

ELMS FARM SAXON POTTERY REPORT (ARCHIVE)

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INTRODUCTION:

A total of 6.83kg (366 sherds) of Early Saxon pottery was recovered from excavations at Elms Farm, Heybridge. The total number of contexts producing Early Saxon pottery was 68. The most significant assemblage came from layers representing a Saxon recut of a Roman well; in particular three contexts (14528; 14558; 14613) which between them produced approx. 2kg of pottery (30% of the total pot recovered from all excavated features). Other contexts producing Early Saxon pottery (Table 1) comprised sunken-featured building fills; pit fills; posthole fills and the upper levels of Roman ditches. The Saxon pottery was intrusive in small quantities in some of the prehistoric features (see Table 1) and some of the mid Roman features. The Late Roman features producing both latest Roman and Early Saxon pottery were looked at in some detail in order to define the inter-relationship between the two groups of pot. The Saxon features present themselves as a scattering across the site with the only obviously cohesive group being a cluster around a sunken-featured building, which may represent a focus of activity during the Early Saxon period.

This report presents a catalogue of the pottery assemblage and its quantification by context, sherd count, weight and fabric followed by a discussion of the date range of the pottery and its inter-relationship with the latest Roman material.

CATALOGUE OF EARLY SAXON POTTERY:

Notes:

1. Each entry in the catalogue is taken as a separate 'vessel'; although instances occur where variations in fabric composition amongst several entries are minimal and it is conceivable that they do in fact represent one vessel.
2. In this report all the pottery is included in the catalogue and is ordered by context. Diagnostic vessels are listed first and should be illustrated; these will form the published catalogue.

The Fabrics

Seven fabric groups can be ascertained (some subdivided) and these are detailed below.

Fabric 1: A small quantity of pottery (8g), found in only three contexts exhibits no added tempering. It is made from the local brickearth which incorporates common small inclusions of micaceous quartz-sand.

Fabric 2a: This is the predominant fabric (4.85 Kg) and is found in 63 contexts (see Table 2). This fabric is hard to medium hard and has abundant small to medium quartz-sand with a

varying amount of mica present. It is difficult to assess how much sand occurs naturally in the clay and how much has been deliberately added as a tempering agent. Diagnostic forms in this fabric occur in contexts 34 (Figs. 1, 2); 73 (Figs. 3, 4, 5); 92; 4944 (Fig. 6); 8807 (Fig. 7); 9720 (Fig. 8); 10514 (Fig. 9); 10781 (Fig. 10); 11000 (Fig. 11); 11506 (Fig. 12); 12045 (Fig. 13); 12059 (Figs. 15, 16, 17); 14516 (Fig. 18); 14528 (21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29); 14558 (Fig. 30); 14613 (Figs. 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37); 15353 (Fig. 38); 15694 (Fig. 39); 15862 (Fig. 40, 41), 15969 (Fig. 45); 20020 (Fig. 47).

Fabric 2b: A variant on the sandy wares has a moderate amount of haematite present; this generally gives a slightly softer fabric. A small amount (73g) from contexts four contexts (see Table 2).

Fabric 2c: This sandy ware is differentiated by the application of a slip containing large particles of quartz-sand to the outer surface of the vessel; referred to a 'schlickung'. Seen as an indicator of an early fifth-century date. Occurs in six contexts (see Table 2) with a total Wt. of 176g.

Fabric 3a: Organic-tempered with abundant temper, giving abundant voids in the surfaces. A softer, more friable fabric than 3b. A comparatively small amount (463g) occurs (as opposed to sandy fabrics), in fifteen contexts (see table 2) of which three are diagnostic forms: 12052 (Fig. 14); 14528 (Fig. 20) and 16073 (Fig. 46).

Fabric 3b: Medium soft to medium hard fabric with sparse organic temper. A small amount (Wt. 73g) recovered from four contexts (see Table 2).

Fabric 4a: A medium hard to hard fabric with sparse to common finely-chopped organic temper and sparse to common small to medium quartz-sand. It is difficult to ascertain whether or not the sand is a deliberately added tempering agent along with the organic matter; it may simply occur naturally in the clay source. A total of 76g recovered from seven contexts (see Table 2).

Fabric 4b: A medium hard to hard fabric with sparse to common haematite in addition to quartz-sand and organic temper as in 4a. A single context (15862) produced 42g with two diagnostic sherds (Figs. 43, 44).

Fabric 5a: A fairly substantial amount (Wt. 490g) of pottery from six contexts (see Table 2) has a vesicular appearance; in addition to a common to abundant amount of quartz-sand, it is tempered with small chalk particles which have been leached-out on the surfaces. Context 14613 produced a diagnostic rim (Fig. 32).

Fabric 5b: As 5a but with sparse to common haematite in addition to quartz-sand and chalk. It occurs in two contexts (total Wt. 16g).

Fabric 5c: A variant of 5a has chalk temper and an outer surface with 'schlickung'. It is present in fairly small amounts (total Wt. 148g) in only two contexts 14528 producing a diagnostic bowl (Fig. 19).

Fabric 6: A few sherds (Wt. 207g) from three contexts have common to sparse grog temper; usually alongside some quartz-sand.

Fabric 7a: A small amount (Wt. 172) of pot, in addition to quartz-sand, have some shell in the fabric this may be an intentionally added temper or it may occur naturally in the clay source. Context 15862 produced a decorated sherd in this fabric (Fig. 42).

Fabric 7b: As fabric 7a but with surfaces treated with 'schlickung'; it is found in only one context (Wt. 21g).

Catalogue

Context 31: One sherd of fabric 2a. Wt. 8g.

Base sherd. Fabric 2a. Surfaces dark reddish-brown. Core dark grey. Wt. 8g.

Context 33: One base sherd of fabric 2a. Wt. 2g.

Base sherd. Fabric 2a. Dark grey ware. Wt. 2g.

Context 34: 11 sherds (including two rims and one base), fabrics 1 (8g), 2a (97g) and 2c (12g). Total Wt. 117g.

Rim (everted, rounded). Fabric 2a. Dark grey throughout. Outer burnished. Wt. 19g. **Fig.1.**

Rim sherd (everted, rounded). Fabric 2a. Dark grey throughout. Wt. 12g. **Fig.2**

Footring base. Fabric 2a. Grey throughout. Very abraded. Wt. 17g.

6 body sherds. Fabric 2a. Dark grey throughout. Wt. 49g.

Body sherd. Fabric 1. Dark reddish-brown throughout. Wt. 8g.

Body sherd. Fabric 3c. Very abraded. Wt. 12g.

Context 59: One rim sherd of fabric 3b. Wt. 9g.

Rim (everted, rounded) from a ?globular jar. Dark reddish-brown. Fabric 3b. Wt. 9g.

Context 65: 7 sherds (including one rim) of fabric 2a. Wt. 28g.

Rim (everted, flattened on top). Black, outer part burnished. Fabric 2a. Wt. 4g.

Body sherd. Black. Fabric 2a. Wt. 10g.

Body sherd. Black-brown. Fabric 2a. Wt. 5g.

2 body sherds (from a thin-walled vessel). Black-brown. Fabric 2a. Wt. 2g.

Base sherd. Black. Fabric 2a. Wt. 3g.

Body sherd. Outer reddish-orange. Inner and core black. Fabric 2a. Wt. 4g.

Context 73: 21 sherds of fabric 2a including 3n rims. Wt. 159g.

Rim sherd from a bowl. Crudely made bowl with uneven, flattened rim. Dark brown fabric 2a. Wt. 24g. **Fig.3**

Rim, high-shouldered jar. Thick-walled. Inner abraded. Black fabric 2a. Wt.32g. **Fig.4**

Rim, splay-sided bowl. Dark brown fabric 2a. Wt.27g. **Fig.5**

18 Base and body sherds. Fabric 2a. Outer dark brown. Inner and core black. Wt. 51g.

Body sherd. Black, traces of burnish on outer. Wt. 12g.

Body sherd. Fabric 2a. Outer orange-brown. Inner and core black. Wt.7g.

Body sherd. Fabric 2a with occasional large quartzite inclusions. Outer orange-brown. Inner and core black. Wt. 6g.

Context 79: Four base sherds of fabric 2a. Wt. 23g.

4 Base sherds. Flat base. Black-brown. Fabric 2a. Wt. 23g.

Context 81: Two body sherds of fabric 2a. Wt.61g.

2 Body sherds. Black-brown ware. Fabric 2a. Wt. 61g.

Context 82: Five base sherds of fabric 2a. Wt. 13g.

5 Base sherds. Black-brown. Fabric 2a. Wt. 13g.

Context 85: One sherd of fabric 1. Wt. 8g.

Body sherd. Black. Fabric 1. Wt. 8g.

Context 87: One base sherd of fabric 2a. Wt. 7g.

Base sherd. Abraded. Black. Fabric 2a. Wt. 7g.

Context 88: Three sherds; fabric 2a (Wt. 9g) and fabric 4a (Wt. 8g). Total Wt. 17g.

Body sherd. Black-brown. Fabric 2a. Wt. 8g.

Body sherd. Black-brown. Fabric 2a. Wt. 1g.

Body sherd. Outer grass-wiped reddish-orange to brown. Inner and core black. Fabric 4a. Wt. 8g.

Context 89: One sherd of fabric 2a. Wt.10g.

Body sherd. Black-brown. Fabric 2a. Wt. 10g.

Context 92: Five sherds (one rim) of fabrics 2a. Wt. 27g and 3a (Wt.55g). Total Wt. 82g.

Rim sherd (upright with flattened top). Black-brown. Fabric 2a. Wt. 12g.

Body sherd. Black-brown. Fabric 2a. Wt. 15g.

2 Body sherd. Black-brown. Fabric 3a. Wt. 35g.

Body sherd. Surfaces orange-brown. Core black. Fabric 3a. Wt. 20g.

Context 4011: One sherd of fabric 2a. Wt. 6g.

Base. Abraded. Black-brown. Wt. 6g.

Context 4830: Two sherds of fabric 2a. Wt. 24g.

Body sherd. Outer reddish-orange. Inner and core black. Fabric 2a. Wt. 13g.

Body sherd. Outer reddish-brown. Inner and core black. Fabric 2a. Wt. 11g.

Context 4844: One rim sherd of fabric 3b. Wt. 6g.

Bowl rim (upright, rounded). Dark brown. Wt. 6g.

Context 4944: One rim sherd of fabric 2a. Wt. 17g.

Rim (everted, slightly flattened on top) from a large jar. Outer part-burnished, especially on top of rim.
Fabric 2a. Wt. 17g. **Fig. 6**

Context 6008: One sherd of fabric 2a. Wt. 14g.

Body sherd with thumb-impressed dimple. Outer dark reddish-brown. Inner: light grey. Core: grey. Fabric 2a. Wt.14g.

Context 6093: One sherd of fabric 2a. Wt. 33g.

Body sherd. Fabric 2a with high percentage of mica. Outer buff-brown. Inner grey. Core light grey. Wt. 33g.

Context 6095: One sherd of fabric 2a. Wt. 8g.

Body sherd. Black. Fabric 2a. Outer has abraded burnish. Wt. 8g.

Context 6807: One sherd of fabric 3a. Wt. 10g.

Body sherd. Black. Fabric 3a. Wt. 10g.

Context 7000: One base? sherd of fabric 2a. Wt. 11g.

?Base sherd. Outer dark brown-black. Inner and core dark reddish-brown. Fabric 2a. Wt. 11g.

Context 7574: Five sherds (including one rim) of fabrics 2a (Wt. 31g) and 3b (Wt. 15g.).
Total Wt. 46g.

Rim sherd (upright, flattened on top); from a large ?bowl. Dark reddish-grey. Fabric 3b. Wt. 15g.

Neck sherd, probably from a tall biconical jar. Outer and core dark reddish-orange. Inner black over reddish-brown. Fabric 2a. Wt. 10g.

Body sherd. Fabric 2a. Outer reddish-brown-black. Inner and core reddish-brown. Wt. 10g.

2 body sherds. Outer dark reddish-orange. Inner and core black. Fabric 2a. Wt. 11g.

Context 8141: One sherd of fabric 2b. Wt. 21g.

Body sherd. Black/brown ware. Fabric 2b. Wt. 21g.

Context 8565: One sherd from fabric 2a. Wt. 12g.

Body sherd. Outer part-burnished. Outer and core dark reddish-brown. Inner black. Fabric 2a. Wt. 12g.

Context 8737: One sherd of fabric 2a. Wt. 14g.

Body sherd. Surfaces dark reddish-brown. Inner black. Fabric 2a. Wt. 14g.

Context 8749: Three sherds of Fabric 2a. Wt. 42g.

2 Body sherds. Black-brown ware. Wt. 24g.

Context 8788: Seven sherds (including three rims) of fabric 2a. Wt. 86g.

Rim sherd (slightly everted, rounded). Dark reddish-brown. Fabric 2a. Wt. 5g.

Rim sherd (everted, rounded). From a ?globular jar. Uneven rim. Black Fabric 2a. Wt. 59g.

Rim sherd (everted, angular) and abraded body sherd. Black. Fabric 2a. Wt. 4g..

Body sherd. Dark reddish-brown. Fabric 2a. Wt. 12g.

Body sherd. Surfaces orange-brown. Core dark brown. Very abraded. Fabric 2a. Wt. 2g.

Base sherd. Very abraded. Surfaces orange-brown. Core black. Fabric 2a. Wt. 2g.

Context 8807: Three sherds (two joining rim sherds) of fabric 2a. Wt.56g.

Rim, two joining sherds (everted, rounded) from a wide-mouthed jar ?cooking pot. Fabric 2a. Dark grey throughout. Wt. 41g. **Fig.7**

Body sherd. Fabric as above. May be from the same vessel. Wt. 15g.

Context 9515: One sherd of fabric 6. Wt. 22g.

Body sherd. Outer and core dark reddish-brown. Inner black. Fabric 2a. Wt. 22g.

Context 9720: One sherd of fabric 2a. Wt. 30g.

Squat, ?globular Jar with corrugated outer. This vessel would appear to have been thrown on a slow wheel; it is fairly thin walled with characteristic corrugations, although still rather crude in appearance. Black-brown. Fabric 2a. Wt. 30g **Fig.8**

Context 10000: Two sherds of fabrics 2a (11g) and 6 (55g). Total. Wt. 66g.

Body sherd. Black. Fabric 2a. Inner has carbonised food residue. Wt. 11g.

Body sherd. From a large vessel. Fabric 6. Surfaces grey. Core reddish-brown. Wt. 55g.

Context 10134: One sherd in fabric 3a. Wt. 13g.

Body sherd. Fabric 3a. Outer reddish-orange. Inner and core black. Wt. 13g.

Context 10514: One rim sherd in fabric 2a. Wt. 15g.

Rim sherd (slightly everted, rounded), from a jar. Fabric 2a, particularly well-fired. Dark black-brown throughout. Wt. 15g. **Fig.9**

Context 10781: Three sherds (including rim) of fabric 6. Wt. 130g.

High-shouldered jar (3 sherds which do not join) with hollow neck and everted rim (flattened on top). Outer has incised haphazardly intersecting lines on lower half of vessel. Surfaces dark reddish-grey. Core grey with reddish-brown margins. Fabric 6. Wt. 130g. Max rim diameter: 110mm. **Fig.10**

Context 11000: One rim sherd of fabric 2a. Wt. 18g.

Jar rim (everted, rounded). Black. Surfaces burnished. Fabric 2a. Wt. 18g. **Fig.11**

Context 11465: One rim sherd of fabric 2a. Wt. 19g.

Bowl rim (upright, rounded). Crudely made with walls of uneven thickness. Fabric 3a. Wt. 19g.

Context 11506: Two sherds (one rim); fabric 2a. Wt. 5g.

Jar rim, everted, upright. Black-brown, reddish core. Surfaces burnished. Fabric 2a. Wt. 3g. **Fig. 12**

Body sherd. Fabric 2a. Hard reddish-grey fabric. Wt. 2g.

Context 12043: One sherd of fabric 2a. Wt. 11g.

Body sherd. Black-brown. Fabric 2a. Wt. 11g.

Context 12044: Eight sherds (including one rim and one ?base); fabrics 2a (Wt. 53g); 2c (Wt. 14g) and 3a (Wt. 16g). Total Wt. 83g.

Rim (flaring, rounded). Dark grey. Fabric 2a. Wt. 10g.

3 Body sherds. Outer patchy reddish-brown to dark grey. Inner and core dark grey. Fabric 2a. Wt. 40g.

Body sherd. Outer dark reddish-orange. Inner and core black. Outer is roughened with 'schlickung'; inner is smoothed. Fabric 2c. Wt. 14g.

Base or body sherd. Surfaces reddish-buff. Core dark grey. Fabric 2a. Wt. 3g.

Base sherd. Fabric 3a. Dark grey. Wt. 16g.

Context 12045: 15 sherds (1 rim, 3 base) in fabrics 1 (Wt.2g); 2a (Wt.152g); 3a (34g). Total Wt. 188g.

Rim (everted, angular) from a jar. Fabric 2a. Sooting on outer suggesting use as cooking pot.. Dark grey ware; outer surface smoothed. Wt. 22g. **Fig.13**

Base sherd. From a large vessel. Fabric 3a. Soft grey ware. Wt. 34g.

Base sherds (two joining). From a fairly small vessel. Diameter appr. 55mm. Fabric 2a. Outer and core grey. Inner reddish-brown. Hard, well-fired fabric. Wt. 18g.

Body sherd. Fabric 2a. Dark grey ware. Wt. 18g.

7 body sherds. Fabric 2a. Dark brown/grey wares. Wt. 64g.

2 Body sherds. Fabric 2a. Outer orange-brown. Core and inner grey. Wt. 12g.

Body sherd. Fabric 1. Outer orange-brown. Core and inner grey. Wt. 2g.

Context 12052: Four sherds (2 rim); fabrics 2a (Wt. 41g) and 3a (Wt. 42g). Total Wt. 83g.

Body sherd. Outer orange-brown. Inner buff. Core black. Fabric 2a. Wt. 29g.

Body sherd. Black-brown. Fabric 2a. Wt. 12g.

Rim sherds (2 which join), everted, rounded. Dark grey throughout. Fabric 3a. Wt. 42g. **Fig.14**

Context 12053: Three sherds of fabric 2a (Wt. 32g) and 3a (Wt. 22g). Total Wt. 54g.

Body sherd. Dark brown-black. Fabric 3a. Wt. 13g.

Body sherd. Dark brown-black. Fabric 3a. Do not join but possibly part of same vessel. Wt. 9g.

Body sherd. Reddish-brown. Fabric 3a. Wt. 32g.

Context 12059: 20 sherds of fabric 2a. Wt. 265g.

2 Rim/neck sherds (joining) and one lower body sherd from a small jar. Rolled over rim of uniform thickness, slight neck hollow. Fabric 2a, unusually hard well-fired dark grey ware. Lower body sherd has beginnings of base profile which is slightly sagging. Rim appears wheel-thrown. Possibly a Saxon imitation of a Roman vessel or a hybrid 'Romano-Saxon' form. Wt. 43g. **Fig.15**

Rim sherd (slightly everted, rounded). Black-brown. Fabric 2a. Wt. 36g. **Fig.16**

Rim sherd (flaring, rounded). Black-brown. Fabric 2a. Outer part-burnished. Wt. 14g. **Fig.17**

Rim sherd (flaring, rounded). Black-brown. Surfaces part-burnished. Fabric 2a. Wt. 8g.

Rim sherd (flaring, rounded). Inner surface abraded away. Hollow neck. Black. Fabric 2a. Wt. 4g.

Base. Flat. From a ?jar. Black-brown. Fabric 2a. Wt. 14g.

Body sherd. Outer and core dark reddish-brown. Inner buff-brown. Fabric 2a. Wt. 17g.

Body sherd. Black. Outer burnished. Fabric 2a. Wt. 15g.

Body sherd. Surfaces dark reddish-brown. Core dark grey. Fabric 2a. Wt. 9g.

Body sherd. Outer buff-brown. Inner and core black. Fabric 2a. Wt. 3g.

Body sherd. Outer buff-brown. Inner and core black. Fabric 2a. Carbonised residue on inner. Wt. 29g.

Body sherd. Fabric 2a. Possibly from the same vessel. Wt. 5g.

Body sherd. Outer reddish-buff. Inner and core black. Carbonised residue on inner. Fabric 2a. Wt. 8g.

Body sherd. Black. Fabric 2a. Wt. 3g.

4 Body sherds. Black. Fabric 2a. Wt.15g.

Base from a large vessel. Outer and core dark reddish-brown. Inner reddish-orange. Fabric 2a. Wt. 42g.

Context 12113: Two sherds (including one rim); fabrics 2a (Wt. 8g) and 2b (Wt. 36g); total Wt. 44g.

Base. Flat. Outer patchy orange to black. Inner and core black. Fabric 2b. Wt. 36g.

Body sherd. Black. Fabric 2a. Wt. 8g.

Context 12147: Five sherds (including 2 base); fabrics 2a (Wt. 7g); 2b (Wt. 2g); 3a (Wt. 9g). Total Wt. 18g.

Body sherd. Outer buff-brown. Inner and core black. Fabric 3a. Wt. 6g.

Base sherd. Slightly sagging. Outer reddish-orange. Inner and core black. Fabric 2a. Wt. 6g.

Base sherd. Outer reddish-orange. Inner and core brown-black. Fabric 3a. Wt. 3g.

Body sherd. Black. Fabric 2a. Wt. 1g.

Body sherd. Abraded. Fabric 2b. Wt. 2g.

Context 12187: One sherd of fabric 2a. Wt. 24g.

Base sherd. Fabric 2a. Outer reddish-orange. Core and inner black. Wt. 24g.

Context 12189: Two sherds of fabric 3a. Wt. 75g.

2 body sherds (do not join). Outer dark reddish-brown with very shallowly combed lines. Inner orange-buff. Fabric 3a. Wt. 75g

Context 12210: One sherd of fabric 2a. Wt. 5g.

Body sherd. Outer abraded; shallowly incised concentric lines. Outer dark reddish-brown. Inner and core dark grey. Fabric 2a. Wt. 5g.

Context 12246: Ten sherds, fabrics 2a (Wt. 64g); 2b (Wt. 8g); 2c (Wt. 8g); 3a (Wt. 20g); 4a (4g). Total Wt. 104g.

Body sherd. Outer black. Inner and core reddish-orange. Fabric 2a. Wt. 39g.

Body sherd. Black Outer has two deeply-incised concentric grooves. Fabric 3a. Wt. 20g.

Rim sherd (everted, flattened on top). Outer reddish-brown. Inner and core black-brown. Fabric 2b. Wt. 8g.

Body sherd. Black. Outer corrugated. Inner burnished. Fabric 4a. Wt. 2g.

Body sherd. Inner burnished black. Outer dark reddish-brown. Core black. Fabric 2a. Wt. 13g.

3 Body sherds. Black. Inner smoothed. Possibly from the same vessel. Fabric 2a. Wt. 12g.

Body sherd. Black. Fabric 4a. Wt. 2g.

Body sherd. Outer reddish-orange with 'schlickung'. Inner and core dark reddish-orange. Fabric 2c. Wt. 8g.

Context 12262: Four sherds; fabrics 2a (Wt. 87g); 4a (Wt. 20g). Total Wt. 107g.

Body sherd. ?Cooking pot. Outer patchy buff-brown to dark brown with some sooting. Inner and core black-brown. Carbonised food residue on inner. Fabric 2a. Wt. 43g.

Body sherd. From a large thick-walled vessel. Outer patchy reddish-brown to black. Inner reddish-brown. Core dark brown. Fabric 2a. Wt. 44g.

Body sherd. Outer buff-brown. Inner and core black. Fabric 4a. Wt. 16g.

Body sherd. Surfaces buff-brown. Core black. Fabric 4a. Wt. 4g.

Context 14516: Six sherds; fabrics 3a (18g) and 2a (35g). Total Wt. 53g.

Neck sherd. Fabric 3a. Decorated with incised concentric lines. Black ware. Surfaces smoothed. Wt. 18g.

Neck sherd. Decorated with incised concentric lines. Dark grey ware. Inner burnished. Wt. 2g.

4 Body sherds. Possibly from the same vessel. Fabric 2a. Outer dark reddish-brown. Inner and core black. Wt. 33g. **Fig.18**

Context 14528: 63 sherds (including 12 rims and 5 bases); fabrics 2a (Wt. 603g); 2b (Wt. 6g); 2c (Wt. 36g); 3a (Wt. 34g); 4a (Wt. 47g); 5a (Wt. 23g); 5c (Wt. 133g); 7a (Wt. 133g); 7b (Wt. 21g); total Wt. 1036g.

Tall bowl with slightly inturned, flattened rim. Three sherds from the same vessel but do not join. Outer is part-burnished (around the rim and a band c. 22mm further down) and part-roughened using the 'schlickung' technique (lower body, underneath the band of burnish). Surfaces black-brown; core dark reddish-brown. Fabric 5c. Base missing. Diam. at rim c. Wt. 124g. **Fig.19**

Body sherd (upper) from a large decorated jar. Outer burnished; inner smoothed. Dark brown to black throughout. Fabric 3a. Decoration comprises: two incised concentric lines beneath which are the beginnings of pairs of opposed diagonally incised lines. Wt. 34g. **Fig.20**

Body sherd (upper) from a decorated jar. The neck is hollow and would probably have led to an everted, rounded rim. Outer burnished; inner smoothed. Surfaces black; core black-brown. Fabric 2a. Decoration comprises: incised concentric neckline, beneath which is an incised diagonal line. Wt. 11g. **Fig.21.**

Jar with everted, rounded rim (Cooking pot?). Rim and upper body sherd only. Surfaces smoothed, some burnish on inside of rim. Dark brown-black throughout. Fabric 2a. Carbonised ?food residue on outer in neck hollow. Diam. at rim. c. Wt. 47g. **Fig.22**

Body sherd. Inner and core black; outer buff-brown. Fabric 2a. Decoration on outer comprising: vertically-combed striations covering all of the surface. Wt. 27g. **Fig.23**

Bowl rim (inturned, rounded). Outer burnished; inner smoothed. Black-brown throughout. Fabric 2a. Small areas of carbonised food residue on outer. Wt. 9g. **Fig.24**

Jar rim (everted, rounded). Surfaces burnished (partly abraded away). Black-brown throughout. Fabric 2a. Wt. 12g. **Fig.25**

Jar rim (slightly flaring, flattened). Black. Inner and top of rim burnished, outer has traces of burnish. Fabric 2a. Wt. 10g. **Fig.26**

Body sherd from a decorated jar. Black-brown throughout. Surfaces smoothed. Fabric 2a. Decorated with two incised concentric necklines infilled with circular stamps (Briscoe's type A1, single circles). Wt. 9g.
Fig.27

Jar rim (everted, rounded, flattened on inner edge). Dark reddish-brown. Inner burnished. Fabric 2a. Wt. 6g. **Fig.28**

Rim sherd (slightly everted, angular). Fabric 2a. Surfaces dark reddish-brown. Core grey. Wt. 18g. **Fig.29**

Small jar rim (slightly everted, rounded). Reddish-grey. Fabric 2a. Wt. 2g.

Body sherd with finger-tip rustication on outer. Outer reddish-brown; inner and core black-brown. Fabric 2a. Wt. 19g.

Rim (upright, flattened) from a straight-sided bowl. Surfaces vesiculated. Outer abraded; inner smoothed. Dark brown throughout. Fabric 5a. Wt. 7g.

Body sherd. Traces of burnish on both surfaces. Dark grey throughout. Fabric 2a. Outer decorated with a shallow incised vertical line. Wt. 5g.

Rim sherd (upright, angular). Fabric 2a. Surfaces dark reddish-brown with traces of burnish. Wt. 4g.

Rim sherd (everted, rounded). Fabric 2a. Grey ware. Wt. 2g.

Rim sherd (everted, rounded) Fabric 2a. Dark reddish-grey ware. Wt. 3g.

Neck sherd, from a biconical vessel. Fabric 5a. Dark grey ware. Incised concentric necklines and cordons. Wt. 7g.

Body sherd. Surfaces part vesiculated where chalk has been leached out (particularly inner surface). Surfaces black; outer has 'schlickung'. Core dark reddish-brown. Fabric 5c. Wt. 9g.

Body sherd. Black-brown throughout. Inner burnished. Outer has 'schlickung'. Fabric 2c. Carbonised food residue on inner. Wt. 25g.

Body sherd. Fabric 2c; possibly from the same vessel but they do not join. Wt. 11g.

Body sherd. Outer orange-reddish brown. Inner and core black. Outer combed. Fabric 2a. Wt. 3g.

Base sherd. Outer reddish-orange. Inner and core black. Fabric 7a. Carbonised food residue on inner. Wt. 8g.

Body sherd. Outer reddish-brown. Inner and core black. Fabric 2a. Wt. 21g.

Body sherd. Black-brown throughout. Fabric 7a. Wt. 12g.

Base from a large jar. Flat. Surfaces buff. Core grey. Fabric 2a. Wt. 36g.

Body sherd. Outer reddish-brown. Inner and core black. Fabric 2b. Wt. 6g.

Body sherd. Outer buff-grey. Inner and core black. Fabric 2a. Food residue on inner. Wt. 3g.

7 body sherds. Black-brown. Do not join. Fabric 2a. Wt. 43g.

Rounded base sherd. Sooting on outer. Fabric 7a. Wt. 20g.

Body sherd. Outer part-burnished reddish-brown to dark reddish-grey. Core reddish-brown. Inner black

smoothed. Fabric 2a. Wt. 7g.

Body sherd. Black-brown. Inner finger-wiped. Fabric 2a. Wt. 25g.

Body sherd. Surfaces dark grey and burnished. Core reddish-grey. Fabric 2a. Wt. 12g.

Body sherd. Fabric 2a. Possibly from the same vessel. Surfaces grey. Wt. 10g.

Body sherd. Fabric 2a. Possibly from the same vessel. Surfaces grey to reddish-grey. Wt. 9g.

Body sherd. Dark grey-black throughout. Fabric 2a. Wt. 22g.

Body sherd. Fabric 2a. Possibly from the same vessel. Surfaces grey. Wt. 9g.

Body sherd. Fabric 2a. Possibly from the same vessel. Surfaces dark grey to reddish-grey. Wt. 13g.

Body sherd. Fabric 2a. Possibly from the same vessel. Surfaces dark grey to dark reddish-grey. Wt. 15g.

Body sherd. Fabric 2a. Possibly from the same vessel. Sooting on outer. Wt. 16g.

Body sherd. Fabric 2a. Possibly from the same vessel. Surfaces dark grey. Wt. 8g.

Body sherd. Fabric 2a. Possibly from the same vessel. Wt. 6g.

Body sherd. Fabric 2a. Possibly from the same vessel. Wt. 12g.

Body sherd. Fabric 2a. Possibly from the same vessel. Wt. 10g.

7 body sherds. Fabric 2a. Three sherds have traces of burnish on their outer surfaces; one has sooting on both inner and outer surfaces. Wt. 65g.

Body sherd. Outer buff. Inner and core black. Fabric 2a. Inner has oxidised food residue. Wt. 29g.

Base. Black-brown. Fabric 2a. Wt. 6g.

Body sherd. Outer part-burnished, some sooting. Fabric 2a. Food residue on inner. Wt. 8g.

Body sherd. Outer dark reddish-brown with 'schlickung'. Inner and core black. Fabric 7b. Wt. 21g.

Context 14535: One sherd of fabric 5a; Wt. 9g.

Neck sherd. From a ?globular jar. Vesiculated surfaces, burnished. Fabric 5a. Carbonised food residue on inner. Wt. 9g.

Context 14558: 37 sherds (including one rim); fabrics 2a (Wt. 476g); 2c (Wt. 80g); 3a (Wt. 8g); 5a (Wt. 394g); 5b (Wt. 9g); 5c (Wt. 15g). Total Wt. 982g.

Globular jar with slightly everted, rounded rim. Dark grey throughout. Patches of burnish on outer, particularly on and immediately under rim. Beneath the shoulder the outer surface is much rougher with slight finger-tip impressions. Fabric 2a. Wt. 177g. Max. diam. at rim: 176mm. **Fig. 30**

Body sherd. Outer surface has 'schlickung': surface roughened slip containing very large quartz-sand and unidentified mineral (very sparkly and flakes when scratched). Outer dark reddish-brown. Inner and core dark grey-black. Fabric 2c. Wt. 33g.

Body sherd. Outer dark reddish-brown. Inner and core dark grey. Patches of burnish on inner. Outer has two

finger-tip impressions. Fabric 2a. Wt. 15g.

Body sherd. Decorated with a single shallowly-incised line on outer. Outer reddish-orange. Inner and core black. Fabric 3a. Wt. 8g.

Body sherd. Outer has 'schlickung' with abundant medium quartz-sand in the slip. Outer reddish-brown. Inner and core dark grey. Fabric 2c. Wt. 15g.

Base, flat. Reddish-grey. Fabric 2a. Wt. 32g.

Body sherd. Black. Patches of burnish on outer with sooting in neck hollow. Fabric 5a. Wt. 13g.

2 body sherds. Outer has 'schlickung' with common medium quartz-sand. Outer orange-brown. Inner and core black. Fabric 2c. Wt. 32g.

Flat base. Rather uneven. Outer reddish-brown. Inner and core dark grey. Fabric 5a. Wt. 30g.

Body sherd. From a large globular vessel. Outer reddish-brown to black with some sooting. Inner reddish-brown. Core black. Fabric 5a. Wt. 78g.

12 body sherds. Food residue on inner. Surfaces smoothed. Outer reddish-grey to reddish-brown. Inner and core dark reddish-grey. Fabric 2a. Wt. 154g.

6 body sherds. Smoothed surfaces. Dark reddish-grey to reddish-brown throughout. Fabric 5a. Wt. 90g.

Body sherd. Light reddish-brown throughout. Fabric 5b. Outer has 'schlickung'. Wt. 15g.

Body sherd. Dark grey. Fabric 5c. Wt. 9g.

Base, slightly rounded. Outer reddish-brown. Inner and core grey. Fabric 5a. Wt. 71g.

Base, slightly rounded. Reddish-brown. Fabric 2a. Wt. 50g.

Body sherd. Reddish-orange. Fabric 2a. Wt. 28g.

Body sherd. Outer orange. Inner and core black. Fabric 2a. Food residue on inner. Finger indentations (abraded) on outer. Wt. 12g.

Base sherd. Orange-buff throughout. Fabric 2a. Wt. 8g.

Body sherd. Outer and core black. Inner dark reddish-brown. Fabric 5a. Wt. 7g

Context 14613: 15 sherds (including 4 rims), fabrics 2a (Wt. 212g); 2c (Wt. 26g); 3a (15g) and 5a (Wt. 57g). Total Wt. 310g.

Rim sherd (everted, rounded), from a globular jar with hollow neck. Outer black-brown, part burnished, inner reddish-brown, smoothed. Core grey with reddish-brown margins. Fabric 2a. Wt. 98g. Max. diam. at rim: **Fig.31**

Bowl with slightly inturned, rounded rim (3 joining sherds). Surfaces vesiculated. Outer burnished, abraded. Inner smoothed. Surfaces black. Core dark reddish-brown. Fabric 5a. Wt. 16g. **Fig.32**

Rim sherd (everted, rounded). Surfaces orange-buff. Core dark grey. Inner part burnished. Fabric 2a. Wt. 6g. Max. diam. at rim: **Fig.33**

Rim/upper body sherd (everted, rounded) from a large jar. Probably a cooking pot. Fabric 2a. Surfaces reddish-brown, smoothed. Core grey. Wt. 63g. **Fig.34**

Body sherd. Black ware. Fabric 2a. Outer burnished. Decorated with incised concentric necklines underneath which are vertical incised lines. Wt. 15g. **Fig.35**

Rim, flaring rounded. From a medium sized jar; probably biconical. Black fabric 2a. Wt. 11g. **Fig.36**

Rim, everted, angular. From a large globular jar or bowl. Black fabric 2a. Wt. 20g. **Fig.37**

Base sherd (slightly sagging), probably from a jar. Dark reddish-brown. Fabric 5a. Wt. 29g.

Body sherd. Outer dark grey with 'schlickung'. Inner and core reddish-brown. Fabric 2c. Wt. 26g.

2 body sherds. Black. Inner burnished. Sooting on outer. Fabric 2a. Wt. 19g.

2 body sherds. Black. Fabric 5a. Wt. 12g.

4 Body sherds. Surfaces orange-brown. Core dark reddish-brown. Fabric 2a. Wt. 24g.

Context 14614: One sherd of fabric 2a. Wt. 8g.

Body sherd. Black-brown. Fabric 2a. Wt. 8g.

Context 14879: Two sherds of fabric 2a. Wt. 62g.

Body sherd. From a large globular jar. Surfaces patchy dark buff-brown to black with carbonised food residue. Core black. Fabric 2a. Wt. 39g.

Body sherd. Fabric 2a. Dark grey ware. Wt. 23g.

Context 14893: One sherd of fabric 2a. Wt. 42g.

Body sherd. Dark grey ware. Wt. 42g.

Context 15353: 11 sherds (including one rim), fabrics 2a (Wt. 634g) and 5a (Wt. 85g).
Total Wt. 719g.

Globular jar (3 joining sherds). Outer surface has its top half part burnished black; the bottom half is reddish-buff with combed vertical striations. Inner and core dark reddish-grey. Inner smoothed around rim. Fabric 2a. Wt. 551g. Max. diam. at rim: 176mm. **Fig.38**

3 body sherds (join). From a thick-walled vessel. Outer reddish-orange to dark reddish-brown. Inner and core dark reddish-brown. Fabric 2a. Wt. 83g.

5 body sherds. Surfaces vesiculated, dark reddish-brown to black. Core reddish-brown. Fabric 5a. Wt. 85g.

Context 15694: 1 complete pot. Wt. 245g.

Small carinated bowl with everted, rounded rim. Single perforated lug above maximum girth. Fabric 2a. Dark reddish-brown ware; inner blackened; outer some blackening around base and lower body. Max. rim diam: 83mm. Wt. 254g. **Fig.39**

Context 15862: 31 sherds (including one 75 per cent complete vessel; two rims and one base); fabrics 2a (Wt. 473g); 4a (Wt. 29g); 4b (42g); 5b (7g); 7a (39g). Total Wt. 590g.

Carinated bowl with facets and impressed dots (18 joining sherds). The facets are at the carination and are depressed so that a small boss is formed in between them; each boss has a centrally impressed dot. Above are 7 incised concentric lines. Rim is everted and rounded. Base is flat. Black-brown surfaces have patches of abraded burnish. Core reddish-brown. Wt. 391g. Fabric 2a. Max. diam. at rim: 118mm. **Fig.40**

Carinated bowl. Everted, rounded rim. Thin-walled vessel. Areas of burnish on brown-black surfaces. Inner and core reddish-brown to black. Fabric 2a. Max. diam. at rim: 90mm. Wt. 25g. **Fig. 41**

Body sherd. Decorated on outer with 2 deep concentric finger grooves, the ridges formed are emphasised by concentric incised lines either side, underneath are beginnings of incised 'stehende bogen'. Reddish-brown surfaces. Core black with reddish-brown margins. Fabric 7a. Wt. 39g. **Fig.42**

Bowl rim (upright, rounded). Surfaces reddish-brown. Core dark grey. Fabric 4b. Wt. 10g. **Fig.43**

Neck sherds (4 joining) from a jar. Outer burnished black over reddish-brown core and inner. Fabric 4b. Decorated with 3 finger depressions delineated with incised lines. Wt. 32g. **Fig.44**

Base sherd. Flat. Reddish-orange. Fabric 4a. Wt. 29g.

Body sherd. Outer reddish-orange. Inner and core grey. Fabric 2a. Wt. 45g.

Body sherd. Black-brown. Fabric 2a. Surfaces burnished. Wt. 2g.

Body sherd. Surfaces black-brown. Core dark reddish-brown. Fabric 5b. Wt. 7g.

2 body sherds. Black-brown. Fabric 2a. Wt. 10g.

Context 15897: 3 sherds of fabric 2a. Wt. 42g

Body sherd. Outer orange-brown to black-brown. Inner and core black-brown. Fabric 2a. Wt. 32g.

2 Body sherds. Black. Fabric 2a. Wt. 10g.

Context 15904: 2 sherds of fabrics 3a (Wt. 17g) and 3b (Wt. 3g). Total Wt. 20g.

Body sherd. Outer reddish-orange. Inner and core reddish-grey. Fabric 3a. Wt. 17g.

Body sherd. Black-brown. Outer part-burnished. Fabric 5a. Wt. 3g

Context 15969: One large rim sherd of fabric 2a. Wt. 203g.

Squat globular jar with slightly everted, rounded rim and combing on outer. ?Cooking pot. Outer is patchy reddish-orange to dark brown with some blackening. Three shallow grooves under neck hollow; intersecting combed lines on lower half of pot. Inner patchy reddish-orange to black with carbonised food residue. Fabric 2a. Max. diam. at rim: 127mm. Wt. 203g. **Fig.45**

Context 16073: 3 body sherds of fabrics 2a (Wt. 21g) and 3a (Wt. 93g). Total Wt. 114g.

Body sherd from a globular jar. Outer patchy reddish-brown to black. Inner and core black. Surfaces abraded. Outer decorated with shallowly-incised lines: 2 concentric lines underneath which is at least one oval shape. Fabric 3a. Wt. 74g. **Fig.46**

Body sherd. Hard fabric with common organic temper. Outer buff-brown. Inner and core black. Wt 19g.

Body sherd. Medium hard fabric with medium quartz-sand and organic temper. Outer patchy black-brown. Inner and core: brown. Wt. 21g.

Context 16148: One sherd of fabric 4a (Wt. 15g).

Neck sherd. Shallow concentric grooves around neck. Surfaces dark reddish-brown. Core black. Wt.15g.

Context 19016: Two body sherds of fabric 2a (Wt. 3g) and 2c (Wt.13g)

Body sherd. Black-brown. Fabric 2a. Wt. 3g.

Body sherd. Black-brown. Fabric 2c. Outer dark reddish-brown with 'schlickung'. Wt. 13g.

Context 19028: Two body sherds of fabric 2a (Wt. 5g).

3 Body sherds (joining). Black-brown. Fabric 2a. Wt. 5g.

Context 20020: One rim sherd of fabric 2a (Wt. 23g).

Rim sherd (rounded, flattened on top) from a hollow-necked jar. Surfaces patchy reddish-brown to black. Core dark grey. Fabric 2a. Wt. 23g. **Fig.47**

TABLE 1: QUANTIFICATION BY CONTEXT, SHERD COUNT WEIGHT AND FABRIC

CONTEXT	NO. SHERDS	WEIGHT (g)	FABRICS	
31	1	8	2a	Feature 032 Saxon posthole
33	1	2	2a	
34	11	117	1,2a,2c	
59	1	9	3b	Feature 060 Saxon posthole
65	7	28	2a	Feature 066 Prehistoric posthole
73	21	159	2a	Feature 074 Sunken-featured building
79	4	23	2a	Feature 075/6 Prehistoric posthole
81	2	61	2a	

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CONTEXT	NO. SHERDS	WEIGHT (g)	FABRICS	
82	5	13	2a	
85	1	8	1	
87	1	7	2a	
88	3	17	2a;4a	
89	1	10	2a	
92	5	82	2a; 3a	
4011	1	6	2a	Feature 4083 ?Saxon pit
4830	2	24	2a	
4844	1	6	3b	
4944	1	17	2a	
6008	1	14	2a	
6093	1	33	2a	Feature 6092 Possible Saxon Fenceline
6095	1	8	2a	Feature 6094 Possible Saxon Fenceline
6807	1	10	3a	
7000	1	11	2a	
7574	5	46	2a; 3b	Feature 7573 Roadside Gully
8141	1	21	2b	
8565	1	12	2a	
8737	1	14	2a	
8749	3	42	2a	
8788	7	86	2a	
8807	3	56	2a	
9515	1	22	6	
9720	1	30	2a	
10000	2	66	2a	Feature 8155 Late Roman pit
10134	1	13	3a	
10514	1	15	2a	
10781	3	130	6	Feature 10782 Mid Rom pit/SFB

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CONTEXT	NO. SHERDS	WEIGHT (g)	FABRICS	
11000	1	18	2a	
11465	1	19	2a	
11506	2	5	2a	
12043	1	11	2a	
12044	8	83	2a; 2c	Feature 12046 Wood-lined ditch
12045	15	188	1; 2a; 3a	
12052	4	83	2a; 3a; 3a	Feature 12062 SFB
12053	3	54	2a; 3a	
12059	20	265	2a	Feature 12046 Wood: lined ditch
12113	2	44	2a; 2b	
12147	5	18	2a; 2b; 3a	
12187	1	24	2a	
12189	2	75	3a	
12210	1	5	2a	
12246	10	104	2a; 2b; 2c; 3a; 4a	Feature 12245 Well
12262	4	107	2a; 4a	
14516	6	53	2a; 3a	
14528 well	63	1036	2a; 2b; 2c 3a; 4a; 5a; 5c; 7a; 7b	Feature 14529 Saxon
14535	1	9	5a	
14558	37	982	2a; 2c; 3a; 5a; 5b; 5c	Feature 14529 Saxon well
14613	15	310	2a; 2c; 3a; 5a	Feature 14529 Saxon well
14614	1	8	2a	
14879	2	62	2a	
14893	1	42	2a	
15353	11	719	2a; 5a	
15862	31	590	2a; 4a; 4b; 5b; 7a	

CONTEXT	NO. SHERDS	WEIGHT (g)	FABRICS	
15897	3	42	2a	
15904	2	20	3a; 5a	
15969	1	203	2a	
15694	1	254	2a	Feature 15688 ?Saxon ditch
16073	3	114	2a; 3a	Feature 16088 Saxon pits and hearth
16148	1	15	4a	Feature 16149 Saxon pits and hearth
19016	2	16	2a	Feature 19015 Late Roman/Saxon postholes
19028	2	5	2a	Feature 19027 Late Roman/Saxon postholes
20020	1	23	2a	
TOTALS	366	6832		

TABLE 2: QUANTIFICATION BY FABRICS

FABRIC TYPE	CONTEXTS PRESENT IN	TOTAL WT (g) OF FABRIC
1	34; 85; 12045	18
2a	31; 33; 34; 65; 73; 79; 81; 82; 85; 87; 88; 89; 92; 93; 4011; 4830; 4944; 6008; 6093; 6095; 7000; 7574; 8141; 8565; 8737; 8749; 8788; 8807; 9720; 10000; 10134; 10514; 10781; 11000; 11465; 11506; 12043; 12044; 12045; 12052; 12053; 12059; 12113; 12147; 12187; 12210; 12246; 12262; 14516; 14528; 14558; 14613; 14614; 14879; 14893; 15353; 15694; 15862; 15897; 15694; 15969; 16073; 19016; 19028; 20020	4853
2b	8141; 12147; 12246; 14528	73
2c	34; 12044; 12246; 14528; 14558; 14613	176
3a	92; 6807; 11465; 12044; 12045; 12052; 12053; 12147; 12189; 12246; 14516; 14528; 14558; 14613; 15904; 16073	463
3b	59; 4844; 7574	73
4a	88; 93; 12246; 12262; 14528; 15862; 16148	84
4b	15862	42
5a	14528; 14535; 14558; 14613; 15353; 15904	490
5b	14558; 15862	16

5c	14528; 14558	148
6	9515; 10000; 10781	207
7a	14528; 15862	172
7b	14528	21

DISCUSSION

The characteristics of the Early Saxon pottery

Introduction

Table 1 shows the quantification of the Early Saxon pottery by context, sherd count, weight and fabric. It is clear that feature **14529** (the ?Saxon or ?re-cut Roman well) contained by far the largest assemblage of Early Saxon pottery; the stratigraphic relationship between the Early Saxon material in this feature and the latest Roman material is discussed in **Section 00 Roman pottery** and need not be repeated here; however, it needs to be stressed that the comparatively large amount of Early Saxon pottery shows this feature to have been in use during the late fifth and most probably through into the early sixth century. The practice of Early Saxon re-use of Late Roman features, in particular deeply cut features such as wells, has been noted on other settlement sites with both Late Roman and Early Saxon occupation, but in most cases it is difficult to prove anything other than re-use after a break in occupation; contemporaneous Late Roman/Early Saxon settlement is much more difficult to prove. On several excavated sites in the county well-groups account for the bulk of the recovered pottery of Early Saxon date; these wells can be of Saxon construction or are Saxon re-cuts of Roman features. For example at Slough House Farm (Wallis and Waughman 1998, 57 and 157-158) nearly all of the 2.4 Kg of Saxon pottery recovered came from the fills of two wood-lined wells of Early Saxon date. Excavations adjacent to Elms Farm at Langford Road in 1994 recovered some 1.38 Kg of Early Saxon pottery, most (1.2 Kg) from the final infilling of a Roman well (Langton and Holbrook 1997, 12-46). This site is close enough to excavations at Elms farm to be considered as part of the same general settlement; the excavators here found no evidence of Saxon structures indicating that the settlement lie to the east at the Crescent Road site excavated in the early 1980s (Drury and Wickenden 1982).

At Elms Farm the re- or continued use of the well could be seen as indicative of contemporaneous occupation; however a short break in between Late Roman abandonment of the site and Early Saxon utilisation cannot be ruled out. Further evidence from other areas of the site needs to be forthcoming in order to support the theory of Late Roman/ Early Saxon co-existence. In addition we must look to the nature of the pottery itself to see if any unusual, possibly hybrid forms, are occurring which may support the co-existence theory.

Forms, decoration and surface treatment

The assemblage contains several elements that are typical of a late fifth century group: the decoration is simple, typically incised concentric necklines with further incised schemes

below (Fig.20; 21;35; 42); where stamped decoration does occur it is of the simplest design – the A1 or single circle motif (Fig.27).

The most common forms at Elms Farm include hollow-necked globular and biconical jars (Figs. 10, 22, 29, 31), globular bowls with upright or slightly everted rims (Figs.19, 24, 30). The two examples of straight-sided bowls (Figs.32, 43) are atypical of the group. A single faceted carinated bowl (Fig. 40) can be dated to the late fifth century. All the previously mentioned pot forms are commonly found on Early Saxon settlement sites of fifth to sixth century date; however, at Elms Farm, three vessels stand out as unusual. Two vessels are wheel-thrown with deeply corrugated surfaces: the squat globular jar from context 9720 (Fig.8) and a body sherd from context 12246. The squat globular jar could be a Frankish import as it does resemble examples of Frankish jars found in Essex at the sixth century cemetery site at nearby Prittlewell (Tyler 1988, 91-116) and the body sherd could be from a similar vessel. The third oddity is a small jar with rolled over rim from context 12059 (Fig.15); it does not resemble Frankish forms and is the best candidate for a Saxon imitation of a Roman jar, perhaps a hybrid ‘Romano-Saxon’ form and is discussed further below from its contextual viewpoint.

Surface decoration is consistent within the Late fifth century date range: deliberate roughening of the surface by the application of a slip containing large quartzite particles – *schlickung* – is common (Fig.19); burnishing (both inner and outer surfaces) is also common; finger-rustication does occur but only in small quantities whereas combing is comparatively common (Figs.10, 23, 38, 45). The dating implications of the surface treatments listed above have been analysed by Hamerow (1993) in her discussion of the dating of the Early Saxon pottery from excavations at Mucking, Thurrock. The most obvious dating indicator from the distribution of the various surface treatments is the pattern of occurrence of the sherds with ‘schlickung’ which are found in the earliest (fifth to early sixth century) areas of settlement.

Key contexts containing Early Saxon pottery

The well group (*contexts 14528; 14535; 14558; 14613 Feature 14529*)

This is a key group in the understanding of the Late Roman/Early Saxon transition. The group has characteristics typical of a late fifth century assemblage: the decoration is simple, typically incised concentric necklines with further incised schemes below (Figs.20; 21;35). Forms include hollow-necked globular and biconical jars (Figs 20-2; 25, 31, 33-4) and globular bowls (Fig.19). Surface decoration includes deliberate roughening of the surface by the application of a slip containing large quartzite particles – *schlickung*; burnishing (both inner and outer surfaces) and finger-rustication (the latter only in small quantities). All these characteristics are typical of a late fifth century assemblage; however, does this prove contemporaneity with the Latest Roman material? In order to prove this theory we need more unequivocal evidence of interaction between the two cultural groups; perhaps evidenced by hybrid pottery forms or handmade Saxon copies of known Late Roman forms. Unfortunately no such forms are present within this particular group, although one possible example does occur at Elms Farm – from the wood-lined ditch *feature 12046*.

The wood-lined ditch (*context 12059; feature 12046*)

The pottery from the wood-lined ditch is, with one notable exception, totally typical of a fifth century assemblage: mostly comprising undecorated hollow-necked jars, mostly in fabric 2a (tempered with quartz-sand and including some mica). However, the exceptional vessel is a small jar (fig.0.15) which appears to be a Saxon copy of a Roman form: the rim appears to be rolled over and is surely wheel-thrown and has a minimal neck hollow. Although the vessel is far from complete: three sherds survive, one of which (a lower body sherd) does not join on to the other two; and enough of the vessel survives to reconstruct its profile: a small jar ?drinking vessel with rolled over rim and sagging base. This form is totally alien to the early Saxon pottery repertoire and is, I believe, a very strong candidate for a hybrid vessel. This greatly strengthens the case for some form of Late Roman/ Early Saxon co-existence on site, but it is unfortunate that it is the sole example of this vessel type from the excavations.

The sunken featured building (context 73 feature74)

The pottery from this feature (some 158g) is utilitarian in form: rather crudely-made globular jars and bowls in the sand tempered fabric 2a which is the predominant Early Saxon fabric from the site. The large high shouldered jar (Fig.4) is most likely a cooking pot. There is nothing exceptional in this group: it is a typical assemblage from a fifth to sixth century sunken featured building fill; however, at Elms Farm it becomes exceptional by virtue of its being the only definite sunken featured building assemblage. The range of pottery can be paralleled on many Early Saxon settlement sites, a glance through the Mucking volume (Hamerow 1993) yields many parallels.

Other contexts

Table 1 lists the other contexts producing Early Saxon pottery. The interpretation of these contexts is problematic. Context 15694, a possible Saxon ditch contained the almost complete faceted carinated bowl (Fig.39) but paradoxically no other Saxon pottery. Contexts 6093 and 6095, a possible Saxon fenceline contained only two sherds of Fabric 2a; although this may seem very slender dating evidence it is by no means uncommon to have to date Saxon post lines by a very meagre amount of pot, for example the dating of the Late Saxon settlement at Springfield Lyons, Essex (Tyler and Major, forthcoming). A glance down the rest of Table 1 tells a similar story - one or two sherds only from each feature.

CONCLUSIONS

The Early Saxon pottery recovered from Elms Farm shows there to have been fifth century occupation on the site by an Anglo-Saxon community. Interaction with the Roman population is hinted at (but not proven) by the existence of 'latest Roman' assemblages containing both late Roman and Early Saxon pottery and perhaps more specifically by a small amount of possible hybrid 'Romano-Saxon' pot.

The nature of the Saxon settlement is problematic; but, as on other Essex sites, it may be that many of the shallower features have been removed leaving only the deep features (the wells and large ditches) and a random scatter of the shallower features to tell the story of the Early Saxon settlement.

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