

St Stephen's Palisade Trench is apparently the 'terminal palisade B'. This produced everted rims, rilled sherds and a base, all dark grey grog. (See fig.120).

Unstratified vessels from Prae Wood (fig.119):

- 8 (C5-2) [374], dark grey, heavily vesiculated, rough.
 9 C5-3 [370], hard dark brown grog, red below patchy hard tooled dark grey surfaces.
 10 (C7-1) [371], hard dark grey gritty, very well modelled, lumpy surfaces.
 11 D1-1 [441], coarse brown grog, patchy grey inside, buff-grey outside, once burnished.
 12 G2-3 [375], dark brown grog, pale orange-buff surfaces, now soft and worn, flaking. Once burnished.
 13 G6 [372], hard pale grey grog, worn brown inside, reddish outside; no burnish.
 14 G5-1 [538], dark grey grog, restored.

Fig.119a: [373], S4. Hard pale grey grog, some red grog on roughish surfaces, redder patch on outer rim.

Conclusions

The pottery groups above provide a good range of the forms and fabrics found at Prae Wood, and have proved to have their own characteristics that distinguish this site from the other main Herts. centres of Welwyn and Braughing. Several homogeneous native ditch groups make up the total, but other parts of the site are only scantily represented. What is the actual date of the main ditches, and is the palisade trench A contemporary with the inner ditch as Wheeler thought? What was the function of the various ditches? As a whole the site appears now to be another of the many settlement sites of the period represented by a network of ditches and their fills, yet the real nature of the main ditches is unknown. Large areas remain unexplored; and the site may be part of a still larger system (see Hunn 1980).