

Iron Age and Roman Pottery Sherds from Richmond Park

In the winter of 1974–5 a gas pipe was laid from Sheen to Roehampton through Richmond Park, entering at the Bog Gate and rising up a small hill. The sherds described below were found in an area of about 50m² on the north crown of the hill, mainly to the west of a riding ring in the newly raked surface above the filled-in gas trench (fig 1). Turning east past the summit above Bog Farm at 105.50' OD, the trench followed the direction of a bridle path. This area on the Royal Park's map of Richmond Park has field boundaries marked from before the Land Enclosures of 1637. Bog land to the north was drained in 1855.

A suggestion of red material at about 600mm depth on the south face of the trench section, at TQ 197 742, is probably connected with the long occupation of the farm. A search the length of the surface spoil produced some cob, including one piece with a stake impression, two sherds of delftware, and some slightly glazed coarse pottery. I have to thank Mr R A H Farrar for his help in the identification of the sherds found at the summit, around TQ 195 742/3. The pottery has been drawn by Julia Arthur.

The Pottery (fig 2)

- 1 A broken body sherd of thin dark ware with close-set vertical tooling imitating rouletting, which may have covered the whole body. The decoration suggests a rouletted butt beaker, a Belgic introduction of the 1st century BC.
- 2 A thick beaded rim with vestigial grooving, of coarse black ware with no grits; in the Iron Age tradition. Rim diam 240mm.
- 3 A body sherd of fine dark wheel-made ware, burnished outside, with a pitch-like deposit on the three sections which may suggest an old repair. From a carinated bowl; Belgic, or of Belgic tradition.
- 4 Rim of carinated bowl, wheel-made, of coarse sandy ware. 1st or early 2nd century. Allied to Gillam (1957) form 218. Rim diam 175mm.
- 5 Two turned foot-rings of wheel-thrown jars. One diam 78mm, the other 50mm. (Not illustrated)
- 6 Turned foot-ring of wheel-made jar, the fabric a light pinky colour, heavily gritted throughout. Diam 66mm. (Not illustrated)
- 7 Turned foot-ring, wheel-made, with many small grits in the fabric, body colour warm ochre, dull red slip coating outside. Diam 80mm. (Not illustrated)
- 8 Base of turned wheel-made jar with small grits in the brown fabric. Diam 80mm. (Not illustrated)
- 9 Six body sherds of 'porridgy' ware with white grits, from coarse storage jars in the pre-Roman Iron Age tradition, such as 'Patch Grove' coarse ware (Ward-Perkins 1944), a native tradition surviving into the 2nd century. (Not illustrated)

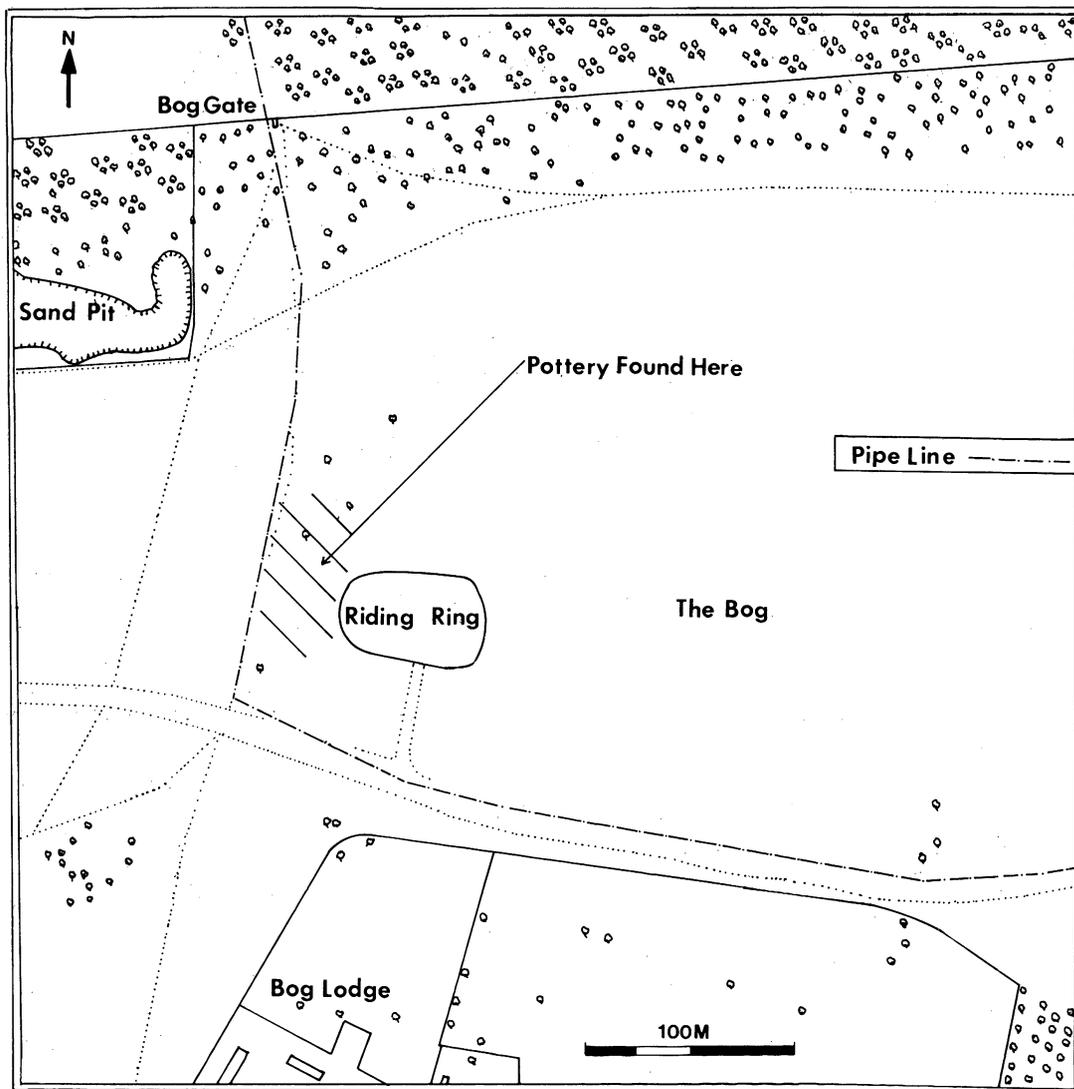


Fig 1 Map showing line of pipeline and area of pottery finds

- 10 Large oxidised sherd of hand made ware with leached mineral grits, several elongated. Pre-Roman Iron Age. (Not illustrated)
- 11 Four body sherds of coarse Iron Age hand-made ware. Finger impressed inside, the outside a rough, almost soapy surface, partially oxidised. One piece has a clear demarcation of burnish. (Not illustrated)
- 12 Three small sherds of thin wheel-made ware, fine sharp grits or coarse sand throughout the fabric. (Not illustrated)

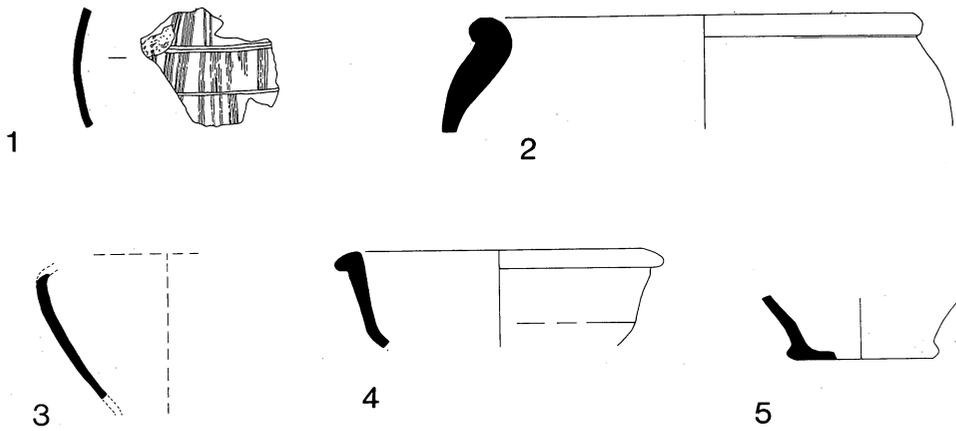


Fig 2 Pottery nos 1-5 (¼)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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 Ward-Perkins, J B, 1944 Excavations on the Iron Age hill fort of Oldbury, near Ightham, Kent, *Archaeologia*, **90**, 127-76

ROSEMARY RENDALL