

Gazetteer - Radwell (B) to Royston (H)

RADWELL (B)

TL 010 574 Zone 8

'Rescue excavations at Radwell gravel pits 1972' (Hall 1973) discovered a late Roman farm, and some early and late Iron Age features. A few 'Belgic' sherds came from the lower fill of an enclosure ditch (fig.4 no.4) but there were no 'Belgic' features inside the enclosure. The illustrated pot is one of the large E1-1 forms with orange surfaces of this zone and is not much earlier than the conquest, if at all. Four inhumation burials were found 300 yds from the enclosure; one pot survived, a shelly, buff-orange everted-rim jar of E3-1 form (fig.4 no.5), and post-conquest according to the report.

RADWINTER (E)

TL 609 375

Four pits were found cut by a stream: three are described as containing early Roman material, and one Belgic sherds, animal bones, and a hammerstone (Hooper 1970). Attention was drawn to the spot by the discovery of a bronze coin from Knossos of the mid 3rd to mid 1st centuries BC; it was found in the stream bank but it was not stated if it was in any way associated with the pits (cf. Harbison and Laing 1974, 26). The finds are not described in detail; the material, in SWM, with 'burials from Mr Turner's garden', includes a wide range of Roman finds, some 1st century, but nothing grog-tempered.

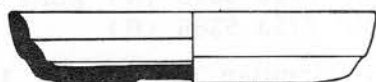
RAINHAM (K) see NOR MARSH

RAMSGATE (K)

c.TR 38 65 Zone 5

VCH (1932, 164) records that 'In 1923 two groups containing south Gaulish ware, early cordoned Belgic ware, were found with bones of domestic animals' on West Cliff: these are late 1st century AD jars (J. Couchman 1924, 54).

In RM are two platter copies:



[93] G1-6. RM 1057. Hard grey-brown grog, dark grey surfaces, thick and coarse, spalled underneath.



[105] G1-6. RM 1058. Brown-grey grog, patchy surfaces, once burnished. Tooling lines on inside base. A Colchester brooch comes from Pegwell Bay (RM 7841).

RAVENSBURGH CASTLE (H)

TL 099 295 Zone 7

This is 'the largest hillfort in eastern England and the Chilterns', just by the Icknield Way on the Beds.-Herts. border (Dyer 1976, 158). The main occupation is early Iron Age, but a pedestal base, 'from the edge of the south-eastern entrance causeway' is allotted to 'Period 4' after the rebuilding of the defences. This is an interesting piece:



[1082] A3. Very well made, neatly finished, a fine brown fabric of uncertain composition, perhaps some grog; pale brown inside, smoothly burnished brown outside. Similar in form to vessels from Letchworth and Sandy, both grog-tempered.

Dyer suggests that the site, investigated over some years by the Putteridge Bury College of Education, is physically a more suitable candidate than Wheathampstead as the stronghold of Cassivellaunus.

The site is on the Ordnance Survey Iron Age map as 'Belgic' because of the pedestal base, a surface find. The material is now with Jeffrey May at Nottingham University, being prepared for publication.

RAYLEIGH (E)

TQ 813 922 Zone 2

CMR 1913 shows three large vessels acquired in 1912 from what was evidently a cemetery on Hamborough Hill: the first was 'found with eight others, placed in a straight line'. Calcined bones were found in the soil around them. A fourth urn is in SM; the others were destroyed. It is not known how many burials were present; these pots cannot be considered as a single group.

[836] A3. CM 2656.1912 (=AB 161). Grey grog, dark grey surfaces, wheel-lines inside and remains of burnish outside. Foot two-thirds restoration. Very faint indications of shallow burnished lines diagonally on shoulder. Broken off at sharp change of angle. Worn; much restored.

[717] A3. SM 666/62 Wright Coll. (=AB 164). Grey gritty grog, some flinty lumps, worn dark grey inside, burnished patchy buff-grey outside, burnished heavily over rim.

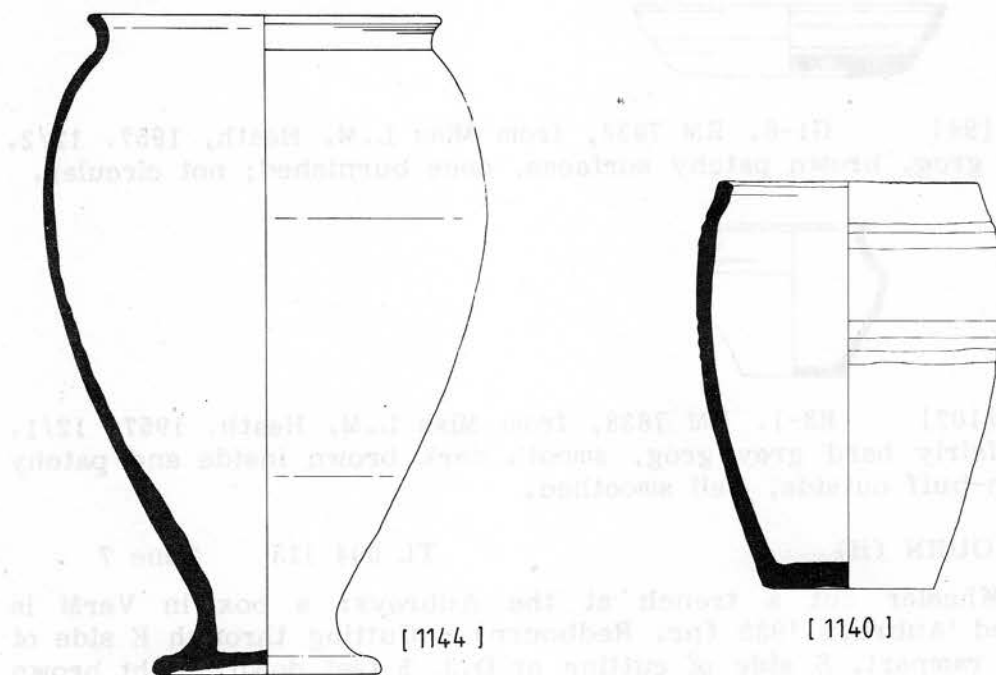
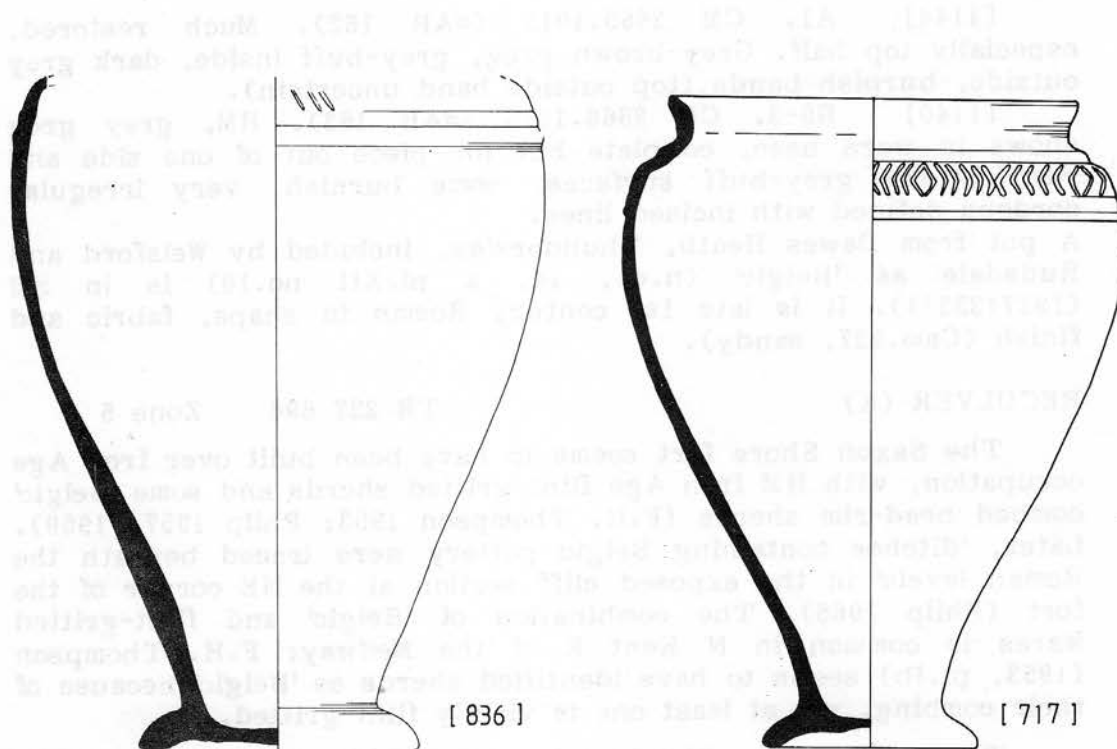


Fig.65: Pottery from Rayleigh, Hamborough Hill. 1:4

[1144] A1. CM 2665.1913 (=AB 162). Much restored, especially top half. Grey-brown grog, grey-buff inside, dark grey outside, burnish bands (top outside band uncertain).

[1140] B5-3. CM 2666.1913 (=AB 163). HM, grey grog shows in worn base, complete but for piece out of one side and rim; patchy grey-buff surfaces, some burnish, very irregular cordons defined with incised lines.

A pot from Dawes Heath, Thundersley, included by Welsford and Rudsdale as 'Belgic' (n.d., 14, & pl.XII no.10) is in SM (1927:332/1). It is late 1st century Roman in shape, fabric and finish (Cam.227, sandy).

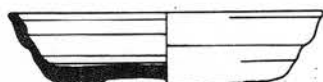
RECULVER (K)

TR 227 694 Zone 5

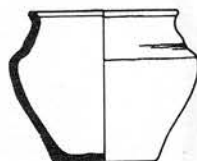
The Saxon Shore fort seems to have been built over Iron Age occupation, with HM Iron Age flint-gritted sherds and some 'Belgic' combed bead-rim sherds (F.H. Thompson 1953; Philp 1957; 1959). Later, 'ditches containing Belgic pottery were traced beneath the Roman levels' in the exposed cliff section at the NE corner of the fort (Philp 1965). The combination of 'Belgic' and flint-gritted wares is common in N Kent E of the Medway; F.H. Thompson (1953, pl.Ib) seems to have identified sherds as 'Belgic' because of their combing, yet at least one is visibly flint-gritted.

The pottery from Philp's excavations is in Dover Castle. Philp noted much flint-gritted ware but no more 'Belgic' beneath the fort (1959, 99, 102).

In RM are:



[94] G1-6. RM 7839, from Miss L.M. Heath, 1957. 12/2. Grey grog, brown patchy surfaces, once burnished; not circular.



[102] E3-1. RM 7838, from Miss L.M. Heath, 1957. 12/1. HM, fairly hard grey grog, smooth dark brown inside and patchy brown-buff outside, well smoothed.

REDBOURN (H)

TL 094 113 Zone 7

Wheeler cut a trench at the Aubreys: a box in VerM is marked 'Aubreys 1933 (nr. Redbourn) - Cutting through E side of inner rampart, S side of cutting at D.2, 5 feet down. Light brown soil...' In the box is one small red scrap of fired clay, quite undiagnostic.

'In the Redbourne area a large enclosed site almost of oppidum proportions was recorded together with a large multi-

period site with triple earthworks and 2 Roman temples' (Havercroft 1977, 44, & pl.XX).

RICHBOROUGH (K)

TR 323 602 Zone 7

The pottery from early features at the fort provides some useful points of comparison with other east Kent sites: large quantities of pottery, whole or sherds, are in the DoE store at Dover Castle, while some of the complete pots are on display at the site. Examination of the whole pots in Dover Castle showed that some are grog-tempered, and are noted here.

Pit 14:

- 3 E1-1. Very hard pale grey grog, patchy rough surfaces.
- 4 B3-8. Roman, thin hard grey, burnished.
- 5 B3-8. Brown romanised grog, grey at rim, flaked outside; dark grey matt surfaces, lightly tooled decoration.
- 6 B1-4. Hard rough pale grey grog, very patchy red-buff surface, worn and rough; dark brown-grey coating on rim and inside.
- 8 E3-3. Hard, coarse, and apparently similar to no.6, but large parts including the base are restoration.
- 9 G1-6. Dark grey, smooth, restored; probably grog. Neatly made.
- 10 G1-6. Grey grog, dark grey smooth neat surfaces.

Most of these vessels were from near the bottom of the pit with Claudian pots, including samian, and coins, Claudian and republican. They constituted 'the earliest group of pottery found on the site' (Bushe-Fox 1926, 11) apart from Iron Age wares. Nos.6 and 8 have the upright neck characteristic of Kent 'Belgic' pots, but also the late girth-groove. None of these vessels is necessarily pre-conquest, but this is the only feature on the site with a good proportion of grog-tempered vessels, and new styles and techniques soon appear. The other vessels in pit 14 (Bushe-Fox 1926, pl.XXI) are distinctly post-conquest, although no.19 is of form C4, a common E Kent 'Belgic' type. See below, nos.240 and 391.

135 (C1-1). Hard, coarse and gritty; reddish; restored. This and no.136 are the vessels noted by Bushe-Fox (1928, 97-8) as being native in origin. The form is C1-1, but no.135 at least is not grog-tempered. They were found in pit 20, sunk as a well soon after the conquest; the rubbish in the bottom few feet comprised these pots, some early Roman jugs, metalwork and small decorative items, and 16 early Claudian coins. The rubbish in the higher levels is later 1st century, including sherds of Drag.29 (Bushe-Fox 1928, 28-30).

240 C4. Restored, reddish-buff, might be grog. From pit 57, Nero-Vespasian; this is not quite the same as the pre-conquest form, with its bead rim. Nos.243 and 244 are similar to the true C4; 243 was found outside the W wall of the fort and not well dated, and 244 came from pit 36, AD 50-75.

241 C8-1. Hard gritty grey grog, rough. 'Outside W wall of fort. Low level. Probably before 80.'

252 B3-2. Not seen, but the flaring rim is characteristic of grog-tempered wares at Faversham and Canterbury (q.v.). From

Section 45, with pre-Flavian and Flavian pottery (Bushe-Fox 1932, 173).

253 B3-6. Very coarse hard grey grog, patchy rough dark grey surfaces, reddish patches outside. From pit 42, not filled until c.AD 100.

254 B2-4. Dark grey, romanised, heavily burnished, and could be grog. From pit 33, AD 50-75.

382 B3-8. Romanised pale grey grog, coarse and hard; dark grey rough surfaces, prominent burnished decoration. Pit 119, filled in c.AD 90. No.381, which is not nearly as close to the B3-8 form, is in a hard grey Roman fabric.

391 C4. Not seen; from Area V, AD 50-80 (Bushe-Fox 1949, 260).

538 E3-5. Grey grog, dark grey surfaces, rather worn. From black fill of outer Claudian ditch. No.539 is E3-1 in form but I did not see it (Cunliffe 1968, 119).

541 hard sandy grey Roman butt-beaker; from the inner Claudian ditch.

None of the other vessels seen at Dover are grog-tempered, with the notable exception of a box of platter copies, of G1-6 form, in grey grog and exactly like those in Pit 14. One, with redundant foot, was from Pit 121, which was largely Flavian and early 2nd century in date with a little earlier pottery. It is noticeable that there are no grog-tempered copies at Richborough of early imported wares such as jugs or butt-beakers; when copies do appear they are in Roman grey wares. All the lids are Roman. Apart from the group in Pit 14, grog is rare and confined to a few burnished jars and some coarse wares of C1-1 and C4 types, very similar to those of other sites in E Kent (Canterbury, Faversham).

Bushe-Fox did find evidence of Iron Age settlement, in ditches disturbed by the Claudian activity on the site (Cunliffe 1968, 116): the pottery, in Dover Castle, is flint-gritted and similar to that from other E Kent Iron Age settlements (Bigberry; Birchington; Broadstairs). There is no connection here between the flint and grog fabrics, as there is at Borden. British and Gaulish coins from the site are summarised by D.F. Allen in Cunliffe (1968, 187); and there are some early brooches (op.cit., 74).

ROCHESTER (K)

c.TQ 75 67 Zone 4

Excavations at 50-54 High Street in 1961-2 (Harrison and Flight 1968, 75) showed that 1st century AD remains lay beneath the Claudian occupation, with a gravel trackway and ditches, postholes, coin moulds, potin coins and brooches. This site has not been published.

Trenches dug on the site in 1976, hoping to connect with the 1961-2 discoveries, found nothing but later disturbance (A.C. Harrison 1976, 253); and excavations around the town's defences have found nothing of the late pre-Roman Iron Age (Harrison and Flight 1968, 75). The name Durobrivae, the fort by the bridges, may imply some kind of earthwork; a pedestal urn is noted as having been found in a pit under the rampart bank of the later defences (A.C. Harrison et al. 1961, lxxv).

Some of the pottery from the East Gate excavations at 108-122 High Street, from Roman contexts, continues the native tradition (A.C. Harrison 1972, nos.2, 14, 15).

The BM has 4 complete vessels from Rochester 'or vicinity', part of the collection of Humphrey Wood, of Chatham, bought at Sotheby's in 1904; these 4 were marked on the base '1860 Ray'.

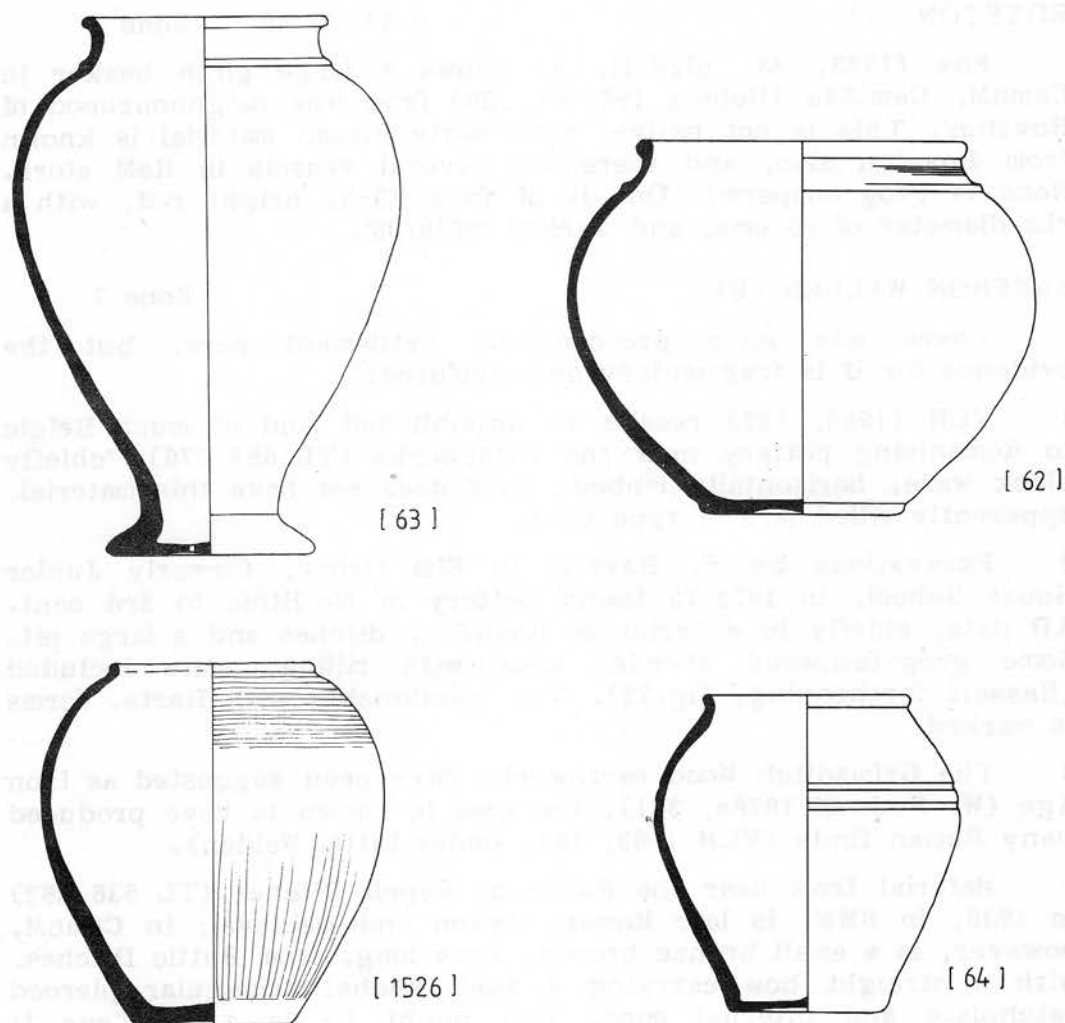


Fig.66: Pottery from Rochester. 1:4.

[63] A1. BM 1905/4-18/4. Well made, hard smooth red-grey grog. Small hole in centre base, and pre-firing nicks on edge of base, a group of three and one single, on opposing sides.

[62] B1-3. BM 1905/4-18/5. Hard pale pinkish-brown grog, complete, very hard and smooth.

[64] B5-3. BM 1905/4-18/6. Pinkish-brown grog, complete, brown smooth surfaces. Nicked base exactly like [63].

[1526] C1-1. BM 1905/4-18/7. HM but a neat pot; complete, grey grog, tooled but only roughly outside. Pre-firing nicks in groups of one and three on underside of base, two of each group. This is the pot illustrated in Hawkes and Dunning 1930, fig.28 no.5.

The jet cameo, brooch and cemetery pottery from Strood, opposite the castle, date from well into the Roman period, not 'of the last period of British independence' (Evans 1914-15, 571, after C.R. Smith 1848).

ROOTS HALL see PRITTLEWELL

ROYSTON (H)

c.TL 35 40 Zone 7

Fox (1923, 93; pl.XIII, 3) shows a large girth beaker in CambM, Cam.84a (Holmes 1958-61, 99) from 'the neighbourhood of Royston'. This is not native; some early Roman material is known from Royston also, and there are several vessels in HeM store. None is grog-tempered. One is of form E3-3, bright red, with a rim diameter of 10 cms, and marked '27/6/05'.