

The Late Iron Age and Roman Pottery

by Dan Stansbie

Introduction

The excavation of areas 6-9 yielded 3716 sherds of pottery weighing approximately 45 kg. The assemblage spans the late Iron Age through to the fourth century AD, but the bulk of the material dates from the second to early third centuries AD. Contexts yielded groups weighing an average of 67 g and the average sherd weight was 13 g. Early Roman pottery largely dating to the second century AD dominates the assemblage, taking an 86% share by weight. Late Iron Age to early Roman pottery contributes 4% by weight and pottery of broadly Roman date 3.5%. Questions over the date of the transition to 'Belgic' style pottery in the upper Thames Valley mean that unambiguously late Iron Age groups are difficult to define. However, late Iron Age pottery still accounts for 3% of the assemblage by weight. The remainder of the assemblage comprises late Roman pottery also taking a 3% share by weight. Following a discussion of the methodology employed and the condition of the material, this report discusses the pottery in the context of the site and then goes on to consider the assemblage in its local and regional context.

Methodology

The pottery was recorded using Oxford Archaeology's standard system (Booth 2004). The assemblage was sorted macroscopically into fabric groups based on surface appearance and major inclusion types. A binocular microscope at x20 magnification was employed to aid fabric identification where necessary. Where possible, fabrics have been referenced to the National Roman Fabric Collection (NRFC; Tomber & Dore 1998) where fuller descriptions are given (table). Each fabric was recorded by weight, sherd number and estimated vessel equivalents (EVES) for every excavated context and the data entered into an Excel spreadsheet. Vessel forms were also classified using the Oxford Archaeology system, apart from samian forms which were identified using Webster (1996).

Pottery was recovered from 144 contexts in total. Of these 4% produced more than 100 sherds and 10% produced in excess of 30 sherds. Combined with an average sherd weight of 13 g and the preservation of 130 identifiable vessels this means that the sample of well dated contexts from Latton Lands areas 6-9 is relatively high, although it should be borne in mind that dating of pottery, particularly from the late Iron Age is notoriously difficult in the Upper Thames Valley.

The excavations at Latton Lands produced a relatively limited stratigraphic sequence and it was not always possible to ascribe individual contexts to particular phases of activity from the stratigraphic record. The pottery was therefore divided into broad period-based phases: late Iron Age (LIA), late Iron Age to early Roman (LIA-ER), early Roman (ER) and late Roman (LR). Late Iron Age groups include late Iron Age pottery with a definite pre-conquest date range and late Iron Age to early Roman groups have a date range spanning the late Iron age period to the end of the first century AD. The pottery is phased by context-group date and small amounts of ostensibly earlier material therefore appear in all phases. As is clear from the foregoing discussion, due to the nature of the stratigraphic record and the condition of the ceramic assemblage the boundaries between ceramic phases lack solidity. This is particularly true of the late Iron Age/early Roman phase. Late Iron Age groups have traditionally been identified by the presence of grog-tempered 'Belgic' style fabrics,

with high-shouldered necked jars and butt-beakers being considered typical forms. However, due to uncertainty over the date of the introduction of these forms to the Upper Thames region contexts containing this material have generally been assigned a date of late Iron Age to late first century AD and have therefore been placed in the late Iron Age to early Roman phase.

Condition

With an average sherd weight of 13g the condition of the pottery is generally good and the surfaces of the sherds are fairly well preserved. Identifiable rim sherds are often present and decoration has survived well, as have surfaces. In the case of five base sherds from central Gaulish samian vessels legible potters stamps have survived.

Late Iron Age pottery

The site yielded a range of fabrics commonly dated to the late Iron Age period, together accounting for about 3.5% of the assemblage by weight. Grog-tempered fabrics (E80) dominate the late Iron Age assemblage at 45% by weight. A sherd of Dressel 1A amphora, probably from an Italian source, but possibly from northern Gaul contributes the next largest proportion of the assemblage, taking a 23% share by weight. This is likely to date to between the late second and early first centuries BC (Fitzpatrick 2003, 12). Also present are moderate shell and limestone fabrics (SL3) at 9% by weight and shell-tempered fabrics (E40) at 7% by weight. These are supplemented by flint tempered fabrics (E60) at 4% by weight, Malvernian rock-tempered fabrics (E72) at 4% by weight, medium to coarse sand-tempered fabrics (E30) at 2% by weight, limestone tempered fabrics (E50) at 4% by weight and rock tempered fabrics (E70) at <1% by weight.

Late Iron Age vessels consist entirely of jars at 100% of eves which are dominated by high-shouldered necked jars, of 'Belgic' type (CE) in grog-tempered ware. These are supplemented by two barrel-shaped jars (CB), one in limestone-tempered ware and one in Malvernian rock-tempered ware, a bead rim jar (CH) in shell-tempered ware and a jar of undefined type (C) in flint tempered fabric.

Late Iron Age to early Roman pottery

Late Iron Age to early Roman pottery accounts for a slightly greater proportion of the overall assemblage at 4% by weight. Grog-tempered wares (E80) dominate the assemblage, accounting for 83% by weight. These are supplemented by Malvernian rock-tempered fabrics (E72), which account for 12% of the assemblage by weight. Grog and shell-tempered fabrics (E13), organic-tempered fabrics (E10) and coarse sand-tempered fabrics (E30) together account for 1.3% by weight. Limestone-tempered fabrics account for 4% by weight and the remainder of the assemblage is made up of intrusive Roman sandy grey ware (R20) and Savernake ware (R95), together accounting for <1% of the assemblage by weight.

Like the late Iron Age assemblage, the late Iron Age to early Roman assemblage is dominated by jars at 92% of eves, with a beaker making up the remainder at 8% of eves. High-shouldered jars with everted rims (CE7) are the dominant vessel type, all of which are made in grog-tempered ware (E80). Also present are two storage jars with heavy everted rims (CN7) in Malvernian rock-tempered ware (E72). The single beaker (E2) is made in grog and shell-tempered ware (E13) and has a simple bead rim.

Early Roman pottery

Early Roman pottery incorporates a wider range of fabrics than seen in the earlier periods. These account for the greatest proportion of the overall assemblage at 86% by weight. No particular fabric type dominates the early Roman assemblage. However, North Wiltshire sandy grey ware (R35) is most common, contributing 33% by weight and Savernake ware (R95) accounts for 21% by weight. Of the remaining locally produced fabrics Severn Valley oxidised ware (O40) is prominent at 5% by weight and North Wiltshire oxidised ware contributes 3%. Unsourced medium sandy grey wares (R30, presumably locally produced) contribute 6% by weight, as do unsourced coarse sandy grey wares (R20). Oxidised coarse-tempered fabrics (O80, mostly from storage jars) are present in small amounts, taking a 1% share by weight. White-slipped oxidised wares (Q20), south-western white slipped wares (Q22), white-slipped reduced wares (Q30), sandy white wares (W20), sandy oxidised wares (O20), white ware mortaria (M20) and fine grey ware (R10) each account for less than 1% by weight. Unsourced Upper Thames Valley Buff ware mortaria (M26) contribute 2% by weight as do unsourced oxidised mortaria (M50). Grog-tempered wares (E80 & E90) are present in early Roman groups, accounting for 2% by weight and some transitional Iron Age/Roman fabrics are also present, including grog and shell-tempered wares (E13), shell-tempered fabrics (E40) and limestone-tempered fabrics (E50), each accounting for less than 1% by weight. Much of this material is probably residual. Regional and continental imports are present in relatively large amounts. These are dominated by black-burnished ware (B11) at 12% by weight. Also present are black-burnished ware variants, including wheel-made black-burnished ware (B20) and hand made black-burnished ware (B10), each contributing less than 1%. Regional imports of mortaria are present in small amounts, comprising Verulamium region mortaria (M21) which take a 1% share by weight and Mancetter-Hartshill mortaria (M23) which contribute less than 1% by weight. South Spanish (Baetician) amphorae account for 1% of the assemblage by weight and the remainder is made up of south and central Gaulish samian ware, together accounting for 2% of the assemblage by weight.

The increasing range of fabrics in this period is mirrored by an increasing repertoire of forms, including new types of vessels associated with eating and drinking such as flagons and dishes. However, the assemblage is still overwhelmingly dominated by jars, which make up 69.5% by eves. These are supplemented by dishes at 8% of eves, flagons at 6% of eves, tankards at 4% of eves, bowls at 4% of eves, beakers at 3% of eves, mortaria at 3% of eves, platters at 1.5% of eves and cups at less than 1% of eves. The majority of the jars are made in North Wiltshire sandy grey ware (R35), mostly comprising necked jars with a variety of everted rims (CD7), but also including three narrow necked jars (CC), three bead rim jars (CH) and four 'cooking jars' (CK). Cooking jars with everted rims (CK7) in black-burnished ware (B11, B10, B20) were also common and these were supplemented by a couple of bead rim jars in the same fabric. Necked jars with everted rims (CD7) were also relatively frequent in Savernake wares (R95). A fabric which also contributes two narrow-necked jars (CC), a bead rim jar (CH) and a storage jar (CN). In addition there are three necked jars with everted rims (CD 7), a narrow necked jar (CC) and a bead rim jar (CH) in medium sandy grey ware (R30).

Coarse sandy grey wares (R20) also contribute a number of necked jars with everted rims (CD 7), along with a narrow necked jar (CC), a bead rim jar (CH) and a cooking jar (CK). Also present in early Roman groups are two high-shouldered necked jars (CE) and a necked jar with everted rim (CD7) in grog-tempered ware (E80). In addition there are several necked jars with everted rims (CD7) in sandy oxidised ware (O20), North Wiltshire oxidised ware (O30) and Severn Valley ware (O40), along with a necked jar with a bead rim in oxidised sandy ware.

The majority of the dishes comprise straight or curving sided dishes with flanged rims (JA/JB 410) in black-burnished ware (B11), or so-called 'pie' dishes, along with several plain rim (JB 110/120) dishes in the same fabric which may be intrusive. These are supplemented by straight and curving sided dishes (JA/JB) with a variety of rims, including a flanged dish (JA 410) in wheel-made black-burnished ware (B20), two flanged dishes (JA/JB 410) and a curving sided dish with hammerhead rim (JB 640) in North Wiltshire grey ware (R35), a flanged dish (JA 410) in coarse sandy grey ware (R20) a plain rimmed dish in medium sandy grey ware (JB 110) and two curving sided dishes, one with a plain rim and one with a bead rim (JB 180/220) in North Wiltshire oxidised ware (O30). In addition there are five 18/31 type dishes in central Gaulish samian ware (S30). Platters comprise two plain rimmed vessels (JC 110), one in fine grey ware R10 and one in Severn Valley ware (O40).

Flagons comprise two bead-rimmed (BA 240) and one lid-seated vessel (BA 840) in North Wiltshire oxidised ware (O30), a bead rim vessel (BA240) in Severn Valley ware (O40) and an everted rimmed vessel (BA730) in fine grey ware (R10). There are two tankards in North Wiltshire oxidised ware (O30), one with a bead rim (G 210) and one with a plain rim (G 110). The remaining tankards are made in Severn Valley ware (O40) and comprise two bead rimmed vessels (G 220) and a plain rimmed vessel (G120). There is also a handled tankard with a bead rim (GA 200) in the same fabric.

There are no clear patterns among the early Roman bowls and a variety of different forms are present in a number of different fabrics. There are three curving sided bowls (HC) in North Wiltshire oxidised ware (O30), a straight sided bowl and two curving sided bowls in Severn Valley ware (O40), a carinated bowl (HA) in coarse sandy grey ware (R20), a carinated bowl and a curving sided bowl (HA/HC) in North Wiltshire sandy grey ware (R35), a curving sided bowl (HC) in Savernake ware (R95) and a type 37 bowl in central Gaulish samian ware (S30).

Jar-shaped beakers (EH) were the most common form of beaker, two being present in North Wiltshire grey ware (R35) and two in black-burnished ware (B11). In addition there is a girth beaker (EB) and two more unidentifiable beakers (E) in North Wiltshire grey ware (R35), as well as a bag shaped beaker in fine grey ware (R10).

Mortaria are dominated by hooked rimmed vessels with beads (KA 520), of which there are three, one in Verulamium region white ware (M21), one in unsourced Upper Thames Valley buff ware (M26) and one in unsourced oxidised ware (M50). There is also another hooked rimmed beaded vessel (KA 500), which could not be more closely identified. In addition there is one type 33 cup in central Gaulish samian ware (S30).

Funerary Pottery

A single incomplete vessel (sf. 166) was placed between the legs of a partially cremated adult male (skeleton 1100), whose grave (1095) had been cut into enclosure ditch 1285. The vessel comprises the bottom two thirds of a large jar, possibly with a high shoulder in a shelly fabric (E40). The base of the vessel has been burnt, both externally and internally, although the exterior of the body shows no sign of fire damage. This may suggest that the vessel was not placed on the funeral pyre, but in the grave pit after the fire had died down. In this case we must imagine that the external sooting accrued during the use life of the vessel, although the internal sooting is difficult to explain in this way. Alternatively the cremation of the body may have been ineffective and abandoned half way through and this would also explain the partial burning of the pot. The vessel was probably made sometime in the first century AD, although the burial itself is dated to the post-conquest period on the basis of pottery found in the backfill. Such a vessel is typical of grave goods from this period and probably does not denote an individual of particularly high-status, although it is difficult to be sure about this in the absence of other similar grave goods from other burials with which to compare it.

Late Roman pottery

The range of fabrics seen in the late Roman assemblage is fairly extensive, although not quite as wide as that seen in the early Roman material. This material accounts for a modest proportion of the overall assemblage at 3%. No particular fabric is overwhelmingly dominant within the late Roman assemblage. However, Savernake ware (R95) seems most common, taking a 29% share by weight, although the more robust character of this fabric may account for some of this dominance. North Wiltshire grey ware is also important, contributing a 19% share. The remainder of the late Roman assemblage is made up of a variety of fabrics of diverse origins, none of which makes up more than a small proportion of the whole. Unsourced sandy grey ware (R20) and unsourced medium sandy grey ware (R30) contribute <1% by weight. North Wiltshire Oxidised ware (O30) and Severn Valley ware (O40) contribute 3% and 2% respectively and handmade black-burnished ware accounts for 1.4%. South-western white-slipped ware (Q22) takes a 4% share by weight and south-western white-slipped mortaria (M32) contributes 6.5%. In addition some residual grog-tempered ware (E80) is present, contributing less than 1%. Regional and continental imports are dominated by black-burnished ware, which accounts for 24% of the overall assemblage. The remainder comprises Oxfordshire white ware mortaria taking a 4.1% share, a small amount of Oxfordshire colour-coated ware (F51), contributing less than 1% by weight and some residual south Gaulish samian ware (S20) also contributing less than 1%.

The range of vessels present in the late Roman assemblage mirrors that seen in the early Roman assemblage, although there are fewer vessels overall. Unusually for a later Roman assemblage the identifiable vessels are mostly jars, which make up 38% of eves. These are supplemented by flagons at 34% of eves, mortaria with 15% of eves, dishes with 7% of eves and bowls with 6% of eves. Of the four jars present, two are necked jars with everted hooked rims (CD 760) in North Wiltshire grey ware (R35) and two are 'cooking' jars with everted rims (CK 700) in black-burnished ware (B11). The single flagon consists of a small plain rimmed vessel in North Wiltshire Oxidised ware (O30). There are three dishes in black-burnished ware (B11) of typical late Roman form. One has a dropped flange (JA 440) and the other two are plain

rimmed (JA 110). Also present is a straight-sided dish with dropped flange (JA 440) in hand made black-burnished ware (B10). The single bowl is made in Oxfordshire colour coated ware (F51) and has curving sides and a flange (HC 400). The late Roman assemblage includes two mortaria, one a vessel with a flange and slight bead (KA 430) is made in south-western white slipped ware. The other is a Young type 22 in Oxfordshire white ware (M22).

Pottery of broadly Roman date

Pottery of broadly Roman date accounts for a relatively modest proportion of the overall assemblage at 3.5% by weight. No particular fabric type dominates the assemblage. However despite its more robust character Savernake ware (R95) may be seen as most common, contributing 34% by weight. In addition North Wiltshire grey ware is important accounting for 21% by weight and sandy grey ware takes a 9% share by weight. The remainder of the assemblage is made up of a variety of fabrics mostly of local origin, none of which makes up more than a small proportion of the whole. Severn Valley wares (O40) make up 7% by weight, medium sandy grey wares (R30) take a 6% share and North Wiltshire oxidised wares (O30) contribute 4% by weight. Oxidised sandy ware (O20) contributes 1.4% by weight and south-western white slipped ware (Q22) makes up <1%. In addition there is some (probably) residual grog-tempered ware (E80 and E90), accounting for 2.4% of the assemblage by weight. Regional and continental imports are scarce, consisting only of black-burnished ware, which takes an 8% share and unsourced buff amphorae (A10), contributing 6% by weight.

Vessels which are only broadly dateable to the Roman period are rare. However, those that have been assigned to this date range (generally because they are heavily abraded and difficult to identify, or because they belong to a long-lived form such as storage jars or certain kinds of flagon) have a distribution in terms of vessel class similar to that of the early Roman phase. Jars dominate the assemblage at 64% of eves. These are supplemented by flagons at 20% of eves, beakers at 9% of eves and dishes at 7% of eves. The jars comprise two necked jars with everted rims (CD 700), one in North Wiltshire sandy grey ware (R35) and one in Savernake ware (R95), and a cooking pot with everted rim (CK 730) in black-burnished ware. These were supplemented by a small flagon with 'bent' bead rim (BA 240) in south western white-slipped ware (Q22), a plain rimmed beaker (E 120) in North Wiltshire sandy grey ware and a flanged dish (JB 410) also in black-burnished ware.

Discussion

In general the pottery survived in fairly good condition, as can be seen from the relatively high average sherd weight. In addition there were a number of large and well stratified 'key groups' which can provide a reliable guide to dating and serve as a basis for the interpretation of economic links (including long distance trade) and socio-economic status. Two of these groups from the fills of late Iron Age pit 1127 and early Roman boundary ditch 968 have been selected for more detailed discussion (see below). The make up of the assemblage from Latton Lands is fairly typical of late Iron Age and early Roman rural sites from the Upper Thames Valley, dominated as it is by North Wiltshire grey wares, Severn Valley wares and black-burnished wares, with few continental or interregional imports and a preponderance of jars. The dominance of locally produced coarse wares and jars as a vessel class, may be taken to indicate relatively low economic status; although the presence of small amounts of terra sigillata, amphorae and regional fine wares show that the inhabitants

of Latton Lands were not devoid of external contacts, nor perhaps of the ambition to emulate Romanising practices being developed elsewhere in the province.

Key Groups

Key group 1 (Table .) was recovered from the fill (1126) of a late Iron Age pit (1127) which cut a ring-gully in the middle of the site. The group comprises 54 sherds weighing 1021 g and has an average sherd weight of 19 g. The group is dominated by grog-tempered wares, in which there are two high-shouldered jars with everted rims in the 'Belgic' tradition. Also present are Malvernian rock-tempered fabrics in which there is one barrel-shaped jar, limestone tempered fabrics in which there is also a barrel-shaped jar, shell tempered fabrics in which there is a bead rimmed jar, sand tempered fabrics and the handle from a Dressel 1 amphora in an unsourced fabric (probably Italian, but possibly from northern Gaul). This group is fairly typical of a late Iron Age settlement in the upper Thames Valley, mixing elements of middle Iron Age traditions in the form of barrel shaped jars with typically late Iron Age styles such as the high-shouldered jars; but showing a distinct lack of other typically late Iron Age forms seen further east in Essex and Kent such as the butt-beaker. The presence of the Dressel 1A amphora handle shows that the inhabitants of late Iron Age Latton Lands had wide ranging contacts. They were clearly either of a higher status than the jar dominated assemblage suggests, or were in contact with such people. Indeed the group as a whole neatly illustrates the regional specificity of late Iron Age assemblages. It also serves as a reminder that sites lacking the typical package of 'Belgic' forms need not necessarily be seen as low status.

INSERT KEY GROUP 1 TABLE HERE

Key Group 2 (Table .) was recovered from the upper fill (973) of early Roman enclosure/boundary ditch 968, situated in the eastern corner of the site. This is a massive group, comprising 1338 sherds weighing 20726 g, with an average sherd weight of 15.5 g. The date range of the group is mid to late second century AD, although there are small amounts of presumably residual grog-tempered pottery present. The group is dominated by North Wiltshire sandy grey wares, in which fabric there are large numbers of necked jars with a variety of everted rims, along with two bead rim jars, two cooking jars, a narrow necked jar, a jar beaker, a carinated bowl, a dish with a hammerhead rim and several dishes with flanged rims. Black-burnished ware is also significant, with large numbers of cooking jars, two bead rim jars, a jar-beaker and several flanged dishes. There is a fairly substantial amount of sandy grey ware and medium sandy grey ware, which is likely to be local and is dominated by a similar range of vessel types to the North Wiltshire grey ware. The third largest component of the group by weight is Savernake ware, in which there are three necked jars with everted rims. However, the prominence of this fabric must be due to its more robust character. Some residual grog-tempered ware is present, in which there is one high-shouldered jar and one necked jar with everted rim. The remainder of the group is made up of small amounts of a wide variety of fabrics. Amongst the locally produced wares are sandy oxidised wares, a flagon, a jar, a tankard, a dish and two bowls in North Wiltshire oxidised ware, several tankards in Severn Valley ware, south western white slipped wares, a flagon and a girth-beaker in fine grey ware, unsourced white ware mortaria and unsourced oxidised mortaria. The regional and continental imports comprise a hook rimmed and beaded mortarium in

Verulamium region white ware, a body sherd from a Mancetter-Hartshill mortarium, a type 33 cup in central Gaulish samian ware and three type 18/31 dishes also in central Gaulish samian ware. The dishes all have stamps and there are two more dish bases also with stamps.

This is clearly a group dominated by locally produced fabrics and to a lesser extent imports originating from the south-west, such as black burnished ware and Severn Valley ware, rather than from the south-east. It is also a group largely dominated by jars. In these respects it is typical both for its location on a rural low status site and for its chronological range. In terms of supply the majority of the material originates from the north Wiltshire area, presumably from kilns local to Latton. As has been said regional imports are largely from the south-west rather than the south-east, perhaps indicating reliance on markets just up Ermine Street at Cirencester, as opposed to 'down-the-line' trade using the Thames. This perhaps suggests that local cultural connections and long term traditions were more important in determining the source of imports than were geographical conditions. However, relatively high proportions of black-burnished ware, found on sites along the route of the A5 in the West Midlands, have been attributed to those sites proximity to Watling street (Booth forthcoming) and it may be that Ermine Street played a similar role in relation to Latton Lands. Although the group is jar-dominated, the presence of some forms more associated with eating and drinking such as bowls and flagons along with imports from further afield, such as Verulamium region mortaria and samian ware dishes, perhaps suggest an aspiration to higher status, through the inclusion of more Romanising practices. Or, more simply, that the inhabitants of Latton Lands to some extent combined Roman-style cooking and dining with more traditional styles.

INSERT KEY GROUP 2 TABLE HERE

The pottery in its regional context

Late Iron Age pottery comprises grog-tempered wares which once again are ubiquitous in the late Iron Age of southern Britain, particularly in south-eastern Britain, a variety of sand, shell and limestone tempered fabrics and Malvernian rock tempered wares. Grog tempered wares are present in *ceramic group 3* (early 1st century AD onwards) at Thornhill Farm (Timby 2004,91), Coln-Gravels (Stansbie, forthcoming) and in the late Iron Age at Gravelly Guy (Green *et al.* 2004, 305). Malvernian rock tempered wares are also present at Thornhill Farm in *ceramic group 2* (1st century BC-AD) (Timby, 2004, 90) and at Coln-Gravels. Late Iron Age to early Roman pottery is defined by the presence of high-shouldered necked jars in grog-tempered wares and necked jars in fine sandy wares, with small amounts of Malvernian rock-tempered wares. These fabrics are also present at Thornhill Farm and Gravelly Guy, although high-shouldered necked jars are absent from Thornhill farm (Timby 2004). This pattern is typical of the region, in which there is an absence of the 'Belgic' repertoire of forms characterised by high-shouldered jars, butt-beakers and imitation 'Gallo-Belgic' platters in the Late Iron Age. Early Roman pottery is characterised by a preponderance of North Wiltshire sandy grey wares and Black-burnished wares, with some Savernake wares and Severn Valley wares and is heavily jar based. These characteristics are typical of early rural assemblages in the region and the assemblage generally compares well with that from Thornhill Farm, Gravelly Guy (Green *et al.* 2004) and Coln Gravels (Stansbie, forthcoming). The exception being the relatively high proportions of black-burnished ware from Latton Lands, which contrast with the small amounts seen at Gravelly Guy, Thornhill farm and Coln

Gravels. The small amounts of regional and continental imports present at Latton Lands are also mirrored at similar sites in the region such as Gravelly Guy, Thornhill Farm, and Coln-Gravels.

Socio-economic status

A comparison of the proportions of different wares (fig.) and of the proportions of different vessel classes (fig.), can help to elucidate the socio-economic interpretation of the assemblage (see charts below). The aspects of the assemblage that these charts most clearly show is the dominance of reduced wares (R), with a small but significant amount of late Iron Age fabrics (E) and the dominance of jars.

INSERT CHARTS HERE

In the late Iron Age the dominance of the jar and the absence of forms more clearly associated with consumption, such as butt-beakers and platters may be taken as an indication of low status. Not-with-standing the fact that chronological and regional factors must account for this absence to some degree. In his study of ceramic approaches to differentiating between Roman site types Jerry Evans (Evans 2001) argues that pottery assemblages from low status rural sites are typically jar dominated. Although he acknowledges that there is also a chronological element to the presence of large numbers of jars. As the Latton assemblage is both early and jar dominated the large number of jars present within the assemblage, along with a lack of other 'status indicators', such as large amounts of decorated samian or the presence of amphorae may be taken to indicate a comparatively low status for the site, and this is backed up by the comparative absence of fine wares and regional imports (Booth 2004, 45).