

## **APPENDIX 1: ASSESSMENT OF POTTERY**

Louise Rayner

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The majority of the Zone 2 assemblage was recovered from ditches and an oven in the area of Station Road (ARC SSR 99) and dates to the late Iron Age/early Roman period. There is also a smaller quantity of later prehistoric flint-tempered pottery, although some of this is residual in later features. A smaller quantity of pottery was recovered from ARC 330 98.
- 1.2 There was no pottery found from ARC STP 99.
- 1.3 The pottery will assist the following fieldwork event aims:
  - *To recover dating evidence from the features located to enable a chronology for the division of the landscape to be established.*
  - *To determine the spatial organisation of the landscape and changes through time.*

### **2. Methodology**

- 2.1 All of the hand-collected pottery was recorded using standard MoLSS recording methods. The material is recorded on a context by context basis using fabric, form and decoration as unique identifiers. The prehistoric sherds were recorded using the Canterbury Archaeological Trust regional fabric codes.
- 2.2 The Late Iron Age/Belgic and Roman pottery was recorded using the Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) fabric reference collection codes. In some cases, particularly for the Late Iron Age/Belgic and early Romano-British material these codes should be taken to indicate broad fabric groupings and not defined fabric types; because of local variation sherds recorded under the same fabric code (both within the Zone 2 assemblage and from other sites recorded using CAT codes) will not represent one defined fabric but enable sherds to be grouped with other similar material. The pottery was quantified by count and weight and aspects of condition were also noted.

### **3. Quantifications**

- 3.1 A total assemblage of 522 sherds was recovered from the area of Zone 2. The quantities breakdown as follows:

*Table 1: Quantifications of prehistoric pottery*

Event code	count	Weight
ARC 330 98	58	415
ARC SSR 99	29	259
Total	67	514

*Table 2: Quantifications of Roman pottery*

Event code	count	Weight
ARC 330 98	63	445
ARC SSR 99	372	3049
Total	435	3494

#### 4. Provenance

- 4.1 From ARC 330 98 the prehistoric pottery was recovered from three contexts all of which were pit fills. Only a small group was recovered which totalled 38 sherds (255g). The pottery is all flint-tempered and generally of later prehistoric date. A single small jar is present from the area just to the west of ARC STP 99 which is probably of late Bronze Age date.
- 4.2 The second prehistoric group is 20 sherds of shell-tempered pottery which were recovered from the fill of a posthole from the west of Dale Road. There are no diagnostic sherds so the dating is uncertain, although a later prehistoric date, probably Iron Age seems most likely.
- 4.3 The Roman pottery from ARC 330 98 consisted of one group recovered from a ditch fill. This comprised two jars, which were partially complete.
- 4.4 From ARC SSR 99 the prehistoric pottery was again all flint-tempered and formed a small group of 29 sherds (259g). The pottery was recovered from ditches and pits and is primarily residual with later material. The bulk of the pottery is of Late Iron Age/early Roman date and was recovered from a series of ditches, pits and an oven.
- 4.5 From the fill of pit (sg 109) in ARC SSR 99 a group of late Iron Age/early post-conquest pottery was recovered which includes a sherd of *Terra Rubra* from a platter type Cam. 5. Although this form is dated to AD 40, the fabric (TR1A) is generally dated to AD 25. In either case this group is of note because it appears to be of earlier date than the pottery recovered from the ditches and because *Terra Rubra* vessels are generally rare. Further examples were recovered from Area 330 Zone 1 which might suggest a still sparse but wider distribution than previously evidenced.
- 4.6 A large group of early Roman pottery was recovered from the oven feature. This assemblage includes 'native' wares such as shell-, grog- and flint-tempered fabrics with clear Iron Age origins. These occur alongside early Romanised wares such as Upchurch fine wares and also south Gaulish imported samian, including a plate Drag. 18. The presence of these wares suggests a date in the later 1<sup>st</sup> century is most likely for this assemblage. Also in this assemblage are a high number of sherds from Thameside Kent shell-tempered storage jars with stabbed decoration on the shoulder. The composition of the assemblage suggests

it derives from domestic settlement and appears to have been dumped into the oven, once the feature had gone out of use.

- 4.7 The remainder of the pottery is primarily derived from the backfill of ditches. The pottery is of a similar nature to the assemblage recovered from the oven, with both native type fabrics and Roman wares, including further sherds of Samian.

## **5. Conservation**

- 5.1 There are no conservation requirements for the pottery assemblage from Zone 2 or any implications for the long-term storage posed by further analysis.

## **6. Comparative material**

- 6.1 A number of other sites in the region have produced evidence for early Roman activity. These will provide good comparative data for the Area 330 Zone 2 assemblage. The assemblage also finds comparison amongst the pottery from CTRL Area 330 Zones 1 and 3.
- 6.2 The shell-tempered prehistoric pottery from the posthole fill should be compared to the fabrics defined in Zone 3. This may improve the dating for the material.

## **7. Potential for further work**

- 7.1 The pottery has potential to contribute to the following areas of research:
- *Landscape Zone Priorities: Spatial organisation of the landscape and changes through time - the character, function and development of the Roman rural urban fringe*
- 7.2 The pottery will provide a chronological framework for the excavated features, which clearly represent rural activity, and will assist in the study of how the landscape functions and develops over time. The assemblage is large enough to provide meaningful analysis and can be examined in regard to functional composition and status.
- 7.3 The character and dating of the assemblage should be compared to similar pottery from Fawkhams Junction (Zone 1) and West of Northumberland Bottom (Zone 3).
- 7.4 The following further work is suggested in order to fulfil the potential of the assemblage:
- Define fabric descriptions for early Roman assemblage. This should be done in conjunction with the assemblage from ARC 330 98 (Zone 1) and ARC WNB 98 in order to establish whether any fabrics appear in more than one assemblage. This type of analysis will also refine the chronologies of this activity, which is important to fully address the question of the change in landscape organisation through time.

- Detailed consideration of the stratigraphic relationship of the assemblage in order to detect changes in the assemblage composition that may be of chronological importance.
- Analysis of the functional composition of the assemblage by comparing the relative quantities of different form types represented. This will contribute to the characterisation of the activity, taking place in this vicinity. By comparison with the assemblages from Zone 1 and 3, it will be possible to detect patterns of continuity or change in the functional bias over time and space.
- Prepare publication text
- Illustration of key groups

## **8. Bibliography**

None

*Table 3: Assessment of prehistoric Pottery, quantifications and attributes*

Event Code	Context	Count	Weight	Period	Comments
ARC 330 98	667	13	90	LPR	FLIN
ARC 330 98	1251	18	57	LPR	FLIN
ARC 330 98	1253	7	108	LBA	FLIN 2 FLIN Late Bronze Age: plain wares
ARC SSR 99	1	5	2	LPR	FLIN
ARC SSR 99	15	1	2	LPR	FLIN
ARC SSR 99	31	17	235	LPR	FLIN 2
ARC SSR 99	48	6	20	LPR	FLIN

*Table 4: Assessment of Roman Pottery, quantifications and attributes*

Event Code	Context	Count	Weight	Period	D_Min	D_Max	Comments
ARC 330 98	296	41	201	RO	50	100	CR73 2B CR75 2T
ARC 330 98	370	20	161	LIA/RO	50	100	SHEL
ARC SSR 99	10	1	7	RO	50	100	R17.4
ARC SSR 99	11	2	7	RO	50	150	R68
ARC SSR 99	12	79	319	RO	45	100	B2 B2.3 2A B2.3 B6.1
ARC SSR 99	13	5	51	RO	45	100	B2 2T B6
ARC SSR 99	18	9	10	RO	50	100	R17.4
ARC SSR 99	24	1	3	RO	45	100	B2
ARC SSR 99	27	3	37	RO	45	100	B2 B6 B9
ARC SSR 99	28	9	59	RO	45	100	B2 B5 R73
ARC SSR 99	31	14	215	RO	40	70	B12ELG 5AM5 B2 2 BUD B6
ARC SSR 99	35	90	784	RO	70	100	B2 B21 2 COMB B6 2 B6 2A B6.1 2 B6.1 2A B6.1 2T R16 R17.4 R42 5DR18 R69 2M STAB R73 9A R8.1
ARC SSR 99	39	26	200	RO	50	100	B2 COMB B2 B6 2V NCD B6.1 B9 R17.4 R42 5
ARC SSR 99	40	17	433	RO	50	100	B2 2 B2 B21 2A RLD B6 B6.1 2A R42 5 R68 2
ARC SSR 99	42	9	26	RO	70	100	B2 B6 R16 R17.3 R73
ARC SSR 99	49	57	172	RO	50	100	B6 B9 R17.4
ARC SSR 99	59	13	104	RO	50	100	B6 R42
ARC SSR 99	60	20	187	RO	70	100	B2 B6 B9 R16 RM 69 2M
ARC SSR 99	62	10	251	RO	50	100	B2.3 R69 2M STAB
ARC SSR 99	63	7	184	RO	50	150	B2 2 B6 R69