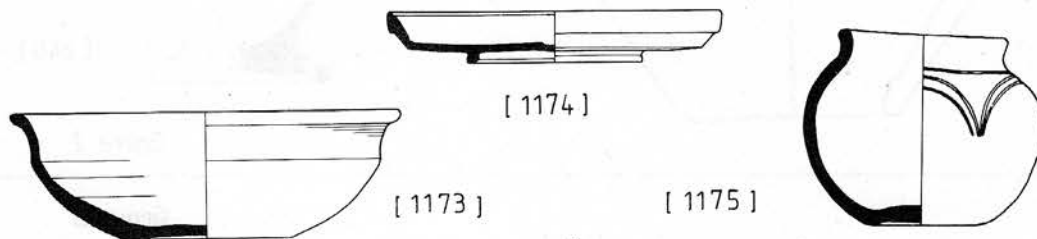


Gazetteer - Maidstone (K) to Murston (K)

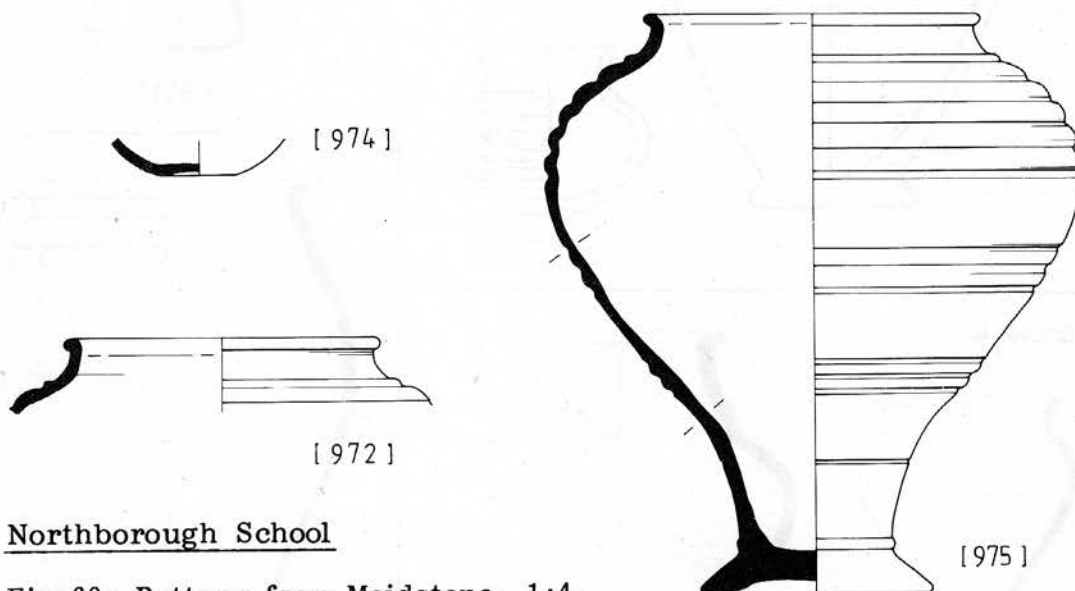
MAIDSTONE (K)

TQ 760 560 & area Zone 4/5

Four separate discoveries of late Iron Age pottery have been made in the modern town; the Medway valley was intensely occupied in the pre-conquest period.



Cherry Orchard Way



Northborough School

Fig.60: Pottery from Maidstone. 1:4.

1 Haynes Garage, Ashford Road (TQ 768 558; Kelly 1963b, fig.16): a cremation with a pedestal urn (A3) and a smaller jar (B2-4), both in the local greensand fabric, and the spring of an iron brooch. MM 32.1963.

2 Cherry Orchard Way (TQ 738 552). 'Found in making the new Road adjoining the Council school, Tunbridge Rd., Maidstone, 1920.' If these three vessels comprise a single group, it is a very singular one, since each represents a different potting tradition. MM 24.1920.

[1174] Cam.7, stamped ODOI. TN, surfaces very worn; radial band of rouletting.

[1173] (G2-3). Flint-gritted, wheel-made, patchy dark grey-orange, untreated inside, smoothed outside. Much flint.

[1175] S3. HM, complete but for tiny rim chip showing black core; grog shows on surface and base where worn. Patchy dark grey-buff outside, smoothed, and over rim, dark grey matt inside, irregular shallow incised decoration.

3 Northborough School, Peel Street. Ditches found in an ARP trench included an interesting collection of 'Belgic' pottery, some grog-tempered (Fisher 1940, xlv). MM 30.1939.

[975] A3. Reconstructed drawing from many pieces, but accurate: a splendid pot, good softish grey grog, very neat with strong precise cordons, dark grey-black 'wash' inside, smooth dark grey outside.

[974] (S3). Brown-grey grog, buff inside, dark grey worn to patchy buff outside.

[972] B3-1. Good grey-brown grog, worn outside showing red-brown grog inclusions.

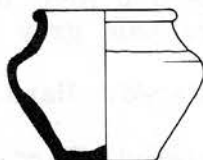
Also grog-tempered are some plain body sherds, two thick grey combed sherds, and a plain base; with a large sherd in the local greensand fabric, some Roman storage jar rims and some other Roman pieces.

4 Scrubbs Lane, found 12 Feb. 1889, in MM but without accession number: a very coarse HM gritty bead-rim jar, complete, no grog, with some coarse sherds, animal bones, and a piece of quern.

MANSTON (K)

TR 342 677 Zone 5

A 'Belgic shouldered urn with rolled rim', found on Vincent Farm, Thanet, in 1944, is described but not illustrated by Jessup (1947, 109-110). It is now in the Broadstairs and St Peters Archaeological Society collections on loan to the PCM, Birchington.



[1523] E3-1. Inv.no.M74. Coarse softish dark grey, grog, worn dark grey-buff surfaces, once tooled outside.

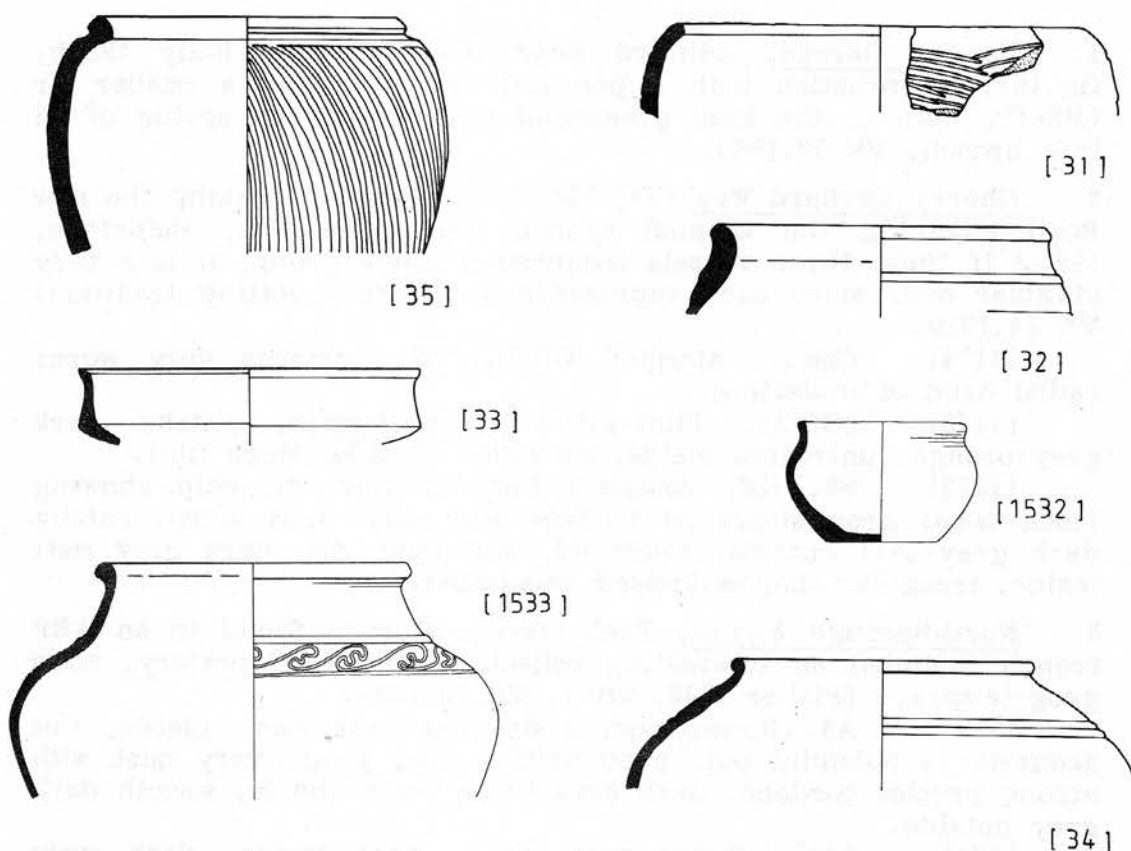


Fig.61: Pottery from Margate. 1:4.

MARGATE (K)

TR 350 700

Zone 5

1 The BM has a quantity of pottery collected by Dr Arthur Rowe chiefly from a villa site at new municipal tennis courts in Tivoli Park Avenue (JRS 14, 1924, 240; Rowe 1925, 164; VCH 1932, 161): much of the Rowe Collection is Roman but there is some Iron Age, often of 'Belgic' form and very hard, grog or grit tempered, and typical of E Kent pottery as at Faversham and Canterbury. BM 1926/10-19/1-53; nos.2-26 are from the villa site, none of them relevant here. The 'Belgic' pieces are merely 'from Margate', but also apparently from the 'two Roman and two Keltic horizons' dug by Rowe at Tivoli Park.

As well as those illustrated here, there are some coarse combed grog-tempered body sherds, and a lot of very hard gritty sherds with stamped and incised curvilinear decoration (not in Elsdon 1975), including the vessel illustrated by Rowe (1925).

[35] C1-1. BM unregistered. Hard grey-brown grog, rough surfaces, burnished over rim. The hard E Kent fabric.

[33] G1-3. BM unregistered. Hard pale grey grog, dark grey surfaces, red at rim.

[31] C3. BM 1926/10-19 unregistered. Hard pale grey grog, patchy grey-buff surfaces.

[32] B3-2. BM 1926/10-19 unregistered. Hard grey grog, dark grey surfaces, smoothed.

[1532] E3-4. BM 1926/10-19/42. 'Upper Celtic. Site of Roman house. Jan.1925. Restored by Axtell.' HM, neat, much restored, patchy dark brown-orange, grey inside; hard and probably grog-tempered.

[1533] B1-4. BM 1926/10-19/45. 'Extreme base of Celtic; found in top of yellow brick-earth... Restored by Axtell Dec.1924.' Much restored; hard, grey grog, pale yellow-red surfaces, smooth and well made, shallow tooled decoration. The decoration related this pot to the many Margate pieces, not grog-tempered, with curvilinear decoration.

[34] B5-5. BM 1926/10-19 unregistered. Buff-grey coarse grog, smoothed grey-brown surfaces.

The combed bead-rim vessel illustrated in Hawkes and Dunning (1930, fig.28 no.6) is of C1-1 form, and is of the very hard grey grog used for these jars in E Kent: it is neatly made, with patchy grey surfaces and neat shallow combing. BM 1926/10-19/46.

A note in the Register reads 'Rowe dug a cemetery at Margate', and the labels on some of the vessels seem to relate to some sort of stratification. Documents relating to Dr Rowe's collection were said to be in Margate Museum, with 'other materials'; the museum has closed.

2 Ditches and pottery are known from beneath a villa site at Drapers Mill (Surrell 1966).

MEREWORTH PARK (K)

c.TQ 668 533 Zone 4

Objects of various dates were turned up here by workmen in the park near the Castle in 1855, and more systematic excavation the following year found traces of a Roman building and some 'Saxon pots' (Kemble 1856). The pottery now in MM includes some that is grog-tempered; other sherds are earlier Iron Age, Roman and medieval; there is the rim of a Hofheim flagon, Cam.161. Not accessioned.

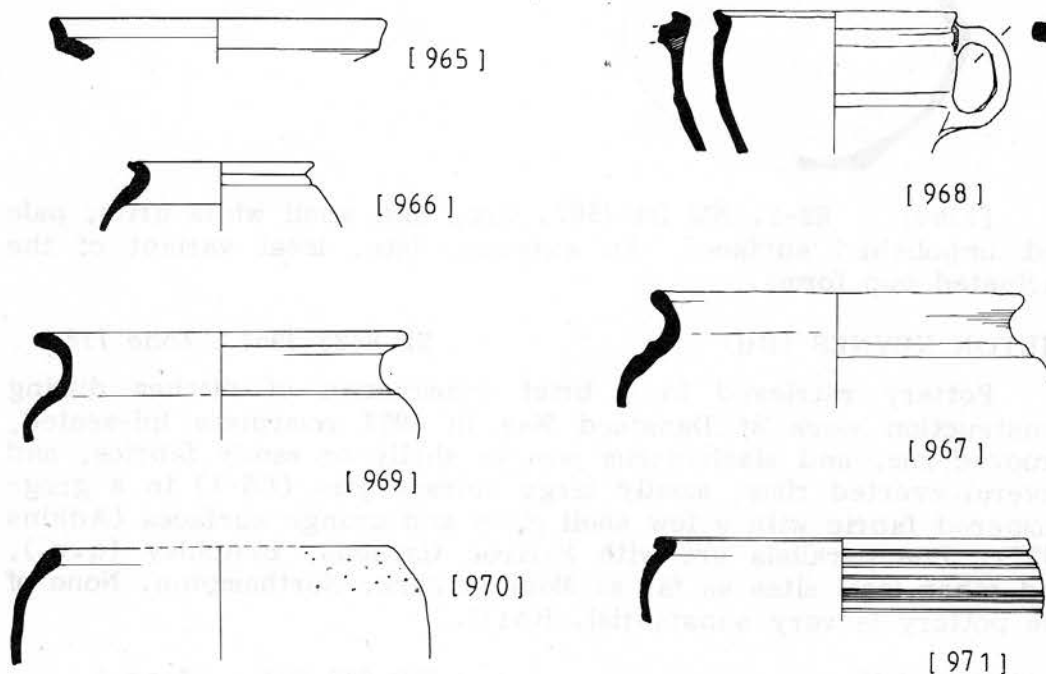


Fig.62: Pottery from Mereworth Park. 1:4.

[965] G1-1. Slightly gritty dark grey grog, burnished dark grey surfaces.

[966] E3-5. Thick pale grey grog, dark grey surfaces, burnished, some wear and chipped rim.

[968] not in series, and of unknown date. HM, neatly made, black with brown grits, not rough; dark grey surfaces, redder-brown at rim. Plug of handle shows at top; not broken at same place at bottom join but bulge on inside at that point. Not enough remains to indicate more than one handle.

[969] B1-1. Same fabric as the handled cup, but fired harder. Irregular inside; burnished outside.

[967] B2-1. HM, thick soft grey grog with brown surfaces.

[970] not in series. Hard very irregular HM jar, reddish flint-gritted fabric, darker brown patchy outside.

[971] not in series. Hard wheel made Roman, black with black inside, vesiculated, feels sandy, patchy red-black outside.

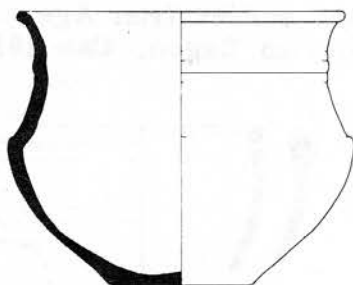
MILFORD HOPE (K)

TQ 863 694 Zone 5

In RM are some Roman sherds from Milford Hope marshes, and four 'Belgie' sherds: a Cam.258 jar (C4), and a platter copy, but in a hard fabric with heavy white grits, like other marsh sites. They could all be post-conquest. Cf. Lower Halstow.

MILTON (N)

c.SP 73 55? Zone 8



[1168] E2-1. NM D49/567. Grog and small white grits, pale red unpolished surfaces. An extreme, late, local variant of the carinated cup forms.

MILTON KEYNES (Bu)

SP 8425 3957 Zone 7/8

Pottery retrieved in a brief examination of ditches during construction work at Danstead Way in 1977 comprises lid-seated, grooved-rim, and slashed-rim jars in shelly or sandy fabrics, and several everted rims, mostly large storage jars (C6-1) in a grog-tempered fabric with a few shell grits and orange surfaces (Adkins 1977). The parallels are with Saffron Gardens, Bletchley (q.v.), and other local sites as far as Moulton Park, Northampton. None of the pottery is very substantial. BAFC.

MUCKING (E)

TQ 673 803 Zone 2

Large-scale excavations of this extensive crop-mark site on the 100 ft gravel terrace above the Thames, overlooking the river's

probable crossing point at the place where it widens into the estuary, has produced evidence of occupation over many periods (interims in Britannia from vol.1, and Panorama from 1965; also Antiquaries Journal 48 (1968), 210-30, and 54 (1974), 183-99). The results are still being processed, but certain features are relevant here:

1 Square burial enclosures: no.1011 included a large bronze straight-bow Colchester brooch with fretted catchplate (Jones 1974-5, 35), a piece of iron, some bronze that might have been tweezers, and bones, in a large HM copy of an A5 pedestal urn, the top ploughed off. The join between base and body is very clear, as they do not fit, and the base is too flat-footed to be an elegant form (cf. Wickham Bishops). It is not grog-tempered.

2 A line or group of 8 inhumation burials on the W side of the site produced one pot, not grog-tempered, a small narrow-mouthed flask with one shoulder cordon (E3-5). See plan, Jones and Jones 1975.

3 The 'Belgic' settlement, adjacent to the line of inhumations, comprises 'a complex of overlapping curved and rectangular ditches, provisionally interpreted as sheepfolds' (Jones 1980, 51; Birss 1980).

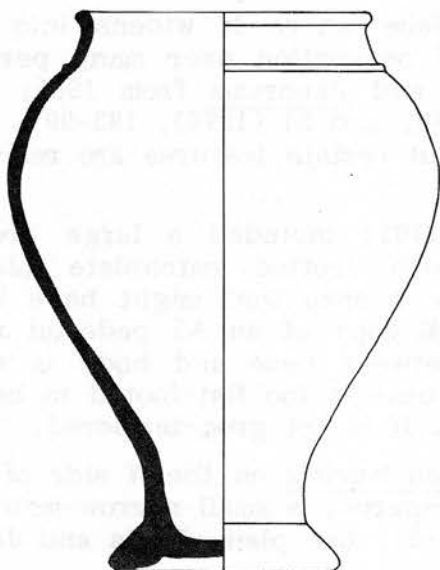
4 The kilns: some of these are of primitive up-draught form, and early Roman in date (Jones 1972; Jones and Rodwell 1973). The lid-seated jars with graffiti on the shoulders, which are shell-tempered and were made in these early kilns, have a distribution showing strong links with the rest of SE Essex and N Kent. Other pottery of the late Iron Age-early Roman period from the site shows this bias. Grog-tempering is present but not predominant: there are several large thick slightly gritty grey grog-tempered pedestal base fragments of A1 or A2 forms. Notable too is an orange sandy jar with protuberances attached, from the early kilns, which has parallels at Gun Hill, Lullingstone, and Canterbury; an orange-brown vesicular (originally shell-tempered) bucket with upright perforated lugs (see form S7), also from the early kilns, and one of several from this site; and the omphalos jar with scored and stamped curvilinear decoration from cremation 87, the shape and stamps not unlike a Saxon vessel (Elsdon 1975, fig.13; figs.14 and 19 illustrate many similarly decorated sherds from Mucking).

MURSTON (K)

TQ 925 643 Zone 5

A Roman cemetery at East Hall, E of Murston New Church, produced a collection of pottery now in the BM (1883/12-13/228-289; bought from George Payne Jr.). Payne (1893) describes and sketches some of this, including an apparent association between a Cam.161 jug (no.228) and a pedestal urn (below).

Of conquest period date are a Cam.8 platter (Hawkes & Hull 1947, 219); BM 1883/12-13/283; and a butt-beaker in a cream-pink fabric (no.231).



[42] A1. BM 1883/12-13/240. Hard grey grog, reddish-brown surfaces, not very regular cordon; polished outside but now worn.