

### Ceramic Phase 9: c. AD 260-310

Recovered from the northern and southern outer zones, and central and peripheral areas of the settlement, ten groups with a total weight of 49kg and rim equivalence (EVE) of 38 were assigned to Ceramic Phase 9. Four of these, totalling 27kg and 23 EVEs and characteristic of the phase, are presented below.

*Area N: Pit 11303, fill 11302 (fig.00)*

<i>Fabrics</i>	<i>Sherd no.</i>	<i>Weight (g)</i>	<i>Average sherd wt</i>	<i>% Weight</i>	<i>EVE</i>	<i>% EVE</i>	<i>Forms</i>
ABAET	2	242	121	2%			Dr.20
AWINC	2	42	21	<1%			Dr.2-4
BB1	4	80	20	1%	0.07	1%	Dish B6
BB2	7	186	27	1%	0.50	5%	Dish B3
BSW	383	2568	7	20%	2.25	24%	Dishes B3 B4, bowl, bowl-jars E2 E5, jars G5 G24, beaker H34
BUFM	10	434	43	3%	0.11	1%	Mortaria D3 D11
CGFCS	1	6	6	<1%			
CGSW	13	112	9	1%	0.13	2%	Platter f79R, dish f18/31 or 31, mortarium f45, cup f33, beaker f72
EGSW	13	260	20	2%	0.11	1%	Dish f31R, bowls f30 f37
GRF	401	3197	8	25%	1.54	16%	Dishes B2/B4 B3, jars G5 G24, beaker
GROGC	16	390	24	3%			Jar
GRS	185	2660	14	21%	3.05	32%	Bowl-jar E2, jars G5 G24 G25 G42, beaker
HAB	4	98	25	1%	0.33	3%	Dish B3
HAR	27	435	16	3%	0.88	9%	Dishes B2 B3, jar, beaker
HAWO	3	42	14	<1%			Jar
MWSRS	4	26	7	<1%	0.31	3%	Flagon J3
NKG	1	6	6	<1%	0.06	1%	Jar
NVC	3	18	6	<1%			Lid K7
NVM	2	122	61	1%	0.12	2%	Mortarium D14
RED	13	44	3	<1%			
RET	2	10	5	<1%			
STOR	51	1793	35	14%	0.03	<1%	Jar G44
<i>Total</i>	1147	12771			9.49		

This large group is dated to the early part of Ceramic Phase 9, probably extending only a little beyond AD260. The assemblage retains characteristics associated with early to mid 3rd century contexts: buff ware mortaria, bead-rimmed dishes, and ledge-rimmed jars. Other elements, such as the Nene Valley mortarium, Rettendon ware and BB1, undoubtedly push the date of deposition into the later 3rd century. As ever, black-surfaced and sandy grey wares dominate the assemblage. Of the remaining fabrics, only fine grey ware makes a significant contribution. Although the condition of the group is generally good, there is a relatively large proportion of residual pottery (around 8% by weight), including the grog-tempered ware, Central Gaulish samian, North Kent grey ware, and the white-slipped ring-necked flagon (J3). The group also contained an abraded sherd of later 4th century Alice Holt grey ware (excluded from the table), which must be intrusive.

*Area H: Pit 6267, fill 6268 (fig.00)*

<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Sherd no.</i>	<i>Weight (g)</i>	<i>Average sherd wt</i>	<i>% Weight</i>	<i>EVE</i>	<i>% EVE</i>	<i>Forms</i>
ABAET	1	78	78	1%			Dr.20
BSW	32	855	27	11%	1.15	26%	Dishes B1 B2/B4 B6, jar G5, beaker
BUF	4	66	17	1%			
BUFM	7	553	79	7%	0.42	10%	Mortaria D3 D11
CGSW	6	78	13	1%	0.24	5%	Dishes f18/31R or f31R f31, cup f33
COLBM	3	480	160	2%	0.24	5%	Mortarium D11
COLC	3	26	9	<1%			Beaker
GRF	21	378	18	5%	0.49	11%	Dish B2/B4, beaker H33
GRS	69	1245	18	16%	1.48	34%	Dish B3, bowl-jar E2, jars G5 G9 G24 G42, beaker H34
NVC	3	36	12	<1%			Beaker
NVM	1	48	48	1%			
OXWM	1	124	124	2%	0.09	2%	Mortarium D5
RED	6	114	19	1%	0.08	2%	Jar G26
RET	2	32	16	<1%	0.11	3%	Jar G24
STOR	40	3490	87	46%	0.09	2%	Jar G44
<i>Total</i>	199	7603			4.39		

This top fill of pit 6267 is dated to the late 3rd century. Although this group and context 11302 above are broadly similar in terms of assemblage composition, context 6268 is likely to have been deposited later. This assertion is made on the basis of the bead-rimmed dishes. Here, they are represented by small abraded sherds and are probably residual. Other residual pottery includes the Central Gaulish samian, the Colchester colour-coated beaker, and probably the buff ware mortaria. The assemblage comprises relatively large sherds, and overall condition is good.

*Area R: Ditch 12027, fills 12026, 12029 (fig.00)*

<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Sherd no.</i>	<i>Weight (g)</i>	<i>Average sherd wt</i>	<i>% Weight</i>	<i>EVE</i>	<i>% EVE</i>	<i>Forms</i>
BB1	14	575	41	9%	0.40	5%	Dishes B1 B6
BB2	1	50	50	1%	0.07	1%	Dish B4
BSW	188	2316	12	35%	2.81	34%	Jar G23
CGSW	3	52	17	1%			Dish f31R, bowl Curle 21
COLC	2	8	4				Beaker
EGRHN	1	6	6				Beaker
EGSW	1	6	6				Bowl f37
GRF	8	208	26	3%	0.13	2%	Dish B6, jar G24, beaker H32/H33
GRS	200	2474	12	37%	3.22	38%	Dishes B1 B2 B5, jars G5 G9 G23, beaker H39
HAB	32	132	4	2%	0.08	1%	Flask
NVC	38	474	12	7%	1.39	17%	Beakers H28 H41
RET	14	332	24	5%	0.26	3%	Jar G24
<i>Total</i>	502	6633			8.36		

This group incorporates two fills from a ditch segment and is dated to the late 3rd or very early 4th century AD. There are no marked differences between this group and previous ones. However, a later date is suggested by the presence of the folded beaker in sandy grey ware (H39) and the Nene Valley colour-coated H41 beaker. The former is dated exclusively to the 4th century at Chelmsford (Going 1987, 31). The condition

of the pottery is mixed, although the smallest sherds belong to residual pottery, such as the East Gaulish Rhenish and Colchester colour-coated wares and intrusive pottery, namely a sherd of Oxfordshire red colour-coated ware (excluded).

*Catalogue of illustrated pottery*

<i>Archive</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Form</i>
526	11302	GRF	B2
527	11302	GRS	G5 without the ledge
528	11302	HAR	B3.2
529	11302	BB1	B6
530	11302	BB2	B3
531	11302	BSW	E5
532	11302	BSW	G5.5
533	11302	BSW	B4
534	11302	BSW	B2/B4
535	11302	HAWO	G pedestal
536	11302	BUFM	D3.3
537	11302	NVM	D14
538	11302	MWSRS	J3
539	11302	STOR	G44
631	6268	GRS	B3.2
632	6268	GRS	E2
633	6268	GRS	G9
634	6268	GRS	G24
635	6268	BSW	B2/B4
636	6268	BSW	B1
637	6268	BSW	G5.5
638	6268	GRF	H33
639	6268	RET	G24.1
640	6268	BUFM	D11
641	6268	BUFM	D3
642	6268	OXWM	D5
103	12026	BSW	G38 – decoration on rim/neck
104	12026	NVC	H41
105	12026	BB1	B6.3
106	12026	RET	G23
107	12026	BB1	B1
108	12026	BSW	B1
109	12026	GRS	G23
110	12026	GRF	H cross-graffito on base
111	12026	GRS	G9.3
112	12026	HAB	G-new
113	12026	GRS	G23
114	12026	BB2	B4
115	12026	GRS	B5.1
116	12026	GRS	B1
117	12026	GRS	G5.5
118	12026	NVC	?H23-new
119	12026	NVC	H41
120	12026	GRS	H39