

Gazetteer - Saffron Walden (E) to Southchurch (E)

SAFFRON WALDEN (E)

Zone 7

There was some pre-conquest settlement here, but the evidence for it is fragmentary and confused:

1 VCH (1963, 195) recalls an unpublished find of much Belgic to Romanising pottery near the Waterworks (TL 559 376), 'chiefly black ware, horizontally ribbed'. SWM does not have this material, apparently rilled jars of type C7-1.

2 Excavations by S. Bassett in Elm Grove, formerly Junior House School, in 1972-73 found pottery of Neolithic to 3rd cent. AD date, chiefly in a series of boundary ditches and a large pit. Some grog-tempered sherds, some with rilling, were included (Bassett forthcoming, fig.22). The relationship with Herts. forms is marked.

3 The Grimsditch Wood earthworks have been suggested as Iron Age (W. Rodwell 1976a, 331); the area is known to have produced many Roman finds (VCH 1963, 195, under Little Walden).

4 Material from near the Battle or Repell Ditches (TL 536 382) in 1936, in SWM, is late Roman, Saxon and medieval; in CambM, however, is a small bronze brooch, 5cms long, from Battle Ditches, with a straight bow carrying 4 small knobs, triangular pierced catchplate and internal cord, that ought to be a La Tene II derivative form of the 1st century BC.

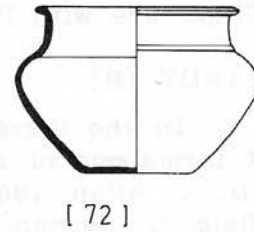
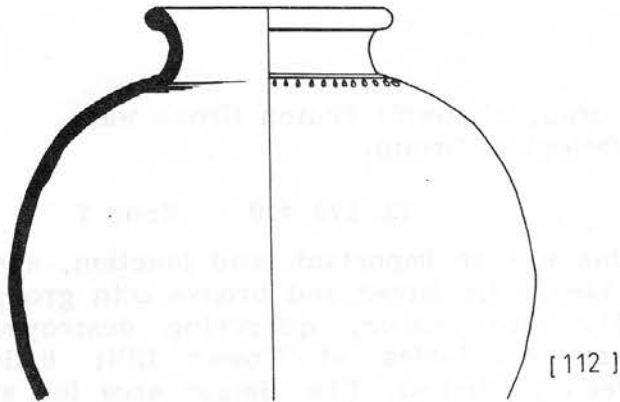
ST ALBANS see Part 4.

ST OSYTH (E)

TM 11 16

Zone 1

Gravel digging in the Priory Park has produced substantial Roman finds and a little 'Belgic' (VCH 1963, 176; Blake 1964). Sherds in CM found in 1908 are scrappy and Roman, but with one late 1st century AD storage jar in romanised grog:



[112] C6-3. CM 1607.1908. Pale grey hard romanised grog, smooth brittle surfaces, no burnish. CM 1607.1908 reads: 'Sir John Johnson, St Osyth's Priory. Fragments of Late Celtic and other vessels found in St Osyth's Park.'

Inspection of a gravel pit close by at TM 118 161 recently by the County Unit noted a ditch and a few Roman, 'Belgic' and flint-gritted sherds (C. Couchman 1976, 149-151).

SANDON (E)

Zone 1

1 A pair of complete Dressel IB amphorae in CM was found before 1862, with ashes and other sherds not kept. This remnant of a rich 'Welwyn' type burial is put under Danbury by Peacock (1971, 184) but see W. Rodwell 1976a, 318; 1976d, 251. TL 756 048.

2 Sandon Hall gravel pit, TL 7425 0555, has produced a small bowl now in ChM (VCH 1963, 177; possibly a cinerary urn, and found with other, Roman, pottery).

[72] E3-1. ChM B18504. Early Roman, soft grey, reddish under very worn and flaking grey surface; possibly some grog.

3 Many 1st century and later sherds were collected by a local school from Lavender's gravel pit (TL 752 043) during the 1950s and 1960s, and given to ChM in 1971 (Drury 1976b). The material, now jumbled together, is Roman except for some thick coarse combed storage jar sherds; the occupation is likely to be entirely post-conquest. Some is unpublished. ChM 1976.614.

SANDWICH (K)

TR 319 573 Zone 5

A probable villa site observed during roadworks by Dover Archaeological Group and Canterbury Archaeological Trust in 1978. The few finds nearly all came from a ditch and gully E of the Roman building; the ditch had 1st and 2nd century samian and the gully late Roman pottery, and none of the few sherds of coarse wares is securely stratified (Parfitt 1980).

A few 1st century pieces, including some combed sherds, were recovered, mostly from the ditch; 'nearly half of the [total number of] sherds are of a hard grey fabric with small black inclusions (grog?)'. These are from the ditch: fig.4:

- 8 ?L2.
 10 G1-6.
 11 A4. 'Soft, soapy, orange-brown': ?Patch Grove ware.
 These are with Dover Archaeological Group.

SANDY (B)

TL 179 490 Zone 7

In the Roman period this was an important road junction, and it forms one of the foci of Allen's Lx silver and bronze coin group (D.F. Allen 1961, para.45). 19th century quarrying destroyed 'Belgic', Roman, and Saxon cemeteries at Tower Hill; little controlled excavation has been published. The 'Belgic' area lay at least partly to the S of the Roman town (Johnston 1974, 35, and map); a cemetery of Aylesford type lay 'near the modern Cemetery, where other similar material probably indicates settlement' (op.cit., 37). Various museums have unprovenanced Sandy material: BedM, AshM, BM and CambM (Ransom Coll., all Roman). Extant material of relevance here comprises:

1 Settlement evidence at the Bungalow site (Johnston 1974; TL 181 484). 9 vessels, a Spanish globular amphora sherd, and a small broken bronze brooch with internal cord (fig.6 no.1) formed a small group in a ditch below a road, accompanied by unstratified sherds. Contrary to the report, it is largely grog-tempered. Not much else has been illustrated (see also Johnston 1975, 225). In ditch below road: fig.14:

- 1 B2-4. Very hard, dark grey, with grog.
 4 Roman butt-beaker rim, hard pale grey with black specks, buff surfaces very shiny and smooth.
 7 G4, but not seen and perhaps not grog-tempered. 'Fine hard pale orange-red fabric.'
 9 combed sherd, hard coarse grey, with grog.
 11 as 9.
 13 as 9, but less hard and patchy buff-grey.
 14 shelly ledge-rimmed jar.
 15 E3-2. Grey grog, red inside, dark grey roughly burnished outside.

Unstratified:

- 2 E1-2. Grey grog, grey-buff surfaces, burnish outside.
 3 A1. Grey grog, patchy grey-buff surfaces, burnished, similar to others from Sandy.
 5 shelly.
 6 B1-1. Hard grey grog, smooth dark grey surfaces.
 8 (C6-1). Shelly, very heavy.
 10 combed sherd, coarse dark grey grog.
 12 C6-1. Very large, grey grog, red smooth surfaces, burnished outside.

BedM.

2 The cemetery referred to above (Johnston 1974, 37) is presumably the source of pottery in BedM 'Found at Sandy 10 August 1955': Johnston (1956, 102-119) says that 5 pots were found, only one containing bones, at Potton Road in the centre of Sandy. Only four are now traceable in the museum.

[1161] A2. BedM SA/A2. Hard dark grey grog, reddish-brown patchy surfaces, burnish on foot and in lines above. Top

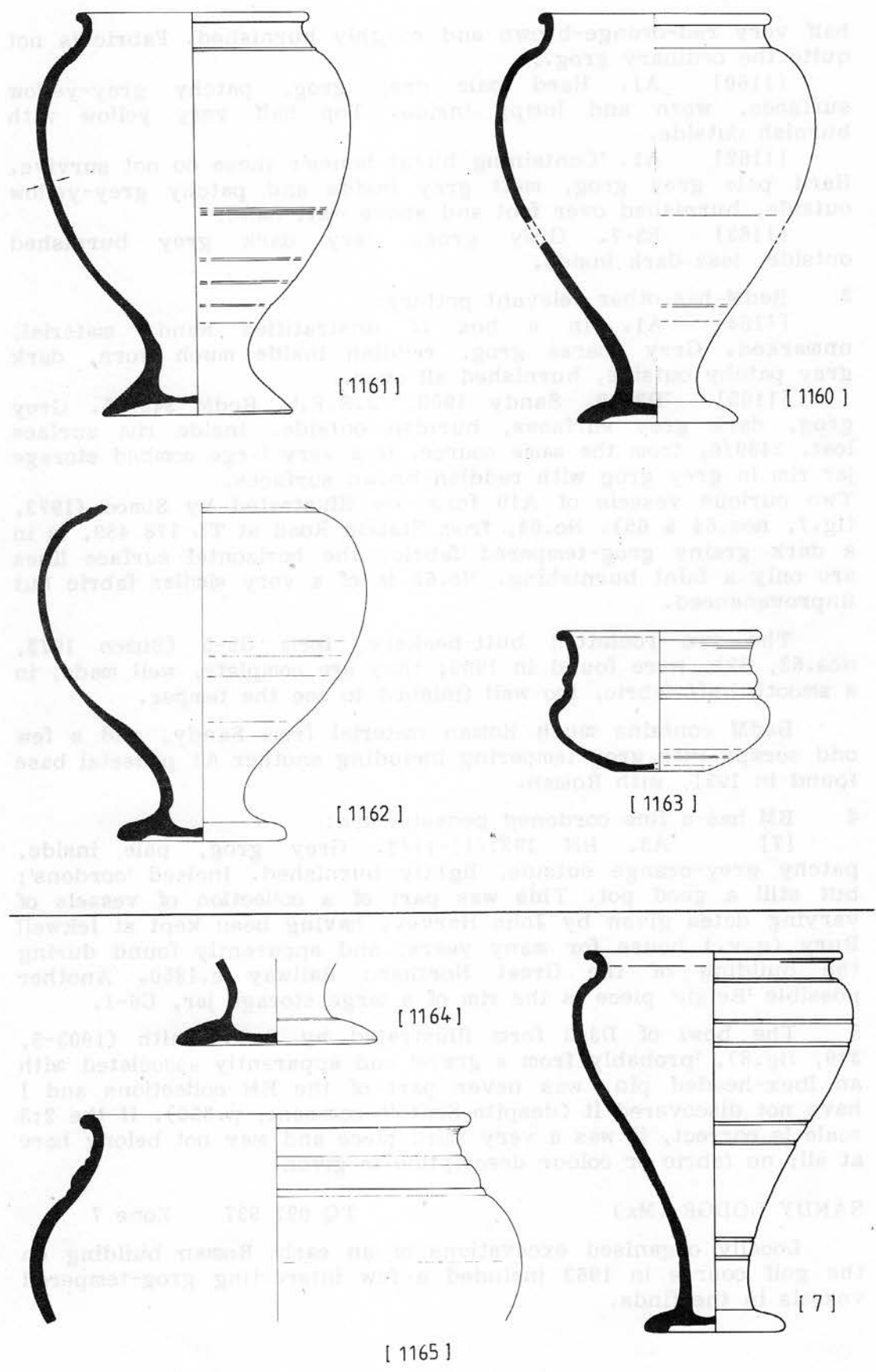


Fig.67: Pottery from Sandy. 1:4

half very red-orange-brown and roughly burnished. Fabric is not quite the ordinary grog.

[1160] A1. Hard pale grey grog, patchy grey-yellow surfaces, worn and lumpy inside. Top half very yellow with burnish outside.

[1162] A1. 'Containing burnt bones': these do not survive. Hard pale grey grog, matt grey inside and patchy grey-yellow outside, burnished over foot and above matt band.

[1163] E3-7. Grey grog, very dark grey burnished outside, less dark inside.

3 BedM has other relevant pottery:

[1164] A1. In a box of unstratified Sandy material, unmarked. Grey coarse grog, reddish inside much worn, dark grey patchy outside, burnished all over.

[1165] B3-10. Sandy 1900, 'J.S.E.'. BedM 3499/5. Grey grog, dark grey surfaces, burnish outside. Inside rim surface lost. 3499/6, from the same source, is a very large combed storage jar rim in grey grog with reddish-brown surfaces.

Two curious vessels of A10 form are illustrated by Simco (1973, fig.7, nos.64 & 65). No.64, from Station Road at TL 178 489, is in a dark grainy grog-tempered fabric; the horizontal surface lines are only a faint burnishing. No.65 is of a very similar fabric but unprovenanced.

The two rouletted butt-beakers, form G5-5 (Simco 1973, nos.62, 63), were found in 1905; they are complete, well made, in a smooth buff fabric, too well finished to see the temper.

BedM contains much Roman material from Sandy, and a few odd scraps with grog-tempering including another A1 pedestal base found in 1951, with Roman.

4 BM has a fine cordoned pedestal urn:

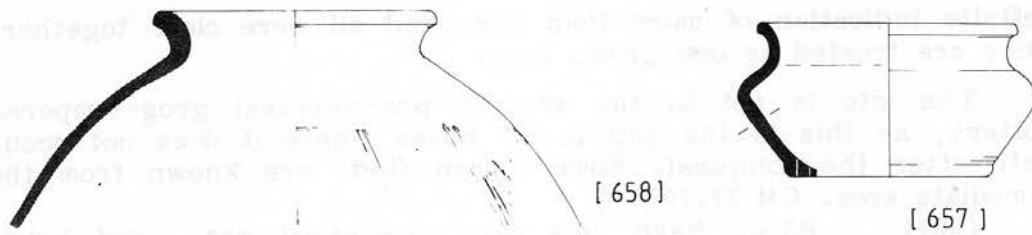
[7] A3. BM 1937/11-11/2. Grey grog, pale inside, patchy grey-orange outside, lightly burnished. Incised 'cordons'; but still a good pot. This was part of a collection of vessels of varying dates given by John Harvey, having been kept at Ickwell Bury (q.v.) house for many years, and apparently found during the building of the Great Northern Railway c.1850. Another possible 'Belgic' piece is the rim of a large storage jar, C6-1.

5 The bowl of D3-3 form illustrated by R.A. Smith (1903-5, 349, fig.6), 'probably from a grave' and apparently associated with an ibex-headed pin, was never part of the BM collections and I have not discovered it (despite Smith's comment, p.350). If the 2:3 scale is correct, it was a very small piece and may not belong here at all; no fabric or colour description is given.

SANDY LODGE (Mx)

TQ 097 937 Zone 7

Locally organised excavations of an early Roman building on the golf course in 1963 included a few interesting grog-tempered vessels in the finds.



[658] B1-7. Thick coarse romanised hard brown grog, pink below hard dark grey surfaces, smoothed on neck and down to groove on outside; lumpy inside. Pattern faint and rubbed away in places; many small body sherds not attachable, some with grooves and pattern: probably more rough shallow horizontal grooves further down pot.

[657] S1. Squat strainer, many small holes poked through from underside before firing. Hard grey grog, salmon pink below smoothed grey surfaces, worn to pink over rim. Slightly romanised in look and feel.

SHENFIELD (E)

TQ 606 949

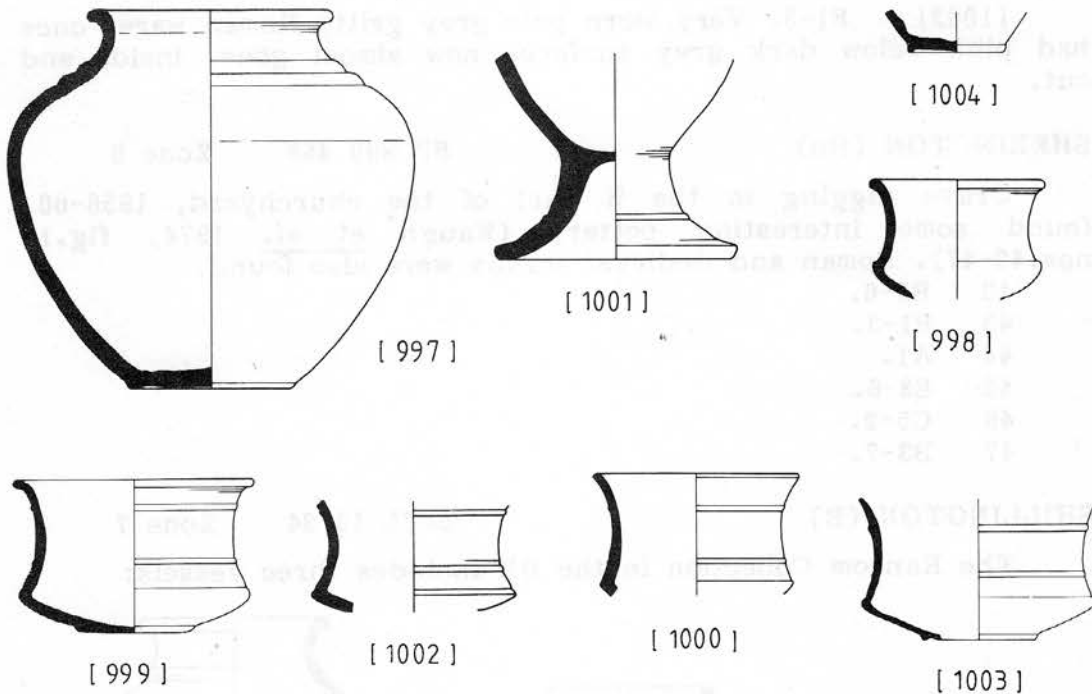


Fig.68: Pottery from Shenfield. 1:4.

A burial found in the garden of 12 Hall Lane, 'in area about 5 x 3 ft', consists of parts of 8 vessels, with a few featureless Roman grey sherds and a late Roman rim. The burial pots are accompanied by cremated bones. The date is undoubtedly post-conquest, for two of the pieces are in Roman fabrics, one is romanised grog, and the pedestal base is typologically well-developed even for the A5 form. It is possible that they represent two burials, one large pot and 3 small ones each, but there is no

definite indication of more than one, and all were close together. They are treated as one group here.

The site is not in the area of pre-conquest grog-tempered pottery, as this is the gap in SW Essex where it does not occur until after the conquest. Some Roman finds are known from the immediate area. CM 37.1966:

[997] B3-4. Hard pale grey romanised grog, red below dark grey surfaces. Not shiny except over rim; vertical tooling below widest diameter.

[1001] A5. Thick grey grog, grey smooth surfaces, very neat. Broken at join of base and body.

[1004] Roman grey, sandy, brown inside, dark grey outside.

[998] E1-4. Coarse thick grey grog, smooth unshiny surfaces.

[999] E1-3. Slightly gritty grey-brown grog, grey-brown surfaces, not shiny or smoothed.

[1002] E1-3. Grey grog, grey-brown surfaces, worn, once dark grey outside.

[1000] E1-3. Hard pale grey grog, smooth dark grey surfaces.

[1003] E1-3. Very worn pale grey gritty Roman ware; once had pink below dark grey surfaces now almost gone, inside and out.

SHERINGTON (Bu)

SP 890 468 Zone 8

Grave digging in the W part of the churchyard, 1956-60, found some interesting pottery (Waugh *et al.* 1974, fig.13 nos.42-47). Roman and medieval scraps were also found.

42 B3-6.

43 E1-3.

44 A1.

45 E3-6.

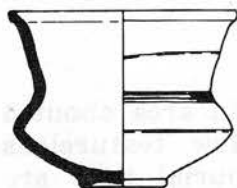
46 C5-2.

47 B3-7.

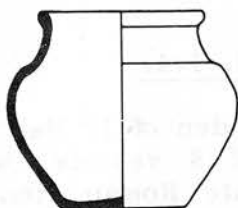
SHILLINGTON (B)

c.TL 13 34 Zone 7

The Ransom Collection in the BM includes three vessels:



[3]



[4]



[5]

[3] E1-1. BM 1915/12-8/17. Brittle brown-grey grog, buff surfaces, partly burnished.

[4] E3-5. BM 1915/12-8/18. Brown-red grog, dark grey surfaces now obscured with a white deposit.

[5] B3-5. BM 1915/12-8/16. Grey grog, worn buff surface and rim, complete.

Holmes (1958-61, 99) mentions two pedestal urns; for one see Pegsdon. A few Ransom Coll. pots in CambM from Shillington are later Roman in date.

SHOEBURY (E)

c.TQ 944 853 Zone 2

Read (1895-6, 40) records the finding of 'Late-Celtic pottery of the same style as that from the graves at Aylesford' in brickearth digging, and more such sherds in the fill of one of at least 3 potters' kilns of basic single-flue updraught construction: although 'there is in reality nothing to connect the fragments with the kiln' (Read 1895-6, 41). Trench (1906-8) noted that many trenches and ditches were visible in brickearth digging in 1887, with finds of many periods.

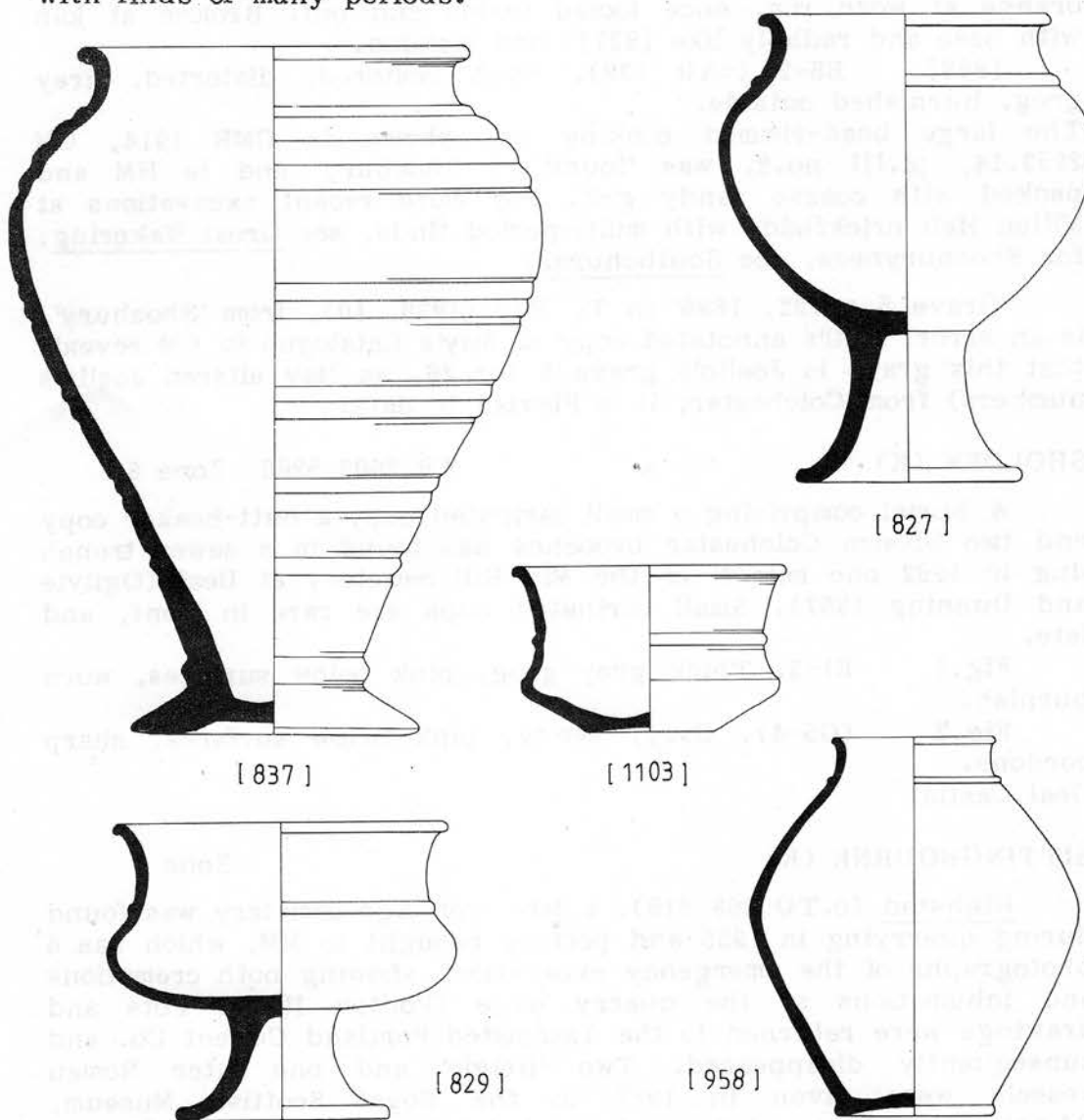


Fig.69: Pottery from Shoebury. 1:4.

Extant now is a burial group of 5 vessels, which were accompanied by a bronze ring, perhaps a handle, and a flint knife (H. Laver 1895-7, 259; 1897). The bronze ring belonged to 'a bronze object, perhaps a tankard' or bucket, which disintegrated.

[837] A3. (All) CM 195.1896 (=AB 134). Hard pale grey grog, pale brown-grey surfaces, very neat cordons, very solid. Smooth but not polished outside. Contains some bones and a lump of fired clay with a wattle groove.

[827] A5 (=AB 136). Very regular and well made, rather gritty grey, probably grog but restored and complete, patchy grey-buff surfaces, smooth but not burnished or tooled; some worn burnish on neck. Broken at join of foot and body, and radially above that, now mended.

[1103] E1-1 (=AB 135). Broken almost exactly in half and restored. Grey grog, dark grey smooth surfaces.

[829] F1-1 (=AB 137). As plain and regular as [827]. Grey-brown soft thick grog with dark grey surfaces, showing orange at worn rim, once tooled inside and out. Broken at join with base and radially like [827], and mended.

[958] B5-2 (=AB 138). Much restored, distorted, grey grog, burnished outside.

The large bead-rimmed cooking pot shown in CMR 1914, CM 2953.14, pl.III no.2, was 'found at Shoebury' and is HM and packed with coarse sandy grit. For more recent excavations at Milton Hall brickfield, with multi-period finds, see Great Wakering; for Shoeburyness, see Southchurch.

'Grave 5 no.22, 1896' in T. May (1930, 10), from 'Shoebury', is an error. Hull's annotated copy of May's Catalogue in CM reveals that this grave is Joslin's grave 5 (or 46, as May altered Joslin's numbers) from Colchester; it is Flavian in date.

SHOLDEN (K)

TR 3609 5260 Zone 6

A burial comprising a small carinated cup, a butt-beaker copy and two bronze Colchester brooches was found in a sewer trench dug in 1962 one mile N of the Mill Hill cemetery at Deal (Ogilvie and Dunning 1967). Small carinated cups are rare in Kent, and late.

Fig.1 E1-3. Thick grey grog, pink below surfaces, worn burnish.

Fig.2 (G5-4). Grey, sandy, pink below surfaces, sharp cordons.

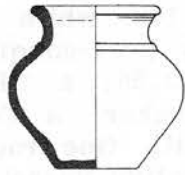
Deal Castle.

SITTINGBOURNE (K)

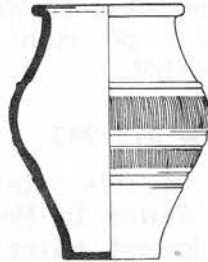
Zone 5

1 Higsted (c.TQ 908 618): a late Iron Age cemetery was found during quarrying in 1955 and pottery brought to MM, which has 6 photographs of the emergency excavation, showing both cremations and inhumations at the quarry edge (Ponton 1955). Pots and drawings were returned to the Associated Portland Cement Co. and subsequently disappeared. Two 'Belgic' and one later Roman vessels were given in 1977 to the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh; MM has photographs and details of these and a fourth, Roman, pot kept by the donor (Kelly 1978, 267). The source of

the later Roman vessel given to the RSM (a dog dish) is probably the same quarry (Jessup 1935, 208-213).



[1166] E3-5. RSM 1978.375. Good grey grog, mended, two spalled or chipped areas on body, patchy brown-grey surfaces, burnished outside.



[1167] (G5-5). RSM 1978.373. Complete except chipped rim, showing pink, and grey core, flint-gritted. Grey-buff inside, brown-grey outside, burnished on neck and inside rim. Flint temper shows very clearly on outer surface, large pieces; cordons and fine vertical rouletting; wheel made.

2 Radfield (TQ 939 628) was the source of many Roman finds in 19th and 20th century quarrying, and a ditch and pit were partly excavated 1968-72 (Baxter and Mills 1978). These were late 1st to 3rd century in date, but a collection of rubbish in shallow depressions over the ditch rim included a bronze brooch 'with a perforated catchplate and stylized but non-functional collar' compared with one from Swarling (Bushe-Fox 1925, pl.15, 16d); and (in a separate hollow) a HM vessel in 'Belgic' tradition (Baxter and Mills 1978, fig.2 no.7). A Class II potin coin was nearby, and a 1st century BC British coin was in the deposits over the ditch (Baxter 1974). It seems that this was a re-deposit of material accumulated elsewhere.

Baxter and Mills 1978 fig.2: the pit, nos.1-6, 8-10, 14 and 15, includes mostly late 1st century AD Roman forms; no.4 (C7-3) and no.6 (D1-1) illustrate the long survival of these 'Belgic' forms. No.7, in a shallow depression by itself on the edge of the ditch, is C3 in form.

SKELETON GREEN see BRAUGHING

SNAILWELL (B)

TL 645 675

A late outlier of the rich 'Welwyn' type burials, hurriedly excavated in one day when cut by a pipe-line trench (Lethbridge 1953). In the sub-rectangular grave pit with the cremation were wood and iron remains with bronze plating and studs, from a box

or couch, and a varied range of grave goods (see Stead 1967, 54; Peacock 1971, 183; 1974, 241).

The pottery comprised: two Cam.140 white jugs; three Cam.163 jugs; a TR Cam.8 platter, 'mainly post-conquest' (Hawkes and Hull 1947, 219); two TN cups, Cam.56; a TR pedestalled beaker, Cam.74A; a TR Cam.112 butt-beaker; a Cam.119 butt-beaker in a hard grey Roman fabric, with fine rouletting on a patchy grey-buff outer surface; and two native vessels: fig.3:

53.18 E1-2. Brown, burnished.

53.19 E3-3. Grey, and with the late girth groove that indicates a probably post-conquest date.

Snailwell is most likely of Claudian date; both Snailwell and Elveden (q.v.) are along the route of the Icknield Way, providing an easy link with the main distribution of rich pre-conquest burials, but not themselves part of it. CambM.

SNARGATE (K)

TQ 979 283

No proper excavation was possible of this site: at least 15 pots were recovered from Five Watering Sewer in March 1966 and early 1968, from a spot only visible at lowest water level, above peat (Kelly 1968). The pots were returned to the owner except for 3 pieces in MM. The site is the most south-easterly of known grog-tempered 'Belgic' pottery, being on the edge of Romney Marsh.

1 B2-4.

2 C1-4. Red pale burnt grog. MM.

3 C1-2.

4-6 C2-3.

7 B2-5.

8 B5-5.

9 B2-1.

10 B2-1. Very thin, worn, buff and burnt. Possibly grog. MM.

11 B2-1. Very worn, grey, probably grog, burnished. MM.

12 B2-1.

13-5 sherds only.

SOUTH BENFLEET (E)

TQ 806 872 Zone 2

A group of vessels and sherds, possibly from a burial, was found in 1936 on Salvation Army land near Hadleigh (CMR 1937, 14; pl.V, 2). The collection is mixed: all CM 1060.1936.

[124] B3-6. Softish brittle brown-grey grog, mostly worn on surface to buff, some grey very smooth surface left near top.

[1071] E2-2. CMR 1937 pl.V no.2 Grey-brown grog, buff below grey surfaces, flaking off heavily. Was neatly made but now very worn.

[52] A1. Coarse HM grey, white grits, red-brown rough surfaces, white grits protruding.

[53] D2-4. Thick and coarse, probably wheel-made, dark burnt brown fabric, grog, with small white grits, patchy brown surfaces, burnished black on neck.

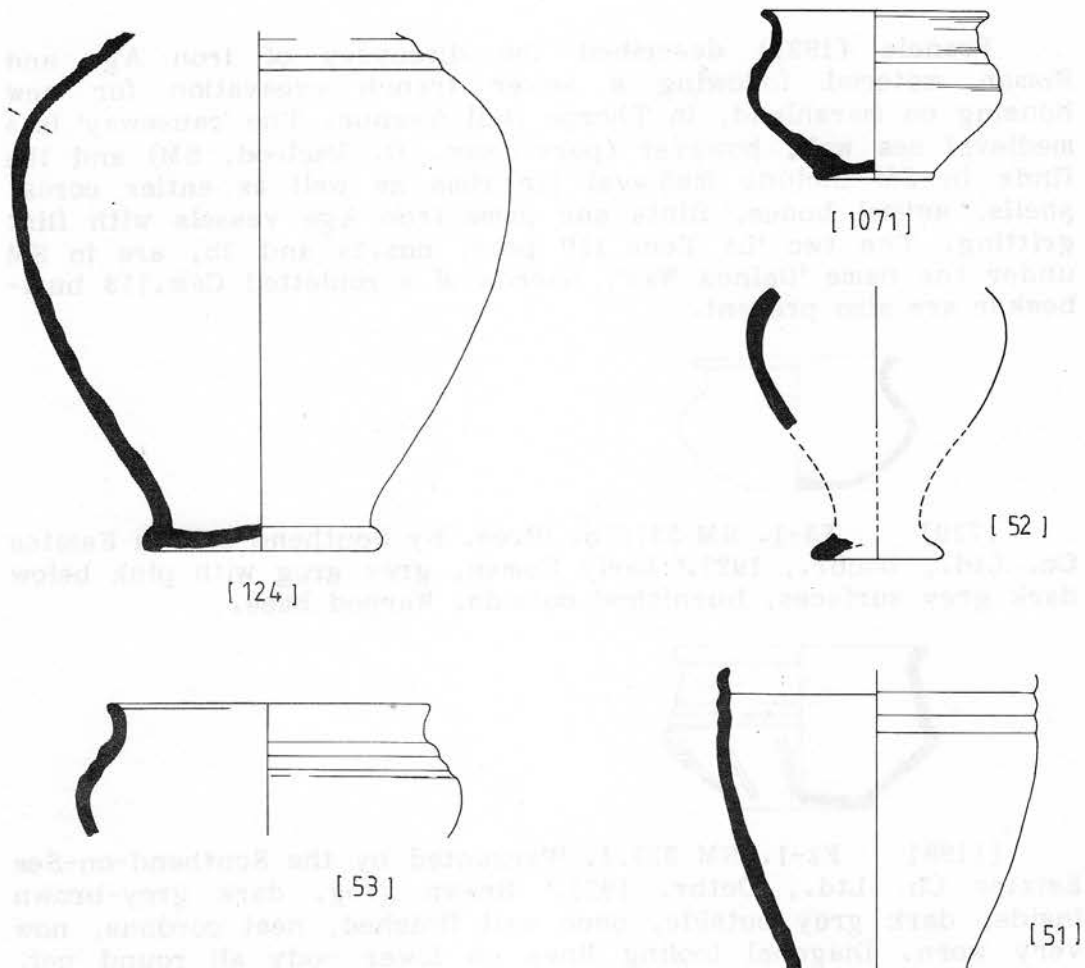


Fig.70: Pottery from South Benfleet. 1:4.

[51] not in series. Brown-grey grog, tooled dark grey surfaces, especially outside; some grits; brown-red just beneath surface.

The rest comprises sherds, nearly all Roman, with one Roman rim and a few bases; one plain base is of grey grog with orange surface. The Roman sherds are presumably a separate deposit that has become mixed up with the more substantial pieces, which are 'Belgic'.

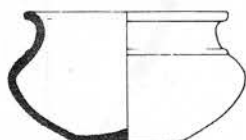
W. Rodwell (1970) gives a list of more recent finds, mostly Roman, and including a pedestal urn of the later 1st century AD. A sherd from a Dressel I amphora is known (Drury and Rodwell 1973, 94; W. Rodwell 1976a, 318; 1976b, 259), found in 1971 when the bridge to Canvey Island was put in, and from a Red Hill, not necessarily a burial.

SOUTHCHURCH (E)

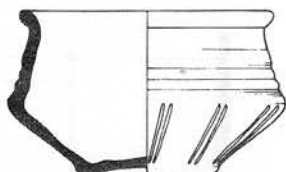
TQ 914 861 Zone 2

'Celtic pottery' from Southchurch was donated to CM by Henry Laver (VCH 1903; CMR 1905, nos.703-5) but the description is not to be equated with 'Belgic'.

Francis (1931) described the discovery of Iron Age and Roman material following a sewer trench excavation for new housing on marshland, in Thorpe Hall Avenue. The 'causeway' is a medieval sea wall, however (pers.comm. D. Macleod, SM) and the finds in SM include medieval jar rims as well as antler cores, shells, animal bones, flints and some Iron Age vessels with flint gritting. The two 'La Tene III' pots, nos.2a and 2b, are in SM under the name 'Daines Way'; sherds of a rouletted Cam.113 butt-beaker are also present.



[720] E3-1. SM 331/1b. 'Pres. by Southend-on-Sea Estates Co. Ltd., Decbr., 1927.' Early Roman, grey grog with pink below dark grey surfaces, burnished outside. Warped base.



[1198] E2-1. SM 333/1. 'Presented by the Southend-on-Sea Estates Co. Ltd., Octbr. 1927.' Brown grog, dark grey-brown inside, dark grey outside, once well finished, neat cordons, now very worn. Diagonal tooling lines on lower body all round pot, shallow.