

**Channel Tunnel Rail Link
London and Continental Railways
Oxford Wessex Archaeology Joint Venture**

**The late Iron Age and Roman pottery from Hocker's
Lane, Thurnham, Kent (ARC 420 62+200-63+000 99)**

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CTRL Specialist Report Series

2006

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Figure 1: Hocker's Lane - Roman pottery, 2-14

1 INTRODUCTION

The main excavation yielded 724 sherds (4915 g) of late Iron Age and pre-Flavian Roman pottery from 63 contexts: a further 118 small fragments were retrieved through the sieving of environmental samples but are not incorporated into the quantified data presented below.

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 metric 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

Quantification of the pottery from all contexts by numbers of sherds and their weights per fabric (Table 1) shows that the most significant group of fabrics are the glauconitic B9.1 and B9.2, which together make up 44% of the pottery by sherd count and slightly less by weight. Sandy black fabric B8 makes up a further 15% by sherd count: the similarity of the bead-rim jars in this fabric to those in glauconitic fabric B9.1 suggests that the wares in fabric B8 come from the same pottery production centre and are the result of the potters having access to more than one sand source for clay filler.

'Belgic' grog-tempered ware fabrics B1, B2, B2.1 and B3 make up a further 22% of the overall assemblage by sherd count and 33% by weight, with the discrepancy between the two methods of quantification being due largely to the tendency for the grog-tempered ware vessels to be larger than those in glauconitic fabric.

Calcined-flint and sand-tempered fabrics MLIA2.1 and 2.2 make up just 6% of the pottery. A variety of, presumably, local Iron Age fabrics account for a further 10% of the assemblage: they comprise fabrics LIAB1 with silt-sized quartz filler and occasional chert and ferrous inclusions, lumpy LIAB4 with moderate coarse calcined-flint filler, polished black LIAB5 with up to 2 mm calcined flint, poorly-made LIAB6 with occasional shell and no other obvious filler, LIAB7 with ironstone and perhaps leached-out chalk filler, LIAB8 with silt-sized quartz filler and chopped grass impressions, oxidised LIAB9 with very-fine quartz sand and red ferrous inclusions, and smooth LIAB10 with occasional shell and very-coarse calcined flint. The concentration of sherds in many of these fabrics within Phase 1 palisade trench 255 indicates their middle Iron Age/late Iron Age 1 date but others such as LIAB1, not present in the palisade trench and represented in part by the basal footing of a Gallo-Belgic platter copy, belong to the 'Belgic' Late Iron Age.

Nominal amounts of other wares include chalk tempered B4, shell-tempered B6 from North Kent and Terra Rubra fabrics TR2 (B14) and TR3 (B16). The few sherds in Roman fabrics R14, R16, R18.1, R43 and R73.3 (1.4%) are largely unstratified and may simply be from field marling or some sporadic ephemeral activity on the site.

Table 1: *Quantification of fabrics*

Fabric	Summary Description	No. sherds	% sherds	Weight (g)	% weight
LIAB1	Profuse silt-sized quartz, sparse ferrous inclusions and occasional flint	10	1.4	76	1.5
LIAB4	Coarse calcined flint tempered	7	1.0	94	1.9
LIAB5	Fine calcined flint-tempered	5	0.7	10	0.2
LIAB6	Burnished black with mixed grog, shell and quartz	3	0.4	15	0.3
LIAB7		2	0.3	31	0.6
LIAB8	Black, profuse silt-sized quartz, occasional flint and organic inclusions	36	5.0	176	3.6
LIAB9		1	0.1	15	0.3
LIAB10		4	0.6	29	0.6
MLIA2.1	Very-fine sand and calcined-flint	30	4.1	292	5.9
MLIA2.2	As MLIA2.1 with ferrous inclusions, high fired	17	2.3	237	4.8
B1	'Belgic' fine grog-tempered	26	3.6	157	3.2
B2	'Belgic' coarse grog-tempered	52	7.2	696	14.2
B2.1	'Belgic' coarse grog-tempered (pale grog)	74	10.2	732	14.9
B3	'Belgic' grog-tempered with sparse flint	4	0.6	21	0.4
B4	'Belgic' grog-tempered with chalk grits	1	0.1	6	0.1
B6	'Belgic' shell-tempered (?N Kent)	2	0.3	86	1.7
B8	'Belgic' fine sandy	108	14.9	222	4.5
B9.1	'Belgic' coarse sandy (glauconite)	313	43.2	1836	37.4
B9.2	'Belgic' coarse sandy (glauconite & flint)	7	1.0	81	1.6
B14	Early Gaulish TR Fabric 1(C)	11	1.5	51	1.0
B16	Early Gaulish TR Fabric 3	1	0.1	3	0.1
R14	Black burnished 2	4	0.6	19	0.4
R16	Fine grey 'Upchurch' fabrics I and II	2	0.3	6	0.1
R18.1	Fine purple/grey 'Upchurch'-type flagon (slipped)	2	0.3	6	0.1
R43	Central Gaulish samian	1	0.1	9	0.2
R73.3	Coarse grey sandy ?Thameside	1	0.1	9	0.2
Total		724		4915	

3 FORMS/TYPES

All the rim sherds from the site were quantified by Estimated Vessel Equivalents (EVEs) and tabulated by form per fabric (Table 2). As at both Thurnham and Snarkhurst Wood, the material is totally dominated by cooking-pot and boiling-jar forms (80%) with just a couple of storage-jars and sherds from a Gallo-Belgic CAM 2 platter copy (20 BC-AD 30) and a jug in the very-fine-grogged 'Belgic' fabric B1. These latter forms and fragments from a Gallo-Belgic CAM 8 platter in TR2 fabric (*c* AD 20-65) and an ovoid beaker in pale orange TR3 fabric fired pink (*c* AD 10-60) suggest, however, a somewhat higher social status for the Hockers Wood settlement compared with that at Snarkhurst Wood.

The small size of the site pottery assemblage from Hockers Wood prevents the detection of specialised activities through abnormal emphases on certain vessel types.

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

Form	I Flagon	II Jar	IV Bowl	IV Dish	Total
Fabric					
LIAB4		0.09			0.09
MLIA2.1		0.27			0.27
MLIA2.2		0.37			0.37
B1	0.05	0.16		0.01	0.22
B2		0.39			0.39
B2.1		0.23			0.23
B6		0.05			0.05
B8		0.15			0.15
B9.1		1.48			1.48
B14				0.41	0.41
R14			0.05		0.05
R43				0.05	0.05
R73.3		0.06			0.06
Total EVEs	0.05	3.25	0.05	0.47	3.82
%	1.3	85.1	1.3	12.3	

4 CHRONOLOGY AND PHASING

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

Assemblage 1. From the fills of palisade trench 255 (contexts 42, 43, 44, 185, 186, 195, 250, 251 and 252)

The 118 sherds (563 g) of pottery from this feature were quantified by numbers of sherds and their weights per fabric (Table 3). This quantification has glauconitic wares in fabric B9.1 making up 52% of the assemblage by sherd count and slightly more by weight. Forms include three slack-profiled jars (Fig 1, Nos 2-3, 150-1 BC) similar to examples from middle Iron Age to late Iron Age 1 assemblages at Beechbrook Wood, Ashford (Jones 2006) and Kingsnorth Power Station, Sheppey (Lyne Forthcoming, figs 1 and 2, c 150-1 BC) and bead-rim jars of Thompson's classes B2-2 (Fig. 1, No. 4, c 50-1 BC) and B5-1 (Fig. 1, No. 5, c 50 BC-AD 30).

Table 3: Assemblage 1, from the fills of palisade trench 255

Fabric	No. sherds	% sherds	Weight (g)	% weight
LIAB.5	5	4.2	10	1.8
LIAB.6	3	2.5	15	2.7
LIAB.8	36	30.5	176	31.3
LIAB.9	1	0.8	15	2.7
LIAB.10	4	3.4	29	5.2
B1	8	6.8	16	2.8
B9.1	61	51.8	302	53.5
Total	118		563	

The early date of this assemblage is further indicated by the presence of 49 sherds in Fabrics LIAB5, LIAB6, LIAB8, LIAB9 and LIAB10. Sherds in these generally crude

handmade fabrics make up a mere 7% of the overall site assemblage but a much more substantial 42% of the pottery from the palisade trench: this suggests that these fabrics, for the most part, are pre-Belgic in date

Assemblage 2. From the fill of posthole 40 (context 41)

The 105 sherds (278 g) of pottery from this feature are unsuitable for any form of meaningful quantification but include 82 bead-rim jar fragments in black to buff quartz-sanded fabric B8. The rest of the sherds are in glauconitic fabric B9.1 and include a bead-rim jar of Thompson (1982) type B2.2 (50 BC-AD 50, Fig. 1, No. 6).

Assemblage 3. From the fills of enclosure ditch 109 (contexts 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 67, 68, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 114 and 115)

Most of the fills of this feature were lacking in pottery but contexts 68 and 108 yielded 22 fragments (205 g), comprising 16 sherds in glauconitic fabric B9.1, two in grog-tempered fabric B2.1 and four in calcined-flint-tempered fabric MLIA2.1. The glauconitic sherds include fragments from three saucepan pots (Fig 1, No. 7, c 150-50 BC).

4.2 Phase 2. 'Belgic' Late Iron Age. c AD.50

Assemblage 4. From the fills of recut ditches 134 and 273 (contexts 28, 29, 30, 49, 50, 62, 63, 64, 83, 116, 117, 118, 119, 125, 126, 127, 170, 171, 172, 173, 202 and 203)

The 105 sherds (572 g) of pottery from these two recut ditches are quantified by numbers of sherds and their weights per fabric in Table 4. This is of limited value as the group is not only rather small but includes 11 sherds from a single CAM 8 platter in Terra Rubra fabric TR2 (Fig. 1, No. 12, c AD 25-65). Nevertheless, it can be seen that by far the most significant fabric is the local glauconitic B9.1 (55%) with the quartz-sand tempered fabric B8 perhaps from the same source bringing its share of the assemblage up to 61%. The two recognisable forms are a lid-seated butt-beaker of Thompson Class G5-6 in fabric B9.1 (Fig. 1, No. 9, c AD 1-50) and a bead-rim jar of Thompson Class B2-2 in fabric B8 (Fig. 1, No. 8, c 50 BC-AD 50). 'Belgic' grog-tempered wares include fragments from a ?CAM 13 platter copy in polished fabric B1 (Fig. 1, No. 10, c AD 20-60) and a necked jar of Thompson Class B1-1 in siltstone grog tempered fabric B2.1 (Fig. 1, No. 11, c 50 BC-AD 70).

Table 4: Assemblage 4, from the fills of recut ditches 134 and 273

Fabric	No. sherds	% sherds	Weight (g)	% weight
LIAB.1	2	1.9	5	0.9
MLIA2.1	4	3.8	55	9.6
MLIA2.2	5	4.8	15	2.6
B1	1	1.0	14	2.4
B2.1	17	16.2	115	20.1
B8	6	5.7	25	4.4

Fabric	No. sherds	% sherds	Weight (g)	% weight
B9.1	58	55.2	289	50.5
B14	11	10.5	51	8.9
B16	1	1.0	3	0.5
Total	105		572	

There is a total absence of sherds in the middle Iron Age and pre-Belgic late Iron Age fabrics LIAB5, 6, 8, 9 and 10 so characteristic of the earlier assemblage 1: instead, sherds in calcined-flint and sand tempered fabrics MLIA2.1 (*c* 50 BC-AD 50) and MLIA2.2 (*c* AD 30-70) from production sites around the Medway estuary are present (9%) and include fragments from at least one bead-rim jar of Thompson Class C1-4 in fabric MLIA2.1.

Apart from the CAM 8 platter in TR2 fabric, Gallo-Belgic imports include a fragment from an ovoid beaker in TR3 fabric (B16) dated *c* AD.10-60. The presence of these Gallo-Belgic imports, the platter copy in fabric B1 and vessels in fabric MLIA2.2, coupled with an absence of sherds from vessels in wheel-turned Romano-British fabrics, suggests a date range of *c* AD 1/30-50 for the life of this recut enclosure ditch

Assemblage 5. From the fills of pit 69 (contexts 70 and 90)

The 11 sherds (143 g) of pottery from this feature are far too few for any meaningful form of quantification. They do, however, include a sherd from a handled ?jug (Fig. 1, No. 13, *c* AD 1-50) and two fresh fragments from a copy of a CAM 1 Gallo-Belgic platter (Fig. 1, No. 14, *c* 20 BC-AD 30), both in very-fine-grog-tempered fabric B1, indicating that the pit was dug and filled at some time during the period *c* AD 1-50.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Phase 1. *c* 150-1 BC

The assemblages from this phase are all very small but differ considerably from that associated with the earliest late Iron Age enclosure ditch (ditch 11470) at nearby Thurnham in that there is very little 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware compared with that site: the ditch 11470 assemblage is also totally lacking the middle/late Iron Age fabrics, so significant in Hockers Lane Phase 1. The percentages of glauconitic wares on both sites are, however, quite similar although the slack-profiled and saucepan pot forms from palisade trench 255 and ditch 109 at Hockers Lane are absent from Thurnham. We may infer from this that Hockers Lane Phase 1 is earlier than the commencement of late Iron Age occupation at Thurnham.

What these rather inadequate Phase 1 assemblages from Hockers Lane can also tell us is that around half of all of the pottery from the site was in the local glauconitic fabric B9.1, with the rest coming in from a variety of more distant but largely unknown sources.

5.2 Phase 2. AD 1-50

The fabric composition of Assemblage 4 from the recut enclosure ditches 134 and 273 is very similar to that from ditch 10840 at Thurnham and suggests that they are broadly contemporary. Just over 60% of the pottery in the Hockers Lane assemblage is still in the local glauconitic and quartz-sanded fabrics B9.1 and B8 variant but with an increase in the volume of 'Belgic' grog-tempered wares arriving on the site. The source or sources of these grog-tempered wares is uncertain but none of the 156 sherds in Phases 1 and 2 from the site are combed and only one has furrowed decoration. This suggests a source other than East Kent: the Weald or a local production centre are both possibilities.

Other sources of pottery during this phase include newly-established production centres around the estuary of the River Medway. These started supplying small quantities of crudely-finished and knife-trimmed calcined-flint and sand tempered bead-rim boiling jars in fabrics MLIA2.1 and 2.2 to the site after *c* AD 30. This phase also saw the appearance of small quantities of Gallo-Belgic Terra Rubra imports and copies of imported platters and butt-beakers in both 'Belgic' fine grog-tempered fabric B1 and glauconitic fabric B9.1.

6 CATALOGUE OF ILLUSTRATED VESSELS

Assemblage 1 (Fig. 1)

2. A slack-profiled vessel in similar fabric; polished both externally and internally. Ext. rim diameter 160 mm. Context 250.
3. Rim from weak-profiled vessel in polished similar fabric. 50 BC-AD 50. Context 44.
4. Bead-rim jar of Thompson type B5.1 in polished similar fabric. Ext. rim diameter 140 mm. 50 BC-AD 30. Context 186.
5. Bead-rim jar of Thompson type B2.2 with corrugated shoulder in similar fabric. 50-1 BC. Context 186.

Assemblage 2 (Fig. 1)

6. Bead-rim jar of Thompson type B2.2 in rough grey-black fabric B9.1. Ext. rim diameter 160 mm. 50 BC-AD 50. Context 41.

Assemblage 3 (Fig. 1)

7. Hole-mouthed jar or saucepan pot in black fabric B9.1 with knife-trimmed body. *c* 150 BC-AD 50. Context 68.

Assemblage 4 (Fig. 1)

8. Bead-rim jar of Thompson type B2.2 with corrugated shoulder in quartz-sand-tempered fabric B8. Ext. rim diameter 130 mm. *c* 50 BC-AD.50. Context 83.
9. Lid-seated butt-beaker of Thompson Class G5-6 in black glauconitic fabric B9.1 with surface polish. Ext. rim diameter 140 mm. *c* AD 1-50. Context 83.
10. Fragment from copy of ?CAM 13 platter (Thompson type G1-8) in very fine grog-tempered fabric B1. *c* AD 20-60. Context 83.
11. Necked jar of Thompson type B1.1 in polished, siltstone grog tempered fabric B2.1. Ext. rim diameter 180 mm. *c* 50 BC-AD 70. Context 83.

12. CAM 8 platter in Gallo-Belgic Terra Rubra fabric TR2 fired polished orange. Ext. rim diameter 160 mm. *c* AD 25-65. Context 173.

Assemblage 5 (Fig. 1)

13. Jug of uncertain type in black fabric B1 fired rough brown with triple reeded handle. *c* AD 1-50. Context 90.

14. Copy of Gallo-Belgic CAM 1 platter (Thompson type G1-1) in similar fabric with overall polish. *c* 20 BC-AD 30. Context 70.

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