



*The Horningsea Roman
Pottery Industry in
Context: Volume 2*

Oxford Archaeology East

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The Horningsea Roman Pottery Industry in Context

Volume 2: A Study of Ceramic Supply in the Cambridgeshire Region

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Cover illustration

Reconstructed aerial view of the pottery kilns at Eye Hall Farm, Horningsea, showing reconstructed Horningsea vessels in the foreground. The Car Dyke (Old Tillage), at its junction with the River Cam, lies in the top left of the image (by Jon Cane)

This report is dedicated to Joyce Pullinger

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Finally the authors would like to dedicate this volume to the memory of Joyce Pullinger.

Abbreviations

Pottery Classification Codes

Class A	Amphorae
Class B	Black burnished wares
Class C	Shell-tempered wares
Class E	Early 'Belgic' tradition wares
Class F	Colour-coated and other finewares (excluding samian)
Class M	Mortaria
Class O	Oxidised wares
Class P	Handmade Iron Age tradition fabrics
Class Q	White-slipped oxidised wares
Class R	Wheelmade reduced wares (greywares)
Class S	Samian ware
Class W	Whitewares

Horningsea Wares (Class R)

Fabric R02	Horningsea greyware
Fabric R021	Handmade Horningsea greyware
Fabric R04	Black-surfaced Horningsea greyware, mainly Black Burnished copies

Form Codes

See Table 1.2

Fabric and Related Codes

(see also Table 1.1 and Appendix 2)

BB	Black Burnished wares
CC	Colour coat
CCW	Colour-coated ware
CG	Central Gaulish
CGS	Central Gaulish samian
COL	Colchester
EG	Eastern Gaulish

G	Gaulish
GW	Greyware
HAD	Haddon
LG	La Graufesenque South Gaulish samian
LIASG	Late Iron Age South Gaulish
LNV	Lower Nene Valley
MAH	Mancetter Hartshill
MDV	Les Matres-de-Veyre Central Gaulish Samian
MK	Milton Keynes
NOG	North Gaulish
OXF	Oxfordshire
RHL	Rhineland
RSG	Roman Shell Gritted
SG	South Gaulish
SVW	Severn Valley Ware
TSG	Fine shell gritted ware (see Chapter 4 for definition)
TS	Terra sigillata
UNV	Upper Nene Valley
VER	Verulamium
WS	White slip
WH	Whiteware

Other Abbreviations

AGO	Stonea context
AGK	Stonea context
Ant	Antonine
BA	Bronze Age
BD	Base diameter
BE	Base equivalent
BS	Body sherd
C	Century (<i>e.g.</i> MC2 = mid 2nd century)
CAM	Cambridgeshire
Conty	Context type
Ctxt	Context
Dec	Decorated
Dia	Diameter
E	Early
Flav	Flavian
Grp	Group
H	Height
Hadr	Hadrianic
IA	Iron Age
Indet	Indeterminate
L	Late
LPRIA	Late pre-Roman Iron Age
M	Middle
MNR	Minimum number of rims
MNV	Minimum number of vessels
MSW	Mean sherd weight

MVR	Minimum vessel rims
M%R	Mean percentage of rim
Nosh	Number of sherds
N	Number
Per	Period
PRIA	Pre-Roman Iron Age
RB	Romano-British
RD	Rim diameter
RE	Rim equivalent
RS	Red slipped
TBE	Total base equivalent
TMV	Total minimum number of vessels
TNO	Total number of sherds
TRE	Total rim equivalent
TWT	Total weight
Wt	Weight

Site Codes

See Table 2.1

Contracting Units and Individuals

AS	Archaeological Solutions
BUFAU	Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
CAU	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
CCC AFU	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit
EASL	Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd
FAT	Fenland Archaeological Trust
JE	Jeremy Evans
NVRC	Nene Valley Research Committee
PM	Philip Mills
SPM	Stephen Macaulay
OA East	Oxford Archaeology East (formerly Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit, CAM ARC)

Quality Assurance

This report comprises two parts. Part 1 is presented as a traditional monograph that focuses on the Horningsea industry: it has been fully checked for data consistency. Part 2 is an extended version containing considerable detail on the full ceramic assemblages from the constituent sites, including an extended discussion of Roman Cambridge. While the information it contains has been checked, there remain some inconsistencies in the data. Any queries raised should be addressed to the lead authors: Jeremy Evans and Phil Mills.

Summary

This report provides the first complete study of the Horningsea pottery industry and a commentary on Roman pottery supply in southern Cambridgeshire. Examination of Horningsea ceramic material, including all known kiln sites, has now provided a full chronology and type series for the industry, beginning in the Flavian period (AD 60–70) and ending in the late 4th century AD (*c.*AD 370). The distribution network of Horningsea wares is now understood and provides an important piece of missing ceramic information for the region as a whole, and Cambridgeshire in particular. This report has also generated – for the first time – a baseline and general synthesis for Roman pottery supply in the eastern region. In addition, this study sheds light on the nature of the Roman fens and Romanisation, and on the role of the putative ‘imperial estate’ in the fenland. The project has sought to examine the relationship between the ‘urban’ ceramic supply of Roman Cambridge and its hinterland,

the results of which now cast doubt on the nature of Cambridge as an urban centre *per se*, while identifying a new small urban site at Littleport, in the fens. Finally, this study has determined a complete chronology for the Cambridgeshire Roman canal at Waterbeach, formerly known as part of the Car Dyke: it is now clear that this did not form part of the same route as that found in Lincolnshire and that the Cambridgeshire section should henceforth be referred to by its ancient local name of Old Tillage. Analysis has confirmed that, although the dyke's function as a canal is not disputed, Horningsea ceramics were not a significant trade item distributed along this route.

Résumé

Ce rapport présente la première étude complète de l'industrie de la poterie à Horningsea; il contient également un commentaire sur l'approvisionnement en poteries romaines dans le sud du Cambridgeshire. L'examen des céramiques de Horningsea portait également sur tous les sites de fours connus et il a permis de dégager une chronologie complète ainsi que des séries de types pour l'industrie depuis l'époque de Flavius (entre 60 et 70 de notre ère) jusqu'à la fin du 4ème siècle (aux environs de 370). Le réseau de distribution des poteries de Horningsea est désormais compris, ce qui permet de compléter une part importante des informations manquantes concernant la céramique de la région dans son ensemble et dans le Cambridgeshire en particulier. Ce rapport constitue également, et pour la première fois, un point de départ ainsi qu'une synthèse générale portant sur l'approvisionnement en poteries romaines dans la région de l'est. De plus, cette étude éclaire la nature des marais romains et de la romanisation, ainsi que le rôle d'un hypothétique « domaine impérial » dans le Fenland. Le projet visait à examiner la relation à l'époque romaine entre la ville de Cambridge et son arrière-pays en termes d'approvisionnement en céramiques « urbaines ». Or les résultats obtenus jettent un doute sur la nature de Cambridge comme centre urbain en tant que tel, alors même qu'est révélée l'existence d'un nouveau petit centre urbain à Littleport dans le Fenland. Finalement, cette étude a permis de déterminer une chronologie complète pour le canal romain du Cambridgeshire à Waterbeach, qui était auparavant connu comme appartenant au Car Dyke: il est maintenant clair que ce dernier ne faisait pas partie de la même voie de communication que celle qui a été trouvée dans le Lincolnshire. De même, il est devenu évident que la partie du Cambridgeshire devrait désormais être désignée par l'ancien terme local de Old Tillage. L'analyse ne remet pas en cause la fonction du Dyke comme canal, mais elle confirme que les céramiques de Horningsea ne constituaient pas des articles de commerce importants que l'on trouvait le long de la voie.

(Traduction: Didier Don)

Zusammenfassung

Dieser Bericht enthält die erste vollständige Untersuchung zur Keramikindustrie von Horningsea und einen Kommentar zur Verbreitung römischer Keramik im Süden von Cambridgeshire. Die Untersuchung des keramischen Materials von Horningsea, einschließlich aller bekannten Brennstätten, erbrachte eine vollständige keramische Chronologie und Typenreihe, die in der flavischen Zeit (60-70 n. Chr.) beginnt und im späten 4. Jahrhundert (ca. 370) endet. Das Verteilernetz für Töpferwaren aus Horningsea ist nun bekannt; es bildet einen wichtigen Teil der bislang fehlenden keramischen Informationen für die Region als Ganzes und insbesondere für die Grafschaft Cambridgeshire. Der Bericht generiert – erstmals – auch ein Basisszenario und gibt eine zusammenfassende Übersicht über die Verbreitung römischer Keramik in dieser östlichen Region. Darüber hinaus erhellt die Untersuchung den Charakter der römischen Moorlandschaft und der Romanisierung sowie die Rolle des mutmaßlichen „kaiserlichen Anwesens“ im Fenn. Das Projekt diente dazu, die Beziehung zwischen der „urbanen“ Keramikversorgung in Cambridge und in seinem Hinterland während der Römerzeit zu untersuchen. Die Ergebnisse ziehen den Charakter von Cambridge als urbanes Zentrum *per se* in Zweifel, während in den „Fens“ eine neue städtische Kleinsiedlung bei Littleport gefunden wurde. Außerdem etablierte die Untersuchung eine vollständige Chronologie für den römischen Kanal in Cambridgeshire bei Waterbeach, der vormals als Teil des „Car Dyke“ bekannt gewesen war. Es ist nun klar, dass der Kanal nicht Teil der in Lincolnshire gefundenen Route war, weshalb der Streckenabschnitt in Cambridgeshire von nun an mit seinem alten Ortsnamen „Old Tillage“ belegt werden sollte. Obwohl die Kanalfunktion des Deiches nicht angezweifelt wird, bestätigte die Analyse, dass die Töpferwaren aus Horningsea unter den Handelsgütern, die über diese Route vertrieben wurden, keine große Rolle spielten.

(Übersetzung: Gerlinde Krug)