

**Channel Tunnel Rail Link
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**The late Iron Age and Roman Pottery from Tollgate,
Cobham, Kent (ARC 33098C)**

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1 INTRODUCTION

A total of 453 sherds (7325 g) of later prehistoric and Roman pottery was recovered from the watching brief at Area 330 Tollgate, archaeological Zone 4. The assemblage derived from 39 contexts, most of which represented fills of pits and ditches (Table 3, see end of the report).

2 METHOD OF ANALYSIS

The pottery was recorded using a project-specific Access database. Fabric types were identified using a x20 binocular microscope and classified according to the Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) type series for Roman pottery, cross-referenced to the Oxford Archaeology (OA) ware groups. Vessels were classified according to scheme-wide type series based on the Southwark system (Marsh and Tyers 1978) with additions and modifications referenced to other relevant collections (especially Monaghan 1987; Pollard 1988; Thompson 1982). Vessel parts, decoration, wear, residues and EVEs were recorded, where appropriate, using a system created for the project. Quantification is by sherd number and weight.

3 FABRICS

Twenty-two fabrics in five ware groups were identified (Table 1). The assemblage is dominated by coarse wares, in particular shell-tempered fabrics, which form 49% of the total by sherd count and 56% by weight. Grog-tempered fabrics form 23% (21% by weight) of the total. This group includes seven sherds of Patch Grove ware. Other coarse wares, including black-burnished ware 2 and black-burnished type fabrics, represent a further 24% (17% by weight). Only 17 fine ware sherds (4% by weight) were recovered. The majority of these are fine Upchurch orange and grey wares but a single sherd each of Central and South Gaulish samian ware was also identified.

Table 1: Fabric quantification

Fabric	Description	Ware group	No. sherds	% sherds	Weight (g)	% weight
B1	Belgic fine grog-tempered	E	30	6.6	199	2.7
B2	Belgic coarse grog-tempered	E	45	9.9	1247	17
B3	Belgic grog-tempered + sparse flint	E	3	0.7	8	17
B5	Belgic grog-tempered + sand	E	20	4.4	83	1.1
B6	Belgic shell-tempered (?N Kent)	E	127	28	1648	22.4
B9	Belgic coarse sandy	E	19	4.2	209	2.8
B21	Other coarse ware	E	1	0.2	20	0.3
R1	Romanised grog-tempered	R	1	0.2	20	0.3
R6.1	? Canterbury coarse orange sandy	O	16	3.5	180	2.4
R8.1	Fine orange sandy	O	1	0.2	3	+1
R14	Black burnished 2	B	3	0.7	25	0.3
R16	Fine grey Upchurch fabrics I & 2	R	1	0.2	2	+
R17.1	Fine orange Upchurch – type	O	13	2.8	56	7.7
R42	Southern Gaulish samian	S	1	0.2	3	+
R43	Central Gaulish samian	S	1	0.2	13	0.2
R68	Patch Grove ware	O	7	1.5	293	4.0

Fabric	Description	Ware group	No. sherds	% sherds	Weight (g)	% weight
R69	South Essex/north-west Kent shelly	C	96	21.2	2473	33.7
R73	Unsorted coarse grey sandy	R	44	9.7	174	2.3
R73.1	Black burnished type	B	6	1.3	17	0.2
R74.1	Unsorted coarse orange	O	1	0.2	6	0.1
R102	?local flint + sand tempered	R	12	2.6	633	8.6
Flint	Later prehistoric flint-tempered	P	5	1.1	13	0.2
Total			453		7325	

4 FORMS

Only 23 vessel forms were identified, the majority of which are jars (Table 2). Three bowl/dish forms and a lid were also present. The bowl/dish group includes a BB2 triangular rim dish (IVH), a straight-sided shallow dish (IVJ) and an unclassified Central Gaulish samian vessel. The lid is a grog-tempered high bell-shaped vessel based on a native form (Thompson 1982, type L2). The most common jar form is the bead-rim jar (IIA) in grog-tempered, flint- and sand-tempered or coarse sand-tempered ware. Everted rim jar fragments in either black-burnished ware 2 or black-burnished type were recovered from pit 191, pit/well 521 and ditch 975. No beakers or flagons were identified but the jar assemblage includes a number of small, well-finished cordoned vessels, albeit in grog-tempered or flint-tempered fabrics. A large, lid-seated barrel shaped jar in flint-tempered ware is a native form more commonly found in grog-tempered ware. Further details of individual vessels are presented in context group descriptions in the discussion section of this report.

Table 2: Vessel forms / fabrics

Type	Detailed vessel type	fabrics	No.	EVE
Jars			19	1.58
II		B1	1	0.06
II	Monaghan 4J1.2	B2	1	0.02
II	Monaghan 3I5	R102	1	0.08
IIA2	Monaghan 3F3.1	B6, B9, R102	3	0.36
IIA8		B6	1	0.02
IIA16		R69	2	0.38
IIF		R73	2	0.16
IIF.1		R14	1	0.03
III	Thompson B3-8	B2	1	0.23
IIIM	Monaghan 3D1	B6	2	0.10
IIN	Monaghan 3A1	(B1), B2	1	0.14
IIQ		B1		
Beakers			2	0.35
IIIB		R102	1	0.30
IIIC		R102	1	0.05
Bowls			2	0.10
IV		R43		
IVH		R14	1	0.08
IVJ		R6.1	1	0.02
Dishes			1	0.02
V	Drag 18	R42	1	0.02
Lids			1	0.05
L	Thompson L2	B6	1	0.05
Total			25	2.10

5 DISCUSSION: CHRONOLOGY, PHASING AND AFFINITIES

The nature of this small assemblage suggests that the Romano-British occupation of the area was largely confined to a period between the Conquest, or possibly slightly earlier, and the mid 2nd century AD. Residual later prehistoric flint-tempered or coarse sand-tempered sherds (fabrics: Flint and B21) were recovered from pits 508, 551 and 1172 and holloway 522 in small quantities. The bulk of the assemblage was of 1st century AD date but amongst the latest material recovered were several sherds of black-burnished ware type 2 (BB2). Production of BB2 is generally believed to have commenced in about AD 120 (Tyers 1996, 187). If this dating is accepted, then pits 521 and 191, ditches 843 and 976 and feature 539, which contained sherds of either BB2, black-burnished type ware (R73.1) or grey ware copies of black-burnished type jars (IIF), are best dated to the early to mid 2nd century AD.

The bulk of the assemblage came from four features, pits 161, 673 and 861 and ditch 829, that together produced 78% of the total by count and 93% by weight.

Pit 161 contained 54 sherds (632 g) from a single fill, 160. The group included body sherds in early Roman shell-tempered ware (B6) and unsourced grey ware (R73) and a coarse orange ware undecorated straight-sided IVJ type bowl (Fig. 1, No. 1), possibly a Canterbury product (fabric R6.1). Two shell-tempered storage jars (form IIM, Monaghan type 3D1) date to AD 40/50-150. The group overall dates to AD 100-150.

Pit 673, located at the northern end of north-south boundary feature 847, produced 73 sherds (2929 g) from three layers. The majority of sherds came from layer 609. Grog-tempered vessels include a pre- or early Flavian form IIN necked jar (Fig. 1, No. 5) and a small cordoned jar (Fig. 1, No.12; Monaghan 1987, 4J), seen by Thompson as a late Belgic form dated to AD 40-120 (Thompson 1982, D2-4). A form IIL storage jar (Fig. 1, No. 7) was also recovered. Shell-tempered (B6, R69) wares include two form IIA 16 lid-seated bead-rim jars (Fig. 1, Nos 6 and 10). Body sherds in Patch Grove ware, dating to AD 50-150, and unsourced coarse orange ware R74.1 were also present. Vessels in local flint and sand-tempered ware R102 included a bead-rim jar form IIA2 (Fig. 1, No. 8) (Monaghan 1987, 3F3) dating to *c* AD 40-170 and two small jars (Monaghan type 3I5) (Fig. 1, Nos 9 and 11). The presence of Patch Grove ware, generally regarded as a post-Conquest type (Pollard 1988, 212) suggest a date in the second half of the 1st century for this group.

Pit 861 contained 124 sherds (1607 g) within two fills, 862 and 863. Shell-tempered wares predominated and vessels in this fabric included a pre- to early-Flavian bead-rim jar IIA8. A shell-tempered bell-shaped lid (Fig. 1, No. 14) resembles Thompson type L2 that spans the Conquest period. Most known examples are grog-tempered but Thompson cites a possible shell-tempered example from Crayford, near Dartford (Thompson 1982, 541). Grog-tempered wares include a necked, cordoned jar fragment resembling pre-early Flavian type

IIQ and a narrow-bodied jar base (Fig. 1, No. 13). Coarse sand and flint-tempered wares B9.2 and R102 were used in the manufacture of a type IIA2 bead-rim jar, a pedestal base (Fig 1, No. 15) and a large lid-seated jar (Fig. 1, No.16). The latter resembles Thompson type D3-3, more commonly in grog-tempered ware, but a flint-tempered example from Borden in north Kent is cited (Thompson 1982, 339). This native form occurs on both settlement sites and in burials from the early 1st century AD. Three sherds of Patch Grove ware indicate a date of AD 50 or later for this pit.

Ditch 829 produced 102 body sherds (1635 g) from fills 830, and 844. Twenty grog and sand tempered sherds (fabric B5) probably represent one vessel as this is the only context producing this fabric. All other sherds are north-west Kent shell-tempered ware, probably dating from about AD 70 (Monaghan 1987, 222).

Small collections of pottery were recovered from three of the artesian wells located along the road/holloway at Henshurst Road. Well 521 contained only five sherds, a single sherd each of fine grey Upchurch ware and early shell tempered ware and two sherds of unsourced grey ware. A BB2 jar (form IIF) probably dates to AD 120 or later. Well 539 contained seven sherds, including body sherds in later prehistoric flint-tempered ware, unsourced grey ware and early Roman grog-tempered ware. A BB2 bowl (form IVH) probably dates to AD 130 or later. Well 865 contained only five abraded grog-tempered sherds that could not be closely dated. The wells may all be contemporary but the ceramic evidence cannot demonstrate this with certainty.

Holloway 522 produced only seven body sherds in a range of fabrics including later prehistoric flint-tempered ware, early Roman grog-tempered ware, early Roman shell-tempered ware, Belgic coarse sandy ware and fine orange Upchurch ware. Six sherds of early Roman grog-tempered ware, including an everted jar rim, were recovered from gravel road 933.

Table 3: Quantification, type and date of pottery by context

Context	Context type	No. sherds	Wt (g)	fabrics	forms	Date
32	Natural	1	2	TF7 (prehist)	-	-50-50
160	Fill pit 161	54	632	B6, R6.1, R73	IIM, IVJ	100-150
174	Layer	10	22	B6	-	40-140
190	Fill pit 191	1	1	B6	-	40-140
196	Fill ditch 197	1	48	R73	-	43-250
217	Fill pit 191	2	14	B6, R73	IIF	120-300
261	Fill pit 263	1	28	B6	IIA	70-170
509	Fill pit 508	4	25	TF7, B1, B9	-	43-130
523	Fill ditch 524	9	50	R17.1	-	50-150
525	Fill holloway	7	23	TF7, B1, B6, B9, R17.1	-	70-150
534	Fill pit 521	2	6	R73	-	43-250
536	Fill pit 521	3	16	B6, R14, R16	-	120-150
538	Fill feature 539	7	52	TF7, B6, R14, R73	-	130-300
540	Fill ditch 568	5	7	B1, B6, B9, R17.1, R73	-	70-130

Context	Context type	No. sherds	Wt (g)	fabrics	forms	Date
553	Fill pit 551	5	6	TF7, B1	-	-50-50
586	Deposit 587	1	11	R73	-	43-130
609	Fill pit 673	63	2815	B1, B2, B6, R8.1, R68, R69, R102	IIA2, IIA16, IIL, IIN	43-100
621	Fill ditch 620	1	4	B6	-	40-130
631	Fill pit 630	1	5	R73	-	43-250
636	Fill pit 634	3	10	B3, B9	-	-50-100
674	Fill pit 673	6	102	B2, R69, R74.1, R104	II (cordoned), IIA16	43-100
678	Fill pit 673	4	12	R73	-	50-150
830	Fill ditch 829	21	98	B5, B6	-	43-130
839	Fill ditch 838	1	20	R1	-	43-130
844	Fill ditch 829	81	1537	R69	-	70-130
848	Fill ditch 843	2	5	R73.1	-	120-300
862	Fill pit 861	12	92	B1, B9, R68, R69	IIA2	70-120
863	Fill pit 861	112	1515	B1, B6, B9, R102	IIA8, Lid, Misc jar	43-100
864	Fill pit 865	5	5	B2, B3	-	-50-50
934	Layer 933	6	16	B1	-	43-130
939	Fill ditch 940	1	2	B9	-	-50-100
975	Fill ditch 976	7	31	R73	IIF	120-300
985	Layer 983	1	5	R68	-	50-130
1049	Fill ditch 1048	1	6	R73	-	70-400
1149	Fill pit 1148	3	31	B6	-	43-130
1193	Fill pit 1172	2	27	B21(Iron Age), R69	-	43-130
1225	Fill ditch 1224	3	6	B9, R17.1	-	70-130
1231	Natural	1	19	B1	-	-50-100
1232	Layer 748	1	13	R43	-	120-250
1236	Natural	2	6	B9, R42	-	50-100

6 CATALOGUE OF ILLUSTRATED SHERDS

Figure 1

1. Straight-sided bowl (IVJ). Coarse orange sandy ware (fabric R6.1). Pit 161, context 160.
2. Storage jar (IIM, Monaghan type 3D1). Shell-tempered ware (fabric B6). Pit 161, context 160.
3. Storage jar (IIM, Monaghan type 3D1). Shell-tempered ware (fabric B6). Pit 161, context 160.
4. Bead-rim jar (IIA, Monaghan type 3F3.1). Shell-tempered ware (fabric B6). Probably product of Cliffe potteries. Pit 263, context 261.
5. Necked, cordoned jar (IIN, Monaghan type 3A1). Grog-tempered ware (Fabric B2). Pit 673, context 609.
6. Bead-rim jar with lid-seating (IIA16, Pollard 1988, no.12). Shell-tempered ware (fabric R69). Pit 673, context 609.
7. Storage jar (IIL, Thompson 1982, type B3-8). Grog-tempered ware (B2). Pit 673, context 609.
8. Bead-rim jar (IIA2, Monaghan type 3F3.1). Flint-and sand-tempered ware (fabric R102). Pit 673, context 609.
9. Cordoned, everted rim jar (Monaghan type 3I5.2). Flint-and sand-tempered ware (fabric R102). Pit 673, context 609.
10. Bead-rim jar with lid-seating (IIA16). Shell-tempered ware (fabric R69). Pit 673, context 674.
11. Cordoned, everted rim jar (Monaghan type 3I5). Flint-and sand-tempered ware (fabric R102). Pit 673, context 674.
12. Cordoned jar/bowl (Thompson type B1-4). Grog-tempered ware (fabric B2). Pit 673, context 674.
13. Base of narrow-bodied jar. Grog-tempered ware (fabric B1). Pit 861, context 862.

14. High bell-shaped lid with simple rim (Monaghan 12H1.1; Thompson type L2). Thompson and Monaghan cite a grog-tempered version that spans the conquest. This example is in shell-tempered ware (fabric B6). Pit 861, context 863.
15. Base of pedestal urn (?). Flint-and sand-tempered ware (fabric B9.2). Pit 861, context 863.
16. Large lid-seated jar or barrel, (rim broken). Flint-and sand-tempered ware (fabric R102). Pit 861, context 863.

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