

## Section 57 Ceramics overview part 1

A M Slowikowski

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### Chronology: incidence of pottery types by phase

[57.01] shows the relative proportion by percentage of all pottery types within each phase (Periods 3–7 only). This is also shown in bar charts [57.02–57.12]. No compensation has been made for residuality or intrusion; the pottery is presented as found. However, the longevity of the different types throughout the phases is shown [57.01]. Lighter blue tone shows probable residuality or intrusion. Not all the types show peaks in particular phases and many are found only in small proportions (often less than 1%).

Pottery Type	Period and Phase												
	1	2	3	4	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.6	6.1	6.2	7
Preh	77.7	17	10.6	9	0.3	0.8	0.5	0.9	0.1	0.6	0.2	0.5	0.2
Rom		13.9	4.5	1.3	0.4	0.8	0.9	1.4	0.6	1.2	0.7	0.5	0.1
A01			3.4	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.3	1	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.1
A16	5.2	38.4	51.2	17	1.5	2.2	6	7.3	6.1	2.7	4.7	2	0.7
A18		2	9.3	4.4	0.6	0.8	1.2	0.2	1.5	0.6	1.1	0.5	
A19		6.2	5	1.7	0.6	0.2	1.2	0.5	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.1
A23			0.3					0.2					
B01					0.7	0.4	<0.1	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.2	
C12							<0.1	<0.1	0.1		<0.1		
C60	13.7	15	10.3	52	79.1	78.5	70	47.7	51.7	55	47.6	24	24.2
B05			0.3		0.3	0.6	1.5		0.2	0.5	0.2	0.1	
B07			0.3	0.9	1.7	2	1.8	1.2	3	2	2.1	1	1.6
C02			0.3	0.2			<0.1		0.1	0.2	<0.1	<0.1	0.1
C03			0.3	0.2			<0.1	<0.1					
C59A		0.9	0.8	6.6	7.3	6.2	3.4	4.6	3.6	5	3.9	2.6	1.1
C59B	1.7	3.5	1.3	2	3.7	2.4	1.6	3.3	3	4	1.2	1.1	1
C04			0.3							0.2		<0.1	
C57					0.3	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.1
C60A			0.3		0.1	0.4	0.6	0.3	1	1.2	0.6	0.4	0.5
C53				0.5	0.1	0.4	0.5	1	1	1.2	0.3	0.3	
C63			0.3		0.7	0.1	<0.1			0.1	<0.1		
C81					0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	<0.1	0.1
B09						<0.1	<0.1		0.4		<0.1		0.1
C83						<0.1					<0.1		
C15										0.1			
C20												<0.1	
C21					0.4	0.2	0.1	<0.1	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.2
C42						<0.1						<0.1	0.1
C64					0.1	<0.1	<0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4
C65										0.1			0.1
C69						<0.1	0.1	<0.1	0.2	0.1	<0.1		0.1
C76							<0.1			0.1			
C79						<0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
C31										0.1			
C32									0.1	0.1			0.1
C68			0.3	0.2	0.1	0.4	1	2.4	1.4	3.5	2	5.4	4
C09			0.3	1.4	0.3	1.3	3.1	9.0	9	12.6	6.1	6.6	6.2
C11		0.9		0.2	0.2	0.3	1	1.3	2	1.4	1	1	1
C10				0.5	0.2	0.2	0.8	1	2	1	1	1	1.2
E01			0.3		0.2	0.2	1.8	13.2	9	4.5	20.4	15	11.7
E02						<0.1	0.1	1.0	0.7	0.1	0.6	0.5	0.7
E03							<0.1	<0.1	0.1			0.3	0.4
P28A												<0.1	
P28C							<0.1	0.2				0.1	
P13							<0.1	<0.1		0.1		0.1	0.4
P12							<0.1			<0.1		0.1	0.1
P23							<0.1						0.1
P20													0.1
P25											0.1	0.3	1.4
P26						<0.1					<0.1	0.1	0.1

Pottery Type	Period and Phase													
	1	2	3	4	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.6	6.1	6.2	7	
P14											0.3	4	6.6	
P57							<0.1				0.1	2.3	2.4	
P09											<0.1	1.2	1.1	
P01						0.1	<0.1	0.5	0.1	0.2	2.1	24.6	28	
P06												0.1	0.5	
P27											<0.1	0.2	0.1	
P30											0.1	0.3	1.1	
P33											0.1	0.6	1	
P50											<0.1	0.1	0.1	
P52							<0.1		0.1	0.2	<0.1	0.3	0.1	
P53								<0.1						
P54											<0.1	0.2		
P64											<0.1	0.3	0.1	
P61									0.1					
P36B													0.1	
P19											<0.1	0.2	0.4	
P37												0.1		
P48													0.1	
P39												0.1		
P38												0.1		
P43								0.2				0.1		
TOTAL VESSELS	58	112	377	588	974	5203	2408	1144	1076	1966	4715	3486	1397	

57.01 Table giving totals of pottery types as a percentage of the total assemblage for each phase. Shaded areas indicate the known (or suggested) date range of each type. Where a context spans more than one phase, the latest phase is taken for calculation purposes

**Period 1 Prehistoric**  
**2.06=16.01, 57.01 (no bar chart for this Period)**  
 This period consists of relatively small percentages of intrusive Anglo-Saxon and medieval pottery, the largest quantity being 14.0% Hertfordshire-type greyware (C60). This is not surprising as Hertfordshire-type greyware C60 was the dominant type on site, even when residual. Type F01A, the early Iron Age flint-gritted pottery belonging to this phase, makes up 77.2% of the total.

**Period 2 Roman**  
**2.06=16.01, 57.01 (no bar chart for this Period)**  
 Intrusive Saxon pottery makes up 48.2% of the pottery in this period. All sherds are small and belong to individual vessels. Residual prehistoric material makes up 17.6% of the pottery. Although the Roman pottery belonging to this period makes up only 13% of the total, it is within this phase that it peaks, remaining throughout the later phases as a small proportion of residual material. The bulk of the Roman pottery came from one context only, ditch CF28. See [52].

**Period 3 Anglo-Saxon**  
**2.06=16.01, 57.01, 57.02<sup>1</sup>**  
 The Anglo-Saxon pottery, together, makes up just over 79.5% of the total in this period. The dominant type is Mixed quartz A16 (58.9%) and it is in this phase that it reaches its peak. Small quantities of intrusive medieval pottery are also found, as are residual prehistoric and Roman sherds. The dating for this phase comes primarily from the pottery which has been dated to the 6th or 7th centuries. However, on other sites in the county quartz-tempered fabrics appear to continue well into the middle Saxon period, eg Stratton near Biggleswade;

<sup>1</sup> Editor's note: there is a discrepancy between the figures shown for Period 3 in 57.01 and bar chart 57.02. The bar chart shows a higher percentage of A16, and a lower percentage of C60 than are given in table 57.01

further work on the pottery from that site should clarify this situation (Wells in prep).

#### Period 4 Saxo-Norman (mid-11th to early 12th century)

3.10=16.05, 3.18=16.06, 3.22=16.07, 57.01, 57.03

By this phase, the Anglo-Saxon types have decreased to 24.7%, and can be regarded as residual from now on. The great rise in the percentage of Hertfordshire-type greyware C60, up to 52.2%, dates at least the end of this phase to the early medieval period. Coarse sandy ware C59A and Fine sandy ware C59B take a lesser role throughout the phases on this site and always make up less than 10% of the total assemblage of each phase. In this phase, Coarse sandy ware C59A rises to 6.7% and should be regarded as contemporary with at least the end of the phase. While Hertfordshire-type greyware C60 goes on to increase in proportion in later phases, Fine sandy ware C59B begins to gradually tail off after phase 5.1. Fine sandy ware C59B also makes up less than 10% of the total assemblage and is present in this phase as a figure of 2.1%. As with Coarse sandy ware C59A, it may be contemporary with the end of this period. Red quartz tempered C02 and Fine sandy ware C03 make up less than 1% of the total and are not a significant component of it. Dated to the 12th and 13th centuries at Bedford, there is no clear evidence of their contemporaneity within this phase at La Grava. They never make up more than 1% of the assemblage in any phase. Coarse sandy C53 also makes up less than 1% in most phases, and it makes up 0.5% in this phase. Its dating is uncertain, and it is probably not contemporary with the pottery belonging to this phase. Other types present in this phase are intrusive.

#### Period 5 Medieval

##### Phase 5.1 (early to mid-12th to mid- to late 12th century)

4.01=16.08, 4.10=16.09, 57.01, 57.04

In this phase the early medieval Coarse sandy ware C59A and Hertfordshire-type greyware C60 reach their peak (7.4% and 78.9% respectively). Coarse sandy ware C59A reaches 7.4%, then begins to tail off after phase 5.2. Hertfordshire-type greyware C60 appears to be a long-lived type and continues at its high percentage throughout the next two periods, before starting to gradually tail off. Its percentage remains high even when it is clearly residual in the most modern phases, due to its large quantity. St Neots type B01 makes its first appearance in this phase. It remains residual, making up less than 1%, in the phases later than 5.2. Phase 5.1 is dated to the 12th century and it would appear that St Neots type B01 was already at the end of its usage at this time. Medieval shelly B07 and Harrold/Olney Hyde type B05 developed from St Neots type B01 and together make up less than 2% of the assemblage in this period. They never make up more than 3% in any phase. In this period London C57 and Nuneaton C21, well dated elsewhere to the early to mid-13th century, make an appearance in small quantities, which never increase beyond 1%. Because of the overlap in the phases on this site, those two types need not necessarily be regarded as intrusive. They are found in small quantities throughout the medieval phases. Unknown type C81 is undated, but appears in the medieval phases in quantities of less than 1%. Its first appearance is in phase 5.1, which, if it is not intrusive, would date it to the mid-12th century at its earliest. Brill/Boarstall types C09 and C11, Potterspury type C10, Late medieval reduced E01D and E01 are present in small quantities, less than 1%, and are clearly intrusive. Other types appear in too small quantities to be significant.

#### Phase 5.2 (late 12th century)

4.14=16.10, 57.01, 57.05

Hertfordshire-type greyware C60 continues throughout this phase at a high peak, with Coarse sandy C59A and Fine sandy C59B starting to tail off after this phase. Medieval shelly B07 remains constant at about 2%. Lyveden/Stanion type B09 makes its first appearance in this period, probably coming in right at the end, as its usual dating is early 13th century. Other types making their first appearance in this phase are: Unrecognised fine ware C42, Coarse slip decorated C69, Fine slip decorated C79, Laverstock type C83, Late medieval oxidised (gritty) E02, Glazed and unglazed earthenware P01, Cistercian P12, and Martincamp flasks P26. Coarse slip decorated C69 and Fine slip decorated C79 appear to be intrusive, but as their dating is doubtful, and might begin sometime in the 13th century, this need not necessarily be so. Late medieval oxidised (gritty) E02, Glazed and unglazed earthenware P01, Cistercian P12, and Martincamp flasks P26 are clearly intrusive in this phase, as are Brill/Boarstall type C09, Potterspur type C10, Brill/Boarstall type C11, Late medieval reduced E01D, and Late medieval reduced E01.

#### Phase 5.3 (early to mid-13th century)

4.24=16.11, 57.01, 57.06

The tailing off of Coarse sandy C59A and Fine sandy C59B continues, as does the high percentage of Hertfordshire-type greyware C60. Hertfordshire-type greyware C60 begins to tail off gradually, probably at the end of this phase. Medieval shelly ware B07 and Harrold/Olney Hyde type B05 also reach their peaks in this phase, together reaching 3.3%. The peaks for Medieval shelly B07 and Harrold/Olney Hyde type B05 agree well with the established dating for these types. The proportion of Brill/Boarstall type C09 begins to increase in this phase, although it only accounts for 3.2% and never reaches beyond 12.4%. This agrees with an accepted date in the mid-13th century for the start of this type.

#### Phase 5.4 (mid- to late 13th to mid-14th century)

4.49=16.12, 57.01, 57.07

This phase sees the first increase in late medieval wares. These include Brill/Boarstall type C09, Potterspur type C10, Brill/Boarstall type C11, Late medieval reduced E01D, Late medieval reduced E01, Late medieval oxidised (gritty) E02. A number of sources are known for Late medieval reduced E01, and it has been suggested that production flourished from the mid-14th century (Moorhouse 1974; Hassall 1976; Hall 1974). This would fit in well with the end of this phase. The large percentage of E01 in this phase may be a result of function rather than chronology. Within phase 5.4 type C60 begins to steeply decrease, down to 47.7% during this time.

#### Phase 5.5 (mid- to late 14th century)

4.75=16.13, 57.01, 57.08

The late medieval types still make up a relatively large proportion of the assemblage, particularly Late medieval reduced E01 at 8.9%. Hertfordshire-type greyware C60 is still dominant, as it is throughout all periods. This is because of the large quantity of material of this type, which is present on the site throughout the phases. It is, however, decreasing in this phase, and is likely to be residual by this time. Brill/Boarstall type C09 continues at 8.7% but reaches its peak in the next phase.

Phase 5.6 (late 14th to mid-15th century)

5.01=16.14, 57.01, 57.09

This phase shows little difference ceramically from phase 5.5, although there appears to be an increase, to 12.4%, in Brill/Boarstall type C09, mainly glazed jugs, and a decrease, to 5%, in the unglazed wares of Late medieval reduced E01. This may be due to functional differences occurring on the site during this phase, rather than being of chronological significance. Late medieval oxidised (smooth) E03 may begin at this date and continues into the 16th century. Few examples were found and it never makes up more than 1% in any phase.

Period 6 Late medieval to early post-medieval

Phase 6.1 (mid- to late 15th to mid- to late 16th century)

5.03=16.15, 57.01, 57.10

Late medieval reduced E01 returns to its dominant position over Brill/Boarstall type C09 in this period. Late medieval reduced E01 is the dominant type at 20.4%, Hertfordshire-type greyware C60 being residual at this date, even though it still reaches 47.6%. The production of Late medieval reduced E01 continues into the 15th century, fitting in well with the first part of this phase. Brill/Boarstall type C09 has decreased by this time to 6.3% and remains constant at this level in the later phases. By the start of this phase, it is probably going out of use, and is residual in later phases. The first significant appearance of post-medieval Glazed and unglazed earthenware P01 occurs in this phase. Usually dated to the 17th century, it probably first occurred towards the end of this phase. All other medieval types make up a small percentage of the assemblage of this phase, and are probably residual by this time. Small percentages of other post-medieval types occur in this phase for the first time and continue to the end of the site.

Phase 6.2 (late 16th to late 17th century)

5.17=16.16, 57.01, 57.11

The late medieval wares are dominated by Late medieval reduced E01. It appears to peak in phase 6.1, and by the end of phase 6.2, although still found at the relatively high percentage of 14.7%, has probably gone out of use. Brill/Boarstall type C09 is now residual, although, like Hertfordshire-type greyware C60, is still found in relatively large quantities. The number of medieval types is beginning to tail off in this phase, and those that are present as residual material make up a small proportion of the assemblage. Of the post-medieval wares, Glazed and unglazed earthenware P01 has risen to 24.6% and continues at this peak to the end. Other 17th-century types are found in small quantities, with only Blackware P14 and Midland yellow P57 reaching 4% and 2.3% respectively. The 18th-century types, found in quantities of less than 1%, belong to the end of this phase.

Period 7 Post-medieval c 1700 onward

57.01, 57.12

This phase includes topsoil and modern material as well as recent features. Topsoil material was not quantified because of its virtually unstratified nature. The pottery from phased contexts, however, indicates a continuation of the pattern of types in phase 6.2. The medieval pottery is residual, although Hertfordshire-type greyware C60, Brill/Boarstall type C09, Late medieval reduced E01D, and Late medieval reduced E01 are still found in relatively large proportions. Of the post-medieval wares Glazed and unglazed earthenware P01, Blackware P14, and Midland yellow P57 form the highest percentage.

## Cross-context joins and dating issues including consideration of Hertfordshire-type greywares at La Grava

The evidence from cross-matching sherds from the infills of a number of features produced some interesting results. The cross-matching sherds were from contexts in the infills of ditch **CF29** (13/656), the sand extraction pit **CF7** (13/1508, 1509, 1560, 1563), the pit **CF8** (13/1326) and the platform for **S21** (13/854). The results are summarised in table [4.04=57.13].

Feature Description	Context (all T13)	Vs 1	Vs 2	Vs 3	Vs 4	Vs 5
Ditch CF29	656		1			
Ditch CF29	656/44	1				1
Ditch CF29	656/48	20	13			
Ditch CF29	656/50	2				
Ditch CF29	656/56	2				
Ditch CF29	656/58		1			
Ditch CF29	656/60	1				
Ditch CF29	656/61	6	2	6		
Ditch CF29	656/63			1		
Ditch CF29	656/64	15				
Ditch CF29	656/68	5		5		
Platform for S21	854				1	1
Platform for S21	519	1				
Platform for S21	1033	2				
Platform for S21	1075	1				
S27 drain CF11	1258	1				
Pit CF8	1326/1				1	6
Pit CF8	1326/1A					1
Pit CF8	1326/2				2	14
Extraction pit CF7	1508	3				
Extraction pit CF7	1509		1			
Extraction pit CF7	1560	2	1			
Extraction pit CF7	1563/1	1			1	
Extraction pit CF7	1563/2	7				
Extraction pit CF7	1563/3	2				
Extraction pit CF7	1563/4	5	1			
Extraction pit CF7	1563/6	19	1	1		
<b>Total</b>		<b>96</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>23</b>

### 57.13 Distribution of sherds from the same five vessels within CF29, S21, CF11, CF8, and CF7

Sherds of the same vessels were found in the fills of ditch **CF29** and the sand extraction pit **CF7**. Although the ditch was dug in Period 4, it was left open, with some silting, until phase 5.1. The extraction pit **CF7** was dug in phase 5.1. The filling of these two hollows occurred at the same time, and from the same source, evidenced by the cross-matching sherds between these two features. The vessels in the fills were substantial and could be reconstructed. Many were sooted. This suggests that the fill originated with a kitchen clear-out.

In phase 5.2, the platform for **S21** was laid over the filled-in ditch and extraction pit, slumping into the top. The cross-fitting sherds between the top layers of the extraction pit, ditch, and platform all originated within the platform, with sherds sinking into the hollows of the filled-in features. Circular pit **CF8** (13/1326) cut the platform. The use of this pit is unknown; however, it may have been used as a rubbish pit for **S21**; there are no cross-matching sherds amongst the pottery from the lower layers of the pit. The cross-matching sherds between the upper two layers and the building platform suggest levelling up of the pit fill with material from the platform, previously cut by the pit.

The fill of these features, particularly the ditch **CF29**, contained substantially-complete vessels. Pottery from the extraction pit **CF7** consists of large pieces from the same vessel made up from shattered fragments. There are few cross-matching sherds between the layers, suggesting that the pots were deposited as large, discrete fragments, that subsequently broke, rather than as a mass of tiny sherds. The vessels were therefore not thrown in whole; they were probably deposited elsewhere prior to their final deposition, possibly a midden. The lack of abrasion, large size of sherd, and many full profiles points to the vessels being in the midden for only a short space of time, possibly even a few days.

The backfilling occurred as one major operation, partially using the same material. An examination of the distribution of sherds belonging to the same vessel points to this occurrence.

Mixed with these substantially reconstructable vessels are smaller fragments coming from a number of vessels, which may have also come from the midden, but had lain there for a longer period of time. There was no difference in the fabric or forms occurring among the small shattered sherds and the larger reconstructable vessels, therefore no difference in date or function could be discerned. The time difference between the deposition of the smallest pieces and that of the larger might be a matter of months or years, depending on how often the midden was thrown out onto the fields or used as backfill. Because the larger fragments were deposited in the backfill soon after their deposition in the midden, they can be used to indicate a date when the features went out of use, although they will be of less help in indicating when the features were cut and in use.

Most of the pottery in these features is of Coarse sandy **C59A**, Fine sandy **C59B**, and Hertfordshire-type greyware **C60**. These three types were found together, all were in large fragments, all were unabraded, indicating that they were deposited and probably used at the same time. The problems of their dating have been discussed above [55]. Medieval pottery types were long lived; the conservative nature of potters and their products has been well documented. Without an incentive to change, the potters produced their vessels in the same fabrics and forms, sometimes for generations, for as long as the demand continued.

The largest number of vessels occurred in Hertfordshire-type greyware **C60**. The comparable nature of this type with the Hertfordshire greywares has been discussed above [55]. The dating from Northolt of late 12th to early 13th may be a little late for the La Grava pottery (Hurst 1961). The dating for the backfilling of the early features has been put in phase 5.1, the early to mid 12th century. The dating for the pottery would just fit into this time frame.

Comparison with other sites of this date does not throw any clear light upon the dating of these types. Since La Grava was excavated, new finds have been made of pottery in Coarse sandy **C59A** and Fine sandy **C59B**, albeit in small quantities. The nearby sites of Stanbridge (Abrams 2010) and Chalcote Manor Farm (Moore *et al* 2007) produced both these wares and strengthen the hypothesis that these are locally manufactured. Their hand-made manufacturing technique points to a date in the 11th or 12th centuries.

The best dated sequence comes from Northolt, Middlesex (Hurst 1961). Group H, the early medieval ware, is dated 1050–1150. There are similarities with Fine sandy **C59B** in their sandy texture, although Fine sandy **C59B** is lower-fired and slightly harsher. The same patchy colouring indicates bonfire firing for both types. The methods of manufacture are different: Group H vessels from Northolt are competently wheel-made, while Fine sandy **C59B** vessels are hand-made with some finishing on a wheel or turntable. The distinctive diamond rims on Fine sandy **C59B** jars are absent from Northolt. Group I at Northolt, the developed

early medieval ware, is dated 1100–1200. The typical 12th-century rim form that slopes outwards and is slightly thickened (Hurst 1961, 261) is absent from La Grava. This group, however, is decorated with incised or combed wavy lines which are also present on Coarse sandy C59A vessels. The fabric is pimply rather than sandy and, like Coarse sandy C59A, has red-orange surfaces. It is however, coarser and harder fired than Coarse sandy C59A. The light thumbing on the rims of Fine sandy C59B jars and Coarse sandy C59A jugs is paralleled in Group I at Northolt and is found on 11th-century cooking pots at Oxford (Mellor 1994, 63). After 1100, the thumbing becomes deeply impressed on the Oxford vessels; at La Grava only lightly thumbled rims are found.

The Hertfordshire greywares are dated at Northolt to 1225–1325 and occur in Group K, the largest group on the site (Hurst 1961). They are called hard medieval greywares. The flint gritting of the fabric, however, is unlike the Hertfordshire-type greyware C60 fabrics at La Grava. There are similarities in the existence of a wide range of rim forms, and the use of thumbled vertical strips applied to the body. These thumbled strips are common on a wide range of pottery types across the country. They usually occur on large vessels and were not only decorative but helped to get a good hand-grip when lifting. Some of the rim forms are comparable with La Grava vessels, (eg Hurst 1961 fig 68, 51–63). The variety of rim form is not necessarily chronologically significant, but possible evidence of individual idiosyncrasies of the potters, in comparison to the specialisation and uniformity seen on the later medieval reduced E01 vessels. Group K also contained most of the glazed sherds, even if this only consisted of 1%. Their likely source was stated to be London, confirming the late 13th century date for this group.

The Manor of the More pottery sequence starts 1250–1300, and in this period, Period 1, sandy greywares, superficially similar to Hertfordshire-type greyware C60 in fabric and form, occur (Hurst 1959, 162). There is no indication that the greywares from the More were anything but wheel-thrown. Although wheel-thrown examples occur at La Grava, the occurrence of part wheel- and part hand-made vessels of this type may indicate an earlier version. The same horizontal grooves and vertical thumbled strips occur at La Grava, as the Hertfordshire greyware jar from King's Langley (Moorhouse 1973, 58). The greywares from King's Langley have an occasional red fabric and black surfaces as do some examples from La Grava. At King's Langley, these greywares are dated to the late 13th or early 14th centuries.

The pottery from South Mimms can be closely dated to between 1141, when the castle was built, and 1143, when it was demolished (A Streeten, pers comm). There is some ambiguity about what was already there in 1141 but the large part of the castle was no longer in existence in 1143 and the bailey which had been occupied for some time after, had finally fallen into disrepair by 1200. Most of the pottery was recovered from demolition levels and included a variety of early medieval sandy wares which are all very much coarser than Coarse sandy C59A, Fine sandy 59B, and Hertfordshire-type greyware C60 fabrics at La Grava. Some of the jar forms are very like the rectangular-rimmed Hertfordshire-type greyware C60 jars. It is at South Mimms that the part wheel- and part hand-made potting technique can be paralleled. The top half or third (and sometimes just the rim) is thrown on a wheel onto a hand-made lower part. Finger marks are quite clear on the interior wall. Some of the jars from South Mimms are well made and apparently wheel-thrown. They may, however, have been so well finished off that it is difficult to tell whether they have been hand- or wheel-made. South Mimms is only about 20 miles from La Grava.

St Albans has produced a large assemblage of greywares, summarised by Havercroft *et al* (1987). They appear to fit into the chronological sequence found at Northolt, 13th and early 14th centuries, and the City of London, late 12th and

13th centuries (Vince 1985, 44). Kilns supplying St Albans are known from a number of sites in Hertfordshire (Renn 1964). None of these are the source for Hertfordshire-type greyware C60 vessels at La Grava, although the forms and heavily decorated handles with thumbing, stabs and slashes, indicate the same tradition if not the same kilns.

The Denham kilns in Buckinghamshire produced pottery in the 13th century, with evidence of earlier production (Farley and Leach 1988). Here, hand building as well as wheel throwing were both in use; there was no standardisation of rim form, fine detail depending on the positioning of a potter's fingers at that particular moment; this takes only a few seconds. At Denham, hand-built vessels are better made than the wheel-thrown ones. Thumbed strips, both horizontally and vertically applied, also occur, as well as vertical combing. Very few other decorative techniques were used. Slipping and/or glazing were common on the jugs. T-shaped rims, as for the Hertfordshire-type greyware C60 rims, were present. Squared rims on jars with applied strips are seen as a 13th century characteristic – these appear to be more commonly wheel-thrown. An archaeomagnetic date of 1240 ±20 was obtained.

At Chalgrave, six miles north-east of La Grava, Coarse sandy C59A and Fine sandy C59B occurred in abundance in phase 2, the primary motte build up, and Hertfordshire-type greyware C60 occurred in the assemblage in quantity only in phases 3a and 3b, the motte extension and occupation (Brine 1988, 45). This suggests that the Coarse sandy C59A and Fine sandy C59B types were already in existence when Hertfordshire-type greyware C60 became common. All three types then seem to run concurrently. However, there is no independent dating for the types at Chalgrave – the other finds are dated 13th to 14th century from the levels where Hertfordshire-type greyware C60 makes a firm appearance (Duncan 1988, 53). Documentary evidence points to a date at the end of the 12th century or the beginning of the 13th century for the final occupation and a possible date at the end of the 11th century for its building.

The available evidence for the dating of this pottery, and therefore the backfilling of the early features, is inconclusive, but the following sequence is suggested. Coarse sandy C59A and Fine sandy C59B were in use by the end of the 11th century and continued in use throughout the 12th century. Hertfordshire-type greyware C60 comes into use alongside the Coarse sandy C59A and Fine sandy C59B in the mid-12th century or perhaps a little later, and continues into the 13th century. Coarse sandy C59A and Fine sandy C59B appear to peter out at the turn of the 13th century; this points to a date towards the end of the 12th century for the backfilling of the early features. There may be a progression from Hertfordshire-type greyware C60 hand- and wheel-made vessels to vessels which are totally wheel-made. However, the difference between the Hertfordshire-type greyware C60 hand- and wheel-made vessels and the Hertfordshire-type greyware C60 wheel-made vessels may not necessarily be a chronological one. Different potters may be working in a contemporary tradition but using different techniques to achieve the same superficial appearance to the vessels. The difficulties in distinguishing between hand, wheel, and hand and wheel techniques on pottery sherds rather than complete pots, makes relative proportions across contexts and/or phases difficult to determine.

The question of where the pottery to fill the early features comes from has to be looked at. The occurrence of vessel forms by phase is shown in [58.01]. These features contained a large proportion of jars, including sooted cooking pots and a smaller number of jugs, which suggests a kitchen clear-out. The presence of the curfew and the almost total absence of bowls support this view. The nature of the assemblage is similar to that found in the ditch fill at South Mimms Castle, where it was suggested that pottery from a kitchen was used (A Streeten,

pers comm). The hall or kitchen **S7** was in existence while the ditch **CF29** was still open, and its proximity and function suggest it may be the source of the pottery in the early contexts.