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**The Roman pottery from Westenhanger Castle,  
Stanford, Kent (ARC WGC 98)**

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

A small amount of material, 24 sherds, weighing 180 g, was recovered from a watching brief at Westenhanger Castle. The sherds are late Iron Age to early Romano-British in date. The condition of the material is variable, but generally average to worn. No surface treatments were recorded and the mean sherd weight is 7.5 g.

## 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. A scheme-wide type series was created for rim, base and handle forms, and this was linked where possible to vessel forms whose definition followed nationally recommended nomenclature (Marsh and Tyers 1978; Monaghan 1987). Details of decoration, surface treatment, manufacture, use-wear and condition were also recorded. Quantification in all cases is by both number and weight of sherds.

## 3 FABRICS

Four different fabric types were recorded (Table 1). All are relatively locally made coarse wares comprising coarse oxidised wares (R8.1), grey wares (R73) and grog-tempered wares (R68 and B2). No dating can be assigned from the fabrics alone.

One known fabric that was identified in the assemblage is Patch Grove ware from layer 3. This fabric has a source in west Kent indicated by the distribution of the fabric from other local assemblages (Tomber and Dore 1998, 167).

*Table 1: Quantification of fabrics by number and weight (g)*

| Fabric Type | Fabric Name                         | Number | Weight (g) |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|--------|------------|
| B2          | 'Belgic' coarse grog-tempered       | 9      | 98         |
| R8.1        | Fine orange sandy (some CC)         | 7      | 21         |
| R68         | Patch Grove ware                    | 1      | 3          |
| R73         | Coarse grey sandy (some CC) ?source | 7      | 58         |
| TOTAL       |                                     | 24     | 180        |

## 4 FORMS

The majority of the assemblage comprised undiagnostic body sherds. Four rim sherds were present, two each in fabrics B2 and R73, but owing to their size and condition not all could be identified to forms. The rims were recovered from pit 140 and ditches 417, 435 and 454. This last produced a high angled lid fragment in fabric R73. The only closely identified form was a neckless bead rim jar, form IIA.1 (Monaghan 1987 class 3F9.1) in fabric B2, 7 sherds (81 g) of which were recovered from ditch 417. Monaghan (*ibid.*, 88) dates the type AD 50-110/170. The fabric of the present example suggests a 1st century date.

## 5 CHRONOLOGY AND PHASING

The overall distribution of pottery is sparse across the site. Of the twelve features containing pottery none produced substantial quantities. With the exception of two features, the Roman pottery assemblage was recovered from features dated to the medieval period by associated pottery. Two single sherds of Roman pottery, a coarse local grog-tempered ware (B2) and a grey ware (R73) were recovered from ditches 264 and 434, which are dated to the Iron Age to early Roman period. Residual Roman pottery was recovered from medieval ditches 49, 153, 155, 316, 398, 417 and 454 in small quantities. A fine grey ware sherd came from gully 379, and the Patch Grove ware sherd came from layer 3. The only diagnostic sherds, of the grog-tempered jar (form IIA), were recovered from medieval ditch 417.

The lack of diagnostic material makes it difficult to determine the upper end of the date range of the Roman material. The slight indications from the range of fabrics suggest, however, that this is likely to lie at some point in the 2nd century.

## 6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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