

# Great Sunnings Farm: Late Iron Age and Roman Pottery General Overview

Site code: R-MHF77

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# 1 General Overview

## *Period 1 Early Iron Age*

### *OA500*

Intrusive LIA pottery from context [449] of one sherd of late Iron Age romanising grey ware, 100BC–AD100.

### *OA501*

This feature contains sixteen sherds of probably intrusive Roman pottery dating AD120–250.

### *OA502*

This feature contains six sherds intrusive Roman pottery dating AD120–250.

### *S500*

This feature contains one sherd of late Iron Age grog tempered ware dated 50BC-AD50.

### *S502*

This feature contains nineteen sherds which date AD10–100 of late Iron Age shell-tempered and grog-tempered pottery.

### *S503*

This feature contains one sherd of late Iron Age shell-tempered ware in a Thompson form C1-4 dating the context AD10–100.

### *S504*

This feature contains one sherd of late Iron Age grog-tempered ware in either a Thompson form A1 or B1 but suggesting a dating of AD0–65.

### *S505*

Group 77 from within this feature contains 209 late Iron Age and Roman pottery and is dated AD270–300. The middle and late Roman elements of this assemblage are relatively small and with their exclusion the dating falls back to around the middle of the 1st century AD. This is supported by the forms as the major part of the assemblage comprises Thompson C1-2 and C1-4 forms. The Roman material dates to around AD120–200 with few if any late Roman forms being present. Middle Roman fabrics are also relatively sparse but are in greater quantities than late fabrics and as many date from around *c* AD50, such North Kent grey ware, it is very possible that they are contemporary with late Iron Age fabrics.

## *Period 2 Middle Iron Age*

### *S506*

Group 18 from this structure contains a total of 59 sherds and dates AD50–100. Only one sherd of a possible Roman sand-tempered jar was recovered, the rest is late Iron Age shell-tempered or Romanising grey wares. The forms identifiable in the contexts are Thompson forms strongly suggesting a transitional dating to the structure.

### *S508*

This feature contains six sherds and dates **AD50–100**. Five sherds are in late Iron Age fabrics but one is possibly Hoo Island white-slipped ware, a North Kent product dating from AD50. As it is only a small quantity it is probably that they are intrusive.

### *S509*

This feature contains only nine sherds of late Iron Age Romanising grey wares, four of which come from a Thompson form C2-1 jar. This dates the feature to around 100BC-AD60.

### *S510*

This feature contains 213 sherds of late Iron Age and Roman pottery and would appear to be dated AD70–80. There are no late Roman fabrics or forms present. The AD70 date comes from the presence of HWC and the AD80 date comes from a grog-tempered butt-beaker. The rest of the pottery does not conflict in any way with that dating, although the presence of ILGROG, AD50BC–AD60 does appear to keep the feature in the earlier part of the first century AD.

### *S511*

This feature contains 445 sherds of late Iron Age and Roman pottery, the assemblage contains some late Roman fabrics and is dated AD200–240. However, the late Roman element is relatively small and therefore could quite possibly be intrusive. Although the quantity of late Iron Age pottery comprises the largest element in the assemblage, the middle Roman assemblage, typified by fabrics such as VRW and HWC, is also relatively large, suggesting a date closer to the Flavian period. In association with the forms we see a dating of around AD120–200. This structure and S510 both remain in use into Period 3 and therefore the pottery probably relates to that phase demonstrating a continuity of use.

### *S512*

This feature contains 564 sherds of mostly late Iron Age fabrics, the assemblage does include a small quantity of early/middle Roman fabrics but they represent only about 3% by sherd count. Miscellaneous sand-tempered fabric, SAND, which dates AD50–400 appears to be the third largest fabric within the whole assemblage at 27.3% by sherd count. However, of the 154 sherds, 150 of these come

from one vessel, indicating that in reality it was not particularly common, increasing the late Iron Age/early Roman dating of the feature.

### *S513*

This feature contains 378 sherds of mainly late Iron Age fabrics, this assemblage includes a greater quantity of early/middle Roman fabrics than S512 which represents about one third of the assemblage by sherd count. Miscellaneous sand-tempered fabric, SAND and GRS, both dating AD50–400 comprised the largest element of the Roman at about 15% by sherd count. The low quantities of the other Roman fabrics demonstrate the early nature to this feature. The only late fabrics identified were central Gaulish samian, AD120–250, and Colchester white ware, which dates AD50–250 but tends to be more common from the late first early second centuries AD.

### ***Period 3 LIA/ER transition AD0–120***

### *S510*

This structure contains 32 sherds of late Iron Age and Roman fabrics. However, no late Roman fabrics were identified and the Roman fabrics and forms do not conflict with a first century dating.

### *S511*

This feature appears to continue from the previous period, it therefore very possible that period 2 is part of period 3. See above for its description.

### *S514*

This feature contains 201 sherds and has an overall dating of AD120–250, based on the presence of twelve sherds from a 5J2 but could be AD150–210 if another bowl is a Monaghan form 5C2.2. However, these two represent on 7.5% of the assemblage by sherd count whereas late Iron Age fabrics form 61.2% of the assemblage by sherd count. The rest of the assemblage is comprised of unsourced Roman fabrics of which a number have 1st century forms. This appears to suggest that the later dated sherds are intrusive from the period 4 features that cut this one.

### *S516*

This feature contains twenty-three sherds of late Iron Age fabrics and is dated AD10–60.

### *S517*

This features contains five sherd from the base of a jar in a late Iron Age Romanising grog tempered ware and dates 100BC–AD100.

#### *OA506*

This open area, bounded by [10062] and [10033] contains a possible section from a narrow ditch, gp 40 and two pits, gp 44. The ditch contains one sherd and is dated 100BC–AD100. One pit contained twenty-sherds, fifteen of which came from a later short necked-globular beaker which dates AD200–400. The pit is cut by a later Roman feature and therefore the beaker may be intrusive. It may also be a burial. The other pit contained no pottery.

#### *OA507*

This open area contains a number of pits and a total assemblage of thirteen sherds from five vessels. The two that contain pottery are dated AD40–400 and AD100–160.

#### *OA508*

This open area contains 133 sherds from two closely associated pits, sgps 10031 and 10055. Sgp 10055 contains five sherds and dates AD10–50. Sgp 10031 contains 128 sherds and dates 120–160. One sherd from a late dating form was identified but this is probably intrusive.

#### ***Period 4 AD120–200***

#### *S518*

This feature contains an assemblage of 94 sherds of which only one dated later AD120, one sherd of central Gaulish samian weighing only 2gms. The dating for this feature would appear to be AD40–100.

#### *S519*

This feature contains an assemblage of 125 sherds in which mid-Roman fabrics such as BB1 or SAMCG comprise a slightly higher proportion of total assemblage, around 22%. The dating for this feature appears to be slightly later, possibly AD80–160.

#### *S520*

This feature contains eight sherds of unsourced Roman fabrics, one sherd comes from a possible Marsh form 37 (4B) and would date AD70–120 suggesting a dating similar to S519.

#### *S521*

This feature contains an assemblage of 119 comprised mainly of late Iron Age and Flavian fabrics which suggests a dating of AD70–120. However, the presence of a 2E suggests a dating of AD100–160 is more likely.

### S522

This feature contains an assemblage of 436 sherds which comprises mainly late Iron Age fabrics. The presence of Flavian to Hadrianic wares suggests a dating around AD100, possible AD120 as SAMCG comprises a comparatively high amount at 2.5%, Period 1 contained the highest percentage at 3.1%. A dating of AD100–160 is given to this feature.

### S523

This feature contains 93 sherds of which two thirds are late Iron Age fabrics, the other one third are early and mid-Roman with one sherd of BBS. One sherd of BSW was from a 4H similar to Going form B2 which dates *c* AD100–260. The BBS is in a similar 4H form, a Going B4, which also dates *c* AD100–260. The feature probably dates to the Trajanic onwards.

### S524

This feature contains an assemblage of eighteen sherds, one in a miscellaneous flint-tempered ware, one in North Kent grey ware, eight from a bowl in North Kent grey ware which could be an imitation of the early CAM forms and dates *c* AD43–70 and eight sherds from a bowl in a miscellaneous sand-tempered fabric whose form is reminiscent of Lyne and Jefferies form 5B.8 and would date *c* AD250–400. The small quantity of pottery makes the feature difficult to date securely but given the very lack of late Roman fabrics the later bowl is probably intrusive, being the result of manuring. The feature appears to relate to the other from the mid-Roman period and therefore probably dates *c* AD80–160.

### OA509

This open area has a total assemblage of 112 sherds, however, within that it includes two small ditch sections, both of which date to the first century. No late Roman fabrics or forms were identified within the pits in this open area.