

**An Excavation at the King and Queen, Caterham**

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# POTTERY

by Mrs Mary Saaler and Michael Russell

All sherds were examined under a stereoscopic microscope at 10x and 40x power magnification. The group of shell-tempered ware (vesiculated) sherds was thin sectioned and analysed under a petrological microscope. Rim form was regarded as important and colour, whilst not being wholly diagnostic amongst a specific fabric group, was used as an indicator of pottery groups which was reinforced by microscopic examination (Prendergast 1974).

## Types and Function

There was wide variability in the type and form of vessels even within an individual class. Three main vessel types may be identified: cooking pots and storage jars, dishes, and jugs. There were 45 rim types: 8 (17.8%) everted or slightly everted; 37 (82.2%) flat-topped representing 35 (77.8%) cooking pots, 6 (13.3%) dishes, and 4 (0.04%) jugs.

## SHELL TEMPERED WARE (fig 4: 1-4)

There were 10 sherds in this fabric, 4 rim forms. Two fabric types were identified, both characterised by moderate to abundant amounts of dissolved out shell, and possible burnt out chaff.

**Fabric A:** Rims 1-2 (fig 4). Cooking pots in an orange-brown to brown coloured fabric with a light grey core, being fairly smooth with a corky texture. Very sparse (1%), very fine (0.2mm - 0.03mm) well-sorted, subrounded quartz grains; very sparse (5%), coarse (2.5mm - 1mm) subrounded siltstone consisting of sparse (5%), very fine (0.1mm - 0.05mm) well-sorted subangular quartz; very sparse (1%), fine (0.25mm) well-sorted mica. One piece of medium (0.7mm), angular flint. Abundant, large (5mm - 1mm) rectangular or subrounded holes formed by leached out shell and very sparse chaff temper. The outer surface of rim 1 is lightly burnished.

**Fabric B:** Rims 3-4 (fig 4). Cooking pots in an orange-brown fabric with a cream-grey core, being fairly smooth and corky in texture. Sparse (2%), medium (0.8mm) well-sorted, subrounded to rounded quartz; sparse (2%), very fine (0.125mm - 0.05mm) well-sorted, subangular quartz. Moderate to abundant, large (7mm maxima) vesicles made by dissolved shell. The size of the vesicles is variable, but generally larger than fabric A.

There is very little accurate dating evidence for this type of ware, but the

generally accepted date range is from c AD 1150 - 1300. An earlier date cannot be discounted, possibly within the 11th century, but later survival of this ware into the 12th - 13th centuries is quite possible (Musty 1969).

DARK GREY WARE (fig 4: 5 - 11)

This fabric has a uniformly dark grey surface but has, in places, an orange-brown colour where it has become oxidised. A characteristic of this group is a pinkish or pink-grey core. Generally moderate to abundant, coarse to fine (1.5 - 0.2mm) ill-assorted, subangular to subrounded quartz and quartzite. Some sparse, coarse to fine (1mm - 0.2mm) subangular clay inclusions; this may not be grog and probably represents hard lumps or pellets within a badly wedged clay sample. Rim forms tend to be squat and slightly rounded with flat tops: 2 dishes (5 - 6), 3 cooking pots (7, 9 and 10; 7 has a slightly everted, sub-squared rim with moderate undercutting), 1 jug (8 and 11) with a wide neck with a sloping face terminating in a small beaded flange. The outer face has vertical slashes just below the rim (1mm deep). A strap handle, very misshapen, with a single row of stabbing (11mm deep) belongs to jug 8. Similar ware has been found at Alsted (Ketteringham 1976) and at Reigate (Turner 1970).

BLACK SURFACED GREY WARE (fig 4: 12 - 18)

This fabric is a variant of Dark Grey Ware and is harder with a medium grey body. The sherds are generally thinner than those of the preceding type, with a uniform black surface on both sides. The fabric is filled with abundant to moderate amounts of coarse to fine (2mm - 0.2mm), ill-assorted (sometimes quite well sorted), subangular to subrounded quartz grains; a fine sand. Vessel forms are plain and without decoration, having flat-topped rims although everted types are also present. There was 1 dish (13), 5 cooking pots (12, 14, 15, 16 and 18), and a strap handle of a jug (17) which is thumbled on both sides enclosing a single row of slashing marks (2mm deep). This sherd is similar to one found at Alsted and was dated to AD 1250 - 1300 (Ketteringham 1976).

HARD GREY REDUCED WARE (fig 5: 19 - 29)

Well-made, very hard and well-fired reduced ware, greyish-brown in colour with predominantly square rims: dated generally from about AD 1250 - 1400 (Prendergast 1974). The fabric is tempered with abundant to moderate, very coarse to fine (2mm - 0.1mm), medium grains are most frequent, fairly well-sorted, angular to subangular (rarely subrounded) quartz. There are sparse coarse to medium (1mm - 0.4mm) clay pellets. This type of fabric is associated with the Lingsfield kilns, but is not from the Ridland's Farm kiln (Ketteringham forthcoming) since that ware is characterised by moderate amounts of fairly large

irregularly shaped holes on both surfaces. Cooking pots predominate (19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27 and 28), with 2 dishes (21 and 29) and 2 jugs (20 and 26).

OXIDISED WARE (fig 5: 30 - 40)

A pink coloured fabric with a moderately abrasive surface texture. Colours vary considerably from orange through to light brown. Abundant to moderate amounts of coarse to fine (1.8mm - 0.1mm; average of 0.4mm), fairly well-sorted subangular to subrounded quartz grains; a fine sand. Some sparse, medium to fine (0.6mm - 0.2mm) subrounded grog or clay pellets in the clay matrix. Cooking pots predominate (31, 33, 35, 36, 38, 39 and 40); 31 having a flanged, flat-topped rim with shallow groove and green glaze under the rim flange which is carried onto the edge of the flange. 33 is a tripod cooking pot with very sparse splashes of yellow-green glaze on the outer surface of the vessel; 36 has green glaze on the underside of the flange, and 38 has a flanged and internally beaded rim. There are 4 dishes (30, 32, 34 and 37); rim 30 is deeply beaded and has multiple bands of wavy line decoration on the top of the flange; 32 has a thin green-yellow glaze under the rim flange, and 34 has green-yellow glaze on the inside of the base.

RED WARE (fig 6: 41 - 48)

This group is a variant of the oxidised ware, but has a brighter orange to pink colour, sometimes with a grey core. Sherds are generally hard and have an abrasive texture due to abundant grits on the surfaces. The filler used is an abundant, coarse to fine (1.5mm - 0.2mm) well-sorted, subrounded to rounded quartz and quartzite. Sparse, coarse to fine (1mm - 0.2mm) clay pellets. There are 5 cooking pots (43, 44, 45, 47 and 48); all have flanged rims with some degree of internal beading, 48 has brown glaze on the underside of the rim flange carried up onto the end of it. Three plain dishes (41, 42 and 46) have flat-topped, rounded or slightly squared flanges.

JUGS (fig 6: 49 - 55)

There were 19 jugs in various fabrics. Four main fabric types were recognised:

1: white to cream coloured matrix tempered with abundant amounts of medium to fine (0.7mm - 0.3mm) subrounded to rounded, well-sorted quartz grains. It is likely that this type is a variant of

2: cream or biscuit coloured fabric with moderate, medium to fine (0.5mm - 0.1mm) well-sorted, subrounded to rounded quartz. Both of these fabrics belong to the Cheam-type ware class.

3: orange-brown fabric with abundant to moderate amounts of coarse to fine (1.6mm - 0.2mm) well-sorted, subangular to subrounded quartz grains with occasional clay pellets; possibly Turner's Earlswood type.

4: orange fabric with medium sized quartz sand temper; yellow glazed. The Cheam-type ware is by far the largest group followed by group 4. Very few rim sherds were recovered, the assemblage comprising body and base fragments. Numbers 49, 50 and 53 are of class 3 (Earlwood-type) with thumb bases and handle covered with a green glaze. A decorated body sherd (54) is of class 2 and is typical of well produced Cheam Ware. It has an additional inclusion: medium (0.7mm) angular ironstone. A band of red-brown paint runs vertically up the shoulder of the vessel. One Limpsfield-type fabric rod handle (52) has moderate, very fine (0.2mm - 0.1mm) angular ironstone; it also has a brown-green glaze. A small biconical jug or measure (51) of which the base and body sherds were found, is in a fabric not matched by any described class. It is in a very hard, laminated, orange fabric tempered with sparse, very fine (0.125mm - 0.03mm) well-sorted, subrounded quartz grains; a fine sand. Very sparse, very fine (0.075mm) angular ironstone. Green glazed on the bottom of the base.

#### SURREY WHITE WARE AND CHEAM-KINGSTON WARE

This fabric is hard and tempered with quartz sand. Cooking pots are white or greyish in colour and have coarse abrasive textures, whilst jugs are cream-coloured with a smooth surface. The Surrey White Ware has abundant, coarse to very fine (1mm - 0.06mm) well-sorted, subrounded quartz grains. There is one cooking pot with a wide, flat-topped rim with a shallow groove; undercut internally (56), and a basin in the same series (57). A Cheam-type jug (58), fabric class 2, has a thumb base with three sets of three thumb impressions, green glaze on underside of base. One other sherd of this ware (class 2) has been considered above (54).

IRON OBJECTS (figs 7, 8)

## Period I c 1200-1300 (from layer 3b)

- 1 Part of a door hinge, broken at both ends, of the recurved pivot type, the slight bend at one end indicating the broken pivot loop. Length 133mm, width 27mm, thickness c 11mm. From close to F2.
- 2 Knife blade with whittle tang, incomplete. Length 73mm, width 15mm; triangular section.
- 3 Part of a horse bridle, incomplete. Length 64mm, width 12mm, 3.5mm thick.
- 4 Round headed, square shanked nail, length unknown. Diameter of head 21mm. Three similar nails (not illustrated) were recovered from the north face of wall A.
- 5 Square headed, square shanked nail. Length 22mm, width of head 10mm. Another, very similar, found close to wall B.
- 6 Square headed, rectangular shanked nail. Length of shank 29mm, width of head 11mm. Found on gravel surfaces (layer 5).
- 7 Round headed, round shanked stud, length unknown. Found on the eastern side of wall B.
- 8 Round headed, rectangular shanked nail, length unknown. From east of F2.
- 9 Square headed, square shanked nail, length unknown. Found on gravel surface (layer 5).

## Period II c 1300-1400 (from layer 3a)

- 10 Part of a horse shoe with countersunk nail holes set in a shallow fullering, with a slightly raised calkin. Found north of wall C.
- 11 Blade and tang of a broken gouge or chisel. Length 70mm, width at max. extension of blade 14mm. Found on gravel platform, layer 4.
- 12 Part of a large nail with rectangular shank. Length of shank remaining 59mm, total length unknown.
- 13 Square headed, square shanked clenched nail, length of unbent shank 69mm. Found on wall C.
- 14 Square headed, square shanked horse shoe nail, bent shank 34mm long. Found in north part of trench.

- 15 Mule nail with rectangular shank, length 31mm. Found to the south of the trench.
- 16 Square headed, square shanked nail, length of shank 25mm, incomplete. Recovered from F5.
- 17 Round headed, triangular shanked nail, length 32mm. Found to the north of F5.
- 18 T-shaped, rectangular shanked nail, length 32mm. Found to the north of the trench.
- 19 Square headed nail with rectangular shank 41mm long. Found in north of trench.
- 20 Slightly domed, square headed, square shanked nail. Length of shank 35mm, incomplete.

COPPER ALLOY OBJECT

- 21 The blade of a pair of tweezers, length of blade 38mm, incomplete. Found to the south of wall A, period I.

BRONZE PIN

- 22 Long, round headed pin. Diameter of head 4.4mm x 3.4mm, length of shank 101mm, 1mm wide. Found under destruction debris overlying F1, period I.