

THE IRON AGE POTTERY FROM THORNEY FARM, IVER

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THE pottery described by Mrs. L. Gallant was recovered in a rescue operation in 1962 after the gravel had been removed and when restoration work was taking place at Thorney Farm, Iver. This site is at Nat. Grid Ref. TQ 044796 on O.S. 6 in. map Bucks., LVII, NW. It is on the 100 ft. contour midway between the Tower Arms Hotel and Thorney Farm itself. The site is about 20 ft. above the Colne River and looks across the Thames Valley towards St. Ann's Hill in Surrey. The topsoil dump had protected the site during the gravel extraction and the final levelling operations have left it as a long, low hump to the north-east of the C.E.G.B. pylon ZC75 where it can await scientific excavation.

Pylon ZC75 is built on a gravel outcrop but within 100 ft. the gravel has dipped to a depth of about 8 ft. below the brickearth. The brickearth cliff face of the gravel excavation had sectioned pits having vertical sides and flat bottoms and the junction of the brickearth and the gravel outcrop at the west end of the site showed an Iron Age filling with a medieval filling above it, whilst in the gravel outcrop itself was a tapering pit and a hearth of the Romano-British period.

When first seen in June, 1962, the brickearth cliff face had dried hard and featureless and the gravel outcrop was covered with a scree of fallen topsoil in which was a scatter of Romano-British sherds. The pits in the brickearth were not easy to distinguish until after a period of rain, as they contained little organic matter and the small amount of pottery was mainly in the upper parts of the pits where the brickearth blended with the deep plough soil. Bones, chiefly of ox, were more widely spread, with sometimes burnt daub showing the imprint of the branches on which it had been spread. Pits 2 and 4 were the only pits showing Romano-British sherds. Pit 2 is the nearest pit to the gravel outcrop where most of the surface scatter of sherds of this period was found.

Horizontal sections obtained after the rains showed no clearly defined edge to the pits and the distinction between pit and virgin brickearth was only the occasional presence of charcoal and daub. When this brickearth is very wet, it becomes very soft and almost liquid and it is possible that the pits were made by puddling water in a hole with a stick, although no evidence of pottery making was found on the site. Bones of ox, sheep and pig were found and one fragment of bronze which might have been a ring.

The junction of the gravel outcrop and the brickearth was followed down

to a depth of about 7 ft. where an ox bone was found and the filling against the gravel contained a few Iron Age sherds. Above this filling and towards the brickearth on the east was an extensive medieval filling showing lumps of clay about 1 ft. in diameter in a matrix of loamier clay. The medieval date was confirmed by the finding of a single sherd of glossy black Cirencester Ware but the section was not entirely cleared owing to the amount of clay which covered it. The length of this feature at ground level was of the order of 90 ft.

The gravel outcrop sloped down to the north-east so that the ditch or natural valley which was filled in would have had a N.W.-S.E. course. The hearth on this gravel outcrop was not excavated, but the pit (No. 5) had a skull and many bones of ox. It was 5 ft. in diameter and about 3 ft. deep filled with a thick black soil. There was not much pottery and this, by its coarse fabric and beaded rims together with the one small piece of Samian, appeared to be the latest occupation of the site.

THE POTTERY

The assemblage consists of about 320 sherds, of which at least 230 belong to the Early Iron Age and the rest to the Romano-British period. Some of the Roman pottery was picked up on the surface; the majority of the rest came from six pits, but owing to the conditions imposed on the excavation, little stratigraphical information can be deduced from the association of the sherds contained in them. Furthermore, the presence in Pits 2 and 4 of both Early Iron Age and Roman pottery suggests redeposition in Roman times of the earlier material. The writer has therefore chosen to list the sherds typologically, merely giving a reference to their provenance, where this is known.

All references to Chinnor and Bledlow are taken from *Antiquaries Journal*, 31 (1951), and *Records of Buckinghamshire*, 14 (1941-6), respectively. Ellesborough, the third in this trilogy of related sites, was a very early excavation (*Rec. of Bucks.*, IX (1908), 349-61) and the method of illustrating the vessels is such that detailed reference to them cannot usefully be made.

1. EARLY IRON AGE

Unless otherwise stated, these sherds are all of Iron Age A type.

A. COARSE WARE

Nos. 1-10 belong to a well-recognised type of vessel which has a wide distribution in Southern Britain. It is situlate in form and in some cases the fingerprinting is also present on the rim. Of adjacent regions it is especially characteristic of the Upper Thames Valley and of Surrey, both accessible, as is Iver, from the Thames.

1. Pit 3. Shoulder and concave neck of hard, black ware with small and occasional medium flint grit. Surfaces well smoothed; outer surface brownish-red and bearing one small finger impression just above line of carination. If the impression is one of a series, the interval between each is at least $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. Paste and treatment almost identical with Nos. 2 and 3. All extremely well modelled.

There exist no exact parallels for these three in neighbouring regions, but see Sandown Park, Surrey, *Antiq. J.*, 27 (1947), 42, Fig. 19, 44, for similar carination and concavity of neck, and *ibid.*, 47, for internally projecting flat rim on a different neck. Cf. also Leigh Hill, Cobham, Surrey, *Arch. J.*, CII, Fig. 4, B3, B5, and Chinnor, p. 140, Fig. 5, 4 (a smaller vessel). Chinnor, Fig. 5, 8, has concave neck and flat rim projecting on both sides.

2. Pit 3. Similar to No. 1, but with outer surface perhaps lightly burnished and lacking finger impressions ($1\frac{1}{2}$ in. of carinated shoulder present).

3. Pit 3. Wide flat-topped rim with internal projection; identical in ware and treatment to No. 2 and probably part of the same vessel.

Vessels illustrated by Nos. 4–10 occur abundantly in the two regions mentioned above. They show a diversity both in the spacing of the finger impressions and in the angularity of the shoulder which degenerates into a curve. The two nearest sites are Chinnor, Oxon, and Bledlow, Bucks., less than 2 miles apart and *ca.* 20 miles to the N.W., with the escarpment and dip slope of the Chiltern Hills separating them from Iver. The Bledlow sherds have very widely spaced finger impressions (Nos. 21, 22, 24), while at Chinnor this decoration was only very sparingly used (Nos. 4, 6, 17, 19).

4. Pit 8. Carinated shoulder of situlate vessel, with three small finger impressions. Brownish-grey hard paste, medium flint grit and crushed pottery. Inner surface reddish-brown; outer surface brown to black.

5. Pit 4. Carinated shoulder with small finger impressions; black ware, fine flint grit, reddish-brown surfaces.

6. Pit 4. Carinated shoulder with finger impressions. Thick dark grey ware, large and small flint grit, and light brown surfaces.

7. Pit 7. Carinated shoulder with very small shallow finger impressions; small flint grit and little crushed pottery; inner surface grey, outer surface brown, the core merging from one to the other.

8. Pit 2. Weakly carinated shoulder with roughly applied finger impressions; greyish-black ware, small and medium flint grit; inner surface light brown, outer surface reddish-brown to grey.

9. Pit 2. Rounded shoulder with finger impressions; fine-grained black paste with little fine flint grit and roughly smoothed brown exterior.

10. Pit 6. Sherd with slight shoulder bulge—finger-nail impressions; black soft ware with fine flint grit.

11. Pit 7. Part of a vessel with carinated shoulder and concave neck. Hard dark grey ware with small and medium flint grit and brown outer surface. Slightly raised band ($\frac{7}{10}$ in. wide) lies just above the line of carination.

The writer knows of no exact parallel to this sherd, though the paste and general profile indicate an Iron Age A origin.

Nos. 12–16 represent vessels with upright necks which, though not as abundantly found as those with outward-turning rims, are equally characteristic of the Upper Thames and Surrey regions. They are found with finger printing or cabling as decoration. Our site has produced only the latter. The nearest parallels for form are again at Chinnor 140, Fig. 5, 2, 22 (*esp. ii*) and Bledlow 201, Fig. II, 14, 15, 19, 21, while from Stamford Hill, London (London Mus.

unpubl.), is a similar vessel with cabling on the flat rim and finger impressions on the shoulder.

12. Pit 3. Part of jar in hard grey ware with little small and large flint grit; outer surface brown to grey and very crudely finished; rim irregular showing trace of cabling; slightly bulging shoulder.

13. Pit 2. Part of jar with two fitting sherds, slightly bulging shoulder and weak carination; flattened rim projecting outwards bears traces of shallow cabling. Small and large flint grit, black core, internal surface greyish-brown, external surface dark grey merging to pink. Rough (? twig) horizontal striations on shoulder. Clumsily modelled.

14. Pit 3. Part of jar of hard, dark ware with little, small flint grit. Inner surface dark grey, outer surface light brown and tool smoothed. Flat outward-projecting rim, upright neck; line of carination present but shoulder only vestigial.

Close parallels from Chinnor 140, Fig. 5, 22 also; Water Oakley, Bray (unpubl. Reading Mus. Access. No. 102, 61).

15. Pit 4. Part of jar with upright neck and bulging shoulder. Hard, brittle, dark-grey ware with small flint grit, greyish-brown outer surface, crudely finished. Rim bevelled towards exterior.

A similar vessel, also with external bevel, occurred at Blewburton (Reading Mus. unpubl.).

16. Pit 6. Rim fragment of soft grey-to-pink ware with minute flint grit and crushed pottery. Both surfaces pink; upright neck and outward curving shoulder.

17. Pit 2. Rim and neck fragment. Little fine, flint grit; dark grey core merging to brown towards rim; internal surface black to brown, external surface greyish brown; rim roughly flattened and traces of two shallow finger impressions just below rim.

18. Pit 6. Rim fragment of soft, grey ware with shell grit and slight external thickening of the rim.

The incipient bead rim of this sherd and No. 19 suggest that they are of later date than most of those so far described and have been subject to what has hitherto been called "B" influence.

19. Pit 1. A slightly beaded rim of angular profile. Black friable ware with small calcitic grit; external surface dark brown.

20. Pit 4. Two non-fitting parts of a handled pot which together probably form an overlap of the complete profile. Black, fairly fine paste with occasional flint grit and firing black to brown on outer surface, grey on inner. Outer surface well smoothed. Handle is attached by the tang method. (Fig. 4.)

See Chinnor No. 23: rather straight-sided but dumpy and with similar rim to ours; Nos. 24 and 26: very little wall present but rounded profile suggested; No. 25: part of lug illustrating tang method of attachment; also numerous detached handles, unpubl. (Aylesbury Mus.). Apart from this site, such pots are found in neighbouring areas only sporadically:

Letchworth (Herts.). One handle; impossible to recover profile of pot (unpubl.).

Bishop's Stortford (Herts.). One handle; impossible to recover profile of pot (unpubl.).

Mount Farm, Dorchester. Oxon. 2 (1937), 31, Fig. 7. Four handles but no pot forms.

Allen's Pit, Dorchester. Oxon. 7 (1942), 43, Fig. 8, 2, Large situlate jar with four handles and upstanding neck.

Frilford, Berks. Oxon. 4 (1939), 18, Fig. 6, 51. Broken off at top of handle but consistent with being similar to ours.

Carshalton, Surrey. S.A.C. XLIX, 62, Fig. 4, C 1 and Pl. II (a). Situlate vessel, carinated shoulder, tall, upright flat-topped rim.

Ibid. 66, Fig. 7, C.9. Carination has given way to slightly curved shoulder.

Sandown Park, Esher, Surrey, and Wisley, Surrey. Both have parts of detached handles.

Going farther north, such pots, with smaller handles, are found in Miss Kenyon's East Anglia region, especially at Hunsbury. More than 40 were found there, of great variety in size and shape of handle. Only a few are similar in type to ours, though nearly all are made by the same tang method. *Arch. J.*, XCIII (1936), 78, Fig. 7, L.3, is nearest in form to ours, though not identical.

Of the above vessels, that from Carshalton (Fig. 4, Ci) is typologically the earliest and most resembles those found at All Cannings Cross, whereas Hunsbury, Fig. 7, L.3, would appear to be the last of the series. Our vessel, however, represents a further stage in this transition from the situlate to the globular form, though Prof. Frere is of the opinion that this is still quite consistent with its being an Iron Age A pot.

21. Pit 2. Half of flat base of dark grey to brown ware with medium and large grit and pebbles; externally dusted with small flint grit; upper surface has shallow depression round circumference indicating point of juncture with wall.

22. Pit 7. Base and wall fragment; black and red core and inner surface, outer surface reddish-brown; small flint grit; very crudely modelled; very thick base (6/10 in.).

B. FINE WARE

Nos. 23-37 may be classed together as representing Iron Age A bowls, which in their place of origin had already been affected by La Tène potting styles. The sharp carination is a characteristic shared by such bowls in many areas of Southern Britain, but this particular form of it is by no means widespread. They are closely related to, but not identical with the fine bowls of Bledlow, Chinnor and Ellesborough.

23. Pit 3. Rim and wall of shallow carinated bowl with constricted neck and flaring rim. Black, fine-grained ware, greyish-brown exterior surface; both surfaces lightly polished. Shallow tooled groove at shoulder angle and probably at neck constriction.

Cf. Chinnor 143, Fig. 8, 51 and 52, and Bledlow 202, Fig. III, 32.

A nearer parallel for this is from Dence Park, Kent (Herne Bay Mus. unpubl.), which is, however, covered externally by a thick brownish-red wash.

24. Pit 6. From a bowl similar in form and of identical paste to No. 23.

Exterior surface dark to light grey; incised line both on angle of shoulder and at constriction of neck. Cf. Bledlow, 202, Fig. III, 30. Also Wisley, Surrey, P.P.S. 11, 33, Fig. 1, 10, which has a similar profile but is made of less fine paste; Moulsoford, Berks, unpubl. Reading Mus. Access. No. 233, 62, almost identical in form and paste but haematite-coated.

The following three bowls are of similar type but deeper than ours: Wandsworth, Vulliamy, Arch. of Middlesex, Fig. 22, A, with a footring and less carefully modelled; Mortlake, River Thames, unpubl. London Mus. Access. No. A.13675, also less carefully modelled and with incised vertical lines as well as those round neck and just below carination; Hammersmith, River Thames, unpubl. London Mus. Access. No. A.19133, paste less fine and probably burnished.

Looking farther afield we find a comparable bowl from Maiden Castle, Dorset, Fig. 56, 5, which had a dished base and was haematite-coated. It occurred only in the earliest period. This bowl and other wares both from this site and from All Cannings Cross are thought to derive from Les Jogasses in the Marne area of France. With regard to form, some carinated bowls from Les Jogasses (*Préhistoire*, 5, 102, Fig. 43, 106; 103, Fig. 44, 58; 104, Fig. 45) show a greater similarity to our vessels than to those of All Cannings Cross, but are inferior to ours in paste and modelling. An even closer similarity of form occurs in an early La Tène bowl from Elsloo, Dutch Limbourg, (*Bonner Jahrbücher*, 148, 55, Abb. 18, bottom row, third from left), though no information is given about paste and finish. Another parallel occurs at Baarle Nassau, with (presumably) a footring (*J. H. Holwerda*, *Nederland's vroegste Beschaving*, Pl. II, 13).

25. Pit 4. Part of bowl with weak carination, neck constriction and out-flowing rim. Softer sandy dark-grey ware, minute calcitic and flint grit. Exterior surface dark-grey to red; interior surface light-brown to red; rim lightly polished on both sides. Narrow tooled groove at carination and two such at neck constriction. This is acceptable as a probable development from types Nos. 23 and 24. Cf. Chinnor, *Antiq. J.*, 31, 143, Fig. 8, 69, which has a low foot-ring.

26. Pit 2. Body profile of bowl with carinated shoulder, dark brown to black core with a little crushed pottery and one large pebble. Both surfaces polished, the inner black, the exterior buff to grey.

27. Pit 7. Very sharply carinated shoulder of black ware with little crushed pottery and a large pebble. Perhaps light polishing; incised line $\frac{1}{4}$ in. above shoulder angle.

28. Pit 2. Bowl fragment with carinated shoulder; black ware, small flint grit, smooth matt surface. Probably two concentric tooled grooves above shoulder angle.

29. Pit 6. Fragment of carinated shoulder; thick black ware, small flint grit.

30–34. Pits 2, 3, 6 (2 sherds), 8. Rim fragments of bowls; ware and treatment identical with that of Nos. 23 and 24. Note that No. 30 represents a vessel with a much longer rim than that of Nos. 24 and 32 (the next longest).

35. Pit 3. Rim fragment; slightly sandy, no grit; thin red layer under dark surface.

36. Pit 2. Rim fragment; chocolate coloured, sandy paste, minute flint grit and black surfaces.

37. Pit 7. Rim fragment of soft brownish-grey sandy ware with small flint grit and crushed pottery; flat rim has frilling on outer edge. Similar light finger-tip impressions are found on some rims at Chinnor (140, Fig. 5, 2, 11, 12).

38. Pit 7. Rim of similar ware but without crushed pottery and decoration. Slight internal bevel. For internal bevel on almost straight wall, see Wisley, *P.P.S.*, 11 (1945), 36, Fig. 3, 40.

39. Site 1. Fragment of hard black paste with brownish surfaces. Two oblique slashes (at least $\frac{3}{4}$ in. long) incised just below outward turn of the neck.

For this decoration, cf. Chinnor, Nos. 47, 55, 60, and Bledlow, Nos. 23, 25. It is also found at Ellesborough, *Rec. of Bucks.*, 9 (1909), facing p. 352, Fig. 11, 4, 9, and at Wilbury Camp, Herts., *J. of Brit. Arch. Ass.*, 40 (1935), 275, Pl. VII, 9, 10.

40. Pit 6. Rim fragment, flat, slightly thickened on exterior wall and almost vertical; dark brownish-grey core, with minute flint grit; black surfaces merging to red on exterior.

The fabric is similar to saucepan-shaped and globular pots at Southcote, Reading, although the nearest match for form on that site (*P.P.S.*, 3 (1937), 49, Fig. 4, D8) is of black ware.

41. Pit 3. Rim fragment, dark grey core with little small flint grit; pinkish brown surfaces, external surface has slight smears of deeper red as though once haematite-coated.

42. Pit 3. Flaring rim and bulging shoulder with constricted neck; fine, hard, black paste, a little minute flint grit; outer surface blackish-brown and lightly burnished. Perhaps wheel made. This sherd may not be set at correct angle owing to small fragment of rim present.

43. Pit 3. Part of base with a vestigial omphalos. Fine black ware identical with that of Nos. 23 and 24 and 30–34. There is therefore a strong presumption that at least some of the latter vessels were so based, especially in view of the slightly different paste of the only other bases found.

There are no omphalos bases at Chinnor, but one possible one occurs at Bledlow (No. 64).

The feature also occurs sporadically in the Upper Thames (Allen's Pit, Oxon., *Oxon.*, 7 (1942), 45, Fig. 10, 12 and 13) and the Surrey Regions (Sandown Park, *Antiq. J.*, 27 (1947), 38, Fig. 16, 6 and 7). That it was the original base form for this type of bowl is suggested by the bowls from Les Jogasses (*Pre-histoire*, V, 104, Fig. 45). No information is available for the Elsloo bowl.

44. Pit 3. Wall of large bowl, of similar paste to Nos. 23 and 24, but badly modelled.

45. Pit 2. Fragment of flat base. Dark grey core, little medium flint grit, internal surface light brown; external surface black.

46. Pit 7. Lower wall with suggestion of flat base. Hard black core with little small flint grit; outer surface dark brownish-grey, inner surface buff. Unskilfully finished.

47. Pit 8. Fragment of thin, fine, granulated ware. Dark brown with little

minute flint grit; internal surface black, external surface brown merging to black. Linear decoration incised before firing.

For this decoration there is no exact parallel at Chinnor and Bledlow, but it fits well into the general type of decoration on both sites, especially that of the less sophisticated Bledlow ware. For similar decoration, with the addition of punched dots see Southcote, Reading, *P.P.S.*, III (1937), 53, Fig. 6, M.3. The paste of our sherd is unique at Iver but occurs frequently at Blewburton, Berks., where there is one example of decoration very like ours (*Berks. Arch. J.*, 46 (1942), 101, Fig. 2, 30).

2. ROMANO-BRITISH WARES

Nos. 48–52 represent a type of Belgic bead rim jar which was not characteristic of S.E. Britain. The pronounced internal swelling of the rim combined with the sharp diminution in thickness towards the shoulder distinguish them from all forms found in that area. They have more affinity with the Attrebatian jars S.W. of the Thames, but perhaps represent a late, fairly localised development of them. Hengistbury Head in the south and Bagendon in the west have related, but not identical forms. On the other hand, the form occurs at Silchester in levels dated to pre-A.D. 45 (*Arch.*, 92, 166, Fig. 16, 2, 3, 6 and 9). They then seem to have spread north of the Thames and are found on a few sites in early Roman contexts. At Verulamium they date from the quarter of a century following the Conquest (*Verulamium*, 194, Fig. 34, 56, 58, 59) and differ in the respects specified above, from those from Belgic levels (*ibid.*, 170, Fig. 21, 64–67). They occur also in pits of the early Roman period at Park Street (*Arch. J.*, C11 (1945), 83, Fig. 17, 1, 2, 3; Fig. 16, 16, 17).

48. Pit 4. Beaded rim of light-grey paste and black surfaces. A very shallow tooled or finger depression $\frac{1}{4}$ in. wide, immediately below rim. Rim perhaps finished on wheel.

49. Pit 4. A more developed beaded rim of dark-grey paste; black outer surface which is uneven but lightly burnished. A very thick coarse version of this form (unpubl.) was found at Larbourne Farm, Iver, within half a mile of our site.

50. Provenance unknown. Rim with very pronounced beading of black cinder-like paste and light buff surfaces. Appears to have been refired since fracture; hence original colour may have been different. Trace of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. band of burnishing a little below rim.

51. Pit 6. Another with pronounced beading; well modelled; trace of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. band of light burnishing below rim. Perhaps wheel made.

52. Pit 4. Similar to Nos. 48–51, but thicker, coarser and harder. Light grey paste with medium and small flint grit. Probably hand made.

53. Surface. Rim and wall of hard grey ware with dark grey outer surface. One tooled groove $\frac{3}{4}$ in. below rim.

This appears to be a variation of the Belgic butt beaker, cf. Lockleys, *Antiq. J.*, 18, 359, Fig. 5, 2, from the second Belgic occupation; Silchester, *The Pottery from Silchester*, Thomas May (1916), Pl. LXXII, 172; Stanton Law, *Rec. of Bucks.*, 16 (1953–60), 208, Fig. 5, 8–16. The last two were both found in Roman layers but not closely dated.

54. Site 2. Fragment of thin pinkish-brown paste with black slip. Outer surface completely covered with small sub-rectangular stab marks.

There is no exact parallel for this kind of ware. At Jewry Wall, Leicester (Fig. 27, 30), one sherd has wedge-shaped marks on pottery dated to Trajan. Stab comb marks occur at Camulodunum (Pl. LVI, 108; Pl. LV, 88) dated A.D. 49-65 and A.D. 61 plus. The closest similarity to ours is at Park Street (*Arch. J.*, C11 (1945), Fig. 22, 2), made of pipe clay with the same decoration, but stabs more widely spaced and dated by analogy with Camulodunum Type 108.

55. Pit 4. Part of dish with reeded rim, flat base and distinctive angular body. Fine, grey paste, unpolished.

This is a local variation of a very widespread type of dish which has outward turning reeded rim (often with two reeded rings) and a girth groove. Until now, this local type had been found only in Surrey where it has occurred on at least seven sites.

	<i>Dates given</i>
Haslemere, SAC, LI, 4, Fig. 1, 2.	Claudian or later.
13, Fig. 3, 2.	Flavian.
17, Fig. 4, 4.	Flavian.
Walton Heath, SAC, LI, 59, Fig. 3, 3.	Flavian.
Ashtead, SAC, XXXVII, 160, Fig. 3, 1-8.	No date given.
Cobham, SAC, XCII, 112, No. 4.	Probably between A.D. 50-100 but nearer the latter.
Purberry Shot, SAC, L, 42, Fig. 29, especially 1 and 3.	Flavian.
Byfleet, SAC, XLVI, 133, Fig. 2, 8.	c. A.D. 100.
Farley Heath, SAC, XLII, 68, Fig. 1, E.	Hadrianic.

Comparison of these seems to indicate that the later ones show a progressive slackening of straight lines to curves while the carination tends to disappear. These criteria place our dish earlier in the series than any found in Surrey itself, and we may therefore suggest middle to late first century A.D. as its probable date.

56. Pit 4. Part of shoulder of hard, grey core and buff surfaces. No neck present, but indication that it curves up just above the band of stamped herring-bone decoration.

There is no exact parallel for this large storage jar, its shoulder being flatter than is normally the case. The fabric and surface suggest a Romanised rendering of late Iron Age Patch Grove ware, which, with two exceptions (London and East Essex), is so far found solely south of the Thames and mainly concentrated in Surrey and West Kent. The decoration also supports this. These vessels continued to be made after the Roman Conquest and at Southwark are found as late as the second century (Kathleen Kenyon, *Excavations in Southwark*, 60, Fig. 18, 1-6). Our jar, though slightly different in profile, has an affinity with the Southwark examples, suggesting a common ancestry.

57. Pit 4. Part of jar with curved neck and sloping shoulder. Hard grey paste with dark blue outer surface and mottled blue and pink inner surface. Traces of two shallow, tooled, concentric grooves just visible at base of sherd.

From the profile and decoration it may perhaps be regarded as a development from one type of late Belgic butt beaker (see *Verulamium*, 194, Fig. 34, 60, and *Welwyn Garden City E.H.A.S. Trans.*, XIII Pt. II, 133, Fig. 3, 7), though the paste is quite Romanised. A sherd from Park Street (*Arch. J.*, C11, 81, Fig. 16, 15) has the same profile but no grooves and is dated to not later than A.D. 70/80.

At Larbourne Farm, Iver, Bucks. (unpubl.), is a neck and shoulder sherd of exactly matching form, in different paste and a little larger.

58. Site 2. Rim and concave neck of very large thick jar. Hard salmon-pink paste with some calcite grit.

This large storage vessel is derived from a Belgic type (*Verulamium*, Pl. LI, Wheathamstead type 23-25; Park Street, 78, Fig. 15, 20). Our example has lost the true roll rim and the slight angularity indicates a date in the second half of the first century A.D.

59. Surface. Beaded rim of fine, light-grey ware, which exactly matches that of base No. 69. Slightly polished on exterior below rim. It belongs to a necked jar and is a survival of the Belgic cordoned jars. It can have a rounded or carinated shoulder and often retains the cordon at the base of the neck. In S.E. Britain it was in abundant use throughout the first century A.D. and in places survived into the second. Similar, though not identical forms and paste are found among the unpublished material from the Hedgerley Kilns. The closest parallel for the profile is from Charlton, London, *J.B.A.A.*, LXXII, 183, Fig. 22, 86, where the paste is not specified and from another London site, *Arch. J.*, LXVI, 249, Fig. 15, 22, dated A.D. 70-100 or earlier. At Southwark Miss Kenyon classes them as necked jars Type A, and dates them from the Flavian period and throughout the second century.

60. Pit 4. Fragment of beaded rim, buff to grey granular ware. Probably from the same type of vessel as No. 59, but less fine. Again the nearest parallel is from Charlton (*J.B.A.A.*, LXXII, 183, Fig. 22, 69).

61. Surface. Rim and curved neck; fine sandy grey core firing to buff at surfaces; grey slip lightly polished.

Though not a characteristic cavetto rim, it appears to be a variation of this type. The widest variety of such jars to be found in areas accessible to Iver, however, are found at Southwark. Kenyon, *Excavations in Southwark*, Fig. 21, 4, 19, 20, 21, 24, 27, 28, 29; Fig. 23, 10, 11; Fig. 24, 1, 2, 3, 12; Fig. 26, 1. These range in date from Hadrian to the fourth century. The difficulties of dating by analogy with these is seen by the fact that the form is most closely matched both by the early and the late period, and the paste by the middle (Fig. 24, 2, which is third century).

62. Surface. Rim of fine, grey, sandy ware. Probably a cordon at base of neck.

This is a difficult sherd to place, as most vessels with a cordon have a more upstanding neck. The ware is exactly matched by a wall sherd from Larbourne Farm, Iver, Bucks. (unpubl.).

63. Surface. Rim of soft, buff paste with light grey slip. Out-turned flat rim slightly beaded underneath.

These dishes occur at Hedgerley, *Rec. of Bucks.*, 13 (1937), 275, Pl. IX, 6, 7, 8, and are even more closely matched by unpublished ones from the same site.

64. Site 2. Flat rim of very fine, white, granular paste, merging to blue towards outward edge. A merely detectable groove near inner edge of rim surface. Another slightly curved sherd of this uncommon ware was found in Site 1. It had two very shallow, tooled, horizontal grooves, $\frac{1}{2}$ in. apart. The unpublished material from the Hedgerley kilns includes several curved wall sherds of similar paste, and one which matches ours exactly. We can therefore accept this as a second-century vessel. Sherds of the same form and fabric, but with a colour coat were found at High Wycombe (*Rec. of Bucks.*, 16, Fig. 8, 8) dated middle-to-end of second century.

65. Surface. Everted flat rim and upright neck. Greyish-buff ware, dark grey slip on exterior and rim. This type of vessel is not common in S.E. Britain. One form of it occurs at Richborough (*Richborough*, IV, Pl. XL, 424, dated to A.D. 100–150). Some occur at Hedgerley (unpubl.) but thinner and not fired as hard. But more abundant parallels are found in Surrey, at Ashstead (*SAC*, 38, 142, Fig. 3, 1) dated to Domitian, at Farley Heath (*SAC*, 42 (1934), Fig. 5, 4 and 9) dated perhaps before the second century, and particularly from the Kilns Nos. 4 and 5 at Farnham (*Survey of Prehistory of Farnham District*, Figs. 103 and 104) where several varieties of this type were made in the second century. A rim sherd of the same type, with identical paste and surfaces, though slightly different form, was found at Larbourne Farm, Iver, Bucks. (unpubl.).

66. Site 2. Reeded rim with grey core, merging outwards to brown. Dark grey slip. Dishes or bowls with only one groove on the rim are uncommon, except in the local Surrey wares, of which our No. 55 is an example, and we may perhaps regard this vessel as a later development of that type. In any case, it is precisely in that same area that they occur, though not as abundantly as the earlier dishes.

See: Farley Heath, *SAC*, 42, (1934), 68, Fig. 1, E. (Hadrianic)

Purberry Shot, *SAC*, 50, 42, Fig. 29, 1–14.

Cf. also Weycock, Berks., *Arch. J.*, 55, 65, Fig. 3, 11 (late second to mid-third century), where the outward projection of the rim is longer than ours.

67. Surface. Rim and wall of fine light-grey ware. Rim has a triangular section, with a shallow groove. Whitish slip on inner surface and rim.

This suggests an early stage in the development of the flanged vessel, but as these popular wares ranged in time from the beginning of the third to the end of the fourth centuries, no precise dating is possible here. The use of white slip coating on this and on No. 68 suggests that they may have come from Surrey, where such treatment was found at a number of sites and on a wide variety of bowls. Those nearest to ours are Farley Heath, *SAC*, XLII (1934), 68, Fig. 1, A, and Overway, Tilford, *SAC*, LI, 51, Fig. 9, 84, 85.

68. Site 2. Wall fragment with flange. Grey paste, white slip on inside and top of flange. See No. 67.

69. Surface. Wall and flat base with beading. Grey ware which matches the paste of No. 59.

70. Surface. Fragment of base. Grey paste with outer surface merging to light brown.

71. Surface. Fragment of base with footring. Grey core merging to light red surfaces. Much abraded.

72. Small scrap of red-glazed ware. (Unillustrated.)

73. Unstratified. Curved wall sherd of fine-grained black ware, with brownish-grey outer surface. It is softer and thicker than the finest A wares from this site. The horizontal lines of the decoration are tooled grooves, while the vertical ones are mere scratches with a sharp point. The horizontal grooves and at least one of the vertical scratches have been filled with a white substance.

The nearest parallel is at Bledlow, where all the elements of the decoration are to be found: page 202, Fig. III, 37, has vertical "fine white-filled incisions" arranged in groups; page 203, Fig. IV, 51, has one small dimple and four horizontal tooled grooves. The presence of this sherd, therefore, further emphasises the affinity between the wares of Iver and those of Bledlow.

DISCUSSION

On a site like this, where the only study possible is that of typology, the historical references to be drawn are strictly limited. The coarse Iron Age A wares sufficiently resemble those of the neighbouring regions of the Upper Thames Valley and Surrey, to make it unwise to assume that they were made by immigrants. On the other hand, the makers of the fine bowls were clearly immigrants from the Continent with a potting tradition related in its origins with that of the settlers at Chinnor, Bledlow and Ellesborough. It seems likely that having settled where continual, close contact with their kinsmen was not easy, they did not come under the influences which produced the more sophisticated wares of those communities resulting from their situation on the Icknield Way.

The distribution of the few parallels to the bowls make it likely that the immigrants came up the River Thames, probably from the Low Countries, but also emphasises the need for further study of finds on the Continent before their ultimate place of origin there can be established with certainty. As to the time of arrival, all we can say is that the La Tène characteristics of the bowls precludes a date earlier than the fifth century B.C.

In so far as there is evidence of the duration of the settlement, it is indecisive. The range of coarse pottery is a wide one both in the variety of types and in the development of the finger-printed vessels from a very strongly carinated to a merely curved shoulder. This suggests the passage of time. It is true that the fine bowls (except No. 25) show no development, but Nos. 38, 40, 41 and 42 appear to be from vessels which on other sites have been variously dated as third century and later. In addition, we must remember that the record from this site may be far from complete. A duration for this settlement of more than a few generations is therefore not ruled out.

Although a few Belgic vessels occur, there is no evidence for a pre-Roman Belgic occupation. All five sherds (Nos. 48-52) are of types that fit well into

the context of an early Roman settlement, for which there is plenty of additional evidence. The striking feature of this period is the number of exotic vessels, all coming from south of the Thames. The Belgic bead rim vessels, already mentioned, originated in Atrebatian territory in East Berkshire. No. 54 is a distinctive type of dish, product of Surrey. No. 55 is a Romanised development of the Patch Grove jars equally characteristic of the same area. Nos. 58 and 59 also appear to have affinities south of the river. Is it possible that this signifies the expansion, whether by trade or immigration, of a tribe friendly to the Romans, into an area where the native industry of the Catuvellauni suffered a temporary set-back following their opposition to and defeat by the invaders? Alternatively, since dating is by no means close, it could represent expansion in the same area from the South-West, following the devastation and depopulation caused by the Boudiccan revolt. Even after the first century some contact with Surrey was maintained and in the second century remarkably few vessels (Nos. 62 and 63) were with certainty made at the second-century Hedgerley kilns four miles distant, while none is identified as a product of the contemporary Fulmer kiln only $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles away. The terminal date of this occupation is only vaguely indicated by Nos. 66 and 67, from the third or fourth century.

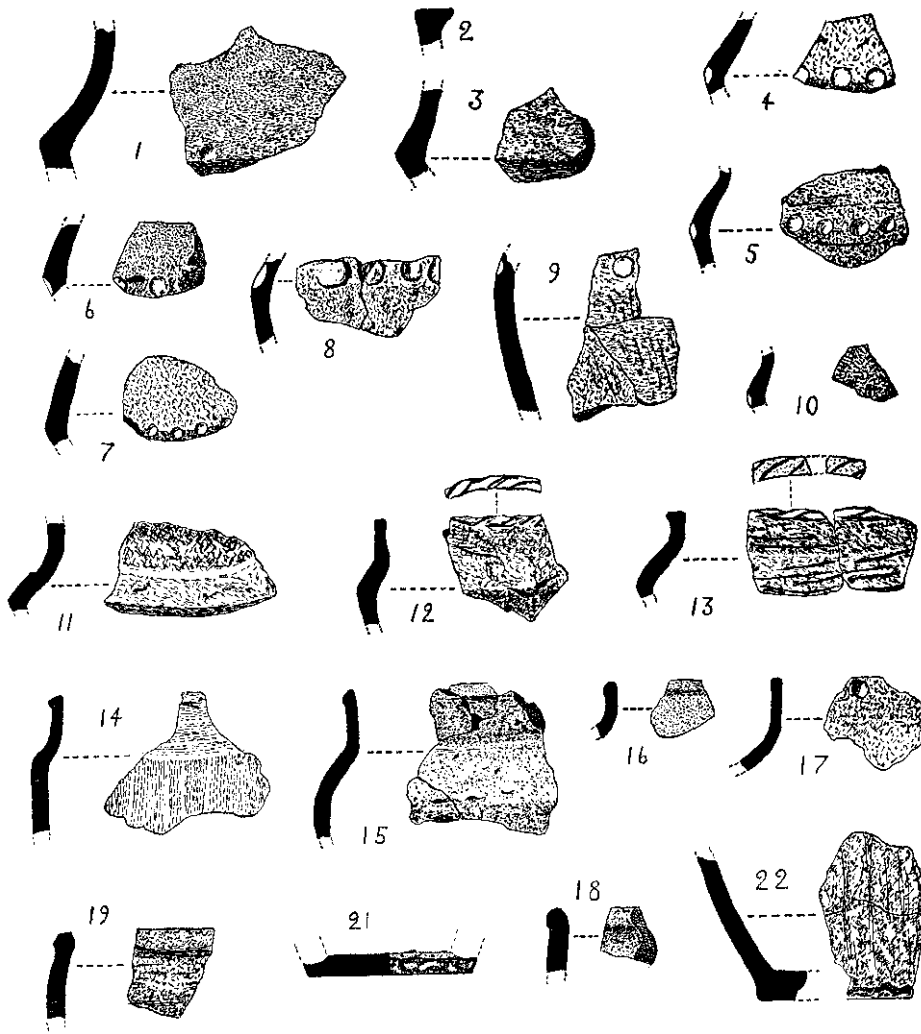


FIG. 1. Iron Age coarse wares. (Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.)

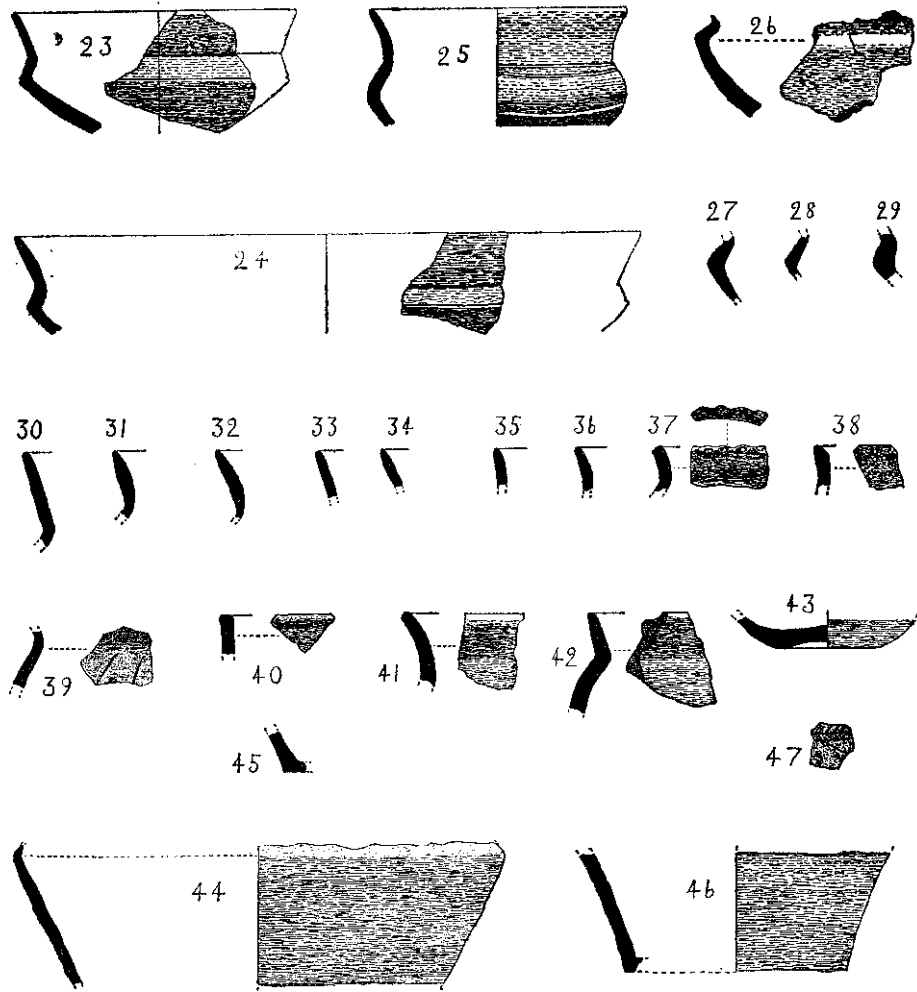


FIG. 2. Iron Age fine wares. (Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.)

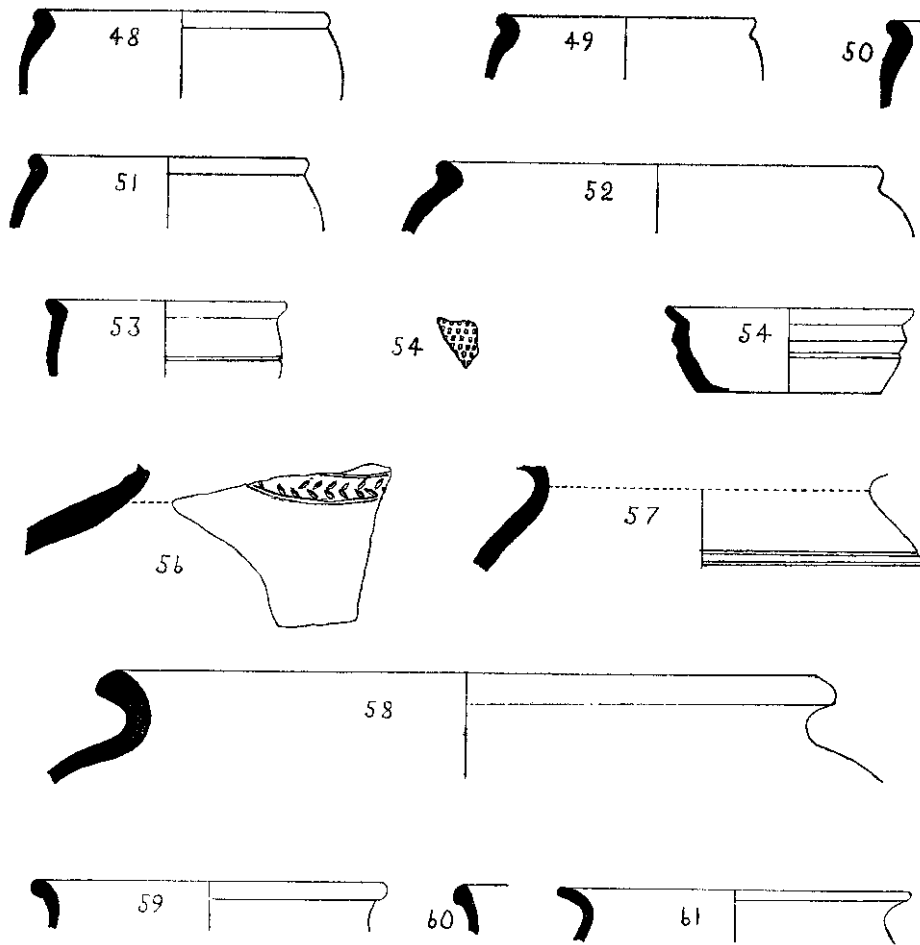


FIG. 3. Wares mainly of Early Roman Period. (Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.)

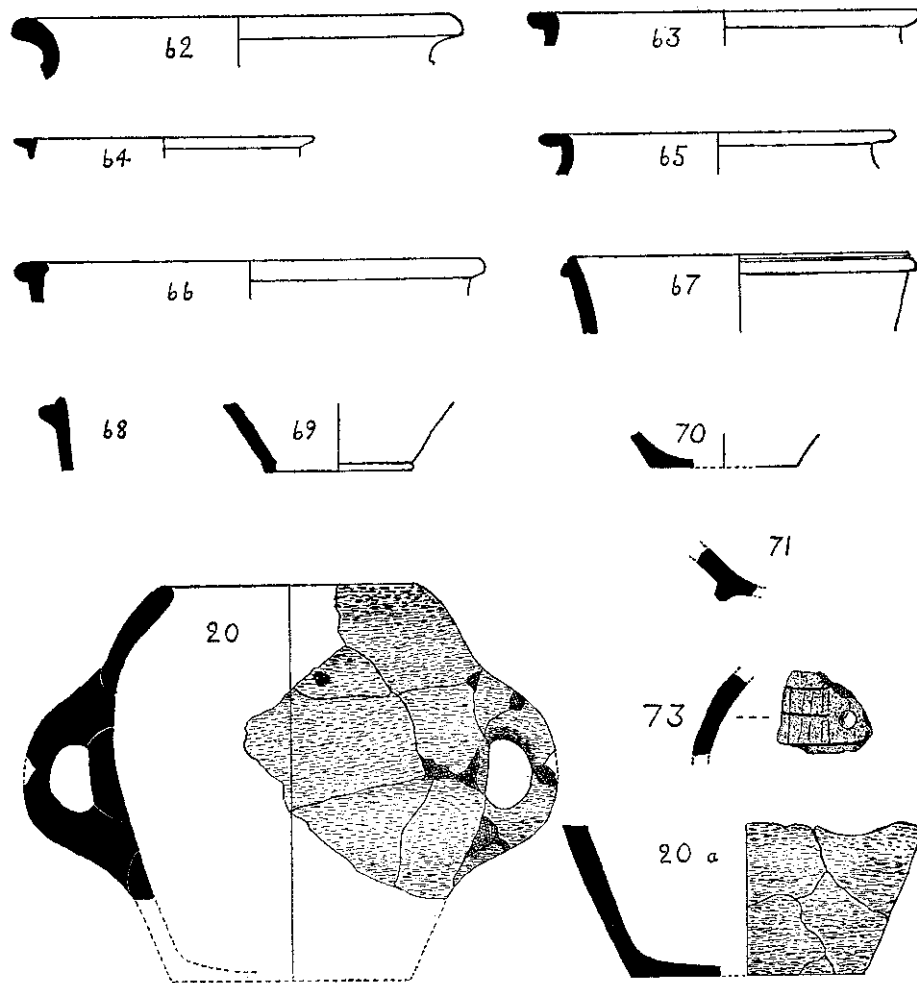


FIG. 4. Nos. 62-71: Late Roman wares. Nos. 73, 20 and 20a: Iron Age wares. (Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.)