

Gazetteer - Wenden Ambo (E) to Writtle (E)

WENDENS AMBO (E)

?c.TL 517 376 Zone 7

1 The Essex Naturalist (16, 1910, 186) recorded a walk from Wenden Ambo to Audley End: 'passing under the viaduct of the GER main line, the party noticed a pit worked in the recent or post-glacial valley-gravels. These have yielded, within recent years, Bronze Age, Late-Celtic, and Romano-British burials.' This is the site noted by Fox (1923, 98); the two pots shown by Welsford and Rudsdale (n.d., 16) which according to Fox are in SWM, have not been found.

3 D2-4.

18 D2-1.

(Welsford and Rudsdale's numbers.)

2 VCH (1963, 199) reported some 1st century sherds from near the 'villa' (TL 506 359, Chinnell Lane); 'one large rim is possibly Belgic; all the rest show close Belgic affinity, and the one recognisable form is Cam.160', a jug.

3 An Iron Age settlement including a round house and a large late Iron Age/early Roman building has recently been excavated on the M11 route 100m SE of the 'villa' at TL 507 360 (Britannia 6, 1975, 265; Robertson 1976, 89; Halstead, Hodder and Jones 1978). No pottery has been published.

WESTBERE (K)

Zone 5

Several Roman burials including samian were found at 'Oaklands', Somers or Staines Hill, Westbere, during building in 1881; the platter shown was found, apparently at c.TR 187 610, 'inverted over a small heap of calcined human bones, chiefly those of the skull, upon which had been placed a bronze harp-shaped fibula' (Payne 1883, 319). Fragments of bone now rest on the platter; the brooch is an ordinary Colchester with pierced catchplate, length 5.5 cms (BM 1883/12-13/567).



[1529] G1-4. BM 1883/12-13/568, Payne Coll. Restored, warped, never symmetrical. Grey-brown grog, neatly detailed, traces of black burnish over rim.

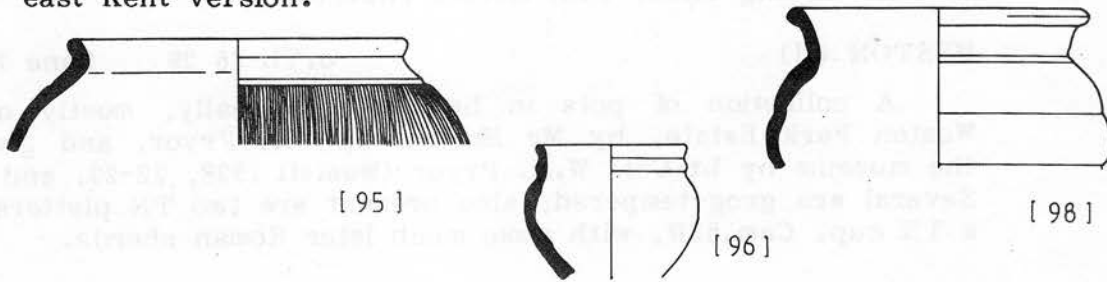
WESTGATE (K)

c.TR 32 70 Zone 5

Ward-Perkins' additional list of pedestal urns (1944) includes information from J.P.T. Burchell of sherds found with Claudian pottery in a pit on the cliffs here in 1938 (Fisher 1938, 147). It may be possible to identify these with 'Belgic sherds from burials' found at 53 Sea Road, Westgate (RM 9201); but these are not grog-tempered and comprise plain Iron Age rims, many small body sherds, one flint-gritted, and one sherd with fine combing lines.

'Belgic sherds etc. from trench in Church Meadow'. Littlebourne Court, Westgate (RM 8779) include three grog-

tempered vessels, one hard romanised rim, a large combed storage jar base without grog, and animal bones, oyster shells, plaster and post-medieval tile. The grog is the characteristic very hard east Kent version.



- [95] C4. Hard blue-grey grog, blackish surface.
 [96] S5. Brown, burnished.
 [98] D2-1. Grey grog with brown surfaces.

None of these should date much before the conquest period.

WEST MERSEA (E)

TM 022 129 Zone 1

A burial comprising cremated bone and 4 pots was found at 42 Fairhaven Avenue in 1979 during excavation for a garage foundation (I.M. Thompson forthcoming). It is interesting as it is the only known instance of a true A2 pedestal urn with a copy of a Gallo-Belgic form.

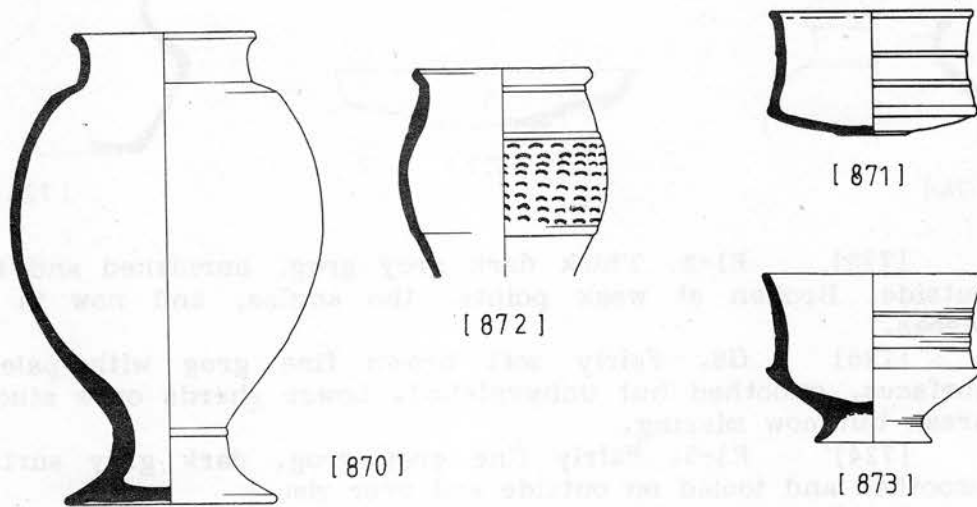


Fig.82: Pottery from West Mersea. 1:4.

[870] A2. Rather gritty grey-brown soft grog, fine inclusions, dark grey surfaces, smooth outside, worn to pink at rim and foot.

[872] G5-3. Gritty grey-brown grog, sandier than the others, rouletted decoration. Once tooled above and below decorated zone, not now shiny.

[871] E1-2. Slightly gritty soft grey-brown grog, pink below grey-brown surfaces, burnished outside to dark grey.

[873] F3-4. Thick soft and very friable dark grey slightly gritty grog, dark grey surfaces.

The pottery is in CM but will eventually go to Mersea Museum, where a Dressel IB amphora from the island is already held. Mersea has interesting and unusual Roman burials, and a large Roman building under West Mersea church.

WESTON (H)

c.TL 26 29 Zone 7

A collection of pots in LeM, found locally, mostly on the Weston Park Estate, by Mr Marlborough R. Pryor, and given to the museum by Lt-Col. W.M. Pryor (Westell 1928, 22-23, and list). Several are grog-tempered; also present are two TN platters, and a TR cup, Cam.53B, with some much later Roman sherds.

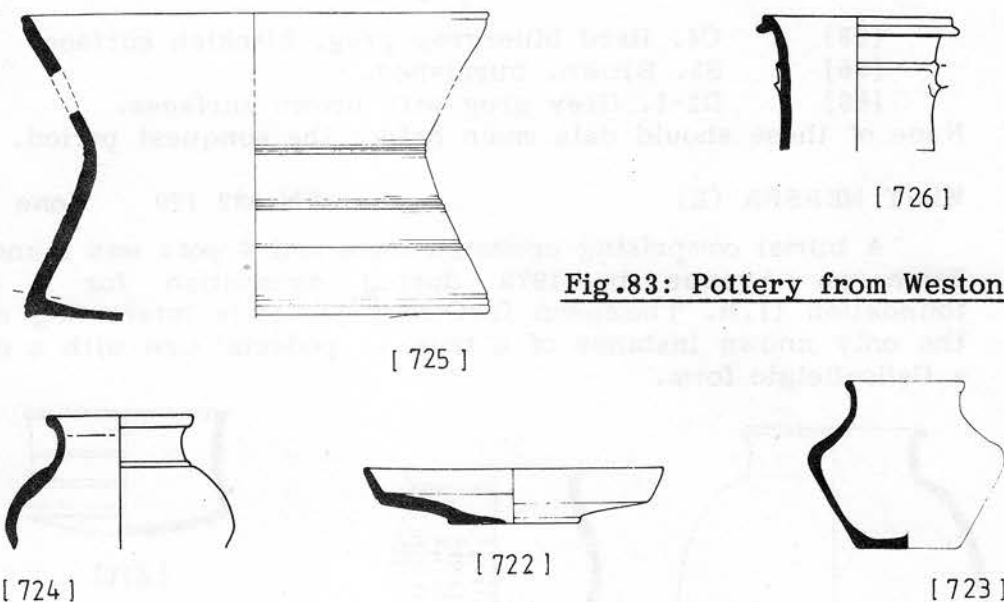


Fig.83: Pottery from Weston. 1:4

[725] E1-2. Thick dark grey grog, burnished and tooled outside. Broken at weak points, the angles, and now in small pieces.

[726] G6. Fairly soft brown fine grog with pale red surfaces, smoothed but unburnished. Lower sherds once stuck on break but now missing.

[724] E3-5. Fairly fine grey grog, dark grey surfaces, smoothed and tooled on outside and over rim.

[722] G1-1. Grey grog, dark red inside, tooled, and worn red-grey outside. Similar to Prae Wood fabric.

[723] E3-5. Fairly coarse brown-grey grog, smoothed grey-buff inside, worn lumpy pinkish-grey outside, rough.

WHEATHAMPSTEAD (H)

TL 186 133 Zone 7

I have reconsidered this site and its potential as a settlement of 1st century BC date (I.M. Thompson 1979), including hitherto unpublished artefacts and photographs. Munby (1977, 84-5) notes that the area was still very wooded during the English settlement. It will be interesting to see whether J. Hunn's survey of the area finds more substantial earthworks connecting Wheathampstead with the Prae Wood-Gorhambury complex (Hunn 1980).

N of the hill fort, across the river, an area of ditches was found during road construction (C. Saunders 1975, 40; aerial photograph in Havercroft 1977). Pottery rescued by VerM staff is closer to Prae Wood types than those of Wheathampstead. A large area is scheduled for gravel extraction but there is no immediate threat.

The Wheathampstead types are:

(i) Wheeler & Wheeler (1936):

- 1 A6.
- 2,3 B2-4.
- 4 A6.
- 5,6 not in series.
- 7 F3-4.
- 8 B2-3.
- 9 D1-2.
- 10 D1-1.
- 11-2 D2-4.
- 13 B2-4.
- 14-5 C7-1.
- 16 C6-1.
- 17-9 C8-1.
- 20 B1-2.
- 21 C1-4.
- 22 C1-2.
- 23-5 C6-1.

(ii) I.M. Thompson (1979, with descriptions):

- 1 [250] B3-1.
- 2 [258] C7-1.
- 3 [272] C6-1.
- 4 [273] C6-1.
- 5 [254] C7-1.
- 6 [253] C7-1.
- 7 [261] B1-1.
- 8 [259] C7-1.
- 9 [271] C8-1.
- 10 [256] B1-4.
- 11 [249] C7-1.
- 12 [267] B1-4.
- 13 [354] -
- 14 [359] B1-1.
- 15 [355] B3-1.
- 16 [356] C8-1.
- 17 [358] B1-1.
- 18 [357] B1-1.
- 19 [274] C6-1.
- 20 [539] C8-1.
- 21 [367] B2-1.
- 22 [360] -
- 23 [252] B1-1.
- 24 [255] C8-1.
- 25 [366] C3.
- 26 [251] B1-1.
- 27 [264] B2-2.
- 28 [362] C8-1.

| | | |
|----|-------|-------|
| 29 | [361] | C1-4. |
| 30 | [269] | B3-1. |
| 31 | [270] | B3-1. |
| 32 | [368] | C6-1. |
| 33 | [365] | B1-1. |
| 34 | [263] | - |
| 35 | [266] | C6-1. |
| 36 | [262] | C7-1. |
| 37 | [268] | C7-1. |
| 38 | [265] | B2-1. |
| 39 | [536] | C7-1. |
| 40 | [257] | C8-1. |
| 41 | [364] | C2-3. |
| 42 | [363] | - |
| 43 | [260] | - |

WHITE NOTLEY (E)

TL 7845 1815 (1954 finds)

A bowl with cordons on the shoulder is sketched in W. Field et al. (1863, 240). It was found in 1854 at 'Fambridge Farm' by ditchers, with sherds and bones. Nine to eleven vessels were found; this one was of 'dark red ware'. The bones were apparently human, but included a horse tooth; the finds are now lost.

Trenches dug on a hilltop SW of the church in 1954 found ditches containing 1st century pottery and bones. The pots included TN and TR, a mica-gilt Cam.41, a Cam.113 butt-beaker, and Claudian pots, tiles, flints, etc. (JRS 1955, 137; VCH 1963, 163). The material is in CM and contains nothing grog-tempered.

WHITTLESFORD (C)

c.TL 47 48

The plain pedestal urn mentioned by Fox (1923, 90) and Hawkes and Dunning (1930, 325) is a plain A1 form, grey-buff, complete, and not grog-tempered. CambM Z.11520.

WICKFORD (E)

TQ 762 937 Zone 1/2

Excavations at Beauchamps Farm found a farmstead that lasted from the early 1st century AD to the late 4th century AD (W. Rodwell 1966b, 1967b). Only interim reports have been published (e.g. Britannia 1, 1970, 291); the pits, ditches, postholes and floors have produced 'Belgic', Gallo-Belgic and samian wares, sherds of Spanish amphorae (W. Rodwell 1976a, 322), potin coins (D.F. Allen 1971), graffiti jars (Jones 1972) and traces of a rectangular Iron Age building (K. Rodwell 1979, 330). Below the villa out-buildings were an isolated 1st century cremation in a single urn, and an Iron Age omphalos bowl (W. Rodwell 1970; see also Elsdon 1975, 75 & 78). A gold 'horse' coin of Cunobelinus was found at Beauchamps in 1938 and two Cunobelinus bronze coins have come from the excavations. W. Rodwell 1976a fig.16, nos.17 & 25, are from the excavations:

- 17 C8-1.
- 25 C6-1.

More ditches with pottery and brooches have recently been excavated by the Billericay Archaeological Society (pers.comm. M. Eddy, Co. Unit).

WICKHAM BISHOPS (E)

TL 833 122 Zone 1

Four pots were found in trench-digging in 1915 at Glebe Farm, Mope Lane (CMR 1916-18). Birchall (1965) treated them as a grave-group, but this is not claimed in the CM Register:

CM 3481-4.1916. July 11, 1916, Col. Harry Cooper... Rectory House, Wickham Bishops.

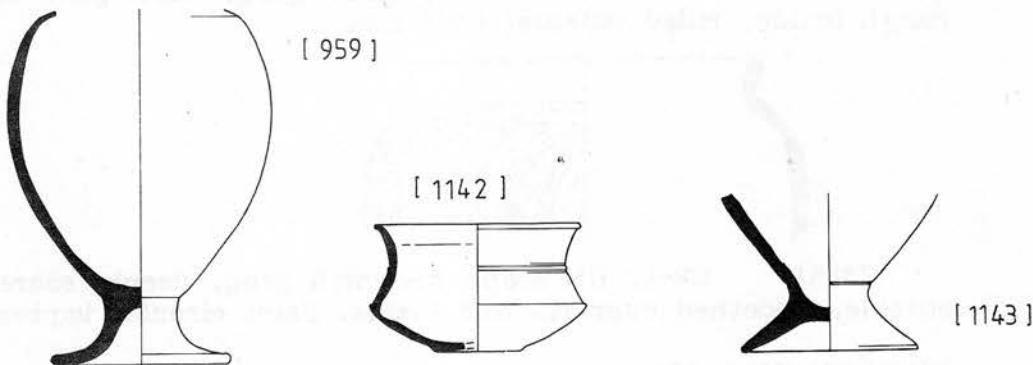
3481 Found on the Glebe Farm, Wickham Bishops.

3482 Found with 3481.

3483 Found with preceding on Glebe Farm... large pot with bones and small pot of hard grey ware... and carinated shoulder. Found with above.

3484 'Portion of large cinerary pot of polished brown ware with beaded base. Portion of foot of a pedestalled vase; fragments of rims, etc. All found with above on Glebe Farm, Wickham Bishops, September 1915. All the above were found during Trench digging by the -.'

In fact the small pot 3483.1916, AB 169, is most definitely Roman, dark grey matt fabric with a paler grey sandwich and rough buff surface. Sherds marked 3484.1916 also include some Roman pieces. From the register it seems that more than one burial is represented.



[959] A5. CM 3481.1916 (=AB 168). Hard dark grey grog, brown below grey surfaces; much restored, especially the foot: base inside except for top is plaster.

[1142] E1-1. CM 3482.1916 (=AB 167). Restored, grey grog with buff inside, dark grey burnished outside, very chipped rim. The burnish has changed the colour as can be seen over rim.

[1143] A4. CM 3484.1916. This is the 'portion of foot of a pedestalled vase'. Thick grey grog, brown below grey surfaces, not burnished.

AB 170, the large plain body, is not re-drawn.

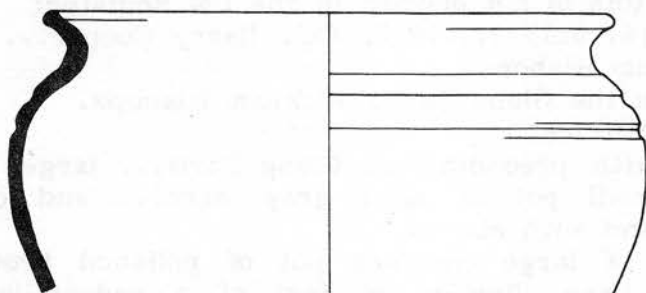
Settlement evidence was found nearby at TL 833 126 by Mr A.H. Macmurdo in 1927 (CM 7334.1927): the sherds included two Roman storage jar rims, a shell-tempered early Roman thickened-rim jar, and some grog-tempered everted rims and small cordoned sherds, with no recognisable form, and one micaceous white sherd with a slight carination. They seem to be

contemporary with the burial pots (see Wheeler 1932a, 37). A plan of the area of these finds is shown in C. Couchman 1976, 163.

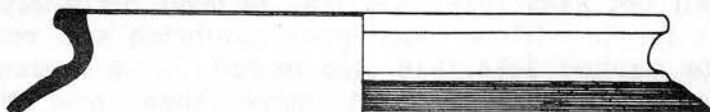
WIDDINGTON (E)

c.TL 538 315 Zone 7

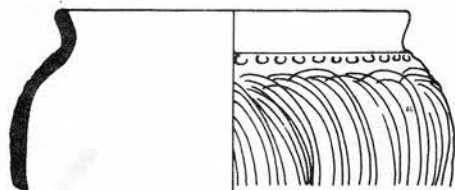
A box of finds in SWM includes a few flints, Iron Age sherds, and some grog-tempered pieces, mostly combed storage jar sherds.



[204] D2-2. Smooth grey grog, reddish-grey smoothed surfaces.



[206] C6-1. Hard sandy grey grog, dark grey surfaces, rough inside, rilled outside; buff rim.



[205] C8-1. HM soapy brownish grog, deeply scored black outside, smoothed over rim and inside. Faint circular impressions.

WILBURY HILL (H)

TL 202 325 Zone 7

A 7-acre single-rampart hill fort on the Chiltern ridge, on the Icknield Way and guarding the Baldock gap, the site is now badly damaged by quarrying. The 1929 excavations (Westell & Applebaum 1933, 247; Applebaum 1949, with plan) found hearths and pits, and much pottery is extant, but Iron Age, 'Belgic' and Roman has all been mixed together and is essentially unstratified. A small excavation at TL 212 326 in 1959 produced more typical pottery (Moss-Eccardt 1964, with rough plan of the whole site and excavations); a small circular feature excavated S of the hill fort in 1974 before levelling has not been fully published (Moss-Eccardt 1976).

A large proportion of the pottery is Iron Age, as one might expect. Applebaum noted 'Belgic' wares from the road through the South Gate, and from 3 pits, where it was accompanied by Iron Age pottery, and also from 'pavements' over Pit 3 etc. The

defences are associated exclusively with Iron Age pottery. The material in LeM comprises Iron Age, flint-gritted, shell-tempered, and some 'Belgic': the 'Belgic', while typical enough in form, is only rarely grog-tempered and nearly always tempered with small white grits, often everted jar rims in a brown fabric with orange below dark grey surfaces. The 1959 pottery is very similar, all in very small pieces and largely flint-gritted and of non-'Belgic' Iron Age forms. It includes a small brown sandy pedestal base of A1 form (Moss-Eccardt 1964, figs.4 & 5, especially no.67).

If this pottery had not all been mixed together in storage it might have shed light on local fabric developments.

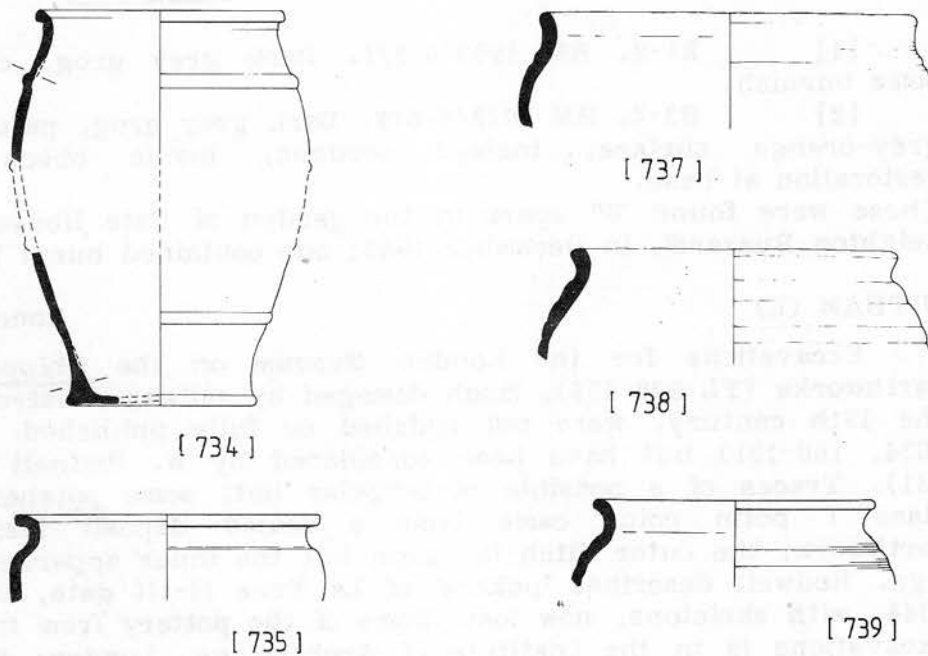


Fig.84: Pottery from Wilbury Hill. 1:4.

[734] G5-4. Apparently Westell and Applebaum 1933, pl.IX, 29. Grey fairly coarse grog, slightly pink below grey surfaces, worn inside, tooled and very smooth outside but not shiny.

[737] B2-1. HM, dense grey apparently grog, black surfaces, burnished outside and over rim.

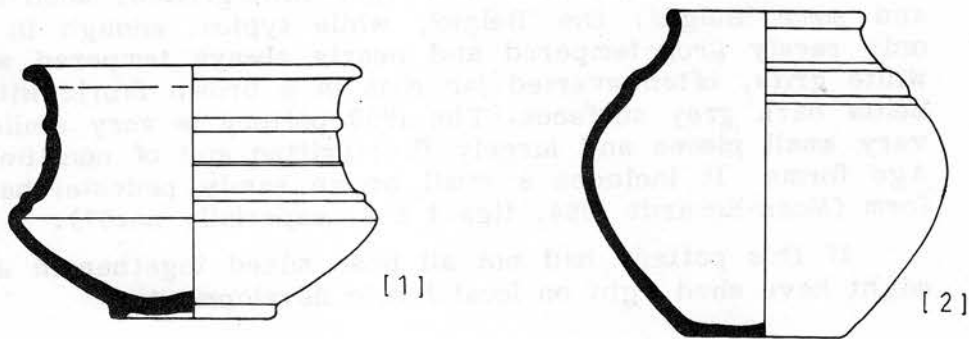
[738] B2-1. Westell and Applebaum 1933, pl.IX, 28. HM, brown-grey grog, black burnished outside.

[735] B1-6. ?1959. Dark grey grog with pale red surfaces, red grog showing on inside, smooth outside, burnished on neck to darker red. Not quite properly lid-seated; a very common form at Prae Wood.

[739] B2-1. Black with white grits, wheel-made, dark grey inside, patchy red-grey burnished outside.

WING (Bu)

c.SP 882 225 Zone 7



[1] E1-2. BM 1933/6-5/1. Dark grey grog, complete, some burnish.

[2] B3-4. BM 1933/6-5/2. Dark grey grog, patchy dark grey-orange surface, incised cordons, inside obscured by restoration at base.

These were found '6" apart in the garden of Gate House, Wing, Leighton Buzzard', in December 1932; one contained burnt bones.

WITHAM (E)

Zone 1

1 Excavations for the London Museum on the Chipping Hill earthworks (TL 820 152), much damaged by railway construction in the 19th century, were not finished or fully published (Cottrill 1934, 190-191) but have been considered by W. Rodwell (1976b, 331). Traces of a possible rectangular hut, some potsherds and class I potin coins came from a sealed deposit inside the earthwork; the outer ditch is Saxon but the inner apparently Iron Age. Rodwell describes 'pokers' of La Tene II-III date, found in 1844, with skeletons, now lost. Some of the pottery from the 1930s excavations is in the Institute of Archaeology, London; the pots are HM and Iron Age, with the possible exception of no.1 which has not been found (see W. Rodwell 1976b, 43, and note 2).

2 Ivy Chimneys (TL 811 136) is a site with late Iron Age and much Roman material, dug but not published by the Witham Archaeological Research Group 1966-1973 and now being extensively examined by the County Unit. Traces of a late Iron Age ditch and hut circle were found in a trial trench by the local group but the area cleared was small (plan in Turner 1978, fig.2; also Britannia 11, 1980, 378, and fig.14). It was apparently a religious site in the Roman period. Three pots in ChM found at Ivy Chimneys in 1849 are 1st century Roman; recent work has found at least some grog-tempered pottery.

WOOTTON (B)

TL 00 45 Zone 7

Kennett (1970) shows a small 'Iron Age' bowl of 'black surfaced ware' of type E3-1 (not seen). It was presented to BedM (69/B 137) in 1969 as part of a group with a buff ring-necked flagon and a hard thin grey ware jar base, and need not be 'Belgic'.

WRITTLE (E)

TL 659 072 Zone 1

A scatter of pottery collected in 1976 from the site of 19th century finds of Roman material in boulder-clay pits NW of Sturgeon's Farm included 'Belgic' to 4th century types, as well as roof tiles (W. Rodwell 1976c, 244). The sherds are grey, mostly Roman, with 2 or 3 small grey grog-tempered rim scraps. ChM 1978.129.