

Gazetteer - Odell (B) to Orsett (E)

ODELL (B)

SP 956 568

Zone 8

A farmstead of late Iron Age and Roman date, with hut enclosures and two small cremation cemeteries with 'Belgic' pottery, has been excavated in advance of gravel extraction (*Britannia* 7, 1976, 336; plan & summary, *Britannia* 9, 1978, 442-4; Kennett 1976a, 86; Dix 1980).

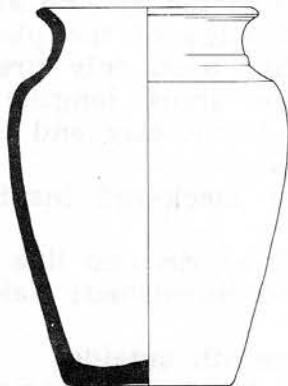
As well as good environmental evidence, the pottery is of much interest: the forms include both common and unusual 'Belgic' types, some of which show considerable experimentation on the part of the potter. The fabrics are those on the northern boundary of grog-tempering: grog, shell, and mixtures of grog with shell or sand. The shell is usually confined to lid-seated jars and other plain shapes; the grog is for more elaborate forms, from the second cemetery and from several ditches. This included storage jars, painted jars, and some less well-defined cordoned and HM vessels.

OFFHAM (K)

TQ 657 574

Zone 4

A complete jar similar to 'Patch Grove ware' jars was found during building work about 150 yds from the main road:



[1156] B3-9. MM 33.1963. Patch Grove ware, fairly coarse grey grog, pitted pale orange surfaces, neatly shaped but not burnished. Some horizontal tooling around base, otherwise vertical; complete but for piece out of rim and shoulder. 1st century AD.

OLDBURY (K)

TQ 582 566

Zone 3/4

The hill-fort has received only limited examination of the defences and is primarily an earlier Iron Age site of uncertain date, but some of the pottery from excavation of the NE gate, in the area which was apparently remodelled and extended in the late Iron Age, may be grog-tempered (E. Harrison 1933; Ward-Perkins 1938b; 1939a; 1944). These sherds were within the bank of the second phase, and are not numerous. The material in MM includes Iron Age and Roman fabrics, and a few grog-tempered pieces.

Ward-Perkins 1944, fig.14:

- 1 B2-2.
- 2 not in series.

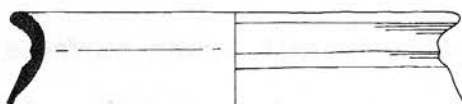
- 3 B5-5.
- 4 B1-1.
- 5 not in series.
- 6 G1-11.
- 7 C1-4.
- 8,9 A1.

These are all from the NE gate; I could not isolate any of them from the material now in MM. No.6 looks like a late platter copy of a Gallo-Belgic import but is described as HM, and the assemblage is distinctly different from that 'associated with the rebuilding of the rampart, AD 43' (fig.13 nos.5-19): the latter pots look coarser but include no.5 (D1-4) and no.10, from the silting of the secondary ditch, which is in MM and is undoubtedly Roman; and no.18, which is also Roman; and several thickened-rim coarse jars which are probably post-conquest. There is a mixture of styles here that needs further excavation before it can be sorted out. The local Iron Age fabric is sandy, not flint-gritted.

The Maidstone material does include some grey grog-tempered sherds, and one or two good pieces:

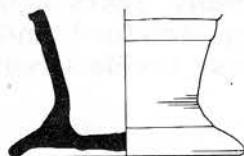


[1153] A1. Brown grog, grey surfaces, smoothed.



[1154] B1-1. Pale grey hard grog, HM, pale brown inside, dark grey tooled outside. Their exact provenances are uncertain. Also grog-tempered are the two cordoned A3 pedestal urns used for cremations dug into the outer defences. They show no sign of romanisation but post-date the extension; they are grey grog with orange below brittle brown burnished surfaces, buff where not burnished inside the foot (Ward-Perkins 1944, fig.15).

Another pedestal in the museum is from 'Oldbury Camp', found prior to the 1938 excavations:



[1155] A3. Grey pale grog, brittle brown-yellow surfaces, tooled outside.

# ORSETT (E)

TQ 6535 8135 ('Cock') Zone 2

1 Orsett 'Cock': recent excavations in advance of roadworks found that a late Iron Age square-ditched enclosure was followed by a rectangular triple-ditched enclosure yielding some interesting pottery, with some exotic forms and strong local characteristics. This includes coarse HM grog-tempered wares as well as

wheel-made romanised grog, and 'Belgic' shapes in gritty fabrics (W. Rodwell 1974; C. Couchman 1977-78, 95). Toller (1980, 41) gives the earthworks sequence, remarking that 'the major elements' of the triple-ditched enclosure 'all came into existence during a short period in the 1st cent. AD' and went out of use with the appearance of Roman forms and fabrics in the later 1st century. The secondary fill of the ditch of the first, square, enclosure included some Gallo-Belgic wares (Toller 1980, 35).

The pottery so far published is from preliminary rescue work carried out at various dates between 1956 and 1970 (Rodwell *op.cit.*, fig.6); nos.1 and 2 are early Iron Age sherds. All the contexts were of mixed Iron Age and Roman sherds (W. Rodwell 1974, 37).

no.3 not in series. Grey grog, rim only.  
 no.4 E3-1.  
 no.5,6 as no.3.  
 no.7 also a scrap, but the lightly tooled vertical lines on the neck are found also at Gun Hill (q.v.), and at Springhead and Stone, just across the river in Kent. It is described as brown, grog-tempered.

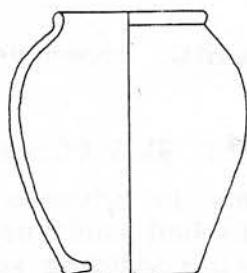
no.8 C1-4. Brown grog.  
 no.9 shell and some grog.  
 no.10 C5-1. Brown grog; unstratified.  
 no.11-13 shelly. Brown and grey.  
 no.14 (C5-1), but grey and sandy with brown surfaces.  
 no.15 shelly.  
 no.16 L6. Two, dark grey, shell and grog. 'Often found in association with ledged-rim jars like nos.13 & 15', which are conquest period.

no.17 C8-1. 'Coarse grog-tempered brown fabric with black surfaces.'

Much of this is conquest period and later; and much of the pottery from the subsequent more extensive excavations, unpublished, is of similar date (see W. Rodwell 1974, 33, 37).

2 Jones (1972) mentions graffiti pots of the type made at Mucking in the immediately post-conquest period, and ledge-rimmed like those above, found at Cherry Orchard Farm (TQ 643 824).

3 AB 198, of form B5-3, was dug up many years ago in Orsett churchyard with a plain jar illustrated by Welsford and Rudsdale (n.d., pl.XI no.2). These are now in a case inside Orsett church; the second vessel is unpublished.



Welsford & Rudsdale's drawing, about 1:6. C1-1. 'Pinky brown with surface smoothed, not polished.'

4 Thurrock Museum has a number of vessels from a local collector called Martin: they include 'Belgic', Roman and medieval pieces. All of these could be local, as Mr Martin indicated, but only a few have any provenance. Mr Martin is an Orsett man and some of the 'Belgic' and Roman vessels were given to his father c.1900 by Richard North, also of Orsett.

[941] A5. 2127/7: from Mr North's collection. Fine hard grey-brown grog, pink below dark grey surfaces, small spalled areas on inside, prominent wheel lines, and highly polished dark grey outside, showing turning lines. Trumpet pedestal broken off neatly; rim damaged, body complete.

[1049] A1. 2127/15. HM, black, burnished; not grog.

[1048] A5. 2127/21. Grey core, small white grits, reddish below red-brown pale inside and burnished brown outside.

[942] F3-5. 2127/2: From Mr North's collection. Early Roman slightly micaceous grey smooth fabric with pink below dark grey surfaces, heavily burnished black all over outside and rim; small white grits in pink break at foot; complete but for foot and rim damage. This eccentric piece is undoubtedly local, as its only parallel is from Prittlewell (q.v.), in grog.

[948] not in series. 2127/6: from Mr North's collection. Complete, tiny hole in side; leans slightly. Pale buff, smooth; very small rouletting.

[1050] G1-1. 2127/19. Very hard dark brown grog, brown-grey patchy surfaces, black ?paint over rim.

[947] B5-1. 2127/12, from Mr North's collection. Complete but for small rim chip showing pink; not gritty so probably grog. Patchy grey-buff surfaces, heavily tooled to a shine, with tooling lines prominent on lower half.

[943] not in series; Roman. 2127/5, from Mr North's collection. Complete, slightly lop-sided, patchy orange, some grey, very slight rim chip; local rather gritty ware, tooled decoration, burnished rim.

[1039] not in series. 2127/18. Cam.161 Hofheim flagon, now in many pieces; whole profile extant but much of body missing. White fabric, brittle, discoloured buff surfaces.

[944] E1-1. 2127/10. Hard grey-brown slightly gritty grog, dark grey surfaces, spalled slightly underneath base.

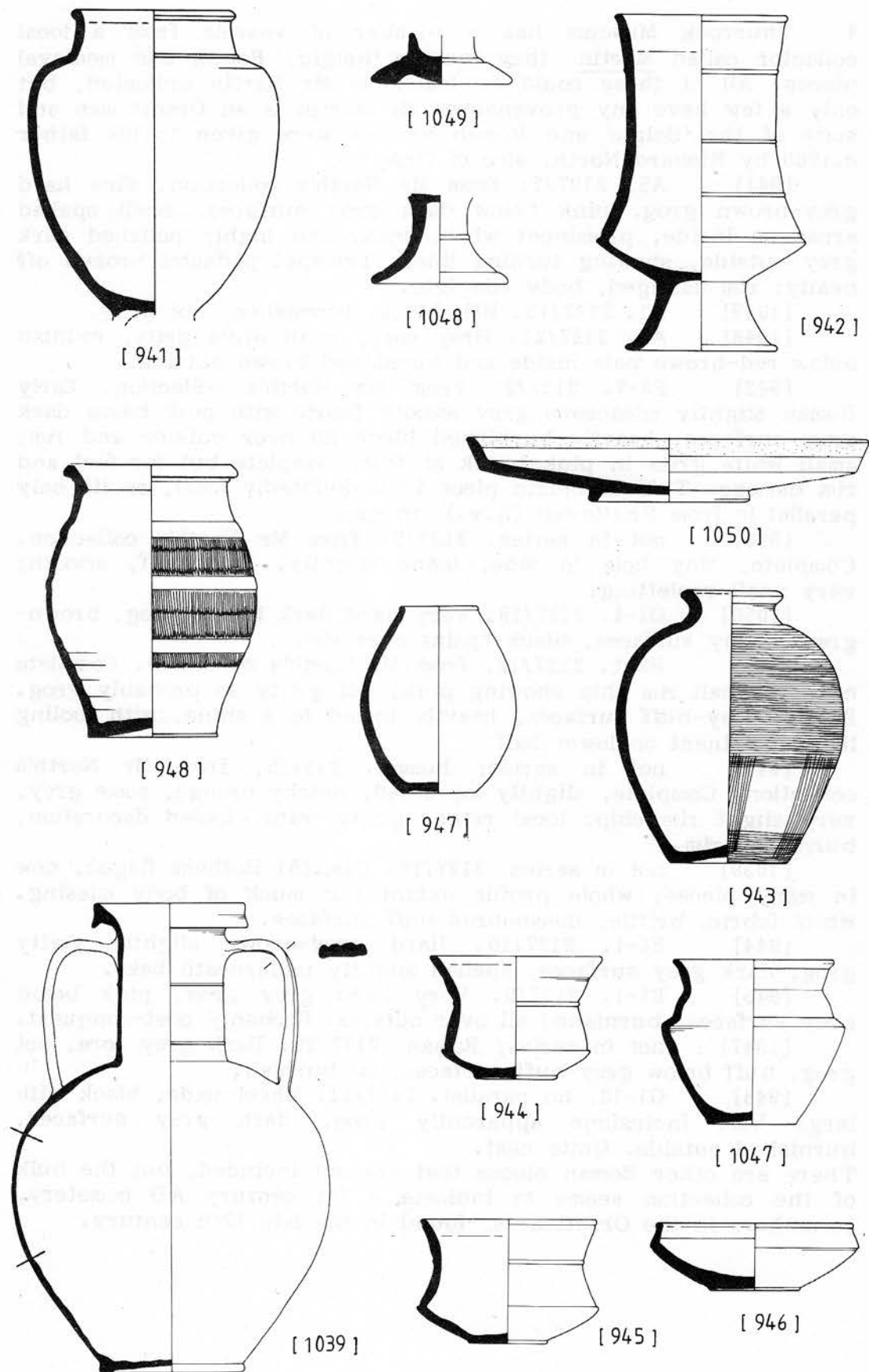
[945] E1-1. 2127/9. Very hard grey grog, pink below grey surfaces, burnished all over outside. Probably post-conquest.

[1047] not in series; Roman. 2127/20. Dark grey core, not grog, buff below grey-buff surfaces, no burnish.

[946] G1-13; no parallel. 2127/11. Wheel-made, black with large buff inclusions apparently grog, dark grey surfaces, burnished outside. Quite neat.

There are other Roman pieces that are not included, but the bulk of the collection seems to indicate a 1st century AD cemetery, somewhere in the Orsett area, found in the late 19th century.





**Fig.63: Pottery from the Martin Collection, ?Orsett. 1:4**