 includes a sherd in quartz sand and calcined-flint tempered fabric MLIA2.2 from pottery production sites on the Medway marshes (dated *c* AD 30-70). Two flakes in Roman fine grey ware fabric R16 from the upper fill of cut 8232 across ditch 8624 may, together with the fragment of fabric MLIA2.2, indicate that this enclosure remained in use until just after the Roman Conquest.

4.2 Phase 2. Early Roman. C.AD.70-150

Assemblage 2. From the fills of ditches 8639 and 8668 recutting the south-west side of the late Iron Age enclosure (contexts 8510, 8560 and 8601)

These ditch recuts yielded a mere 11 sherds (262 g) of pottery, comprising seven fragments in sandy black Folkestone fabric B8 and two each in grog-tempered fabrics B2 and B2.1. There are no diagnostic fragments.

Assemblage 3. From the fills of ditch 8629 (contexts 8315, 8553 and 8556)

The six sherds (22 g) of pottery from this feature comprise five in grog-tempered Fabric B2.1 and one in sandy oxidised Canterbury fabric R6.3. The latter fragment came from the top fill of cut 8555

Assemblage 4. From the fills of L-shaped pit 8646 for the construction of Structure 8142 (contexts 8135, 8138 and 8170)

The primary fill of the construction cut for this feature (context 8170) yielded the greater part of a necked jar in polished grog-tempered fabric B2.1 (Fig. 1, No. 9, *c* AD 50-175). The

construction matrix (context 8138) for the flint lining of the pit (8142) yielded a 12 sherd (86 g) pottery assemblage of late 1st century character, including fragments from a bead-rim jar and two lids in grog-tempered fabrics. The 16 sherds (218 g) of pottery from the upper fill of the pit (context 8135) include somewhat later sherds, from a flagon in fabric R8 (*c* AD 150-250) and a jar in native coarse ware fabric R1 (*c* AD 170-250). These suggest that the pit remained open for a considerable period of time from the late 1st to the early 3rd century.

Assemblage 5. From the fills of Pit 8573 (contexts 8569, 8570, 8572)

The 49 sherds (932 gm) of pottery from this feature have a predominance of grog-tempered wares in Fabrics B2, B2.1 and B2.3 (65%). These sherds include fragments of lid-seated and other jars in the superior polished fabric B2.3 (Fig. 1, Nos 10-12) from the Ashford area and dated *c* AD 70-175 at Westhawk Farm (Lyne forthcoming a) as well as fresh joining pieces from a narrow-necked jar of Thompson (1982) class B3-9 in fabric B2.1 (25 BC-AD 100) and an oxidised cavetto-rim jar in Patch Grove type fabric R68.1 (*c* AD 30-150). Other wares include sherds from a poppyhead beaker of Monaghan (1987) class 2A4 in fine grey Upchurch fabric R16 (*c* AD 130-170), a jar of class 4A2 in North Kent BB2 fabric R14 (*c* AD 120-230), a Drag 33 cup in Central Gaulish samian ware (*c* AD 120-200) and a jar in Canterbury grey ware fabric R5 (*c* AD 70-175). An early Antonine date seems indicated for the dumping of this material.

4.3 Phase 3. *c* AD 150-270

Assemblage 6. From the fills of tree throw hollow 8494 (contexts 8495, 8497, 8498 and 8499)

This feature produced 532 sherds (4084 g) of rather broken up pottery. The assemblage is large enough for quantification by numbers of sherds and their weights per fabric (Table 4). The sherd breakdown shows the assemblage to be dominated by handmade necked-jars in grog-tempered fabrics B2, B2.1 and B2.3 (61%). Most of these vessels are East Sussex Ware imports from production sites in the Weald of Kent and Sussex but the few superior lid-seated jars in polished fabric B2.3 are some of the last made in the Ashford area before the demise of that industry, perhaps during the 170s.

Table 4: Assemblage 6 fabric quantities

Fabric	No. sherds	% sherds	Weight (g)	% weight
B2	198	37.2	1570	38.4
B2.1	103	19.4	1118	27.4
B2.3	25	4.7	219	5.4
R1	15	2.8	87	2.1
R5	2	0.4	8	0.1
R6.3	7	1.3	31	0.8
R8.3	1	0.2	6	0.1
R14	16	3.0	118	2.9
R16	71	13.3	227	5.6

Fabric	No. sherds	% sherds	Weight (g)	% weight
R17.1	1	0.2	1	0.1
R43	13	2.4	101	2.5
R46	1	0.2	6	0.1
R73	57	10.7	307	7.5
R73.1	5	0.9	164	4.0
R75	3	0.6	16	0.4
R109	6	1.1	18	0.4
R155	1	0.2	6	0.1
R156	7	1.3	81	2.0
Total	532		4084	

The Thameside industry of the Medway estuary was the second most important contributor to this assemblage (28%) with sherds in BB2 fabric R14, fine Upchurch grey ware fabric R16, the Hoo St Werburgh oxidised version R17.1 and sandy Thameside grey ware fabrics R73 and R73.1. BB2 sherds include fragments from a jar of Monaghan class 3J3 (*c* AD 150-240) and a bead-rim 'pie-dish' (*c* AD 170-250): there are sherds from a flask of Monaghan type 1B3 and a poppyhead beaker of uncertain form in Upchurch fine ware fabric R16 (*c* AD 90-190 and 150-230 respectively). The Thameside grey wares include sherds from jars of Monaghan types 3H2.1 (*c* AD 150-230) and 3H8.2 (*c* AD 170-230) and a Class 4H5-7 bowl of type 5C1.6 (*c* AD 170-250). The sherds from the last mentioned vessel are the freshest in the assemblage and probably date its dumping to the early 3rd century.

Minority fabrics include a handful of fragments from Canterbury products in fabrics R5, R6.3 and R8.3, a few sherds of Central Gaulish and East Gaulish samian and some everted rim jar sherds in native coarse ware fabric R1 (*c* AD 170-250) from production sites in north-east Kent along the banks of the Wantsum Channel. A few sherds in poorly-fired grey ware fabrics R155 and 156 (2%) may be from vessels produced locally and include large fresh fragments from an everted-rim jar (Fig. 1, No. 13).

Assemblage 7. From the fills of enclosure ditch 8625 (Contexts 8048 and 8202)

The 50 sherds (278 g) of pottery recovered from this feature are entirely made up of 26 fresh sherds from the lower part of a flagon in pinkish-brown Canterbury fabric R8.3 (*c* AD 150-250) and 24 fresh sherds from a necked-jar of Monaghan type 3H8-2 in fabric R73 (*c* AD 170-230).

Assemblage 8. From the fills of ditch 8642 (Contexts 8440 and 8426)

The 66 sherds (318 g) of pottery from the cuts across this feature include a few residual late Iron Age and early Roman sherds but are otherwise made up of 50 fresh sherds from a locally produced grey ware jar in fabric R155 (Fig. 1, No. 14)

Assemblage 9. From the fills of ditch 8640 cutting ditch 8630 (contexts 8415, 8447, 8462, 8476 and 8477)

Ditch 8630 cutting ditch 8642 produced just one jar sherd, in fabric B2.3. An even later ditch 8640 did, however, produce 23 sherds (208 g) of pottery, including a large fresh rim sherd from a flagon of Pollard (1988) type 157 (*c* AD 150-250) and five fresh joining sherds from a residual jar of Thompson type B1.1 in grog-tempered fabric B2.1. The presence of fresh sherds from this late Iron Age vessel in what is a 3rd century feature may be evidence for the enclosure ditches represented by ditches 8625 and 8627/8640 having recut earlier late Iron Age ditches which were totally obliterated by the refurbishment.

Assemblage 10. From the fills of pit 8647 for the construction of structure 8098 (contexts 8097, 8099 and 8145)

The interior core-moulding for the construction of structure 8098 within pit 8647 (context 8097/8145) yielded a small complete everted-rim pot in black fabric B2 (Fig. 1, No. 15) and 32 sherds (552 g) of other pottery. The latter included a jar or beaker base in grey Upchurch fine ware fabric R16, fresh joining sherds from a bowl in BB2 fabric R14, a dish of Monaghan's type 5F3.4 (*c* AD 130-270) and a jar of type 3H2.4 (*c* AD 160-230) in Thameside grey ware fabric R73. Other sherds include those from a necked jar in oxidised Thameside fabric R71 (*c* AD 200-270, Fig. 1, No. 16), a hook-rim jar in 'scorched' fabric LR2.2 (*c* AD 180-250), a jar in LR2.1 fabric (Fig. 1, No. 17) and a jar in black fabric B2.1 (Fig. 1, No. 18) dated *c* AD 200-270.

This structure is clearly of early 3rd century date with the five sherds from its upper fill (context 8099) suggesting that it did not remain in use much after the middle of that century. Sherds from the upper fill of what may be a replacement for structure 8142 include two fresh sherds from a flask of Monaghan class 1B6 in white-slipped Hoo fabric R18.1, dated *c* AD 150-200.

Assemblage 11. From the fills of pit 8037 (Contexts 8036, 8042, 8043, 8044 and 8045)

This feature contained the shattered remains of parts of four freshly-broken vessels below an upper fill (8036) with 59 sherds (723 g) of pottery. The four vessels may have been ritually deposited and comprise the body of a bag-shaped flagon in burnt white-slipped Hoo fabric R18.1 (Fig.1, No. 19, *c* AD 140-190), part of a 'pie-dish' in BB2 fabric R14 (Fig. 1, No. 20, *c* AD 170-230), the upper half of a flagon in Canterbury fabric R8.3 (Fig. 1, No. 21, *c* AD 200-250) and the top of an amphora in fabric R8.1 (Fig. 1, No. 22, *c* AD 150-250). The sherds from the upper fill include a further fragment from No. 20, basal sherds from more than one jar in fine Upchurch grey ware fabric R16 and fresh joining fragments from a jar of Monaghan type 3H2.3 (*c* AD 150-230).

Assemblage 12. From the fills of pit 8359 (contexts 8280, 8281, 8283, 8285, 8287, 8288, 8289, 8294, 8296, 8297, 8298, 8299, 8331 and 8332)

This feature yielded 363 sherds (4398 g) of pottery: The lowest fill (8299) was lacking in pottery but 8297 above produced 54 sherds (575 g), including part of a Class III F beaker in local fabric R156, a jar in patchy black/brown fabric B2.1 (Fig. 1, No. 23, *c* AD 150-270) and a lid-seated jar in fabric R155 (Fig. 1, No. 24, *c* AD 170-230). Fill contexts 8281, 8288, 8289, 8296, 8331 and 8332 above yielded a further 234 sherds (3427 g), including fragments from a jar similar to Monaghan's Class 3H8 in grey fabric R155 (Fig. 1, No. 25, *c* AD 170-230), a shoulder sherd with burnished chevron decoration from another jar in similar fabric, part of a beaker of Monaghan Class 2A5 in fine Upchurch grey ware fabric R16 (Fig. 1, No. 26, *c* AD 160-190), a jar of class 2I3 in similar fabric (Fig. 1, No. 27, *c* AD 120-190), the lower part of a corrugated barrel-shaped flagon in similar fabric (Fig. 1, No. 28, *c* AD 170-260), a flask of Class 1B1 in similar fabric (Fig. 1, No. 29, *c* AD 100-180), the top of a flagon of Pollard type 168 in oxidised Canterbury fabric R6.1 (Fig. 1, No. 30, *c* AD 70-120) and more of No. 24.

5 GENERAL DISCUSSION

5.1 Phase 1. *c* 50 BC-AD 70

Handmade grog-tempered wares made up nearly three quarters of the small assemblage from the Phase 1 late Iron Age ditches (Table 3). Although this assemblage is rather small for any kind of meaningful analysis, the small number of combed and furrowed sherds, coupled with a lack of forms characteristic of 'Belgic' grog-tempered wares produced in the Canterbury area and the presence of Eastern Atrebatian style decoration on three of the vessels, suggests a source for some at least of these wares in the Weald to the south.

Small numbers of sherds from jars in sandy black Folkestone fabric B8 and fragments from chaff-tempered salt-containers in fabric BER15 indicate other trading links with the Channel coast connected with salt supply to the site. The presence of similar quantities of black glauconitic wares from the Maidstone area is indicative of a further trade route along the edge of the Weald from the west, with the Leda Cottages site lying near the eastern edge of the distribution zone for such wares.

A tiny fragment in the sand and calcined-flint tempered fabric MLIA2.2 from the upper ditch fills hints at more distant trade with pottery production sites around the estuary of the River Medway after *c* AD 30, but the vessel represented by this fragment could have got to the site as late as AD 70.

5.2 Phase 2. *c* AD 70-150

Very little pottery can be attributed to this phase and none of the assemblages are suitable for any kind of quantification. Nevertheless, it is evident that grog-tempered wares remained significant and include a substantial element in superior ?tournette-finished fabric B2.3 from the Ashford area. Evidence for trading links with the Canterbury area takes the form of sherds from vessels in sandy grey ware and oxidised fabrics R5 and R6.3 from the fills of ditch 8629 and the lining of Structure 8142. Continued trading links with the Folkestone area and presumably the supply of salt are hinted at by the sherds in sandy black fabric B8 from ditch 8639, although the absence of such wares from structure 8142 may indicate that this trade had ceased by AD 70.

The part complete necked jar in fabric B2.1 from the construction cut for structure 8142 and sealed beneath its flint lining may represent some kind of ritual deposit but is unfortunately not closely datable within the period AD 50-175.

The presence of vessels in grog-tempered fabric B2.3 at this iron-working site, similar to those from the much larger iron-producing settlement at Westhawk Farm, Ashford, only 7 km away to the south-east, suggests that Leda Cottages was now a satellite iron producer for that much larger centre.

There is evidence for the arrival of significant numbers of Thameside products for the first time after AD 120, including cooking-pots in BB2 and poppyhead beakers in fine Upchurch grey ware fabric R16. A few cups, bowls and dishes in Central Gaulish samian ware are also present after this date.

5.3 Phase 4. *c* AD 150-270

Most of the pottery from the site belongs to this phase and is largely associated with a group of industrial (possibly iron-working) features. None of the assemblages from these features was large enough in itself for meaningful analysis but when combined they produce a group large enough for quantification by Estimated Vessel Equivalents (EVEs) based on rim sherds (Table 5). This quantification is noteworthy for the overwhelming predominance of cooking-pots and other jars over bowls and dishes. Flagons are also significant but their high percentage may be exaggerated by the presence of two complete tops. Another characteristic of the assemblage is the near absence of imported fine wares. This, coupled with the deficiency in open forms, is strongly suggestive of a very low status community.

Table 5: Fabric/vessel type correlation in contexts 8060, 8094, 8097, 8126, 8145, 8151, 8155, 8281, 8289, 8296, 8297, 8331 and 8332 (quantification by EVEs)

Form	I Flagon	II Jar	III Beaker	IV Bowl	IV Dish	Other	Total
Fabric							
B2		1.22		0.14			1.36
B2.1		0.49					0.49
B2.3		0.05					0.05
R1		0.39					0.39
R5		+					-
R6.1	1.00						1.00
R8.3	0.70						0.70
R14				0.12			0.12
R16	1.00		0.49				1.49
R17.1		+				+	-
R18.1	0.54						0.54
R50						+	-
R71		+					-
R73		0.34			0.04		0.38
R73.1		+				+	-
R75						+	-
R88.93		+				+	-
R109		+					-
R155		0.92					0.92
R156			+				-
LR2.1		0.12					0.12
LR2.2		0.12					0.12
Total EVEs	3.24	3.65	0.49	0.26	0.04	+	7.68
%	42.2	47.5	6.4	3.4	0.5		

Note: + = type not represented by rim

Most of the cooking-pots and other jars in use during this phase were handmade, grog-tempered east Sussex ware vessels from the Weald. Small numbers of such vessels were, however, supplied in high-fired sand and grog tempered native coarse ware fabric R1 from production sites on the banks of the Wantsum Channel between Kent and the Isle of Thanet and yet others, in fabrics R73, LR2.1 and LR2.2, were brought in from the Thameside pottery production centres in North Kent. One of the pots in fabric R1 has resin adhering to its neck, suggesting that it was used as packaging for some kind of produce. Another pot, in fabric R73, also has resin adhering to its rim

The second most significant supplier of cooking pots was, however, a very local producer producing sub-standard vessels in very sandy, brittle black fabric R155 with forms based on Thameside industry prototypes. This suggests that the big suppliers of early 3rd-century pottery in Kent were unable to meet the demand from the inhabitants of the Leda Cottages site; perhaps due to poor road communications or some other factor. It is worth noting that this phenomenon occurs in East Sussex during the same period (Lyne 2003, 145). That area was also dependent on the grog-tempered East Sussex Ware pottery producers for most of its ceramic supplies but we also find limited production of substandard wares such as the wobbly ill-formed pot with coarse ironstone filler in Cremation Group 9 from the

Hassocks cemetery (Lyne 1995, fig. 40). It may be that the primitive technology of the East Sussex Ware producers also extended to low levels of output and poor distribution systems.

The few bowls and dishes are east Sussex ware, BB2 and Thameside grey ware products, although it is known from other assemblages that one or two Central Gaulish samian open forms were in use on the site during this period. The few beakers from the site are all in fine Upchurch grey ware.

The four flagons and flasks in the quantified material come from both the Thameside potteries and those at Canterbury. There is a type IH2 vessel in white-slipped Hoo fabric R18.1, a flask of Monaghan type 1B1 in grey Upchurch fine ware fabric R16 and Pollard types 168 and 157 in Canterbury oxidised fabrics R6.1 and R8.1. The pulley-neck flagon of Pollard type 168 in fabric R6.1 was probably old at the time of its deposition.

The ritually deposited group of pots in the fill of pit 8037 (Assemblage 11) included a truncated bag-shaped flagon in Hoo fabric R18.1 and another in late Canterbury fabric R8.3. This pit also contained the upper part of an amphora sized vessel in Canterbury fabric R8.1.

The ceramic evidence suggests that the Leda Cottages site was abandoned at the same time as there was a great contraction in the size of the roadside settlement at Westhawk Farm, Ashford and the majority of the iron producing sites in the Weald closed down: this event probably took place during the period AD 250-270.

6 CATALOGUE

Assemblage 1 (Fig. 1)

1. Necked-bowl in polished black fine-grog-tempered fabric B1. Rim diameter 140 mm. Context 8233, ditch 8624.
2. Decorated sherd from jar in polished grey-black fabric B2 with linear burnished filled-in chevrons on the shoulder below a dot-impressed cordon. This method of decoration is characteristic of some late Iron Age Eastern Atrebatian ware vessels, such as the girth-cordoned storage-jar from Broadwater near Worthing in Sussex (Cunliffe 1991, fig A:32) and may indicate a Wealden source for this particular pot. Context 8234, ditch 8624.
3. Necked-jar in polished black fabric B2.1. Rim diameter 140 mm. Context 8353, ditch 8624.
4. Large, furrowed, bead-rim storage-jar with black 'paint' decoration on the shoulder. Rim diameter 340 mm. The use of black paint decoration is also characteristic of some late Iron Age and early Roman east Sussex ware vessels (Green 1980, fig. 28.1) whereas furrowing is not. Context 8579, Ditch 8628.
5. Bead-rim jar in black fabric B3 with polished shoulder above combed 'eyebrow' motifs of Eastern Atrebatian type. Rim diameter 160 mm. Context 8390, ditch 8628.
6. Three joining rim sherds from jar in polished black fabric B8. Rim diameter 160 mm. Paralleled at Dollands Moor, Folkestone (Lyne forthcoming b, fig. 19) and there dated c 50 BC-AD 50. Context 8184, ditch 8624.
7. Sherd from lower part of jar in similar fabric with burnished vertical lines. Context 8405, ditch 8624.
8. Necked jar rim in polished black glauconitic fabric B9.1. Rim diameter 150 mm. Context 8184, ditch 8624.

Assemblage 4 (Fig. 1)

9. Necked jar in polished fabric B2.3 fired patchy black/brown/grey. Rim diameter 140 mm. *c* AD 70-170. Context 8170.

Assemblage 5 (Fig. 1)

10. Jar with clubbed cavetto rim in polished reddish-brown/black fabric B2.3. Rim diameter 140 mm. *c* AD 70-170. Context 8569.

11. Everted rim sherd in similar fabric. *c* AD 70-170. Context 8569.

12. Lid-seated jar rim in black fabric B2. *c* AD 70-170. Context 8569.

Assemblage 6 (Fig. 1)

13. Everted-rim jar in very fine buff fabric R156 fired grey-black. Rim diameter 100 mm. Context 8497.

Assemblage 8 (Fig. 1)

14. Necked jar in patchy brown/black fabric R155, with black 'paint' on neck and shoulder. Rim diameter 160 mm. Context 8426.

Assemblage 10 (Fig. 1)

15. Small everted-rim jar in grog-tempered fabric B2 fired black. Rim diameter 80 mm. Vessels of such crudity are somewhat difficult to date: this vessel is probably an east Sussex product and likely to be later than *c* AD 150. Context 8145.

16. Necked jar in orange-brown fabric R71. Rim diameter 160 mm. *c* AD 200-270. Context 8097.

17. Jar rim in very-fine grey fabric LR2.1. Rim diameter 160 mm. *c* AD 200-300. Context 8097.

18. Polished jar rim in black fabric B2.1 with offset shoulder. Rim diameter 180 mm. *c* AD 200-270. Context 8097.

Assemblage 11 (Fig. 1)

19. Truncated bag-shaped flagon in burnt Hoo fabric R18.1 with stub of bilobate handle. *c* AD 140-190. Context 8042.

20. Class IVH5-7 bowl of Monaghan type 5C7.1 in BB2 fabric R14 with rough external finish. Rim diameter 200 mm. *c* AD 170-230. Context 8043.

21. Ring-neck flagon in buff-yellow fabric R8.3 fired smooth orange externally. Rim diameter 37 mm. Paralleled in the Dane John kiln at Canterbury (Kirkman 1940, 131, No. 58). *c* AD 200-250. Context 8044.

22. Top of amphora in pink Canterbury fabric R8.1 fired smooth yellow-brown. Rim diameter 150 mm. *c* AD 150-250. Context 8045.

Assemblage 12 (Fig. 1)

23. Necked jar with flattened rim in patchy black/brown fabric B2.1. Rim diameter 140 mm. *c* AD 150-270. Contexts 8296 and 8297.

24. Lid-seated jar similar to Monaghan's class 3L1 in gritty grey fabric R155 fired rough black with pink margins. Rim diameter 140 mm. *c* AD 170-230. Contexts 8281 and 8297. This vessel had a small hole drilled through its girth after firing and may be some kind of ritual offering made at the time of the infilling of the feature.

25. Necked jar similar to Monaghan's class 3H8 in rough grey fabric R155. Rim diameter 160 mm. c AD 170-230. Context 8281.
26. Poppyhead beaker of Monaghan class 2A5 in grey fabric R16. Rim diameter 100 mm. c AD 160-190. Context 8281.
- 27 (Not illustrated). Small everted-rim beaker of class 2I3 in similar fabric. Rim diameter 120 mm. c AD 120-190. Context 8281.
28. Lower part of barrel-shaped flagon with corrugations, in similar fabric. This is probably part of a vessel of Monaghan type 1A5.1. c AD 180/90-250/60. Context 8281.
29. Rim from flask of Monaghan type 1B1 in similar fabric. Rim diameter 55 mm. c AD 100-180. Context 8281.
30. Pulley-neck flagon of Pollard type 168 in sandy oxidised Canterbury fabric R6.1. Rim diameter 60 mm. Context 8281 (8331).

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