

THE FABRICS

Introduction

A detailed list of the 100 fabrics, and fabric groups, recorded for the Elms Farm assemblage is presented in this section. Of these fabrics, at least thirty-seven were not included in Going's Chelmsford fabric series (1987, 3-11). Many would normally be found in contexts dated to the late Iron Age and are, therefore, unlikely to have occurred at Chelmsford which was not established until *c.* AD60/5 (Going 1987; Drury 1988, 125-8). The recent volume for Colchester (Symonds and Wade 1999) provides a comprehensive list of Roman pottery from the *colonia*, but this too is inadequate in its description of late Iron Age wares. This section thus provides one of the most extensive lists of late Iron Age and Roman fabrics for the region. Each fabric was identified by a common name and a mnemonic code. This coding is standard for all ECC Field Archaeology Unit projects, superseding use of the numeric fabric codes devised for Chelmsford. This scheme provides a high level of standardization and facilitates easier comparison between sites.

Fabrics are listed in strict alphabetical order by fabric name, followed in brackets by the standard ECC Field Archaeology Unit mnemonic code. The corresponding Chelmsford fabric codes and the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes (Tomber and Dore 1998), the latter prefixed NRFRC, have then been appended where applicable. These provide the principal references for fabric descriptions. Fabrics have been described in full in the few instances where no description exists in either volume. A 'thumb-nail' biography for each fabric is provided, comprising a date range, a list of forms present in the fabric, and a brief overview of its occurrence. The date range is specific to Elms Farm. Most fabrics were present in sufficient quantities to gain an overall date range. In the cases of fabrics where this is equivocal, for instance where the appearance of a fabric is restricted to a few sherds, a generally accepted published date range, not specific to Elms Farm, is provided instead. The forms encountered in a given fabric are listed below the date. Roman forms were classified using the Chelmsford type series (Going 1987, 13-54), with the *Camulodunum* type series (Hawkes and Hull 1947; updated by Bidwell and Croom 1999, 468-487) used principally for the late Iron Age pottery. Roman forms not found in either were classified using regional typologies where possible, such as Monaghan's Upchurch/Thameside series (1987) and Young's Oxfordshire series (1977). Late Iron Age forms not present in the *Camulodunum* type series have been incorporated into a new site-specific typology published in this volume; these have the prefix, EF, followed by the type number. Dragendorff (1895) form codes, which are used universally for samian vessels, have been simplified here, mainly for database purposes. The common abbreviations (Drag. or Dr.) have not been used; Dragendorff forms are denoted solely by the prefix 'f'. Less common samian form codes, such as those delineated by Ludowici and Curle, are given in full. Finally, a brief overview of the occurrence of each fabric is provided, although details of individual fabric distributions across the site by Area are mainly contained in this archive report. Any differences between accepted chronologies and the date range of a fabric at Elms Farm are also discussed, as are any notable aspects of form and fabric.

Fabrics were identified and grouped on a macroscopic basis, aided by the use of x20 magnification where necessary. Most fabrics are based on pre-defined fabric divisions and are known by their common names or have direct equivalents published elsewhere. There are, however, some exceptions. Grog-tempered fabric is not sufficiently represented at Chelmsford for the description offered by Going (1987, 10) to cover the full range of fabric variations. The fabric group has been given four subdivisions at Elms Farm in order to record fully these variations. Going's 'Romanizing wares', fabric codes 34 and 45, are now identified under the umbrella code for black-surfaced wares (BSW). During the recording stage, for the purpose of analysis, mortaria were assigned specific fabric codes comprising the relevant fabric code and the suffix 'M'. Because mortaria are just one form within a product range, their fabric descriptions have been incorporated with the generic fabric group, where appropriate. This allows comment to be made on the full range of forms, and the scale of production, of individual industries. The descriptions for the amphora fabrics have been compiled with the assistance of Dr Paul Sealey, whose contribution is gratefully acknowledged. Condensed entries for these are given here, following the alphabetic system in Tomber and Dore (1998, 82-113); fuller descriptions for all of the amphora fabrics at Elms Farm are held in the archive. A limited programme of thin-sectioning was undertaken by Dr D.F. Williams of Southampton University. Summary results of this programme have been incorporated with the relevant fabric descriptions, where appropriate. The results for pottery from the kilns can be found in that report section ([ref. kilns](#)). The full report by Dr Williams forms part of the research archive. A list of thin-sectioning results for pyre-debris pit 15417 (KPG5) can be found, together with further information regarding this feature, in the archive.

The fabrics

Alice Holt grey ware (ALH)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 43, NRFRC code ALH RE

Date: Mid to late 4th century AD+

Forms: **Dish** B6, **jar** G41.1

Occurrence: The bulk of the stratified sherds came from Areas H, J and L. Very small amounts were recovered from Areas F, G, M, N and P, representing no more than a handful of sherds. The most common form is a storage jar. Two bead-and-flanged dishes, associated with Saxon pottery, were present in the top fill of well 14529 (KPG40). This vessel type is rare, and may represent one of the latest identifiable Roman forms found in Essex.

Amphoras, unsourced (AMISC)

Description: An omnibus fabric group for amphora sherds, usually small, that could not be certainly assigned elsewhere.

Amphora stoppers (ABUNG)

Description: An omnibus fabric group for amphora stoppers. These have fine and soft fabrics with little in the way of inclusions and typically off-white (10YR 8/2), buff (7.5YR 8/6) or light brown (7.5YR 7/6). One is (exceptionally) light red (10R 6/8).

Date: Mid 1st to mid 3rd century AD

Occurrence: Little of this fabric type was recovered and the occurrence matched that for ABAET (Baetican amphoras, see below).

Argonne samian ware (ARSW)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 60, NRFRC code ARG SA

Date: Late 3rd century AD+

Forms: **Bowl** f37

Occurrence: Very little of this fabric was present, amounting to a maximum of four vessels. All sherds were found in late 3rd century, or later, contexts, mostly in Area D.

Arretine (Italian-type) samian ware (ITSW)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 60, NRFRC code PIS SA

Date: c. 15BC to AD20

Forms: **Platters** *Conspectus* 12 *Conspectus* B1, **Cups** *Conspectus* 13/14 *Conspectus* 23

Occurrence: This fabric is poorly represented, occurring mainly in contexts of early 1st century AD date. A maximum of twenty vessels is represented, with the majority being platters of *Conspectus* form 12. Just one platter fragment has a radial stamp, and this vessel is the earliest, dating to the late 1st century BC. Most of the Arretine was recovered from Area G, but single sherds appeared in contexts over much of the site.

Baetican amphoras (ABAET and ABAEH)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 55, NRFRC code BAT AM 1

Date: Late 1st century BC to mid 3rd century AD

Forms: Dressel 20 Haltern 70

Occurrence: This is the most common amphora fabric, accounting for almost half of the amphoras by weight. The fabric is not uniformly spread across the site; very little occurred in Areas E, P, Q and R and the highest incidence was in Areas K and M. The top half of a Dressel 20 amphora was found inverted in pit 4585 in Area K, but the figure for this area remains high even when this is taken into account. Imports of this fabric to Heybridge began in the late 1st century BC, with a steady increase in volume through to the early-mid 3rd century AD. Levels tailed off thereafter, with the fabric residual in contexts later than late 3rd century.

Archive note: For the purposes of the analysis Haltern 70 vessels were assigned the code ABAEH in order to aid computer-sorting.

Black burnished ware category 1 (BB1)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 40, NRFRC code DOR BB 1

Date: Early 3rd to mid 4th century AD

Forms: **Dishes** B1.4 B2 B5.2 B6.3, **jar** G9

Occurrence: This fabric was recovered from all areas, except Q. Area N yielded the most, Areas D and W the least. A limited supply to Heybridge began during the mid 2nd century, in line with the situation at Colchester (Symonds and Wade 1999, 352). Supply

rose dramatically from the early 3rd century AD, reaching a peak before the end of the century, declining thereafter. It is notable that the amount of BB1 found in late 4th century+ contexts is more than double that recovered from those of the mid 4th century, and at least five times that from early 4th century contexts. Given the later 4th century decline of BB1 in Britain generally (Gillam 1976, 59), its appearance in late 4th century contexts is entirely residual. Forms are restricted to dishes and jars, often decorated with burnished lattices or intersecting arcs.

Note: Date of BB1 in London - “generally quoted date of AD120/5 for widespread trading of BB1 outside Dorset is confirmed here (Billingsgate Buildings). Only towards the end of 2nd century and later does BB1 form a major proportion of London assemblages.” The proportion is 9.8% for early to mid 3rd century horizon, but is less than 2% in any horizon prior to this.

Black burnished ware category 2 (BB2)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 41, NRFRC codes COL BB 2, MUC BB 2, CLI BB 2 and COO BB 2

Date: Early 2nd to mid 3rd century AD

Forms: **Dishes** B1 B2 B3 B4 B5, **jar** G9

Occurrence: At Elms Farm, BB2 is less common than BB1 and HAB. It was recovered from all parts of the site. While the fabric first reached Heybridge during the early 2nd century, the quantity of BB2 peaked in the second half of the 2nd century, declining from the early 3rd century AD. Sources have not been definitely identified, but it is reasonable to presume that the bulk of BB2 was manufactured at Colchester and Mucking, the nearest known producers to Heybridge. However, some of the earliest products were undoubtedly imported along with grey and oxidised wares from sources situated along the Kentish side of the Thames Estuary (Monaghan 1987; Pollard 1988). A wider range of forms compared with Chelmsford is represented here. Straight-sided dishes are common, though less so than bead-rimmed examples. Decoration is restricted to lattices and burnished diagonal lines.

Archive note: Interestingly, Area J is low in BB2, but high in BB1, contrasted with Area K, which is high in BB2, but low in BB1. The difference is chronologically significant, and to be expected, given the date ranges of these two fabrics. Area J was a focus of late Roman activity, whereas K was occupied in this period to a much lesser extent.

Black burnished wares, unsourced (BB)

Description: Black burnished pottery not characteristic of BB1, BB2 or HAB in terms of fabric or surface treatment has been placed in this category.

Forms: **Dishes** B1.3 B2/B4 B3 B6, **jar** G9.1

Occurrence: This group contains a small amount of pottery. Almost all is wheel-made and occasionally decorated with lines or lattices. Dishes and jars, typical products of the black burnished industries, were recovered from contexts spanning the Roman period, concentrating in the 2nd century AD. Most of the forms present are more indicative of BB2, and if not actually from known BB2 production sites in Essex or Kent, represent something of the output of perhaps a number of as yet unknown sites producing black burnished fabrics.

Black eggshell ware (BLEGG)

Description: NRFRC code GAB TN 2

Date: Late 1st century to early 2nd century AD

Forms: **Beaker** H1

Occurrence: Nine sherds of this black, thin-walled fabric were recovered from Areas K and Q. It was present in three contexts of late 1st to early 2nd century AD date. A carinated beaker with a wide, flat, decorated cordon, as yet unparalleled, was identified in addition to the everted-rimmed and round-shouldered H1 beaker. The H1 beaker is not attested in eggshell *terra nigra* and the sherds may be British-made.

Black-surfaced wares (BSW and BSWM)

Description: Chelmsford Fabrics 34 and 45

Date: Early/mid 1st to late 4th century AD+

Forms: **Platters** A1 A2 A4 *Cam* 32 *Cam* 33, **dishes** B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 B6 B7 B8, **bowls** C1 C6 C12 C13 C14 C16 C22 C27 C28 C29 C32 *Cam* 44 *Cam* 211 *Cam* 212 *Cam* 246 EF59 EF62, **mortaria** D3 D14, **bowl-jars** E1 E2 E3 E5 E6, **jars** G3 G5 G7 G8 G9 G12 G16 G17 G18 G19 G20 G21 G22 G23 G24 G25 G26 G28 G29 G30 G36 G38 G40 G42 *Cam* 218 *Cam* 220 *Cam* 227 *Cam* 231 *Cam* 232 *Cam* 249 *Cam* 256 *Cam* 258 *Cam* 259 *Cam* 260 *Cam* 264 *Cam* 266 *Cam* 296 EF127 EF169, **beakers** H1 H4 H7 H10 H14 H24 H25 H26 H27 H32 H33 H34 H35 *Cam* 91 *Cam* 117, **flagon** *Cam* 140, **lids** K1 K3 K4 K6, **strainer** M2, **funnel** N2, **miniatures** R2 R3 EF210

Occurrence: Going (1987, 7-9) provided a later 1st and 2nd century AD date range for local sand-tempered black-surfaced wares present at Chelmsford. He saw these ‘Romanizing’ wares as a short-lived continuation of grog-tempered fabric, as the range of forms was similar and the black-surfaced fabrics contained grog in addition to sand. From the 2nd century onwards, these wares were replaced by sandy grey wares (Chelmsford Fabric 47), though black-coloured pottery continued to be produced and at Chelmsford was included in this later category. Similarly at Elms Farm, black-surfaced wares were recovered in considerable quantity throughout the Roman period, forming part of the tradition of reduced ware production in East Anglia. As the fully sandy fabric could not be easily distinguished from the grog-and-sand-tempered fabric, both variants have been assigned to this single black-surfaced ware category. Black-surfaced ware occurred in very small quantities during the first half of the 1st century AD. Volume increased considerably during the second half of the 1st century, but fell during the mid 2nd century. From then, the fabric continued to form a major component of most assemblages, though its proportional share rarely exceeded that of the sandy grey wares (GRS). Black-surfaced ware was widespread, with most occurring in Areas H and J, the least in Areas E, P, Q and R. Vessels in this fabric were manufactured at Heybridge ([ref. kiln section, pp.x-x for full description](#)).

Buff wares, unsourced (BUF and BUFM)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 31

Date: Mid 1st to mid 3rd century AD

Forms: **Dishes** B6 B7 B10, **bowls** C1 C22 C26, **tazza bowl** *Cam* 198, **mortaria** D1 D2.1 D3.2 D4 D5.3 D11 D13 D14 *Cam* 193, **bowl-jar** E2, **jar** G26, **beakers** H1 H17 *Cam* 117, **flagons** J3 *Cam* 148 EF193, **unguentarium** *Cam* 389B

Occurrence: Buff ware was recovered from across the site in contexts largely dating to the 2nd century AD and first half of the 3rd. The highest proportion came from Area W,

largely comprising mortarium sherds recovered from kiln 1618. Buff ware mortaria were almost certainly manufactured at Heybridge ([ref. kiln section, pp.x-x for full description](#)); though their fabrics were not easily distinguished from other buff ware fabrics. The Area W kiln contexts almost exclusively contained hammerhead-rimmed types; a more varied range of forms was present in other areas. Mortaria were well represented throughout the site. Area H also yielded large amounts of buff ware. Colchester and other parts of East Anglia may be among the sources.

Cam 114 herringbone beakers (CAMF)

Description: A white or buff (10YR 8/1) fine-grained, sand-tempered fabric with external mica-coating and internal (sometimes also external) red-brown (10R 4/8) slip, decorated with zones of herringbone-pattern barbotine.

Date: Early to mid 1st century AD (Tyers 1996, 164)

Form: **Beaker** *Cam 114* [GB25 (Stead and Rigby 1989, 134-7)]

Occurrence: A Gallo-Belgic fabric typically found in Britain *c.* AD10-40. The earliest examples have contrasting clay slips along with the mica, but later vessels tend to have only the mica-coating, with a paler fabric. These later vessels are the more common British site finds, although sherds with red slip occurred at Elms Farm, possibly from the early vessel type, but unfortunately residual here. Very small amounts of the fabric were recovered from Areas L, M and W, with the largest from Area K. Three examples were present in pits assigned to the first half of the 1st century AD. Much of it is residual, appearing as single body sherds in contexts dating from the mid 2nd century.

Campanian amphoras (ABSAN)

Description: NRFRC code CAM AM 1

Date: 1st century AD

Forms: Dressel 1 Dressel 2-4

Occurrence: This distinctive fabric had a brief *floruit* at Heybridge. It first occurred in quantity early in the 1st century AD and peaked later that century. Distribution across the site is not uniform; high proportions were recovered from Areas D, H and Q, but very little came from elsewhere and none at all from Areas I, K and R.

Catalan amphoras (ARCAT and AWCAT)

Description (ARCAT): NRFRC code CAT AM

Description (AWCAT): Hard, cream (7.5YR 8/4) fabric with abundant, poorly-sorted, rounded and subangular white inclusions < 2mm across, also evident on exterior surfaces. This is the counterpart of the red fabric (ARCAT), although the mica of the standard red ARCAT fabric is not present except on an abraded Pascual 1 rim sherd. Catalan fabric was identified and defined by Williams (1981, 127-8).

Date: Late 1st century BC to mid-late 1st century AD

Form: Pascual 1 Dressel 2-4

Occurrence: Very little of this fabric was found, with the bulk occurring in Area N. Most appears in contexts dating to the first half of the 1st century AD, with the highest incidence in the mid 1st century. Sherds from a Dressel 2-4 (ARCAT) amphora were recovered from pyre site 2908 in Area W.

Central Gaulish colour-coated ware (CGCC)

Description: NRFRC code CNG CC 1 and CNG CC 2

Date: Mid to late 1st century AD

Form: **Beaker** H (Greene 1979, fig.17.4/18.1)

Occurrence: Three sherds were found and both fabric types are represented. The cream-buff ware (CNG CC 2), was recovered from an Area G pit, present in the form of a beaker decorated with hairpin pattern barbotine, to which a mid to late 1st century AD date may be applied. A late 1st century pit, 20174 in Area L, produced a beaker rim in white fabric (CNG CC 1), which fits the late 1st to early 2nd century date that Greene (1979, 43) proposed for this fabric.

Central Gaulish fine cream-slipped ware (CGFCS)

Description: NRFRC code CNG TR, Standard fabric 1B (Rigby 1989)

Date: Late 1st century BC to c. AD20

Forms: **Flagons** *Cam* 165 [CL3b (Stead and Rigby, 1989, 119-20)] EF200 EF201 (Rigby and Freestone 1986, types F1 F2)

Occurrence: These large, thin-walled, two-handled flagons are not common British site finds. The micaceous fabric is distinctive and the cream-coloured kaolin-based slip is usually confined to the outer surface, very often only surviving in the protected areas of grooves, folds and overhangs. At least twelve vessels were identified at Elms Farm, although the fabric occurs, mainly as bodysherds, in 118 contexts. There are higher incidences of the fabric in Areas D, M, N and W. This is accounted for by a near-complete vessel from Area D (pit 9611, archive 345), another in pyre debris pit 15417 in Area M [archive 2055], and a flagon base in Area W in pyre-related feature 2195. One flagon rim [archive 355, EF200] from Area D is reeded, unlike the customary dished cornice rim of form *Cam* 165, and there is a second example from Area G, [archive 246 EF201]. There are only two British parallels for the reeded rim form, the Welwyn Garden City burial (Stead 1967) and the Dorton ‘mirror’ burial in Buckinghamshire (Farley 1983). The fabric is present at Elms Farm mainly in contexts of late 1st century BC to early 1st century AD date. Thin-sectioning of the flagon from pyre-debris pit 15417 (KPG5, report in archive) confirms a Central Gaulish source.

Central Gaulish glazed ware (CGGLZ)

Description: NRFRC code CNG GL 1 and CNG GL 2, Fabric 2B (Rigby 1989)

Date: Mid to late 1st century AD

Forms: **Beaker** H1, **flagon** J (Greene 1979, fig. 40.2/3)

Occurrence: This fabric was found infrequently, appearing in Areas L, N, Q and W. Most examples are in the white fabric variant (CNG GL 1), produced in the Allier Valley, while one piece is buff (CNG GL 2), originating in Lezoux (Tomber and Dore 1998, 52-3). All sherds were recovered from stratified contexts, providing a second half of 1st century AD date. Three contexts are dated more precisely to the mid 1st century. Just two forms were identified, flagon and beaker. The latter is decorated with barbotine dots (Greene 1979, fig. 42.14). Rigby (1989, 121) notes that, petrologically, the glazed fabric must be from the same source as micaceous *terra nigra* (TN[M]), though no examples have ever been discovered in pre-conquest contexts.

Central Gaulish micaceous ware (CGMIC)

Description: NRFRC code CNG TR, Standard fabric 1C (Rigby 1989)

Date: Late 1st century BC to c. AD25

Forms: **Jar** *Cam* 262, **beaker** *Cam* 102 [CJ1 (Stead and Rigby, 1989, 120)]

Occurrence: These distinctive vessels were fired to a self-coloured red-brown with a rough, matt finish, very often with prominent throwing ridges internally. The golden micaceous slip is usually confined to the rim and shoulders of vessels, frequently surviving only in the grooving and under the rim. Sherds were recovered from fifty-seven contexts, with a minimum of twenty-two *Cam* 102 beakers identified. This compares well with the 72 vessel occurrences at *Camulodunum*, and the forty-nine vessels found at Skeleton Green, although finds elsewhere are restricted to single figures, e.g. at Baldock and Verulamium. Two *Cam* 262 [archive 482] jars are represented, one in KPG14, the second appears to be in non-standard fabric. Thin-sectioning (context 11261, report in archive) was unable to confirm a Central Gaulish source for this vessel. The fabric was thinly distributed with the highest incidence occurring in Area N, and appearing mainly in contexts dating to the early 1st century AD.

Central Gaulish Rhenish ware (CGRHN)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 8, NRFRC code CNG BS

Date: Late 2nd to early/mid 3rd century AD

Forms: **Cup** F2, **beakers** H27 H28 H (Symonds 1992, Gps 9 14)

Occurrence: Few forms were recorded, with the assemblage generally composed of body sherds. The identified forms mirror examples found at Chelmsford. Beakers appear to be the dominant form. As at Chelmsford, the ware first occurred during the second half of the 2nd century. While the near-complete folded beaker [archive 2417, fill 7086] from a late 3rd to mid 4th century ditch section is probably residual, this form was typically produced during the first half of the 3rd century (Symonds 1992, 26). The example here may have remained in use or been curated up to the time of its deposition. The fabric was evenly distributed across the site, with little more than 40g in each Area, with the exception of Areas G and H which have higher amounts.

Central Gaulish samian ware (CGSW)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 60, NRFRC codes LMV SA, LEZ SA1 and LEZ SA2

Date: Late 1st century to late 2nd century AD

Forms: **Platters** f15/17 f15/17R, **dishes** f15/31 f18/31 f18/31R f18/31-31 f18/31R-31R f31 f31R f42 f79 f79R Ludowici Tg, **bowls** f29 f30 f35/36 f36 f37 f37R f38 f44 f78 f81 Curle 11 Curle 15 Curle 21 Curle 23, **mortarium** f45, **cups** f27 f33 f33a f33/46 f35 f46 f80 Ludowici Tx, **jar** ?f68, **beakers** f64 f72

Occurrence: The bulk of the samian found is Central Gaulish, with most of this originating in Lezoux. The earliest pieces, of which there are seven, are 1st century, but most of the ware from Lezoux is 2nd century. A small number of vessels, mainly the work of one potter, came from Les Martres-de-Veyre. Central Gaulish samian mainly occurs in contexts dated mid 2nd through to mid 3rd century, with high residuality apparent. The range of forms is wide, with less common jar and beaker forms present, and the lion-spouted mortarium making an appearance. The fabric is widespread across the site, with most occurring in Area H and the least in Area Q.

Central Gaulish *Terra Rubra* (TRCG)

Description: NRFRC code CNG TR, Standard fabric 1A (Rigby 1989)

Date: Second half of 1st century BC (Rigby and Freestone 1986, 8)

Forms: **Platters** *Cam 1 Cam 2*, **dish**

Occurrence: This fabric is extremely rare in Britain, representing one of the earliest continental imports along with Dressel 1 amphoras. It is highly micaceous, and a red slip originally covered the surfaces, although adhesion was poor and this only survives patchily. There are ten examples, mainly in Areas K and N, and in contexts dated to the late 1st century BC. The majority of the vessels are platters, but there is a single thin-walled dish from Area K [archive 3041]. A red-slipped finish is thought to be reserved for platters, dishes or cups (Rigby 1989, 119), and the evidence from Elms Farm is in agreement with this observation. Thin-sectioning has confirmed a Central Gaulish source for the Heybridge sherds (report in archive).

Céramique à l'éponge (CEP)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 22, NRFRC code EPO MA

Date: Mid to late 4th century AD+

Form: **Bowl C** (Fulford 1977, fig.3.1)

Occurrence: Céramique à l'éponge is rarely found in Essex, or in Britain, but a higher proportion of this marbled ware than usual was recovered at Elms Farm. Indeed, the twelve sherds recovered, representing five or six vessels, rivals the sixteen sherds found at Mucking (Going 1987, 6). Mainly present in late 4th century+ contexts, Areas K, E and N each yielded a sherd, with the remainder appearing in Area J. A single form was identified, a flanged bowl; some body sherds could well belong to flagons.

Coarse reduced grog-tempered ware (GROGC)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 53, NRFRC code SOB GT

Date: Late 1st century BC to mid 1st century AD

Forms: **Platters** *Cam 23 Cam 28 Cam 31 Cam 32 A2 A4*, **dish** B8, **bowls** *Cam 47 Cam 230 Cam 242 Cam 243 Cam 250 Cam 253 C1 C29 C32 C33 EF28 EF32 EF34 EF35*, **jars** *Cam 218 Cam 219 Cam 220 Cam 229 Cam 232 Cam 234 Cam 249 Cam 254 Cam 255 Cam 256 Cam 257 Cam 258 Cam 259 Cam 260 Cam 263 Cam 264 Cam 266 Cam 267 Cam 270 Cam 271 Cam 272 G1 G3 G4 G5 G8 G17 G18 G19 G20 G21 G23 G30 G31 G44 G45 EF92 EF97 EF99-101 EF105 EF107 EF112 EF116 EF119 EF121-3 EF128 EF130 EF133-4 EF136 EF148 EF152 EF176 EF180-5*, **beaker** H4.1, **lids** K1 K3 K6 EF205, **funnel** N2

Occurrence: Assigned to grog-tempered storage jars and other sherds which have lumpy coarse fabric or combed decoration. Jars are the most common form in this fabric. Of these, storage jars *Cam 270* and *Cam 271*, and the everted bead-rimmed form *Cam 259*, were the most numerous. Jars with stabbing on the shoulder, and with various schemes of combed decoration on the body, were also popular. A variety of platters, bowls and lids were also made, and there are three examples of the funnel N2; one with an internal strainer-plate at the junction of the spout and the bowl of the vessel [archive 3034]. Also present is a probable tripod foot [archive 243] (cf. Niblett 1985, fig.32, no.245), and a second possible example [archive 351] also from Area D, although this has the appearance of a nose (complete with nostrils) and may be a lug handle. The fabric is uniformly distributed across the site, with the highest incidence in Areas D, K, L and N, appearing mainly in late Iron Age contexts. Its occurrence in contexts dated mid to late 1st century AD perhaps demonstrates the gradual change from fully grog-tempered vessels to those in storage jar fabric, (see STOR below).

Colchester buff ware (COLB and COLBM)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 27, NRFRC code COL WH

Date: Mid 1st to mid 3rd century AD

Forms: **Bowls** C12 C26, **mortaria** D1 D2 D4 D11 D13 *Cam* 191 *Cam* 192 *Cam* 195 EF75, **beaker** H13, **flagons** J3 J4 J6 *Cam* 140 *Cam* 154 *Cam* 163 *Cam* 167, **funnel** N2, **costrel**

Occurrence: The fabric was widely distributed across the site. A higher than average amount was recovered from Area I, and Areas D and K also yielded relatively large quantities. Going detected a decline in the supply of Colchester products other than mortaria to Chelmsford after the mid 2nd century AD (1987, 7). This trend can be seen at Heybridge where, up until the mid 2nd century, flagons, and to a lesser extent, bowls were more common than mortaria. During the second half of the 2nd century, mortaria production increased but at the same time supplies of flagons and bowls declined. The Colchester industry produced wall-sided gritless mortaria (*Cam* 191) with a pronounced bead rim and these are probably pre-Flavian in date (Hawkes and Hull 1947, 254). Some of these later examples have fine trituration grits.

Colchester colour-coated ware (COLC)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 1, NRFRC code COL CC 2

Date: Mid 2nd to mid 3rd century AD

Forms: **Beakers** H20 H22.1 H23.1 H24.2 H25 H26 H27.2 H28 H29.1 H32 H33 H35.1

Occurrence: Given the proximity of its source, this fabric is poorly represented, forming less than one quarter of the total amount of Roman colour-coated wares. It was recovered from all areas, with Areas H and K contributing higher than average quantities. Like Chelmsford, Heybridge received Colchester colour-coated ware from the mid 2nd century AD, or perhaps slightly before. Supply continued into the 3rd century. Despite a slight increase in volume in 4th century contexts, its appearance from the later 3rd century must be residual. Forms are confined solely to beakers, though the range is wider than at Chelmsford. Beakers decorated with clay pellet roughcasting are by far the commonest and among the earliest of forms. Large folded beakers and barbotine-decorated beakers are typical late 2nd and 3rd century products.

Colchester samian ware (COLSW)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 60, NRFRC code COL SA

Date: Mid to late 2nd century AD

Forms: **Dishes** f18/31 f18/31-31 f18/31R f31 f31R f79, **bowls** ?f30R f32 f36 f37 f38, **mortarium** f45, **cups** f27 f33 f40 f80

Occurrence: Colchester samian ware is well represented, with a maximum of 101 vessels, and this is might not unexpected given the proximity of Colchester to Heybridge. Most occurred in contexts dating to the late 2nd century AD, but there is also a high level of residuality. The fabric was evenly spread, with the largest proportion in Areas H, I and J and the lowest from Areas K and P.

Colour-coated wares, unsourced (UCC)

Description: Colour-coated fabrics were assigned this code where the source could not be readily identified because sherds were either very small, overfired, or burnt and abraded.

Forms: **Beakers** H20 H22 H24 H33

Occurrence: Most sherds, if not all, are likely to have originated either in Colchester or in the Nene Valley. Forms are confined to beakers, and the majority of sherds were recovered from later 2nd and 3rd century contexts. Both date and form ranges are typical of the industries mentioned.

Early Colchester colour-coated ware (COLCE)

Description: NRFRC code COL CC 1

Date: Mid to late 1st century AD

Forms: **Beaker** H1/Cam 94

Occurrence: Sherds representing eight vessels were recovered from Areas K, N, I, L and Q. Area I produced the lower wall and base from a large beaker and consequently the highest proportion by weight. Greene (1979, 85) suggested that the fabric imitated Lyon ware, and this is reflected in the forms present, which include beakers roughcast with sand. The ware is found mainly in contexts dated mid to late 1st century AD, although new vessels are unlikely to have arrived after *c.* AD55 (Symonds and Wade 1999, 233). A beaker from Area K was decorated with painted vertical stripes, perhaps copying the Cam 114 herringbone beaker (see CAMF).

Early shell-tempered ware (ESH)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 50

Date: Late 1st century BC to early 2nd century AD

Forms: **Bowl** EF36, **jars** Cam 254 Cam 255 Cam 256 Cam 258 Cam 259 G3 G4 G5 G (Monaghan 1987, type 3D4), **cauldron** L1

Occurrence: Vessels in this fabric were made in the Thameside area of south Essex, for instance at Gun Hill (Drury and Rodwell 1973) and Mucking (Jones and Rodwell 1973). The fabric had its widest distribution in the late Iron Age, although wheel-thrown ledge-rimmed jars (G5) continued into the Flavian period and north Kent storage jars occurred into the 2nd century. This is much the case at Heybridge, but here the handmade jar form Cam 254 predominated. This simple vessel form is the earliest, typologically, occurring in late 1st century BC contexts at Elms farm. Early shell-tempered ware was found in moderate quantities in all areas, with small concentrations in D, I and N. A single storage jar oven, 10501, accounts for the larger amount in Area F. One vessel present in this feature is a Monaghan (1987) type 3D4 storage jar, current until the mid or late 2nd century (Tyers 1996, 194). It is suggested that these jars were traded as containers and this may account for the presence of a single example of this vessel type at Elms Farm. Five of these vessels were recorded at Colchester (Symonds and Wade 1999, 463), two in 2nd century contexts. Uncommon forms at Elms Farm include a cauldron, complete with skeuomorphic rivet [archive 3005], and a near-complete, deep, straight-sided bowl, EF36.

Archive note: Details under the fabric description in Going (1987, 10) are misleading. Early shell-tempered ware is not common in central Essex (only 5% at Chelmsford) and forming less than 2% of the total by weight at Elms Farm. In Ceramic Phases 1 to 5, the ware never exceeds an average of 2.9% in any phase. ESH is also more common in the late 1st century BC than Going intimates (which is fair enough if he is referring to Chelmsford), but, as a result, many Elms Farm contexts have erroneously been dated to the first half of the 1st century AD on the strength of the presence of ESH.

East Anglian mortaria (EAM)

Description: NRFRC code EAA RE

Examples from Elms Farm have yellow-grey (2.5Y 8/4; 5Y 7/1) surfaces, but in all other respects are identical to the grey or black fabric held in the National Reference Collection.

Date: Mid 2nd to early 3rd century AD

Forms: **Mortaria** D1 D11

Occurrence: The fabric is present only in small quantities in Areas K, H, D and E. Stratigraphy and the forms present, predominantly the hammerhead-rimmed D11, strongly suggest mid 2nd to early 3rd century usage.

East Anglian stamped wares (EASTA)

Description: Two fabrics, while superficially dissimilar, both display stamped decoration, and are presented together here for the sake of convenience. One has a grey-brown surface (2.5Y 5/2) with darker grey-brown core (2.5Y 3/2) and orange (5YR 6/6) margins, the other a burnished orange-brown (5YR 5/6) surface and core.

Occurrence: The reduced fabric is present as a single unstratified body sherd only [archive 3043], decorated with vertical bands of rouletting and ring-and-dot stamps linked by incised lines in cross formation (cf. Rodwell 1978, fig. 7.13, no. 101). This sherd is likely to date to the late 1st and early 2nd centuries (Rodwell 1978, 268), perhaps originating in West Stow, where pottery of similar fabric and style was manufactured (West 1990, 76). Dating to the mid 4th century, the oxidised fabric is represented by a near-complete bowl [archive 811] in Area L resembling Oxfordshire form C84 (Young 1977). The bowl is decorated with rouletted arcs and vertical lines, interspersed with stamped circles. Its source is uncertain, but an origin in Oxfordshire or the Hadham region is unlikely on the grounds of fabric and decorative scheme.

East Gaulish Rhenish ware (EGRHN)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 9, NRFRC code MOS BS

Date: Later 2nd to mid 3rd century AD

Forms: **Beakers** H (Symonds 1992, Gps 32 33 34 35 37 38 39) *Cam* 342

Occurrence: In contrast to Chelmsford, this fabric was more common than Central Gaulish Rhenish ware (CGRHN). It appeared first in contexts dating to the second half of the 2nd century AD. Quantities are low, however, totalling no more than 40g by the end of the 2nd century. There was no significant change until the mid 3rd century, when the amount of East Gaulish Rhenish ware increased. Despite the presence of a near-complete vessel in late 3rd century+ pit 4989, it seems likely that the fabric was imported in significant volume only during the 3rd century, and then mainly during the middle of this century. The near-complete vessel suggests continued use beyond this date. Area K yielded the largest amount by weight, with Areas H and P also producing high proportions. Forms are confined to beakers, usually folded or long-necked, and often decorated with a variety of rouletted, painted and barbotine motifs.

East Gaulish samian ware (EGSW)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 60, NRFRC codes BLW SA, HGB SA, MAD SA, RHZ SA and TRI SA

Date: Late 2nd to mid 3rd century AD

Forms: **Dishes** f18/31 f18/31R f31 f31R f32 f79 Ludowici Tr/Ts, **bowls** f30 f35/36 f36 f37 f38 f44, **mortarium** f45, **cups** f33 f40

Occurrence: Most (74%) of the East Gaulish samian originated from the Rheinzabern industry, with further small amounts coming from Trier, Blickweiler, Heiligenberg and La Madeleine. The ware from the latter dates to the 2nd century, probably accounting for the small amounts of East Gaulish samian appearing in contexts of this date. However, the fabric mostly occurred in mid 3rd century, or later, contexts, with a rise in numbers towards the end of the 4th century, though presumably residual by this time. The range of forms is mainly restricted to dishes and bowls, although the cup form f33 is present, as always, and the lion-spouted mortarium f45 is well represented. The fabric is evenly spread, with most appearing in Area H, and the least in Areas Q and W.

Fine grey wares (GRF)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 39

Date: Mid 1st to late 4th century AD

Forms: **Platters** A1 A2 A4 *Cam* 28, **dishes** B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 B6 B7, **bowls** C1 C2 C3 C7 C8 C12 C15 C16 C23 C27 C29 EF57 EF64, **bowl-jars** E1 E2 E3 E5 E6, **jars** G5 G8 G9 G10 G16 G17 G18 G19 G20 G23 G24 G29 G31 G35 G37 G38 G40 G42 *Cam* 232 *Cam* 249 *Cam* 259, **beakers** H1 H2 H5 H6 H7 H8 H10 H21 H24 H25 H26 H27 H32 H33 H34 H35 H39 H41 H42 *Cam* 96, **flagon** J3, **lids** K3 K6

Occurrence: While never as common as the coarser sandy grey ware (GRS), fine grey ware nevertheless formed a major proportion of the reduced wares at Heybridge. Large quantities were recovered from Areas H and J, with reasonably high amounts coming from Areas K, L, M and N. Production, probably local, did not commence much before the mid 1st century AD. Amounts of fine grey ware increased from the late 2nd or early 3rd century, perhaps in response to the expansion of the market for fine, burnished, pottery, driven by the Hadham industry. This phenomenon was similarly noticed by Going for Chelmsford (1987, 8). The levels of fine grey ware decreased during the 4th century; the upturn at the end of the century suggesting high levels of residuality. Unsurprisingly, dishes, bowls and beakers are well represented. Jars, too, are present, but the range of forms is not as wide as that in sandy grey or black-surfaced wares. Vessels used for food preparation and storage are typically found in coarser and more robust fabrics, and are absent in fine grey ware. Vessels in fine grey ware were manufactured at Heybridge ([ref. kiln section, pp.x-x for full description](#)).

Fine red-surfaced grog-tempered ware (GROGRF)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 53, NRFRC code SOB GT

Date: Late 1st century BC to mid 1st century AD

Forms: **Platter**, **dish**, **bowl** *Cam* 246, **cup** *Cam* 57, **jars** *Cam* 249 G2 G8 EF172, **beakers** *Cam* 85 *Cam* 115 *Cam* 116 H1 H7 EF186, **flagon** EF198, **strainer bowl** M1

Occurrence: Assigned to finer vessels with red-coloured and well-finished surfaces, usually beakers imitating *terra rubra* types. The fabric variation has been fully described by Thompson (1982, 22). Vessels in this fabric are relatively common, and some resembled *terra rubra* closely enough to be described as TR4 at *Camulodunum*

(Hawkes and Hull 1947, 204). The most common form is the beaker, but a variety of other forms is equally represented at Elms Farm. The fabric, as with the sandier version, is not uniformly spread across the site, occurring most frequently in Areas D, K, M and W, but with very little in Areas F, J and Q.

Fine reduced grog-tempered ware (GROG)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 53, NRFRC code SOB GT

Date: Late 1st century BC to mid 1st century AD

Forms: **Platters** *Cam 21 Cam 22 Cam 23 Cam 24 Cam 26 Cam 28 Cam 32 Cam 31 Cam 33 A2 A4 EF1-17*, **dishes** *B7 EF25 EF26*, **bowls** *Cam 44 Cam 47 Cam 211 Cam 212 Cam 217 Cam 230 Cam 252 Cam 253 C12 C15 C29 C33 EF30 EF33 EF37-56 EF58 EF60 EF61 EF65-8 EF70 EF72*, **tazza-bowl** *Cam 210*, **cup** *Cam 57*, **jars** *Cam 202 Cam 204 Cam 218 Cam 220 Cam 229 Cam 231 Cam 232 Cam 233 Cam 234 Cam 235 Cam 249 Cam 254 Cam 255 Cam 259 Cam 260 Cam 264 Cam 267 Cam 270 Cam 271 G3 G4 G5 G8 G16 G17 G18 G19 G20 G21 G30 G38 EF76 EF79 EF81-2 EF86 EF88-91 EF93-5 EF103-4 EF106 EF109-11 EF113-5 EF117-8 EF120 EF124-5 EF129 EF131-2 EF135 EF137-47 EF149-51 EF153-68 EF170-1 EF173-5 EF177-9*, **beakers** *Cam 85 Cam 109 Cam 115 Cam 117 Cam 118 Cam 119 H1 H3 H7 EF188 EF189*, **flagons** *Cam 136 EF196 EF197*, **lids** *K1 K3 K6 EF202-4*, **strainer bowls** *M1 M2*, **funnel** *N2*, **miniatures** *EF209 EF211-2*

Occurrence: This fabric code is assigned to finer grog-tempered vessels which are well-finished, usually with burnished or polished surfaces. The fabric was well distributed across the site, mainly occurring in Areas D, G, K, L, M and N, with the highest amounts in Areas K and N. Platters, bowls, jars and beakers proliferate, although other forms were also produced in some numbers. The platters are mainly copies of *terra nigra* types, as is the *tazza-bowl* *Cam 210*, and other bowls *e.g. Cam 211*. Many of the jars and beakers are decorated with cordons and some jar and bowl forms had pedestal bases, although no complete pedestal vessels were found. These vessels perhaps show the results of experiment when producing forms on the wheel. Only one flagon was tentatively identified, as these were usually produced in the red-surfaced fabric variant. A number of strainer fragments were found, both the M2 and the spouted M1; an almost complete example of the latter was found in a late Iron Age pit in Area M [archive 2257]. Other uncommon forms are triple vase cups, and two ‘cylinders’, which are either handles or tripod feet from a bowl. There is a large number of grog-tempered spindle whorls made from re-used potsherds, accounting for over 80% of the total number of ceramic spindle whorls found. Of interest are examples of graffiti, many of which are complex crosses, but there are at least six which may be literate [ref. graffiti and ‘X’ reports]. Thin-sectioning was carried out on several vessels from pit 15417 (KPG5, report in archive), the results of which pointed to production of grog-tempered pottery on a regional, rather than local, scale.

Gaulish amphoras (AGAUL)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 56, NRFRC code GAL AM 1

Date: Mid 1st to 2nd century AD

Forms: Gauloise 3 Gauloise 4 Gauloise 6

Occurrence: Vessels in this fabric appear to have first reached Heybridge in the mid 1st century AD, although not in any quantity until the later 1st century, remaining current until the 2nd century, after which the material present (despite its quantity) is apparently

residual. It is not uniformly distributed across the site, with the highest incidence in Areas H, I and K. Very little occurs elsewhere, and none at all appears in peripheral Areas Q, R and W.

Grey-green mortaria (GRM)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 49

Date: Mid 2nd to early/mid 3rd century AD

Form: **Mortarium** D11

Occurrence: Five sherds from a total of nine came from the Area W kilns, which were backfilled during the early 3rd century. The hammerhead-rimmed D11 form is consistent, too, with a later 2nd and early 3rd century date. This is somewhat later than the AD120/25 to 160/75 date that Going provided at Chelmsford (1987, table 9).

Archive note: Going noted the powdery feel of the fabric. The samples at Elms Farm are harder and less abraded, something to do with soil conditions, no doubt.

Hadham black-surfaced ware (HAB)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 35, NRFRC code HAD RE 2

Date: Late 2nd to late 4th century AD+

Forms: **Dishes** B1 B2 B4 B3 B5 B6, **bowl** C8, **bowl-jars** E1.1 E2 E3 E5.3 E5.4, **jars** G9.3 G19 G40, **beaker** H34

Occurrence: Heybridge received this fabric from the late 2nd century AD, continuing to do so until the end of the Roman period, although apparently in declining volume from the early 4th century in marked contrast to Chelmsford. Dishes, closely followed by bowl-jars, were the main products in this ware. Some vessels were decorated with external and/or internal burnished lines. There is a very high incidence of this fabric in Area K, partly due to the recovery of over 2.3kg of the fabric from a 3rd century pit, and this is clearly anomalous, since no other area yielded more than 1kg in total. Identification by surface treatment alone may not be enough to separate Hadham wares from other black-surfaced wares produced in the Essex and Hertfordshire region. Microscopic examination also fails to fully segregate HAB from BSW, and many Elms Farm vessels made at Hadham may thus have been erroneously assigned the code BSW. This may account for the unexpected fall off in the incidence of this fabric in the 4th century.

?Hadham fine slipped red ware (FSR)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 18

Date: Mid to late 2nd century AD

Forms: **Bowl** C1.2

Occurrence: This fabric was recovered from three Areas, K, G and P. A single form was identified, a bowl with a reeded flanged rim. The very fine appearance of the fabric prompted Rodwell (1978, 260-2) to suggest a Hadham source. The question of origin may be settled by petrological examination, and thin-sectioning of the bowl rim sherd has indeed indicated a Hadham source for the fabric (report in archive).

Hadham grey ware (HAR)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 36, NRFRC code HAD RE 1

Date: Late 2nd/early 3rd to late 4th century AD+

Forms: **Dishes** B1.3 B2 B3.2 B4.2 B5.1 B6.1, **bowl** C8, **bowl-jars** E2.2 E5.4 E6.1, **jars** G9 G36, **beakers** H34 H35, **flagon** J3

Occurrence: As with Hadham black-surfaced ware, this fabric was recovered from all areas, particularly Area K. While overall quantities are lower, the range of forms is similar, again with dishes and bowl-jars predominating. Hadham grey ware first appeared during the second half of the 2nd century AD, but did not reach Heybridge in any significant quantity until the early 3rd century. Volume increased towards the end of the 3rd century, declining from the mid 4th century.

Hadham oxidised ware (HAX and HAXM)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 4, NRFRC code HAD OX

Date: Mid 3rd to late 4th century AD+

Forms: **Dishes** B1 B10, **bowl** C8, **mortarium** D12, **bowl-jars** E3 E5.2 E6.1, **jars** G24 G26 G32 G38, **beaker** H17, **flagons** J8 J9 J (Symonds and Wade 1999, fig. 5.56, no.157)

Occurrence: Large quantities of this fabric were present in most areas, the exceptions being Areas D, N, R and W, all yielding low amounts, and Area Q, which produced none. While a later 3rd century date has been posited for its widespread distribution across parts of Essex (Going 1999, 297), Hadham oxidised ware was reaching Heybridge earlier, almost certainly during the mid 3rd century. It continued to arrive in the site with no notable change in volume until the end of the Roman period. Forms include shallow dishes, flanged bowls, wide-mouthed bowl-jars and flagons. So-called 'Romano-Saxon' decoration (Roberts 1982), comprising stamped and bossed motifs, was present on a number of vessels, all likely to date to the second half of the 4th century.

Hadham white-slipped grey ware (HAWG)

Description: A grey (5Y 5/1) fabric with red-brown (5YR 5/6) margins and cream (2.5Y 8/4) exterior slip. As with all Hadham wares, the fabric is typified by inclusions of white quartz and black iron-rich grains, visible microscopically.

Date: Early 2nd to late 4th century AD+

Forms: **Beaker** H1, **flagon** J3

Occurrence: This fabric is the least common of the Hadham wares, although it may be under-represented due to poor survival of the slip. With the exception of Area H, which yielded a large portion of a flagon, quantities never exceed 50g in any single Area.

Hadham white-slipped oxidised ware (HAWO and HAWOM)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 14

Date: Early 2nd to 3rd century AD

Forms: **Mortarium** D5.3, **jar** G26, **beaker** H17.1, **flagons** J3.3 J6

Occurrence: This fabric occurred in most areas of the site. Flagons were common, along with frill-rimmed jars. Face-jars, found rarely in any fabric, can also be assigned to this ware. Going suggests that the white-slipped oxidised fabric was principally a mid 2nd century product (1987, 5; 1999, 297). The evidence from Elms Farm tends to support this view, although the fabric also appears in later contexts, suggesting continued, but smaller scale production at least as far as the 3rd century.

Highgate grey ware (HGG)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 37, NRFRC code HGW RE C

Date: Late 1st to late 2nd century AD (Davies *et al.* 1994, 82)

Forms: **Beakers** H1 H34

Occurrence: Uncommon at Elms Farm, the fabric appeared first in a late 1st century AD pit, and then in features dating to the second half of the 2nd century. The H34 folded beaker, a form not attested in London or Chelmsford, is unusual in this fabric, and may represent the latest period of production.

‘Hollow foot’ amphoras (AKAPT)

Description: Chelmsford fabric 59, NRFRC code P&W AM 47

Date: Late 4th century+

Form: Kapitän 2

Occurrence: The fabric is rare in Britain, only occurring from the later 3rd century until *c.* AD400. It is represented at Heybridge by just two sherds from the same vessel in the same context in Well 5806.

Imported buff ware gritless mortaria (IBUFM)

Description: Fine, powdery, very pale buff (10YR 8/2) fabric, with occasional quartz inclusions and flecks of mica at the surfaces.

Date: Late 1st century BC to early 1st century AD

Forms: **Mortarium** EF74 (*Cam* 191-type; Partridge 1981, fig.79.7)

Occurrence: Four examples of this wall-sided gritless mortarium occur at Elms Farm. The form is probably modelled on stone mortars, so the earliest examples do not have a bead rim at the top of the collar (Hartley 1981, 196). The interior of most vessels is smooth with no trituration grits and the exterior is frequently rilled. The example from pyre debris pit 15417 has a very small bead and appears to be one of the earliest in the series, likely to have been imported from Italy (K. Hartley pers. comm.), although production in the Rhineland is also possible. A lower wall sherd from Area N is in a darker buff fabric and this could be a Colchester product. Thin-sectioning (report in archive) has confirmed a continental origin for three of the vessels (those from pits 4285, 14225 and 15417), the fourth, from Area N, is more likely to be locally made.

Imported mica-dusted fine wares (IMIC)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 11

Date: Mid 1st to early 2nd century AD

Forms: **Bowl** C (Marsh 1978, fig.148, no.14.3), **beakers** H1 H (Marsh 1978, fig. 6.10, no.22.6), **balsamarium** *Cam* 196

Occurrence: These fabrics appear principally in Ceramic Phases 3 and 4, providing a mid to late 1st century AD date for the period of importation. A small sherd was recovered from a 2nd century deposit, but is possibly residual. A total of six examples was found including a very fine thin-walled, everted-rimmed beaker, a product typical of the Braives workshop, and a bowl with paint or mica-coating over the rim. Identification of the bowl is uncertain. That it may be a ‘Roanne’ bowl imported from Gaul (cf. Tuffreau-Libre 1992, 50) remains a strong possibility (P. Tyers pers. comm.). The balsamarium foot (*Cam* 196) recovered from Area N is an exception in this fabric group. The form is a fairly common occurrence in continental burials of the 1st century BC and is therefore a probable Gaulish import dating to the late Iron Age.

Imported thorn beakers (THORN)

Description: Hard, fairly sandy fabric, pale orange-brown (7.5YR 6/6) in colour with a grey core. Flecks of mica are visible on the surfaces.

Date: Late 1st century BC

Forms: **Beaker** H (Greene 1979, fig.1.3)

Occurrence: Vessels in this fabric are thin-walled, wheel-thrown and decorated with a series of short, barbotine, vertical ridges. Two vessels are represented, the first has the remains of a cream slip externally, the second is in finer fabric, unslipped and with finely-applied barbotine 'thorns'. One of the precursors of an early Roman fine beaker tradition, these beakers are considered by Greene (1979, 4) to be Italian in origin and Republican in date, although the dating extends into the Augustan period. Vessels have been found in southern France (Tyers, *in litt.*), although site finds in Britain appear to be extremely rare. The sherds recovered from Elms Farm are from two contexts dated to the late 1st century BC, one from Area D [archive 353], the other from Area N [archive 540].

Italian amphoras (AITAL, AITAB-AITAJ)

Description: NRFRC code CAM AM 2

Date: Late 1st century BC to 1st century AD

Form: Dressel 1 Dressel 2-4

Occurrence: This fabric, and its nine fabric variants, forms the second largest group. Full details for each of the variants can be found in the archive. Although imports to Britain began in the first half of the 1st century BC, the fabric did not occur in any quantity at Heybridge until the last quarter of that century. Most of the fabric was found in deposits of early 1st century AD date. It occurred in all areas, although it is not uniformly spread across the site. The highest incidence is in Areas D and N, although the occurrence of the fabric is overwhelmed by the presence of three Dressel 1 amphoras in pyre-debris pit 15417. Burnt sherds from a further Dressel 1 amphora were recovered from pyre site 2201, and a second pyre site, 2490 (both Area W) contained sherds from a Dressel 2-4 amphora. Of interest is a spindle whorl from late Iron Age layer 13553.

Late shell-tempered ware (LSH)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 51, NRFRC code ROB SH

Date: Mid to late 4th century AD+

Forms: **Dishes** B1 B5.3 B6, **jars** G27.1 G27.2

Occurrence: At Heybridge, this fabric first appeared during the mid 4th century, but was never common until the late 4th century. It is possible that small amounts of this fabric were reaching Heybridge at a slightly earlier date, but more often than not, any sherds in contexts earlier than *c.* AD340/50 can be shown to be intrusive. The sources of this fabric are probably much the same as Going (1987, 10) has suggested, Harrold in Bedfordshire, the lower Nene Valley, or Lakenheath. The range of forms is broadly similar to that at Chelmsford and Colchester. Jars are by far the most common vessel class; by comparison, dishes are rare.

London-Essex stamped ware (LESTA)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 19

Date: Late 1st to early 2nd century AD

Forms: **Bowls** C12.1 C23.3

Occurrence: This oxidised fabric was found principally in contexts dated late 1st to mid 2nd century. As the fabric is typically no later than early 2nd century, it is likely to be residual in later features. Forms are limited to two bowl types, both based on samian f30; decoration comprises a variety of stamped ring and lattice motifs. Very little of the fabric was recovered, though of note is a large part of a single vessel [archive 2602; KPG22] from Area F. A possible Hadham source, based on distribution, was suggested by Rodwell (1978, 243) and Going (1999, 297). Thin-sectioning of sherds from four contexts has confirmed a Hadham source for the fabric (report in archive).

London-type ware (LOND)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 33, NRFRC code LON FR

Pottery of uncertain origin but similar to the London style in terms of decoration or fabric is also included here. In these cases, the fabric, always finely made, may be oxidised, having red-brown (5YR 5/4) surfaces and core, or reduced with dark grey or black surfaces (10YR 8/1, 2.5Y 3/0) and light (5Y 4/1) or dark (5Y 2.5/1) grey core. Sand tempering is usual, though one sherd, decorated with incised lines and compass-scribed circles, is grog-tempered.

Date: Late 1st to mid 2nd century AD

Forms: **Bowls** C4 C10.2 C12 C16 C (Monaghan 1987, type 4H1.1), **beaker** H1

Occurrence: This fabric largely occurred in contexts dating to the late 1st to mid 2nd centuries. It appeared occasionally in late 2nd to early 3rd century contexts, but is likely to be residual by this time. Quantities are generally small, with Area I producing the most, although less than 200g. Forms include bowls based on samian f30, and globular beakers. London and North Kent are both likely sources, while the grog-tempered example was possibly made locally.

Lower German (Soller) mortaria (SOLM)

Description: NRFRC code SOL WH

Date: Undated

Form: **Mortarium** D2

Occurrence: This fabric code refers to specific vessels produced in the workshops of Verecundus at Soller. These mortaria are distinctive heavy vessels with a broad flange, very often stamped with the maker's name. Six large sherds, probably representing a single vessel, were recovered from two contexts, both in Area J. While undated at Elms Farm, as the pieces in one context are residual and unstratified in the other, the form was produced from the mid 2nd to mid 3rd centuries (Richardson 1986, 111).

Lower Rhineland colour-coated ware (LRC)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 6, NRFRC code KOL CC

Date: Early to mid 2nd century AD

Forms: **Beakers** H20.1 H20.2 H23 H24

Occurrence: This fabric occurs principally in 2nd century AD contexts. In terms of weight, around twice as much is present in contexts dated to the second half of 2nd century as is present in contexts dated to the first half. This may represent something of

a mid 2nd century peak in importation. Areas I and K produced the highest amounts, comprising large sherds in good condition. The roughcast beaker was undoubtedly a popular form, although beakers decorated with a variety of barbotine animal and plant motifs are by no means unusual.

Lyon colour-coated ware (LYN)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 5, NRFRC code LYO CC

Date: Mid to late 1st century AD

Form: **Beaker** H (Greene 1979, fig. 14.1)

Occurrence: The fabric, recovered from just four contexts, is uncommon at Elms Farm, more so than its imitator, early Colchester colour-coated ware (COLCE). It appeared in two stratigraphically reliable features, one in Area I, the other in Area J, dated late 1st to early 2nd century AD. As this date extends beyond the pre-Flavian date suggested by Greene (1979, 18), both occurrences are probably residual. Although no rims were present, the sherds, some roughcast with sand, are likely to belong to beakers. This is in contrast to Chelmsford, where the sole form identified was the F1 cup (Going 1987, 5).

Mancetter-Hartshill mortaria (MHM)

Description: NRFRC code MAH WH

Date: Late 2nd to 4th century AD

Forms: **Mortaria** D11 (Gillam 280) D (Gillam 284)

Occurrence: This fabric, absent at Chelmsford and present only in small quantities at Colchester, is similarly rare here. It appeared first in features dating to the second half of the 2nd century AD, though most examples were found in late 4th century contexts. These examples are likely to be residual, given the apparent decline in importation after the mid 4th century (Bidwell and Speak 1994, 210). Two forms are identified, both with hammerhead rims and probably dating to the 4th century, although the rim of one example (Gillam 284; archive 2244) is decorated with red paint, a 3rd century phenomenon (Tyers 1996, 123).

Mayen ware/Eifelkeramik (MEK)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 54, NRFRC code MAY CO

Date: Late 4th century AD+

Form: **Bowl** C (Fulford and Bird 1975, fig. 1.8)

Occurrence: Four sherds were recovered from stratigraphically reliable contexts in Areas F, J and M. Fulford and Bird (1975, 179) place the importation of this fabric within a 4th to early 5th century date range. Two sherds came from late 4th century+ contexts, lending some support to this dating. Further sherds were found in contexts dating up to the mid 3rd century, and should be considered intrusive. A single form, a bowl from a cleaning layer in Area R (12206, archive 3003), was identified. At Colchester, forms included dishes, bowls and lid-seated jars, and lids and flagons were also attested (Symonds and Wade 1999, 463-7).

Micaceous *Terra Nigra* (TN[M])

Description: NRFRC code CNG TN, Fabric 2A (Rigby 1989)

Date: First quarter of 1st century AD (Rigby 1989, 120)

Forms: **Platters** *Cam 1 Cam 4* EF18-22, **bowls** *Cam 51 Cam 52B*, **beaker** EF192

Occurrence: Vessels in this fabric are among the earliest continental imports and were Central Gaulish products. Forms are limited to platters, cups and bowls, although new platter forms (EF18-22), and a beaker (EF192), were identified [ref. typology]. *Cam 1* platters are the most commonly found vessel type in this fabric, reflected at Elms Farm with at least thirty-four examples identified. A substantial part of one platter appeared in pyre-debris pit 15417. A large number of vessels were found in Area L, including three of the new platter forms, but the fabric is thinly distributed elsewhere. The *Cam 210* tazza-bowl is represented only by body sherds, and carinated body sherds from layer 13576 may be from a *Cam 50* bowl. Of interest are two spindle whorls made from platter base sherds and a graffito inside the footring of a further platter [archive 454].

Miscellaneous fine white- or cream-slipped red-buff wares (MWSRF)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 16

Date: Mid 1st to early 3rd century AD

Forms: **Bowl** C12, **flagon** J1

Occurrence: White-slipped sherds, frequently small, burnt or abraded, and whose origins could not be determined were placed in this category. The largest amount was in contexts dating to the late 1st and 2nd centuries AD, although smaller quantities were found in 3rd century and later contexts. Two forms were identified; a bowl based on samian f30, and a mid to late 1st century collared flagon. While fabrics could not be definitely sourced, Colchester is undoubtedly a likely candidate for at least some of them.

Miscellaneous Late Iron Age coarse wares (MICW)

Description: This code is reserved for the fabrics of coarse sand-tempered vessels, which are usually handmade, occasionally wheel-finished. The code differentiates sand-tempered late Iron Age fabrics from those tempered with either grog or shell. The colour varies from brown through to black, with much variation in individual examples. The ECC FAU fabric sample varies from reddish-brown (5YR 6/4) to a very dark grey (5Y 3/1). Inclusions are varied, consisting mainly of ill-sorted sand, occasional rounded quartz, flint chips, some burnt, and sparse red ?iron oxide fragments. The fabric can also include variable amounts of grog and the remains of vegetable matter.

Date: Mid to late 1st century BC

Forms: **Platter**, **bowls** EF29 EF31, **jars** *Cam 229 Cam 259 Cam 260 Cam 263* EF77 EF78 EF80 EF83-5 EF87 EF96 EF98 EF102 EF108, **miniature** EF208

Occurrence: Vessels in this fabric continued a middle Iron Age pottery tradition, with refinements such as wheel-finishing appearing towards the end of the 1st century BC. Handmade jars from Heybridge can be closely paralleled at Kelvedon (Rodwell 1988), where they are dated *c.* 50-20BC. Wheel-finished vessels are closer to *Camulodunum* forms and can be decorated with cordons or shoulder grooves. The fabric is unevenly distributed, with Areas D, G and P providing the most examples and Area I very few. The highest incidence is in contexts dated to the late 1st century BC, although coarse sand-tempered pottery occurred into the 1st century AD, probably residually.

Miscellaneous oxidised wares (RED and REDM)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 21

Date: Roman

Forms: **Dishes** B1 B6 B10, **bowls** C8 C12 C17 C22, **tazza-bowl** *Cam* 198, **mortaria** D1 D4 D13, **jars** G5 G26 G37, **beakers** H1 H7 H20 H21 H24 H35, **flagons** J2 J3 J5 J10, **lid** K5

Occurrence: This category comprises sand-tempered oxidised pottery that could not be sourced with any certainty. Some vessels may be Colchester or Hadham products, and a number of forms are typical of these industries. Most examples were undoubtedly manufactured locally. Pottery was recovered from contexts dating from the late Iron Age to the late 4th century. Most sherds, however, were found in late 1st to late 3rd century contexts.

Miscellaneous slipped red wares (MSR)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 17

This category includes a fabric with orange (7.5YR 6/6) surfaces, grey core (7.5YR 4/0) and red (2.5YR 5/8) slip. There are inclusions of fine quartz, and occasional mica is visible on the surface.

Date: Roman

Form: **Bowl** C7

Occurrence: The fabric was present mainly as small or abraded body sherds, and retrieved from most areas in contexts ranging in date from the later 1st to the late 4th century AD. A hemispherical flanged bowl dating to the late 2nd or early 3rd century was identified. While both fabric and form are superficially similar to Oxfordshire red colour-coated and Hadham oxidised wares, the piece may have greater affinity with fabrics encountered in East Anglia (*e.g.* Caister fabric RBSL, Darling and Gurney 1993, 161). The upper surface of the flange is decorated with a white-painted zig-zag motif [archive 1699].

Miscellaneous white- or cream-slipped sandy red wares (MWSRS and MWSRSM)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 15

Date: Mid 1st to late 3rd century AD

Forms: **Tazza-bowl** *Cam* 198, **mortaria** D11 D13, **jars** G26 *Cam* 207, **flagons** J3 J4, **triple vase** S2

Occurrence: This fabric group comprises coarse white-slipped sherds of uncertain origin. Much of it was recovered from 2nd and early 3rd century AD contexts and, following a sharp decline after the late 3rd century, from contexts dating to the end of the 4th century. The forms mainly comprise mortaria, frill-rimmed jars and flagons, and were typical products of the Colchester and Hadham industries. The sources for some examples might be found there, while others may have been of more local manufacture.

Miscellaneous white-slipped fine and sandy grey wares (MWSGF and MWSGS)

Description: Both fabric types are grey (10YR 5/1) with white (10YR 7/2) slip on exterior surface. The coarse variant (MWSGS) has inclusions of frequent quartz with mica and occasional flint. The fine fabric (MWSGF) is similarly tempered, but is smooth or powdery to the touch.

Date: Late 2nd to late 4th century AD

Forms: **Bowl** C16.1, **flagon**

Occurrence: Just sixteen sherds were recovered from Areas E, K, N and W, mainly comprising body sherds possibly from flagons. Cordoned neck sherds and a four-ribbed handle, probably from a flagon copying double-handled white ware flagons (*Cam* 161

and *Cam* 163), were recovered from two contexts in the same pit in Area N. A bowl with a reeded rim was also identified [archive 1021].

Nene Valley colour-coated ware (NVC and NVCM)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 2, NRFRC code LNV CC

Date: Early 3rd to late 4th century AD

Forms: **Dishes** B1.2 B2 B3.2 B5.1 B6.1 B6.2 B10, **bowls** C8 C11 C18 C (Howe *et al.* 1980, no.97), **mortarium** D12, **bowl-jar** E4, **jar** G (Perrin 1999, fig. 65, no.275), **beakers** H21 H23 H24 H25 H27 H28 H32 H33 H34.2 H39 H41 H42.1, **flagon** J9, **lid** K7

Occurrence: The colour-coated products of the Nene Valley pottery industry are a major feature at Heybridge. Indeed, the quantity recovered is more than double that of Colchester colour-coated ware, although this may be explained partly by the production in Colchester ware of forms lighter in weight (Symonds and Wade 1999, 278). The fabric was recovered from all areas. Area J yielded the most, in particular contrast to Areas D, Q and W, which produced relatively small amounts. The fabric first appeared in small quantities at Heybridge during the first half of the 3rd century, or at the end of the 2nd century. The main period of importation, however, occurred after the late 3rd century, reaching a peak by the second half of the 4th century AD. A far wider range of forms than those supplied by Colchester was provided in this fabric. Dishes, which were used mainly during the 4th century, are well represented. Jars, not readily associated with the dinner table and therefore not required in a colour-coated fabric, were less popular. Beakers, especially, often carry barbotine or painted decorative motifs.

Archive note: Difference in quantity explained by declining Colchester industry in 3rd century; ?increased population/wealth at Heybridge in the 3rd century; Nene Valley producing a more desirable range of forms; aggressive marketing?? Cheaper? Buy one, get one free? The choice is yours.

Nene Valley grey ware (NVG)

Description: A white (10YR 8/1) fabric with moderate and well-sorted clear or white quartz. Surfaces are dark grey (2.5YR 4/0), streaky in appearance.

Date: Mid 3rd to mid 4th century AD

Occurrence: This is the least common of all the Nene Valley fabrics. The ware first appears during the first half of the 3rd century, suggesting that the fabric was reaching Heybridge along with other Nene Valley products. The fabric occurs infrequently, up to the later 4th century, but is probably residual after the early 4th century, when production declines (Perrin 1999, 78). Small amounts of the fabric were found in just five areas with most coming from Areas D and N.

Nene Valley painted ware (NVP)

Description: NRFRC code LNV PA

Date: Late 2nd to late 4th century AD

Forms: **Bowl** C (Howe *et al.* 1980, no.97; no.99), **jar** G (Howe *et al.* 1980, no.95), **flagon** J (Howe *et al.* 1980, no.96)

Occurrence: This fabric, absent at Chelmsford, was found infrequently at Elms Farm. At Colchester, the fabric occurred first between *c.* AD275 and AD300 (Symonds and Wade 1999, 289). Its initial appearance at Heybridge was very much earlier. Two bowls were found in late 2nd to early 3rd century features, while a near-complete narrow-necked jar

or flask was recovered from an early to mid 3rd century pit in Area L. However, most sherds were from contexts of the late 3rd century onwards.

Nene Valley self-coloured mortaria (NVM)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 24, NRFRC code LNV WH

Date: Mid 3rd to mid 4th century AD (Going 1987, 6)

Forms: **Mortaria** D14.1 D14.2 D (Hartley and Perrin 1999, fig. 79, type M71) D (Perrin and Hartley 1996, fig.116, type M128) [KPG30, archive 1000]

Occurrence: The fabric was present in most areas. It occurs in contexts dating from the mid 3rd to late 4th century; much of it is residual in late 4th century+ contexts. Forms include grooved-flange types common to Chelmsford. Wall-sided and hammerhead-rimmed forms with grooved flanges manufactured in the 3rd century were also found, producing a range of forms corresponding more closely with the range from Colchester.

North-eastern Gaulish mortaria (NEGM)

Description: NRFRC code NOG WH 4

Date: Mid to late 1st century AD

Form: **Mortarium** D1

Occurrence: Three sherds from separate vessels were recovered, one each in Areas I, J and L. Two are stamped with the potter's name, 'Q. Valerius Veranius', who produced mortaria from c. AD65 to AD100 (Hartley 1999, 197). The third is stamped Q. Valerius Se-- (ref. stamp report). It is interesting that the three sherds found in this fabric each have maker's stamps; undoubtedly, plain rim and body sherds have been assigned to other fabrics, either Colchester or unsourced buff wares. The similarity between north Gaulish mortaria and those produced in south-east England has led to discussions on their provenance (Hartley 1977, 5-17; 1999, 197).

North-Essex stamped ware (NESTA)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 20

Date: Late 1st to early 2nd century AD

Occurrence: The presence of this reduced ware was confined to a single stamped body sherd recovered from a post-hole in Area Q, appropriately dating to the late 1st century or first half of the 2nd century.

North Gaulish white fine wares (NGWF and NWGFS)

Description: NRFRC codes NOG WH 1 and NOG WH 3

Date: First half of 1st century AD

Forms: **Beakers** Cam 113 EF195, **flagons** Cam 154 Cam 161

Occurrence: The same forms appear in both fabric variations; each contains sand which is more noticeable in the fine sandy fabric, NGWFS. White fine ware vessels generally have a burnished or polished rim and exterior and zones of rouletting. The beaker form Cam 113 occurred frequently in Britain, and this is also much the case in Essex and thus at Heybridge. Joining body sherds present in two contexts in Area P come from a rouletted beaker, which has a vertical barbotine line applied over the rouletting [archive 2014]. Other forms are restricted to flagons; definite forms represented are the two-handled Cam 161 and the ring-necked Cam 154, although, generally, only handles and body sherds have been identified. The fabric is thinly distributed over the site, but there

are higher incidences in Areas M and N of the white fine ware, and in Area L of the white sandy ware. The latter is accounted for by the presence of two beakers, one of which has a cream slip, internally and externally. The fabric appears occasionally in contexts dated to the late 1st century BC, but was much more common in the first half of the 1st century AD.

North Kent grey ware (NKG)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 32, NRFRC code UPC FR

Date: Late 1st to late 2nd century AD

Forms: **Platter** A4, **dish** B10, **bowls** C1 C2 C22 C (Monaghan 1987, types 2H2 4H2 5B6 5B0), **cup** F (Monaghan 1987, type 6C1), **jars** G19 G40, **beakers** H1 H5 H6.1 H6.2 H6.3 H7 H10.1 H13 H26 H (Monaghan 1987, type 2A2)

Occurrence: Grey ware was a major product of the North Kent industries, and this fabric occurred at Heybridge from the late 1st century AD until the end of the 2nd century. The mid 2nd century was something of a boom period for the industry (Monaghan 1987, 219), and quantities reaching Heybridge dramatically increased at this time. The fabric was widely distributed across the site. Areas H, I and K produced particularly high amounts. A far fuller range of products than is present at Chelmsford is represented here. In addition to the ubiquitous barbotine dot decorated poppy-head beakers, platters or shallow dishes, and bowls were also recovered, along with jars and flasks.

North Kent oxidised ware (NKO)

Description: A fine and soft sand-tempered fabric with frequent silver mica visible on orange-brown (2.5YR 5/6-8 to 6/6-8) surfaces, dark brown or grey (2.5YR 2.5/0 to 3/0) core.

Date: Late 1st to mid/late 2nd century AD

Form: **Bowls** C6 C12

Occurrence: In contrast to the reduced ware, the oxidised fabric occurred in small quantities. It was recovered from most excavated areas, recorded in late 1st and 2nd century contexts and residually in those of the 3rd century.

?North Kent white-slipped oxidised ware (NKWO)

Description: Fabric as NKO with additional white (10YR 8/2) slip on exterior surface.

Date: Late 1st to early 2nd century AD

Occurrence: Present as undiagnostic body sherds only, this fabric is identical to North Kent oxidised ware and, with the exception of a darker core, Hoo ware (Davies *et al.* 1994, 38). A North Kent origin therefore seems likely.

Oxfordshire parchment ware (OXF)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 30, NRFRC code OXF PA

Date: Late 4th century AD+

Forms: **Bowl** C (Young 1977, types P17 P24 P27), **bowl-jar** E (Young 1977, type P32), **?beaker**

Occurrence: Like at Chelmsford (Going 1987, 7), Oxfordshire parchment ware is far from common and only associated with latest Roman levels at Elms Farm. Apart from a possible beaker, all of the forms present are either bowls or bowl-jars. The carinated bowl, P24, was the most common form identified. This was long-lived, current from the mid 3rd century onwards (Young 1977, 87). The less common carinated bowl (P27) is

also dated mid 3rd century onwards. The bowl P17 dates to the period *c.* AD300-400, while the P32 bowl-jar dates to the mid 4th century onwards. The distribution of this fabric is mainly confined to Areas F and I, with small amounts also present in Areas J, L, M and N. The low figures for Areas J and L are perhaps surprising given that these areas have an abundance of other latest Roman fabrics.

Oxfordshire red colour-coated ware (OXRC and OXRCM)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 3, NRFRC code OXF RS

Date: Mid to late 4th century AD+

Forms: **Dish** B10.2, **bowls** C8 C (Young 1977, types C40 C41 C45 C46 C47 C48 C49 C52 C55 C59 C61 C68 C69 C70 C71 C75 C79 C81 C83 C84 C93 C100), **mortaria** D9.1 D12.2, **bowl-jar** E4.1, **cup** F (Young 1977, type C110), **beaker** H (Young 1977, types C25 C37 C38), **flagon** J (Young 1977, type C11)

Occurrence: Measured by weight, this is the most common of the latest Roman fabrics at Elms Farm, mostly occurring in contexts of late 4th century date. Like late shell-tempered ware, Oxfordshire red colour-coated ware is widely distributed across the site. The main concentrations were in Area J, with substantial amounts also coming from Areas H, K and L. Bowls are the most common class, several of which (Young 1977, types C46, C52, C61, C79 and C84) were only developed from the mid 4th century onwards. Several beakers, a flagon and a cup were also identified. It is also noteworthy that the overall range of forms appears to be far more diverse compared with Chelmsford. Forms that are exclusively 3rd century have yet to be identified in Essex generally, although one of the bowl forms found at Elms Farm is dated by Young (1977, type C59) to the first half of the 4th century.

Oxfordshire white-slipped red ware (OXSW and OXSWM)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 13, NRFRC code OXF WS

Date: Mid 3rd to late 4th century AD+

Forms: **Bowl** C (Young 1977, type WC3), **mortaria** D3 D6 D7

Occurrence: This fabric is far more common at Heybridge than at Chelmsford. Virtually all of the identifiable forms are mortaria, corresponding with Young (1977) types WC4, WC5, WC6 and WC7. At Chelmsford, the fabric was only observed in mid to late 4th century contexts, and at Colchester the fabric first appeared in contexts dating to *c.* AD300. However, the presence of WC4 and WC5 type mortaria suggests that the white-slipped ware was reaching Heybridge from the mid 3rd century onwards. Continued supply into the period *c.* AD350-400+ is indicated by the presence of WC6-type mortaria. The bulk of the sherds were recovered from contexts belonging to the late 4th century, and so it would seem that the main period of importation was from the mid 4th century onwards. The ware is thinly distributed across the site, with a higher incidence in Area J.

Oxfordshire white ware (OXW and OXWM)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 25, NRFRC code OXF WH

Date: Mid 3rd to late 4th century AD+

Forms: **Mortaria** D5.1 D5.3 D6 D7 D9.1 D (Young 1977, types M17 M18 M22), **flagon** J (Young 1977, types W15 W25)

Occurrence: The fabric was found in all Areas, except Q. Areas H, J and K produced especially large amounts. As at Chelmsford (Going 1987, 6), Oxfordshire white ware reached Heybridge from the mid 3rd century onwards. However, most occurs in contexts dated to the second half of the 4th century. Forms comprise mortaria, commonly Young's (1977) M22, and include types also present at Chelmsford and Colchester. Flagons were also found at Elms Farm; these are not present at either Chelmsford or Colchester.

Pompeian-red wares (PR)

Descriptions:

1. NRFRC code CAM PR 1, Fabric 1 (Peacock 1977)
2. NRFRC code CNG PR 3, Fabric 3 (Peacock 1977), Fabric 2C (Rigby 1989)
3. Fabric 5 (Peacock 1977)
4. NRFRC code IMP PR 6, Fabric 6 (Peacock 1977)

Date: Production in Italy may have commenced in the 2nd century BC (Peña 1990), but the main period of importation into Britain was *c.* AD40-80. Vessels in Fabric 3 continued to be imported into the 2nd century AD (Tyers 1996, 157-8).

Forms: **Platters** *Cam* 17 EF23 EF24, **dish** B (Peacock 1977, fig.3.14), **lid**

Occurrence: Pompeian-red ware was a widespread, but thinly distributed, pottery type in Britain, and was also extensively copied. Most British site finds are confined to plain-rimmed platters and lids (*Cam* 17), whose main period of importation was *c.* AD40-80 (Tyers 1996, 157). Peacock (1977) identified seven fabrics, four of which appear at Elms Farm. The most common with seven examples is Fabric 1, the characteristic 'black sand' fabric from Campania. Forms present are mainly platters, a single *Cam* 17 and two examples with a bead rim, EF23, an early type, probably Augustan. Also present in this fabric is a lid. There are five occurrences of Fabric 3; interestingly, both forms identified, a dish (cf. Peacock 1977, fig.3.14) and a platter with a reeded collar, EF24, are unusual. The platter is mica-coated externally and there is a body sherd in this fabric from a second context. Fabric 5 originated in Colchester, and is represented in the assemblage by a lid and a possible platter. Pompeian-red ware occurs sporadically across the site, with most examples appearing in Area N. A large part of one of the bead-rimmed platters came from pyre debris pit 15417 [archive 2156], its fabric (Fabric 1) still easily identifiable despite the high degree of burning.

Portchester D (Tilford/Overwey) ware (PORD)

Description: NRFRC code OVW WH

Date: Late 4th century AD+

Forms: **Dishes** B3 (Fulford 1975b, type 109) B6 (Fulford 1975b, type 87), **jar** G27 (Fulford 1975b, type 137)

Occurrence: Portchester D ware seems to be more common at Heybridge than at Chelmsford or Colchester. At the latter, twelve sherds of probable Overwey origin were recognised and included in the Mayen ware category (Symonds and Wade 1999, 463). At Elms Farm, the bulk of the fabric was recovered from contexts securely dated to the later 4th century, and there is very little evidence for the fabric reaching Heybridge before *c.* AD360/70. Most stratified sherds occurred in Area J, with small quantities in Areas E, F, L, N and P. The relatively large amount in Area J is to be expected given the

scale of late activity in this area. Forms are limited to bead-and-flanged or straight-sided dishes, and jars with rilled bodies.

Pulborough samian ware (PULSW)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 60, NRFRC code PUL SA

Date: Second half of the 2nd century AD

Forms: **Cups** f27 f33

Occurrence: Very little of this British-made fabric was found, amounting to a maximum of three vessels. Three sherds, possibly from the same cup, came from dump layers in Area I, the fourth from Area Q. Thin-sectioning (report in archive) has confirmed an origin at Pulborough.

Red-surfaced grog-tempered ware (GROGRS)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 53, NRFRC code SOB GT

Date: Late 1st century BC to mid 1st century AD

Forms: **Platter** Cam 32, **dish** B10, **bowls** Cam 43 Cam 211 Cam 246 C29 EF69 EF71 EF73, **jars** Cam 218 Cam 220 Cam 221 Cam 249 Cam 256 G19, **beakers** Cam 92 Cam 115 Cam 116 Cam 118 EF187, **flagon** Cam 168

Occurrence: The fabric code is assigned to grog-tempered vessels with red-coloured surfaces, usually bowls, beakers or flagons, although the fabric is not restricted to these forms. Dishes, bowls, jars and beakers are well represented. Other vessel types appeared as single examples, although where the fabric has been identified it generally occurred as body sherds. Flagons are usually recognised only by their handles and this may explain their apparent low incidence. The fabric was not uniformly distributed across the site. There are larger amounts in Areas D, L, Q and W, with the highest incidence in Area N.

Rettendon-type ware (RET)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 48

Date: Late 3rd to late 4th century AD

Forms: **Dish** B6.2, **bowl** C1, **bowl-jars** E2 E6.1, **jars** G21 G24.1 G24.2 G24.3 G28 G34 G36 G37

Occurrence: This flint-tempered fabric, as at Chelmsford (Going 1987, 10), first appeared in significant amounts during the late 3rd century AD. It occurred in earlier 3rd century contexts in very small quantities, but is intrusive in such cases. The bulk of this fabric was recovered from 4th century features, with the emphasis very much on the second half of the 4th century. While production of the ware in the Moulsham Street kilns at Chelmsford ended by the mid 4th century (Going 1987, 10), the appearance of Rettendon ware at Heybridge after this date indicates continued production elsewhere in Essex. Indeed, manufacture of this distinctive flint-tempered fabric is attested at Elms Farm in the 4th century ([ref. kilns](#)). The fabric was recovered from all areas; Areas F, H, J and M produced noticeably high figures.

Romano-British mica-dusted wares (MIC)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 12, NRFRC code ROB MD

Date: Late 1st to early 3rd century AD

Forms: **Platter** A (Davies *et al.* 1994, fig.115.739), **bowls** C2 C16 C19.2 Cam 41 C (Symonds and Wade 1999, fig. 5.22, no.144), **beakers** H1 H2 H26.1, **flagon** J5, **lamp**

Occurrence: This fabric, coarser than the imported mica-dusted ware (IMIC), was thinly distributed across the site, except in Area K where it found in comparatively high quantities. At Heybridge, the fabric initially appeared earlier than at Colchester, where it is dated AD110 to AD225 (Symonds and Wade 1999, 245). It occurred first in contexts dated to the mid to late 1st century AD, but never became common until the end of the 1st and beginning of the 2nd centuries. The ware continued to be deposited up to the early 3rd century, though not in significant volume after the mid 2nd century. Bowls with reeded rims are well represented, as are everted-rimmed beakers. A handle from a bowl or *patera* [archive 2652], and an open lamp, or ‘crusy’, were also made in this fabric. The latter is a copy of bronze lamps of Claudio-Neronian date (Greene 1993, 40-1), and appears to be more commonly found on military sites.

Salazon amphoras (ASALA)

Description: NRFRC codes CAD AM and P&W AM 16

Date: Early 1st century AD to early 2nd century AD

Form: Beltrán 1 (Dressel 7-11)

Occurrence: This fabric is relatively common, although its distribution across the site is not uniform. The highest incidence is in Areas E and M, with very small amounts occurring in Areas J, P, R and W. It first appeared in quantity during the first half of the 1st century AD. Quantities remained high until the early 2nd century, although the fabric is probably residual at Heybridge from the later 1st century. The sole form identified is the Beltrán 1, which was superseded by Beltrán 2 during the later 1st century AD.

Samian wares, unsourced (TSG)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 60

Forms: **Platter** ?f18, **cup** f33

Occurrence: This fabric code was assigned to the few sherds which could not be identified to a specific fabric, mainly due to the small size of the sherds concerned.

Sandy grey wares (GRS, GRSM and GRSWSM)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 47

Date: Early/mid 1st to late 4th century AD+

Forms: **Platters** A1 A2 A4 *Cam* 28 *Cam* 32, **dishes** B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 B6 B7 B8 B9, **bowls** C1 C3 C7 C16 C19 C28 C29 C31 C33, **mortaria** D1 D3 D4 D7, **bowl-jars** E2 E4 E5 E6, **jars** G3 G5 G6 G8 G9 G10 G16 G17 G18 G19 G20 G21 G22 G23 G24 G25 G26 G28 G29 G31 G34 G35 G36 G38 G40 G42 G43 G44 G45 *Cam* 204 *Cam* 207 *Cam* 231 *Cam* 232 *Cam* 241 *Cam* 259 *Cam* 291, **beakers** H1 H6 H7 H8 H13 H21 H26 H30 H32 H33 H34 H35 H39 *Cam* 117 *Cam* 119, **flagons** J2 *Cam* 365 *Cam* 370, **lids** K3 K6, **cauldron** L2

Occurrence: Sandy grey wares appeared during the first half of the 1st century AD, but in relatively small quantities, only occurring in any significant volume after the late 1st century. Sandy grey wares were found in decreasing quantities during the 3rd century and first half of the 4th, after which quantities rose noticeably, although much of the fabric may well be residual. A wide range of forms was produced, with jars predominating. Late Iron Age or early Roman forms, more frequently produced in grog-tempered fabrics, such as pedestal jars and platters, were made occasionally in sandy grey ware. Flagons and mortaria were rarely produced, the latter exceptionally so,

perhaps never featuring in many potters' repertoires. Single mortarium sherds occurred in nine contexts. One mortarium sherd, from pit 20193, is white-slipped and it is conceivable that the others were once slipped, too. The bulk of these wares were locally made. Vessels in this fabric were manufactured at Heybridge and products from both the Area L and Area W kilns include bowls-jars and lid-seated jars [ref. kiln section]. The fabric is well represented across the site, with the highest incidence in Areas H and I.

Silty ware (SILT)

Description: Soft, smooth fabric with few inclusions, light reddish-brown (5YR 6/6) in colour with occasional mica, especially on internal surfaces. Some sherds have a cream (10YR 7/4) slip, although this has not survived well.

Date: Mid 1st century AD

Forms: **Beakers** H (Rigby 1989, fig.68, type 6C) EF190 EF191

Occurrence: This fabric code refers to vessels first identified at Verulamium, made in a fine fabric and copying Gallo-Belgic forms (Rigby 1989, 195). The vessels at Heybridge also appear to be copying these forms, in particular *Cam* 113-type butt beakers, but the fabric, although fine, is not necessarily the Silty Ware identified at Verulamium. Thin-sectioning, however, has revealed that the fabric of these sherds compares well with Silty Ware, and perhaps the nuances within the fabric show regional influence (report in archive). Decoration consists of cordons and zones of incised lines in imitation of rouletting. The fabric occurred infrequently in Areas J, K and M, with slightly larger amounts in Area L.

South-east English glazed ware (GLZE)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 10, NRFRC code SOB GL

Date: Late 1st to early 2nd century AD

Form: **Bowl** C12

Occurrence: The fabric appeared mainly in contexts dating to after the mid 2nd century AD, and must be residual in all these cases. It was present in just one feature in Area L contemporary with its conventional production date range of late 1st to early 2nd century (Arthur 1978, 300-1). Forms were confined to bowls imitating samian f30, of which decorated body sherds also present.

South Gaulish samian ware (SGSW)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 60, NRFRC codes LGF SA and MON SA

Date: Mid 1st to early 2nd century AD

Forms: **Platters** f15/17 f15/17R f16 f18 f18R f19 Ritterling 1, **dishes** f18/31 f23 f42, **bowls** f29 f30 f35/36 f36 f37 Curle 11 Ritterling 12, **cups** f24 f27 f27g f33 f33a f35 ?f46 Ritterling 5 Ritterling 8 Ritterling 9, **beaker** f67, **inkwell** Ritterling 13

Occurrence: The bulk of the south Gaulish samian found here originated in the factories at La Graufesenque, in keeping with the rest of Britain. The few remaining pieces were from Banassac and Montans. The range of forms is large, with a higher than usual number of the globular beaker f67, and an uncommon form, the inkwell, completing the assemblage. Most of the ware appears in contexts of late 1st century and early 2nd century date, with some residuality apparent. South Gaulish samian was evenly distributed, with the largest proportion occurring in Area I, and the least in Areas E and R.

Storage jar fabric (STOR)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 44

Date: Mid 1st to late 4th century AD+

Forms: **Platters** A2 A4 *Cam* 28, **dishes** B7 B8, **bowls** C28 C29 C33, **jars** G3 G5 G22 G23 G36 G37 G42 G43 G44 G45 *Cam* 252 *Cam* 259 *Cam* 260 *Cam* 270 *Cam* 271 *Cam* 272 EF126 EF178, **lids** K3 K5, **cauldron** L1

Occurrence: This fabric was widely distributed across the site, but with very large amounts present in Areas H and I. Storage jar ovens account for the higher incidence in the former, but much of the fabric is unstratified in the latter; this probably deriving from disturbed ovens. Apart from jars, a range of platters, dishes and bowls was manufactured, most of which derive from late Iron Age grog-tempered prototypes and whose presence did not extend far beyond the early 2nd century AD.

Terra Nigra (TN)

Description: NRCFC code GAB TN 1

Date: First half of 1st century AD

Forms: **Platters** *Cam* 2 *Cam* 5 *Cam* 8 *Cam* 9 *Cam* 12 *Cam* 13 *Cam* 16, **cup** *Cam* 56, **beaker** *Cam* 120

Occurrence: Vessels in *terra nigra* were among the latest Gallo-Belgic imports, gradually superseding *terra rubra* from the Tiberian period onwards. Platters, usually *Cam* 16, can occur in contexts dating as late as AD85 (Rigby 1989, 123). There is only one example of *Cam* 16 at Elms Farm. The form with the highest incidence is the platter *Cam* 2 with at least forty-two examples recorded. Production of this form in *terra rubra* had commenced by 15BC, but the type is long-lived and in *terra nigra* can be found in mid 1st century AD contexts. Platters are by far the most common vessel class, but there are examples of the cup *Cam* 56, and the *Cam* 120 carinated beaker is represented by body sherds. This beaker form commonly occurred in Britain from *c.* AD60 (Tyers 1996, 166). Three vessels carry makers' stamps, which usually appear only on the later forms. The fabric is thinly distributed across the site, with larger amounts occurring in Areas K, L, and M, and the highest incidence in Area N.

Terra Rubra (TR)

Description: NRCFC code GAB TR 1A, GAB TR 1B, GAB TR 1C, GAB TR 2, GAB TR 3

Date: Late 1st century BC to mid 1st century AD

Forms: **Platters** *Cam* 2 *Cam* 3 *Cam* 4 *Cam* 5 *Cam* 8 *Cam* 12/13, **dish** EF27, **cup** *Cam* 56, **beakers** *Cam* 78/9 *Cam* 79 *Cam* 82 *Cam* 84 *Cam* 91 *Cam* 112 EF193 EF194 (Holwerda 1941, no.104)

Occurrence: Production of *terra rubra* probably commenced as early as *c.* 20BC, influenced by Arretine pottery types, and was replaced gradually by *terra nigra* during the first half of the 1st century AD. The fabric has been divided into three main variants, initially by Hawkes and Hull (1947), subsequently modified (Rigby 1973), and, more recently, for King Harry Lane (Rigby 1989, 121-6). These variants are chronologically significant, although most of the *terra rubra* from Elms Farm has not been recorded so precisely. The fabric occurred thinly across the site, with higher concentrations in Areas D, L, M and especially N. There is a greater range of forms in this fabric than for *terra nigra*. Butt beakers (*Cam* 112) and platters are well represented, although girth and

pedestal beakers are few with only four types recorded. Girth and pedestal beakers are typologically early forms and are thus uncommon British site finds. Carinated body sherds from just two contexts (441 and 20041) may be from the *Cam 74* pedestal beaker. One butt beaker has round bosses applied over the rouletted decoration [archive 467, EF194]. Vessels with applied bosses are not common, but several examples have been found in southern Britain.

Unidentifiable pottery (UPOT)

Description: Pottery assigned to this category was either generally very burnt or abraded, or had been retrieved from soil samples, thus making identifications impossible. Area W in particular contained pottery that was affected by adverse soil conditions. In many cases, surfaces had been totally eroded. Additionally, some pottery recovered from the Area W kilns had been subject to repeated firings, destroying the original appearances of the fabrics. Elsewhere, pottery collected from a number of soil samples could not be identified, because the sherds were too small. Clearly, ceramic crumbs extracted from samples are not useful for any purposes, however meticulously those pieces have been picked out.

Verulamium region buff ware (VRB)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 29

Date: Late 1st century AD

Form: **Beaker** H1.6

Occurrence: The fabric was recovered in small quantities from Areas W, K, I, J, and N, appearing in contexts which provide a later 1st century date for vessel use and deposition. As at Chelmsford, a single form was recorded, the ring-and-dot beaker. This form was also manufactured at Colchester (Bidwell and Croom 1999, 472).

Verulamium region coarse white-slipped ware (VCWS)

Description: A sandy pink-red (5YR 7/6) fabric with pale yellow or cream (10YR 7/4) slip, thinly applied. Texture and inclusions are identical to VRW.

Date: Early 2nd to mid 3rd century AD

Occurrence: This fabric was recovered from only four contexts, two of which were cleaning layers from Area R. The remaining two contexts, dating to the 2nd and 3rd centuries and both from Area I, yielded eight sherds, including a ?flagon handle.

Verulamium region grey ware (VRGR)

Description: A hard grey-white (10YR 8/1) fabric with frequent sand inclusions producing a hackly fracture. The fabric is identical to VRW, save for a dark grey (2.5Y 4/0) exterior surface.

Date: Undated

Occurrence: The fabric was present as body sherds only, possibly from a jar or flagon. It occurred residually in a Period IV feature in Area H. Symonds and Wade (1999, 357) suggest that grey-surfaced Verulamium products tended to be among the earliest to be manufactured, a proposal that cannot be substantiated here.

Verulamium region white ware (VRW and VRWM)

Description: Chelmsford Fabric 26, NRFRC code VER WH

Date: Mid 1st to mid 2nd century AD

Forms: **Bowls** C16 C (Davies *et al.* 1994, fig. 44.245), **mortaria** D1 *Cam* 195A, **flagons** J3 J6 J11

Occurrence: Products from the Verulamium region, principally mortaria and flagons, reached Heybridge from the mid 1st century AD until the mid 2nd century. The fabric continued to be deposited up to the mid 3rd century, although given the collapse of the Brockley Hill industry in *c.* AD160 (Going 1987, 19), its appearance in these instances is surely residual. The fabric was recovered from all areas of the site; particularly large quantities were found in Areas I and M. The mortarium was clearly the most popular of Verulamium products, accounting for over half of the total weight. Heybridge provided only a minor market for the industry, with the volume never approaching that attained by the Colchester industry.

White wares, unsourced (UWW)

Description: White fabrics that could not be placed easily in specific white or buff ware categories were assigned this code.

Form: **Jar** G26

Occurrence: This group mainly comprised body sherds. Small rim and handle sherds, most probably belonging to flagons, are also present. The single form identified is a jar with a frilled rim. While this 3rd and 4th century form is typical of the Hadham industry (Going 1987, 25-6), a local source may perhaps be more appropriately applied here on fabric grounds.

Wine amphoras (AWINA - AWINE)

Description: These five fabric variants were assigned to Dressel 2-4 fabrics which are not shared with Dressel 1 (AITAL, ABSAN, see above). Full descriptions for each variant can be found in the archive.

Date: Late 1st century BC to late 1st century AD

Form: Dressel 2-4

Occurrence: Very little of the assemblage was assigned these fabric codes. Most occurred in contexts of early 1st century AD date in Area N.