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**The late Iron Age and Roman Pottery from North of
Saltwood Tunnel, Saltwood, Kent (ARC SLT 98)**

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1 INTRODUCTION

A relatively large assemblage of 4764 sherds, weighing 36527 g, was recovered from excavations at Saltwood Tunnel. The majority of the sherds are late Iron Age to early Roman in date, with a small amount of late Roman material. The assemblage comprises locally made coarse wares and sherds from known sources (including Oxfordshire, Upchurch, Patch Grove and the Nene Valley) and several imported wares (including samian, amphorae and Lower Rhineland colour coated ware).

The condition of the material is variable, but generally average to very worn with a mean sherd weight of 7.7 g. In view of the condition of the pottery surface treatment was not recorded, although occasional exceptional survivals are noted.

In addition to the normal settlement context types of layers, pits, ditches and postholes etc, pottery was recovered from 10 cremation burials. This material is included in the general description and discussion of the site assemblage that follows, and also tabulated separately to indicate its particular characteristics. The catalogue and illustrations of these vessels appears elsewhere (Riddler and Trevarthen 2006).

2 METHODS OF ANALYSIS

The pottery was recorded using a project-specific Access database. Fabric types were defined following the Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) type series for Roman pottery. Definition of vessel forms was based on established regional series (Marsh and Tyers 1978; Monaghan 1987 etc). Details of decoration, surface treatment, manufacture, use-wear and condition were also recorded. Quantification is by number and weight of sherds and by EVEs for vessel types.

3 FABRICS

Sixty-six different fabric types were recorded in 10 ware groups (Table 1). Thirty, largely coarse, locally made wares were identified. These comprised oxidised wares (R8.1, R70, R71, R74.1); grey wares (R7, R73, LR2.1, LR2.2, LR2.3), fine grog-tempered wares (B1), grog with flint (B3, LR26), chalk (B4) and sand (B5, R3), coarse grog-tempered wares (B2, B2.2, R1, R1.2, LR1), shell-tempered wares (B6), Belgic fine sandy wares (B8), coarse sandy wares (B9, B9.1, B9.3), chaff-tempered briquetage (BER15), other coarse wares (B21, R109), other white-cream wares (R75), black-burnished ware (R13, R14) and fine wares (R29, R110).

Table 1: Quantification of fabric types by number of sherds and weight (g)

Fabric Code	Fabric Name	No. sherds	% sherds	Weight (g)	% weight
B1	'Belgic' fine grog-tempered	30	0.6	131	0.4
B2	'Belgic' coarse grog-tempered	982	20.6	7278	19.9
B2.2	'Belgic' coarse/probably local coarse grog-tempered	96	2.0	595	1.6
B3	'Belgic' grog-tempered with sparse flint	23	0.5	86	0.2
B4	'Belgic' grog-tempered with chalk grits	16	0.3	49	0.1
B5	'Belgic' grog-tempered with sand	38	0.8	301	0.8
B6	'Belgic' shell-tempered	15	0.3	62	0.2
B8	'Belgic' fine sandy	878	18.4	8562	23.4
B9	'Belgic' coarse sandy	89	1.9	916	2.5
B21	Other coarse ware	22	0.5	77	0.2
BER7	Early Gaulish white ware: Rigby Fabric 1B	59	1.2	68	0.2
BER15	Chaff-tempered ware	87	1.8	215	0.6
R1	Romanised grog-tempered native coarse ware	297	6.2	3474	9.5
R1.2	Romanised grog-tempered native coarse ware (pale grog)	34	0.7	413	1.1
R3	Romanised grits/sand-tempered native coarse ware	3	0.1	21	0.1
R5	Canterbury coarse grey sandy	3	0.1	34	0.1
R7	Fine grey sandy (some CC)	23	0.5	112	0.3
R8.1	Fine orange sandy (some CC)	1	+	1	+
R9.1	Canterbury coarse pink/buff sandy	98	2.1	221	0.6
R9.2	Canterbury fine pink/buff sandy	9	0.2	157	0.4
R13	Black-burnished 1 (Dorset and others)	1	+	8	+
R14	Black-burnished 2	43	0.9	336	0.9
R15	Verulamium ware: 'Brockley Hill'	2	+	15	+
R16	Fine grey 'Upchurch'-type (some CC)	306	6.4	1596	4.4
R17.1	Fine orange 'Upchurch'-type (some CC)	361	7.6	787	2.2
R17.2	Fine red 'Upchurch'-type (some CC)	2	+	20	0.1
R18.1	Fine purple/grey 'Upchurch'-type CC flagon (slipped)	5	0.1	15	+
R18.2	Fine purple/grey 'Upchurch'-type CC flagon (unslipped)	9	0.2	44	0.1
R23	Pompeian red wares	2	+	14	+
R25	Lower Rhineland fabric 1	8	0.2	18	+
R26	Alice Holt-type	1	+	3	+
R29	Highly micaceous wares	3	+	30	0.1
R42	Southern Gaulish Samian	10	0.2	27	0.1
R43	Central Gaulish Samian	62	1.3	459	1.3
R46	Eastern Gaulish samian	3	0.1	26	0.1
R46.1	Miscellaneous samian	1	+	3	+
R50	Amphora	39	0.8	1325	3.6
R61	?Gaul/SE England fabric 1 mortaria	2	+	103	0.3
R67	Highgate Wood-type fabric (fabric C)	2	+	7	+
R68	Patch Grove	14	0.3	97	0.3
R70	Pink/buff fine/coarse sandy (Some CC)	2	+	2	+
R71	Other pink/buff wares (Some CC)	48	1.0	190	0.5
R73	Coarse grey sandy (some CC) ?Source	203	4.3	843	2.3
R73.1	Grey sandy, black-burnished ware types	56	1.2	1093	3.0
R74.1	?Coarse orange (some CC) ?source	89	1.9	401	1.1
R88.93	Flagon white ware: Rigby fabric WW 28	10	0.2	31	0.1
R92	Flagon white ware: Rigby fabric WW 7	1	+	20	0.1
R95	Miscellaneous Picardy/SE England traded wares	2	+	21	0.1
R98	Unidentified Amphorae	4	0.1	141	0.4
R99	Unidentified Mortaria	6	0.1	63	0.2
R109	Other Coarse Ware	144	3.0	1274	3.5
R110	Other Fine Ware	11	0.2	32	0.1
R113	Gauloise 12 Amphora	1	+	7	+
LR1	Probable local coarse grog-tempered (pale grog)	341	7.2	3201	8.8
LR2.1	?Local fine grey sandy	6	0.1	17	+
LR2.2	?Local fine grey sandy overfired	28	0.6	167	0.5
LR2.3	?Local coarse grey sandy	3	0.1	27	0.1
LR5	Alice Holt	7	0.1	111	0.3

Fabric Code	Fabric Name	No. sherds	% sherds	Weight (g)	% weight
LR5.1	Alice Holt-type (?local/E.Kent)	15	0.3	58	0.2
LR7	Oxford Parchment ware	1	+	11	+
LR10	Oxfordshire red/brown colour coated	62	1.3	313	0.9
LR11	Nene Valley-type colour coated	12	0.3	118	0.3
LR13	Hadham oxidised	1	+	11	+
LR17	Argonne	9	0.2	299	0.8
LR22	Oxford white mortarium fabric	5	0.1	130	0.4
LR23	Oxford: oxidised white slipped mortarium fabric	3	0.1	40	0.1
LR26	Coarse grog-tempered with flint	15	0.3	200	0.5
TOTAL		4764		36527	

Twenty-five fabrics were identified from known British sources, some again fairly local. The sources include Upchurch (fabrics R16, R17.1, R17.2, R18.1, R18.2), Patch Grove (fabric R68), Verulamium region (fabric R15), Alice Holt (fabrics LR5, LR5.1, R26), Oxfordshire (fabrics LR10, LR7, LR23) and the Nene Valley (fabric LR11). Smaller quantities of other known wares (from Hadham, Canterbury and Highgate) were also recorded.

Twelve imported wares were also identified, including samian (fabrics R42, R43, R46, R46.1), Argonne ware (fabric LR17) and various amphora fabrics (R50, R98, R113). A few small sherds of Pompeian red ware (fabric R23) and Lower Rhineland colour-coated ware (fabric R25) were also recorded.

The assemblage was dominated by the local coarse wares in the 'Belgic' tradition, which totalled 45.9% of sherds, divided almost equally between grog-tempered and sand-tempered fabrics (respectively B1-B5 and B8-B9). Together these fabrics indicate the early Roman emphasis of the assemblage. Reduced coarse wares comprised 27.3% and oxidised coarse wares 13.1% of the total sherds. No other major ware group contributed significantly to the assemblage.

Fine and specialist wares together totalled 6.5% of sherds. The principal components of this group were samian ware, fine wares and white wares. The majority of the samian assemblage (and of the diagnostic sherds in it) were Central Gaulish (fabric R43), with smaller quantities of both South and East Gaulish material. The range of forms was unremarkable. Three stamped vessels were seen; the stamp on a Drag 27 from Grave 6 was illegible and two base fragments from ditch 835 had incomplete stamps GRAN[and DECIMI[. More notable were nine sherds from a single vessel in Argonne fabric LR17. The fine wares, mostly of late Roman date, consisted largely of Oxfordshire colour-coated ware (fabric LR10), with a smaller quantity of Nene Valley colour-coated ware (fabric LR11), and a single Hadham sherd (fabric LR13) was recorded. Early Roman fine wares were represented by Lower Rhine colour coated ware (fabric R25) and two sherds of Pompeian red ware (fabric R23). At least three amphora fabrics were present. As usual, fabric R50 (Baetican Dressel 20 fabric) was dominant, with a single southern French sherd (fabric R113) and four unassigned

sherds grouped as fabric R98. As with fine wares, most of the recorded mortaria were in late Roman Oxfordshire fabrics, with only two sherds (fabric R61) assigned to a regional source, although it is likely that some of the six ‘unidentified’ mortarium sherds grouped as fabric R99 were of relatively local origin (and may have included early Roman vessels). White wares, in contrast to mortaria and fine wares, were almost entirely of early Roman date. Fabric BER7 was numerically the most important of these, though this importance is exaggerated by the relatively large numbers of very small sherds recovered from a single vessel in grave 14.

4 FORMS

Some 170 vessels were identified on the basis of rim sherds. These amounted to only 13.45 EVEs - the average figure of only 8% of vessel rim circumference surviving is indicative of the fragmented nature of the assemblage, further demonstrated by the fact that 38.2% of the rim sherds (comprising 12.7% of the total EVEs) were not assigned even to a general vessel type (although it is likely that the great majority of these rims were from jars). The quantification of vessel types, showing the correlation between general (Southwark) and specific typologies (in particular Monaghan 1987) is shown in Table 2, and the correlation of fabrics with general vessel types in Table 3. Jars and bowls/dishes were present in a variety of fabrics, with coarse sand-tempered B8 and grog-tempered B2 and R1, being the most common fabrics for jars. Black-burnished and samian ware were most common for bowls/dishes, whilst flagons, mortaria, cups, beaker and amphorae were present in a more restricted range of fabrics. Of a total of 105 vessels (based on rim count) that were identified to form, 64 (61.0%) were jars (50.4% of EVEs assignable to form). Bowls and dishes made up an additional 35.5% of assignable EVEs and flagons, beakers, cups and mortaria comprised 4.7%, 4.8%, 3.0% and 1.4% respectively (cf Table 3, which shows these figures as percentages of the total EVEs, including non-assigned rims). Forms such as amphorae were not represented by rim sherds.

Table 2: Vessel Forms

Vessel Type	Marsh & Tyers Form	Monaghan Form	Rim Count	EVEs	Date Range
Flagons	I	-	3	0.43	0-100
	IJ2	IA4.1	1	0.12	50-80
Jars	II	-	4	0.15	50-400
Bead rim jars	IIA	-	4	0.39	50-150
	IIA	3F1.4	1	0.18	70-150
	IIA1	-	1	0.01	50-150
	IIA9	3E7.1	1	0.15	50-150
Necked round-bodied jars	IIB	-	4	0.52	50-150
	IIB	3B1.1	8	0.91	50-150

Vessel Type	Marsh & Tyers Form	Monaghan Form	Rim Count	EVEs	Date Range
Necked jars (with sharply carinated shoulders)	IIC2	-	1	0.10	50-150
Round bodied jars	IIE	-	1	0.65	43-70
Jars (with everted rims)	IIF	-	1	0.15	120-200
Necked jars	IIG	-	3	0.28	100-150
	IIG	3A1.1	3	0.19	50-150
	IIG	3A4.1	1	0.19	50-150
Large storage jars	IIM & SJ	-	2	0.13	0-200
Pre-Flavian necked jars	II NJ	-	30	2.10	50-70
Beakers	III	-	2	0.39	50-200
Indented beaker	III	2C4	1	0.01	120-200
Beakers with short sharply everted rim	IIIC	-	1	0.15	70-100
Beakers (taller rims than IIIC/IIIC)	IIIF	-	1	0.01	130-200
Bowls	IV	-	6	0.96	50-400
	IVE		1	0.15	300-400
	IVG	-	1	0.07	120-150
	IVH	-	1	0.09	120-150
	IVH5		7	0.19	43-200
		Drag 18/31	2	0.14	80-200
Rimless shallow dishes	IVJ	-	2	1.08	160-200
	IVJ	5E1.3	1	1.00	100-160
	IVJ	5E2.2	2	0.15	100-160
	IVJ3	5E3.1	1	0.18	100-160
Cups	VI	Drag 33	1	0.15	120-200
	VIA	Drag 27	1	0.20	120-150
Mortaria	VII	-	1	0.02	50-400
	VII	M17.11	1	0.02	240-300
	VII	M18.3	1	0.06	240-300
	VII	WC4.1	1	0.02	240-300
	VII	WC5.1	1	0.05	240-300
Uncertain types			65	1.71	
Total			170	13.45	

Table 3: Vessel form/fabric correlation (Quantification by EVEs)

Form	I Flagon	II Jar	III Beaker	IV Bowl/Dishes	VI Cup	VII Mortaria	Uncertain	Total EVEs
Fabric								
B1	0.12						0.05	0.17
B2	0.04	0.70		0.08			0.25	1.07
B2.2		0.10					0.06	0.16
B5		0.08		0.05				0.13
B6		0.01						0.01
B8		2.00		1.01			0.11	3.12
B9							0.09	0.09
BER15							0.33	0.33
R1		0.79					0.07	0.86
R7		0.25					0.02	0.27
R9.1	0.20							0.20
R14				0.16			0.02	0.18
R16		0.07	0.42				0.14	0.63
R17.1							0.06	0.06
R25			0.14					0.14
R42							0.01	0.01
R43				0.14	0.35		0.02	0.51
R68		0.10						0.10
R71		0.07					0.03	0.10
R73		0.61					0.07	0.68

Form	I Flagon	II Jar	III Beaker	IV Bowl/Dishes	VI Cup	VII Mortaria	Uncertain	Total EVEs
Fabric								
R73.1		0.02		1.39			0.02	1.43
R74.1		0.13					0.05	0.18
R109		0.16						0.16
LR1		0.56		0.89			0.21	1.66
LR2.1							0.02	0.02
LR2.2		0.15					0.02	0.17
LR2.3		0.04						0.04
LR5		0.10						0.10
LR10				0.15		0.02	0.04	0.21
LR11	0.19						0.02	0.21
LR17				0.15				0.15
LR22						0.08		0.08
LR23						0.07		0.07
LR26		0.15						0.15
TOTAL	0.55	6.09	0.56	4.02	0.35	0.17	1.71	13.45
%	4.1	45.3	4.2	29.9	2.6	1.3	12.7	

4.1 Jars

The most common vessels were grog- and sand-tempered jars. The range of jar forms and the fabrics in which they occur is set out in Table 3. Many jars are fragmentary and were classified at the broadest levels (form II, NJ or SJ) (Marsh and Tyers 1978). Six bead rim jars (IIA), were represented by rims, although the total number of examples of this form was at least 12. All were dated from the mid 1st to mid 2nd century AD and were in coarse local coarse grog and/or sand-tempered wares. A remarkable bead rim jar with impressed decoration was recovered from pit 924 (Fig. 1, No. 1). This vessel, in grog-tempered fabric B2, was completely burnished on the interior and exterior surfaces. The decoration, on the central zone of the vessel, was of closely spaced, simple circular impressions. A similar vessel was found at Park Farm, Ashford, in 2003 (Wessex Archaeology forthcoming) and ring stamped sherds have also been noted in fabric B2.1 at Beechbrook Wood. Coarse sand-tempered jars included (Fig. 1, No. 5) from pit 644. Round bodied neckless jars (IIB) were common and occurred in a wide range of fabrics and sizes. These included early sand-tempered vessels, such as one from feature 814 (Fig. 1, No. 6), and a variant form in fabric B8 with a substantial handle on the shoulder (Fig. 1, No. 8). Grog-tempered vessels included (Fig. 1, No. 10) from ditch 634 and an example in Patch Grove ware from grave 1577. Although principally of early Roman date, the form also appeared in later Roman fabrics such as LR1 and LR26. A jar in the latter, coarse grog and flint tempered fabric came from pit 285 (Fig. 1, No. 13).

An everted rim jar (IIF) in a coarse grog-tempered fabric from ditch 738 is dated to the 2nd century. Seven necked jar types (IIG) are assigned to the early/mid 1st to mid 2nd century. These include examples in grog tempered fabrics (from layers 13, 2500 and ditch 2710) and sand-tempered fabrics (from grave 20 and wall 805). There was a coarse grey ware jar in ditch 835 and an Upchurch jar in pit 518. A single shell-tempered storage jar (IIM) was

recovered from ditch 738. The majority of jars were assigned to a generic 'necked jar' group (II NJ), most examples of which date from the mid to late 1st century. Included within this groups are vessels such as a jar with a low rounded shoulder in sand-tempered fabric B8 from cremation burial 15. This form is dated early to middle 1st century AD. A single pedestal base sherd in ditch 774 (Fig. 1, No. 9) may have been from a jar or pedestal urn.

4.2 Bowls/Dishes

Bowls and dishes occurred in a wide range of fabrics. The only (Central Gaulish) samian ware form represented by a rim was Drag 18/31, of which there were two examples. A fragment of a Drag 37 bowl came from posthole 6073. A single Argonne ware vessel bowl came from cut 638 (Fig. 1, No. 14). The vessel is quite abraded, with almost no slip surviving, but the form and characteristic rouletting indicate a mid to late 3rd century date (Bayard 1990, fig. 2, 1). Oxfordshire colour-coated ware sherds (fabric LR10) will have included a number of bowl forms, but the only recognisable (rimless) vessel was of Young (1977) type C84, dated AD 350-400 but unstratified. An Oxford parchment ware wall sided bowl (*ibid.*, type P24), dated mid 3rd to late 4th century, was also unstratified.

Other bowl and dish types were generally of early Roman date. They included bowls with straight, vertical sides, flat bases and flat rims (IVG) in coarse sand and grog-tempered fabrics from cut 814 and posthole 135. These bowls date from the early to middle 2nd century. An example in a black-burnished fabric was recovered from ditch 1227. 'Pie-dishes', (IVH) and rimless shallow dishes (IVJ) also occurred occasionally in black-burnished ware and more commonly in the North Kent fabric sandy reduced fabrics R73 and R73.1 (eg the complete example in fabric R73.1 from cremation burial 22. Another complete sand-tempered dish, in fabric B8, came from grave 14. A further sand-tempered example in the fine micaceous fabrics R29 came from pit 612 (Fig. 1, No. 12). Some less clearly defined bowl/dish types occurred in the range of vessels in grog-tempered fabrics. These included fairly straight sided vessels from layers 2500 (Fig. 1, No. 4) and 3701 (Fig. 1, No. 3) and a large vessel with a simple expanded rim from ditch 71 (Fig. 1, No. 2).

4.3 Flagons

Only four flagons were represented by rim sherds and two further flagons were present in graves; only the base of each survived. Most of these vessels were in relatively coarse local wares, including a grog-tempered fabric used for a collared flagon (type IA) from ditch 1243. These grog-tempered flagons were common in east Kent (Pollard 1988, 38). A possible 'amphora' type flagon (IJ) from pit 644 was also in a grog-tempered fabric. Oxidised Canterbury fabrics were also present: a ring-necked flagon rim (IB) redeposited in Anglo-

Saxon grave 4628 was in fabric R9.1, as were the flagon bases in graves 6 and 15. A New Forest ware (fabric LR11) flagon fragment was recovered from layer 579.

4.4 Beakers

Five beakers (III) were represented by rim sherds. Two beakers were recovered from ditch 774, a single beaker in a colour-coated Lower Rhineland fabric (R25) and a carinated beaker (IIIG). The latter and all the other beakers are all in the Upchurch fabric (R16) and comprise pre-early Flavian beakers (IIIA) from ditch 728 and beakers with everted rims (IIIC/IIIF) from ditch 806 and ditch 835 (Fig. 1, No. 11). This last was a poppyhead beaker of Monaghan Class 2A. The most distinctive vessel, unfortunately fragmentary, was an indented beaker from grave 22. This is quite closely paralleled by Monaghan's type 2CA and analogous examples from Ospringe (Whiting *et al.* 1931, particularly nos 51 and 134). It may be significant that all these vessels (apart from the Upchurch 'type vessel') are from graves. The associations of the Saltwood example suggest a date in the 2nd century rather than later.

Five graves (12, 14, 15, 20 and 21) also produced probable butt beakers, one (from Grave 14) in Gallo-Belgic white ware fabric BER7, the remainder in Upchurch fabrics, but all were heavily truncated and none had surviving rim sherds. One other vessel can be considered here. The base and body of a small carinated bowl or beaker in local sandy fabric B8 was recovered from cremation burial 14. The upper body is missing so it is not possible to tell if the vessel is of Thompson (1982) form F3-4 or F3-5. A date around the middle of the 1st century AD seems certain.

4.5 Mortaria

Five mortaria (class VII) were represented by small rim sherds, all dating from mid 2nd to late 3rd century. All but one of these were Oxfordshire types, one each of ?C100, M17 (Fig. 1, No. 16), WC4 (Fig. 1, No. 17) and WC5. The examples of M17, ?C100 and another vessel (Fig. 1, No. 15), probably in a local fabric but heavily burned and therefore assigned to the uncertain fabric R99, all came from cut 922. Mortarium fragments of form Drag 45 were noted in both Central and East Gaulish samian ware (fabric R43 and R46 respectively).

4.6 Other types

Only two cups were represented by rim sherds, both samian ware types (Drag 27 and Drag 33). A minimum of three different amphora fabrics was present, but there were no rim sherds. The fabrics indicate the presence of south Spanish Dressel 20 vessels and a single example perhaps of Gauloise 12 (Tyers 1996, fig. 69). Sherds of fabric R98 are not assigned to known sources - there were four of these. A number of possible lids in local coarse fabrics were identified, but no rim sherds were certainly of this form. Two fragments from a possible strainer in fabric B8 came from the fill of pit 612.

5 SURFACE TREATMENT AND DECORATION

As mentioned above these were not recorded systematically, but ten decorative categories were noted. Burnishing does not appear to have been particularly common - it was noted mostly as an exterior surface treatment, particularly in zones on the rims and shoulders of vessels and with fewer instances of vertical/geometric lines - but zone burnishing would probably have been much more widely detected had the sherds been in better condition and therefore merited full recording. The most commonly noted aspects of decoration were cordons (on the shoulder and body, as in Fig. 1, No. 7) and horizontal and vertical combing. This is seen for example on Fig. 1, No. 6, while a cruder form of the treatment was used on Fig. 1, No. 5. Fairly closely related to the latter is the technique of wiping of external surfaces, seen on a small number of sherds, which may be a decorative feature as well as a form of surface finish. The contrast between burnished shoulder and 'textured' vessel body is seen in a different form on Fig 1, No. 13. The body of this heavily grog-tempered vessel was left untouched, but its surface was so rough as to suggest that the effect might have been deliberately intended. These techniques were most common on the coarse locally made grog-tempered and sand-tempered fabrics, and to a lesser extent on coarse Romanised reduced wares. An exceptional use of impressed decoration on a bead rim jar (Fig 1, No. 1) has been noted above. Finer vessels typically had either stamped (comb and rosette) decoration (on late Roman fabrics such as LR10) or rouletted decoration on vessels such as butt beakers. The use of roller stamped decoration seems to have been confined to the single Argonne ware vessel (Fig. 1, No. 14)

6 USE AND RE-USE

Internal burnt residues were identified on small numbers of sherds from the following contexts: ditches 75, 835, 1860, pits 42, 1847, 6157, graves 1189, 1577, layer 2700 and posthole 6339. Residues occurred mainly on local coarse fabrics, and there was a single instance on a sherd of black burnished ware. External sooting on vessels was identified on sherds from the following contexts: graves 14, 6101, cut 922, layers 330, 608, ditches 835, 816, 1903, wall 805, 815 and pit 6144. The sherds in question range from locally made coarse ware jars through to cremation vessels and mortaria. Burnt or overfired sherds were recovered from ditch 29 and ditch 1848 and 2291. Two vessels had deliberate holes drilled into the bases after firing. Both were in local coarse wares and came from a cut (814) and a pit (4509). A third base sherd from a grey ware vessel in cut 630 had been deliberately trimmed. Other vessels with post-firing perforations were recovered from ditch 227 and pit 924. The latter vessel (Fig. 1, No. 1) had a perforation beneath the rim, possibly for some form of lid attachment.

7 CREMATION BURIALS

Twenty three pottery vessels were recovered from ten cremation burials, 6, 12, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 337. The detailed descriptions of these vessels are given in the grave catalogue and summarised here (Table 4). Generally the cremations burials were in poor condition and only the base and lower body sherds of most vessels were present as a consequence of truncation. Two complete dishes were recovered, but on the whole the cremation vessels were poorly preserved and reconstruction of vessel profiles was difficult. In some cases, attribution of base fragments to vessel type is not absolutely certain.

Table 4: Quantification of pottery in cremation burials; U indicates container of cremated bone

Feature	Context	No. sherds	Weight (g)	Fabric	Vessel Type
Grave 6	5	84	325	R16	Jar U
Grave 6	4	1	35	R43	Drag 27 cup
Grave 6	4	17	55	R9.1	Flagon
Grave 12	67	11	48	B8	Small jar
Grave 12	67	102	96	R17.1	rouletted ?beaker
Grave 12	68	43	235	R17.1	?Beaker U
Grave 12	69*	1	4	R17.1	
Grave 14	59**	3	1	BER7	
Grave 14	60	27	499	B8	Jar U
Grave 14	61	1	379	B8	Complete dish
Grave 14	62	34	296	B8	Pedestal beaker
Grave 14	63	56	67	BER7	Butt beaker
Grave 15	49*	71	73	B8, R9.1, R17.1	
Grave 15	52	50	82	R17.1	Butt beaker U
Grave 15	53*	5	12	B8	
Grave 15	54	55	226	B8	Jar
Grave 16	86	34	193	B8	Jar U
Grave 19	96	1	110	B8	Jar U
Grave 20	56	29	143	R17.1	Butt beaker
Grave 20	57	23	112	B8	Jar U
Grave 21	83	49	102	R18.1	Butt beaker U
Grave 22	101	15	290	R16	Jar U
Grave 22	99 & 102	22	74	R16	Beaker
Grave 22	103	1	439	R73.1	Complete dish
Grave 22	103*	1	7	R16	
Grave 22	104	2	55	R73	Bowl
Grave 337	336	115	1067	R109	Jar U

Asterisked items are parts of other vessels or incidental fragments

** original records suggest the presence of another vessel (in fabric B6) in this context

The numbers of vessels per grave ranged from one to four or five. Four graves (16, 19, 21 and 337) contained a single vessel, the urn, one grave (20) contained two vessels, three graves (6, 12 and 15) contained three vessels and two (14 and 22) contained four vessels. It is possible that a fifth vessel was present in grave 14, but this is not clear.

In all ten burials some or all of the cremated remains were placed within a ceramic vessel. Seven of these were jars in reduced coarse ware fabrics or their 'Belgic' predecessor

B8 (four vessels), while the other three were oxidised/white slipped vessels, probably butt beakers, in Upchurch fabrics R17.1 and R18.1. Apart from these 'urns' the remaining vessels comprised two flagons, a cup, five probable beakers, two small jars, a shallow bowl and two dishes. If the interpretation of the pedestalled vessel in grave 14 as a carinated beaker is correct it might support the view that the two small ancillary jars, in similar fabrics (all these vessels were in fabric B8), were also intended to represent drinking vessels. The decision to use 'drinking vessels' (butt beakers) as urns in some cases is likely to have been based on the relatively substantial size of these vessels, this was more significant than a narrow view of their potential function. There is an interesting correlation between the size of the grave groups and the range of vessels included. In all groups except those comprising only an 'urn', the second vessel of choice is a probable drinking vessel, a beaker, cup (in one case) or small jar. Flagons (liquid containers) appear only in two groups (graves 6 and 15), in each case as the third vessel behind the urn and drinking vessel combination already mentioned. The only other grave group with three vessels, grave 12, appears to have two drinking vessels in addition to the 'urn', though one of these was very fragmentary. Dishes only appear in the two groups which have four vessels, but interestingly neither of these groups contains a flagon; instead grave 14 appears to have two drinking vessels and grave 22 has a shallow necked bowl to complement the 'urn', beaker and dish.

The occurrence of a single cup, and of flagons in only two graves, in contrast to the apparent importance of beakers or beaker substitute drinking vessels, may be an indicator both of a fairly early chronological emphasis in the cemetery as a whole and of a relatively 'unromanised' character - the two features perhaps being related. The incidence of butt beakers, and their use as cinerary containers, is also consistent with this. Overall, the pottery suggests a date range from about the middle of the 1st century AD to the late 2nd century for the cemetery, but only graves 6 and 22 must have been of 2nd century date, and roughly mid and late 2nd century dates respectively can be suggested for them. All the remaining graves can be assigned to the 1st century. It is possible that some of these, particularly those containing only vessels in fabrics such as B8, were of pre-Conquest date, though direct evidence is lacking. Even if all the burials are post-Conquest a significant number can probably be assigned to the pre-Flavian period. On the basis of the pottery evidence it would be possible to argue for a break in the burial sequence in the later 1st and early 2nd centuries, but this cannot be demonstrated conclusively.

Pottery was also recovered from 17 inhumation burials in small quantities (Table 5). All of this material appears to have been redeposited in the grave fills.

Table 5: Pottery from inhumation burials

Context	Grave	No. sherds	Weight (g)	Fabric	No. vessels represented
1000	1004	1	2	B1	1
1017	1004	1	5	R16	1
1030	1031	15	50	B2, B8	2
1046	1048	7	18	B2, B5, B8, R74.1	4
1310	1081	5	5	B8	1
1109	1110	2	8	B2	1
1119	1118	4	6	B2, R16, R74.1	3
1123	1122	1	3	R74.1	1
1120	1138	1	2	B8	1
1155	1154	6	19	B2, B8, B21, R43	4
1164	1165	5	19	B2, B8, B9	3
1187	1188	2	10	B8, R73	2
1322	1321	1	6	R74.1	1
1515	1462	3	5	B1, R68	2
1859	1577/1857	13	64	B2, B8, R17.1	3
1706	1705	1	3	R67	1
3884	3885	17	80	B2, B8, R16	3
5188	5187	4	11	R110	1

8 CHRONOLOGY AND PHASING

The overall distribution of Roman pottery is relatively sparse across the Site. Of the 506 contexts producing pottery, only 58 yielded more than 20 sherds. The majority of individual context groups could not therefore be assigned to a ceramic period with confidence. The most significant quantities of sherds from features other than burials came from wall sill 358 (137 sherds), trackway 814 (156 sherds) and cut 923 (83 sherds). In addition to the cremation burial groups discussed above, the Anglo-Saxon inhumation burial 1577 produced 134 sherds of residual early Roman pottery. The range of forms and fabrics suggest that the site was occupied during the late Iron Age/early Roman period and that activity continued until some time in the late fourth century AD. The most intensive ceramic usage and discard, however, took place during 1st and 2nd centuries and pottery use diminished during the 3rd century. The assemblage has been divided into three Ceramic Phases on the basis of the pottery assemblage.

8.1 Early Roman (CP 1)

Jars (IIA, IIB, IIC, IID, IIE, IIN), beakers (IIIA, IIIC, IIIG) and a cup (VIA) were amongst the forms occurring in contexts assigned to Ceramic Phase 1 (*c* AD 1-100). A minimum of 16 context groups were so assigned.. Nine features are of note with over 20 sherds in them, including cremation burials 12, 14, 15 and 337, while the smaller cremation burial groups 16, 19, 20 and 21 can also be assigned to this phase. Other features with over 20 sherds included pit 4509 (contexts 4508, 4591 and 4600, totalling 121 sherds) and Anglo-Saxon grave 1577; both contained grog and sand-tempered vessels.

8.2 Middle Roman (CP 2)

Jars (IIF, IIG, IIM), beakers (IIIE, IIIF), bowls/dishes (IVE, IVG, IVH, IVJ), cup (Drag 33) and a mortarium (VII) dating to Ceramic Phase 2 (*c* AD 100-250) were recovered from a minimum 13 contexts assigned to this phase. One ditch (738, contexts 733 and 735) produced a single small sherd of fabric LR2.2, but this is likely to have been intrusive in a mid Roman group. Cremation burials 6 and 22 are assigned to this phase. The majority of the datable material appears to belong to the 2nd century rather than the first half of the 3rd.

8.3 Late Roman (CP 3)

Bowls/dishes (IVE) and mortaria (VII) were amongst the distinctive forms assigned to Ceramic Phase 3 (*c* AD 250-400). A number of fabrics, particularly late Roman fine wares including the Argonne vessel, were also specific to this period and were used to date the groups in which they occurred. Substantial groups of pottery assigned to this phase came from layers associated with trackways 814 and 922. While a significant proportion of most of the relevant groups was residual, each component context assemblage contained sufficient distinctive late material to make their phase certain. Similarly large quantities of pottery dating from the late 3rd to 4th century AD were associated with the a stone wall footing, 358. Other significant late groups came from layers 621 and 731, a stokehole (638 - a small group including the Argonne ware bowl) and pit 4514.

9 SALTWOOD TUNNEL (ARC SLT 98C/SLT 98/ SLT 99) CATALOGUE ILLUSTRATED VESSELS

The vessels are arranged in fabric group and type order. Vessels from burials are illustrated elsewhere with their respective grave groups

Figure 1

1. Fabric B2. Bead rim jar with impressed decoration. The vessel is burnished overall on both interior and exterior. The girth area is covered with closely spaced simple circular impressions *c* 6 mm across made with a flat ended 'stamp'. There is a post firing perforation in the neck. Context 351, pit 924.
2. Fabric B2. Large open bowl with simple expanded rim. Context 34, ditch 71.
3. Fabric B2. Plain bowl rim (straight-sided), layer 3701
4. Fabric B5. Plain open bowl, layer 2500
5. Fabric B8. Bead rim jar, context 643 , pit 644
6. Fabric B8. Jar with combed decoration, context 122, cut 814
7. Fabric B8. Cordoned jar, context 4591, pit 4509
8. Fabric B8. Jar with handle scar and plug on shoulder, context 818, ditch 819
9. Fabric B9.1. Pedestal base, context 805, ditch 774
10. Fabric R1. Narrow mouthed necked jar, context 635, ditch 634
11. Fabric R16. Beaker, context 704, ditch 835
12. Fabric R29. Straight sided dish, context 611 (profile), pit 612
13. Fabric LR26. Short everted rim jar, context 284, pit 285

14. Fabric LR17. Argonne bowl with lines of roller stamped decoration, each produced with a simple stamp with three rows of square impressions. Context 637, cut 638
15. Fabric R99. Mortarium, context 238, cut 922
16. Fabric LR22. Mortarium, context 238, cut 922
17. Fabric LR23. Mortarium, Young (1977) type WC4, layer 621

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