

FOUR MINOR SITES EXCAVATED BY THE
CANTERBURY ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
1978–1979*

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1. A SITE FOUND ON THE LINE OF THE CANTERBURY BYPASS (N.G.R. TR 143561)

Since April 1977 and particularly throughout the initial topsoil stripping and cutting stages of the construction of the Canterbury by-pass, a small volunteer team led by the writer and Mr. Wes McLaughlin have been maintaining a watching brief to locate new archaeological sites. The succession of dry summers has greatly helped the contractors complete the cutting stages and, at the same time, made the locating of sites very difficult for a number of reasons. The size of the mechanical equipment used for road construction meant that following the removal of the topsoil very little time elapsed before the natural subsoil was removed or covered by embankments. Having removed the topsoil, these large machines then rammed, churned and obscured the dry natural horizon, making the identification of archaeological features in terms of colour changes or scatters of pottery almost impossible. As no financial support was extended to the Trust by the Department of the Environment or the Kent County Council¹ to enable full-time observation to be undertaken, only a very basic 'watching brief' was kept on occasional weekends and evenings. Such major developments as the Canterbury by-pass need a full-time team in the field, or, at the very least, a full-time observer watching working machinery at critical times. As a result, an opportunity to examine systematically an

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¹ A grant of £100 was given to the Trust by the Kent County Council after this site had been excavated towards the cost of its publication.

area of countryside to the south and south-west of Canterbury has effectively been lost for ever.

To date only one major site has been found. This was situated between Hollow Lane and Stuppington Lane on the 52 m. contour over-looking and approximately one mile to the south of central Canterbury. The area was potentially important as the Roman road linking Canterbury and the Saxon Shore fort at Lympne (*Lemanis*) should have crossed the line of the bypass at this point. No trace of this road was however found, during a three-day hectic 'salvage' operation in August 1979.

The difficult soil conditions and the lack of time did not allow a thorough excavation to take place. The features recorded below only represent a sample of what must have been a complex, multi-period site. Though a considerable depth of topsoil (in excess of 0.40 m.) sealed the natural deposits of clay and gravel, no horizontal stratigraphy survived. All the excavated features, with the exception of a badly damaged Roman kiln, were uniformly shallow, though they varied in size. The overall impression was one of a heavily reduced and disturbed horizon, with only the sumps of the more deeply cut features surviving. The projected line of Roman Stone Street and the upper levels of the multi-period features may have been destroyed by centuries of ploughing together with the natural processes of weathering on the hill top.

The earliest features consisted of a number of Iron Age pits, (3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 21, 22, 25, 27, 28, 30, 40, and 46). These pits, containing Iron Age pottery, were widely scattered over the excavated area and were uniformly shallow cuttings (not exceeding 0.30 m.), but varied in size and shape. Common to all these pits were deposits of black glutinous clay, high concentrations of charcoal and quantities of burnt flints. Two other pits (47 and 54) had this characteristic infill but did not contain pottery. For brevity, no detailed description of the features will be given here, the sectional drawings and descriptions will be lodged in the archive of the Royal Museum, Canterbury. The importance of this small site lies not in a detailed description of each feature but rather in their ceramic contents. To this end a detailed discussion of the pottery has been prepared by Mr. Nigel Macpherson-Grant and follows below.

The uniformity of the pit fills suggests some sort of common activity during this occupation phase. Very little bone or oyster shell was recovered from the pits, but the high concentrations of charcoal and fire-fractured flints do perhaps indicate industrial rather than domestic activity. The precise nature of this activity, however, is rather difficult to establish. The pits may have been hearths for parching recently harvested cereals or small smithing hearths or may

even contain residue from the secondary working of iron. Very little burnt clay was present in the pit infills and no clinker or other obvious by-products of metal working were found. One further feature (16) should perhaps be mentioned here. This was located on the eastern edge of the excavated area, and had been badly damaged by heavy machinery. This feature consisted of a circular pad of burnt red and orange fired clay, 0.50 m. in diameter with a thickness at the centre of the 'bowl' of 0.07 m. This feature had undoubtedly been of some size as a wide scatter of burnt clay including a few vitrified fragments (residue from a lining) surrounded the bowl. Mixed with the burnt clay were deposits of machine-compacted black clay heavily flecked with charcoal and quantities of fire-crazed flints and pebbles. No finds were recovered from the bowl except for a few fragments of clinker. This small, badly damaged feature may have been the vestigial remains of a furnace or smithing hearth. Though no datable finds were recovered from the bowl, the presence of machine-compacted deposits, probably from the upper levels of the structure, which were similar to those found in the pit fills, indicates a tenuous link between all the features so far discussed; this may suggest that this Iron Age phase was associated with iron-working.

Evidence for continuity of occupation from the Iron Age into the pre-Roman Iron Age or Belgic period is insubstantial. Only four features contained pottery dating to this period (1, 43, 45, and 48). Quantities of residual Belgic pottery were recovered from many of the Romano-British features. The absence of Belgic features may indicate a gap in occupation between the earlier Iron Age and the Roman periods, or certainly indicate an ephemeral occupation. The quantity of Belgic pottery found in association with features of Roman date may indicate that a re-occupation of the site did not take place until shortly after the Conquest. Indeed, rather than indicating a separate Belgic phase, the association of Belgic and Roman finds may be a reflection of an early Roman occupation of the site when new Roman pottery types existed side by side with traditional native ones. One pit (29) not only contained a mixture of Belgic and Roman pottery, but also contained a late Iron Age bronze coin.²

Three of the features containing only Belgic material (43, 45 and 48) were pits. These were cut to an average depth of approximately 0.35 m. below the machine-cut natural horizon. All three pits had similar fills of brown sandy loam and gravel and contained a number

² Dr Daphne Nash had identified the find as an unattributed British coin, perhaps of the Kent area, depicting a young male head on the reverse, and a wolf prancing left, with a bull's head below and rings in front on the obverse. The coin, Mack 00, weighed 1.77 gr.

of badly decomposed animal bones and a few oyster shells. The remaining feature (1), a 'V'-shaped linear ditch, was traced for a length of 50 m. and may have been a field boundary. This feature, aligned roughly east—west, was on average 0.35 m. wide and 0.25 m. deep, and was filled with a mixture of light and dark brown silty loam and gravel. This single feature may imply that the area cut through by the bypass may have been part of a late Iron Age field system, and that the settlement associated with it may be situated elsewhere on the hill top.

Some sixteen features containing Romano-British pottery were located and excavated during this salvage operation: (2, 5, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 23, 29, 41, 32, 49, 51, 53, 55 and 70.) All the pottery recovered from these features has been dated from the period shortly after the Conquest to the beginning of the last quarter of the first century A.D., and perhaps indicates a brief phase of occupation lasting less than 20-30 years. A number of other pits (6, 15, 20, 26, 28, 39 and 44), that did not contain pottery or the distinctive infill of the Iron Age pits, have been tentatively assigned to this phase.

The majority of these uniformly shallow features were undoubtedly rubbish pits. The pits, of various sizes, contained a variety of fills ranging from brown sandy loam and gravel to dark brown silty clay and gravel. All the pits contained oyster shells and the vestigial traces of animal bones.³ The pits were widely scattered over the excavated area except for six pits (5, 6, 12, 13, 14 and 15) that were closely set in a small group, perhaps indicating the proximity of a dwelling or workshop.

One definite timber structure was found at the west end of the site. Here a group of six similar shallow post-holes of 0.35 m. average diameter, survived to a depth of approximately 0.15 m. These indicate a rectangular building, 4 m. long and 2 m. wide. No finds were recovered from the post-holes, and since no floors survived, no absolute relationship between the structure and the surrounding features can be made. The structure was, however, located quite close to a Roman kiln, and may have been a workshop or shed associated with it.

The Roman kiln (60, 61 and 62) was mostly destroyed by working machinery and was literally recorded in the teeth of the mechanical excavator. Only a longitudinal quarter section through the structure remained sufficiently intact to enable a record to be made. As insufficient data was obtained no attempt has been made to reconstruct or to make any assumptions concerning the size and shape of

³ The natural clay and gravel subsoil is acidic.

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the working kiln. The very simple outline shown in Fig. 1 is an attempt to make the location of the find clear.

At least two working phases for the kiln were indicated by two separate stokeholes, positioned at either end of the badly mutilated firebox. The north-west facing stokehole was undoubtedly associated with the firebox while the south-eastern stokehole had been cut shallower than the firebox and had been blocked when the firebox was constructed (Fig. 2). This stokehole (62) survived for a length of 1.55 m. and had been cut 0.30 m. into the machine-reduced horizon. The hole was lined with a 0.03 m. thick deposit of charcoal and had an upper fill of redeposited yellow brickearth mixed with lumps of burnt orange clay. The stokehole had been partly cut away when the later firebox was constructed and an evident blocking of large 'fresh' flints mixed with glutinous yellow clay indicated that the stokehole remained open at the time of reconstruction and was only backfilled after the blocking had been completed. The pottery recovered from this early stokehole bore a marked similarity to sherds recovered from the later structure.

The firebox and second stokehole were cut to a maximum depth of 0.70 m. The construction sequence seems to have started with the cutting of a large pit which presumably removed all but a part of the stokehole of an earlier kiln. The remains of the earlier stokehole were blocked and back-filled and the firebox and the superstructure for the new kiln were built at the south-east end of the pit. No inter-

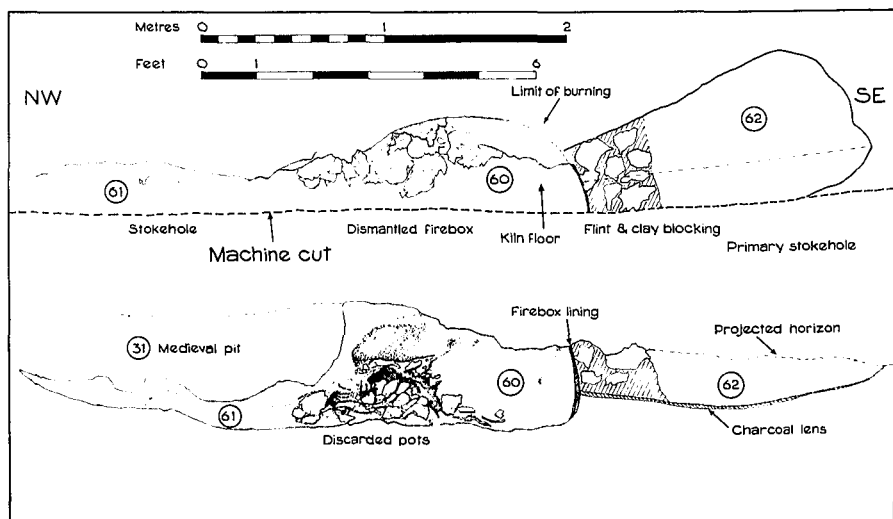


Fig. 2. Section through the Roman Kiln (after excavation).

nal features survived the machine disturbance and no evidence for the construction of the firebox or superstructure was retrieved. The kiln did, however, contain a mass of broken fired pots which had evidently been deposited in the previously dismantled structure when the kiln was abandoned. The stokehole was lined with a thick 0.05 m. deposit of charcoal, which continued evenly from the stokehole into the firebox. The upper levels of both were filled with a homogeneous deposit of yellow brickearth mottled with burnt orange clay.

The overall impression of this feature was of the consecutive building and firing of the two kilns. The first with its stokehole to the south-east, the second (which cut away the earlier kiln) with its stoke to the north-west. These two kilns, perhaps constructed by a potter manufacturing a range of pots for the local market, may have been the product of one or two seasons labour. Though there is no stratigraphic or finds-based relationship between the kiln and the nearby timber structure, it is quite likely that they are contemporary. The building may have been used to store fuel or pottery, or may even have been used as a small workshop.

The relationship between the kiln and the pits may not be as tenuous. Much of the pottery recovered from the pits is undoubtedly of the same fabric, and in many cases of identical form to pots found in the kiln assemblage. This may indicate that the short Roman phase of occupation on the site may have been associated with pottery manufacture and indicates that other kilns not threatened by bypass construction may exist nearby. Further still, if the assumptions made about the short life of the kiln are correct, then it is quite possible for the site to have only been occupied for a single year, some time shortly after the Conquest and before the last quarter of the first century A.D.

Only one feature (17, 18, 31 and 52) containing medieval pottery was found during the excavation. This was a large pit which cut the north-west stokehole of the kiln, and was only partially excavated. The pit, 0.45 m. deep, was filled with brown glutinous clay and gravel, and yielded a few sherds of thirteenth-fourteenth century date together with a mass of residual Roman pottery, probably from the kiln.

PAUL BENNETT

The Pottery

Nigel Macpherson-Grant

Though the excavations produced pottery of the medieval and post-medieval periods the amounts are insignificant, with only one feature (Fig. 1 and above) securely datable to the late thirteenth/early fourteenth centuries. As a result these phases are not discussed here. The site did provide, however, a small but useful group of Iron Age wares, a fair quantity of Belgic pottery, and a further particularly important group of early Roman pottery from the kiln and associated features. Unfortunately, the few features containing purely Belgic pottery (pp.00) produced no material worthy of illustration, and publication of these wares is confined to material associated with Romano-British contexts.

This report is divided into two sections, covering the Iron Age and Romano-British features separately. The nature of the excavation precludes any detailed assessment of sequence within each group, so in each case the material is presented as a whole, followed by a brief discussion. The Iron Age fabrics are described in some detail, since they are an unusual group. The Romano-British pottery appears to be all of one fabric type, though the material is figured in excavation sequence, principally because future research may refine the apparent homogeneity.

Detailed context-related fabric and form catalogues are held with the site archives in the Royal Museum, Canterbury. A study collection of the drawn material is retained with the Trust at 92A Broad Street, Canterbury. I would like to thank Mr. Mark Duncan, for his drawings and the preparation of the figures, and Miss Marion Green, for sorting and restoring much of the kiln material.

A. The Iron Age Features (Figs. 3-4, nos. 1-23)
(See also Fig. 1 and pp. 270-1).

1. CBP (4). Closed form jar in fairly hard black flint-and-chaff tempered ware; drab dark grey/brown surfaces. The flint and chaff mixture is fairly even, but generally coarse (chaff: with lengths 1 mm.; flint fairly dense 0.1 mm.-2 mm. with rare 5 mm. grits). Presence of the chaff gives a slight laminar tendency to the core. Clay contains fairly coarse mica (up to 0.01 mm.) and some angular black sand. Rim lightly burnished — surfaces wiped.

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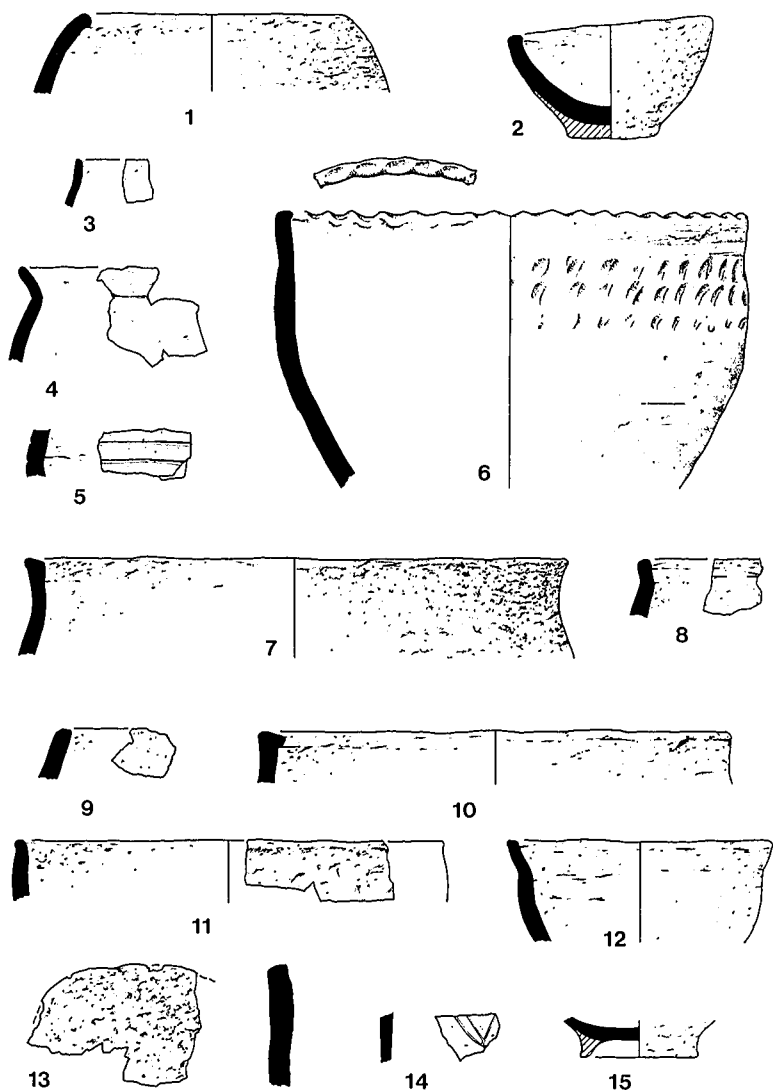


Fig. 3. Canterbury By-pass 1979: Iron Age Pottery (1/4)

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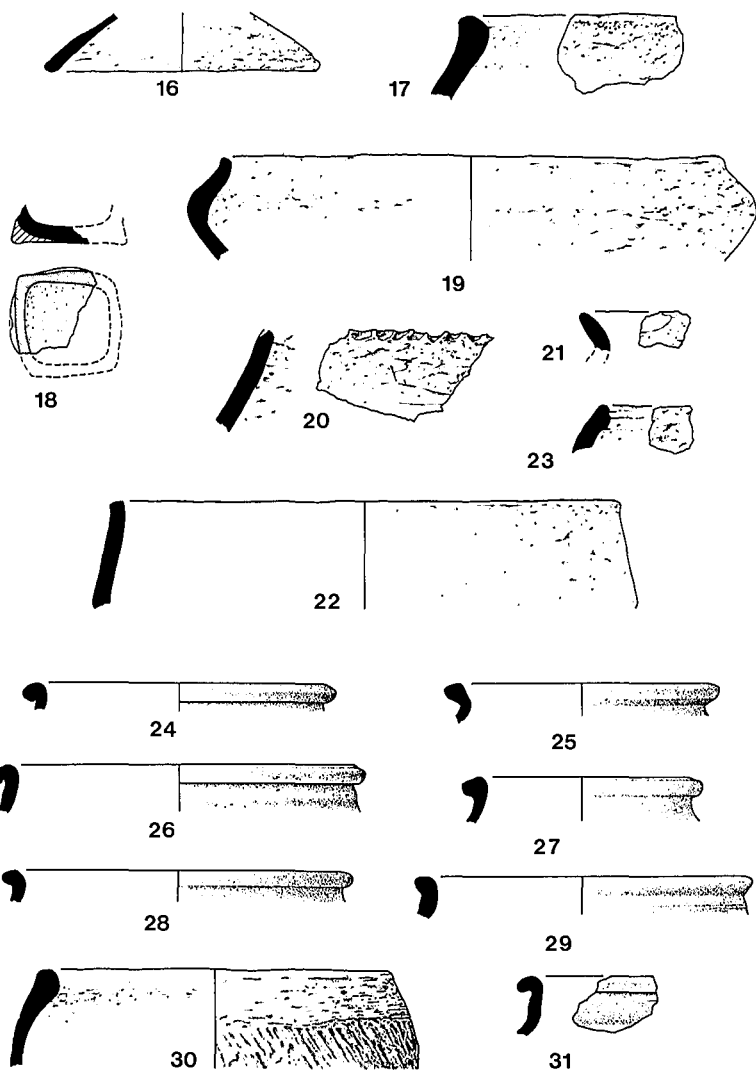


Fig. 4. Canterbury By-pass 1979 : 16-23 : Iron Age Pottery
 Nos. 24-31: Early Roman Coarse Ware; 24-25
 : Pit Complex 2; 26-29 : Pit Complex 12, 13,
 15; 30-31 : Pit 23 (30 — Belgic). (1/4).

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2. CBP (4). Small irregular 'thumb' pot, with base added, in fairly hard black flint tempered ware. Black interior with worn grey/dirty buff exterior. Temper is moderate and fairly open-spaced with 0.01 mm.-1 mm. background and scatter of larger grits (up to 2 mm. av.), showing more on the surface than in the fractures. Clay is micaceous with a little sand. Interior roughly smoothed; slight burnish on upper body.
3. CBP (4). Thin-walled bowl (probably shouldered) in fairly hard grey flint-tempered ware with pink-buff surfaces. The temper is moderate and fairly fine (with grits up to 1 mm., mostly smaller). Micaceous clay. Both surfaces burnished brown-red. Apparently not haematite-coated.
4. CBP (7). Jar in hard grey fine sandy ware with darker grey surfaces. Buff/grey lining to core below both surfaces. The clay contains moderate quartz-sand (c. 0.01 mm. max.) and is noticeably micaceous. Slight chaff addition to fabric, tending to burn out (?) in the core. Both surfaces burnished, particularly lip and rim. Single tooled groove at junction of neck and body.
5. CBP (7). Two body sherds from shouldered jar/bowl. Ware as no. 4, except that the exterior is fired dirty brown-grey. Again the fabric contains a slight chaff content, with the addition of sparse flint (0.01 mm.-2 mm. max. range). Worn burnish on both surfaces. At least two deep incised grooves at ? shoulder.
6. CBP (9). Jar in fairly hard grey fine sandy ware; dirty dark grey interior, drab dirty grey-brown/buff-brown exterior. Pale grey-buff lining below 1 mm. thick external skin, the latter ranging from grey to orange-brown. The clay is as nos. 4-5, though here the quartz grains are mixed with fine black sand and the mica is up to 0.02 mm. As with no. 5 there is additional sparse flint (large grits up to 7 mm.). Rim decorated with neat 'cabled' pie-crusting, and three rows of shallow, finger-tipping have been impressed above weak shoulder. Both surfaces wiped, exterior before being decorated. Exterior sooted.
7. CBP (9). Large jar in fairly soft dark grey flint-tempered ware with light brown-red surfaces. Moderate, ill-sorted temper with 0.01 mm.-1 mm. background and fairly dominant 2-3 mm. grits. Clay is finely micaceous with some black sand and occasional maroon-brown haematite grains (up to 3 mm.). Worn.
8. CBP (9). Jar in fairly hard, crips, black flint-and-chaff tempered ware; buff-pink surfaces (possibly refired after breakage). Moderate temper mixture with chaff lengths up to c. 5 mm. max. (generally shorter) and ill-sorted flint rarely above 1 mm. Clay is fairly micaceous with a little sand. Rim and exterior smoothed.
9. CBP (9). Large diam. shouldered bowl in fairly hard black flint-tempered ware; orange-red exterior, brown-buff interior. Moderate ill-sorted temper (normal background with larger 1-3 mm. grits). Clay finely micaceous. ? Traces of dull brown-red haematite-coat on both surfaces. Worn.
10. CBP (9). Jar in fairly hard black flint-tempered ware with patchy dark grey/dirty buff surfaces. Moderate, ill-sorted and fairly coarse temper with little below 0.02 mm., and clusters of 2-4 mm. grits. Clay finely micaceous. Interior wiped. Flat-topped rim and exterior roughly burnished.
11. CBP (9). Bowl with large diam. in fairly hard black flint-and-chaff tempered ware : dirty grey/pink-brown surfaces. The burnt-out chaff gives a light, slightly corky feel. The temper mixture is fairly even : chaff —

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with lengths up to 6 mm. (mostly shorter); flint — fairly coarse with sparse 0.01 mm.-1 mm. background and dominant 2-3 mm. grits, tending to cluster. Clay is micaceous and contains a little sand. Surfaces roughly smoothed.

12. CBP (9). Bowl in fairly hard dark grey flint-tempered ware with near-black surfaces. Moderate ill-sorted temper (< 0.01 mm.-1 mm. av. with c. 2 mm. and rare 4 mm. foreground). Interior wiped. Rim and exterior lightly burnished. Micaceous clay.
13. CBP (11). (SF. no. 1). Part thick, roughly flat pottery slab, sub-rectangular/square with rounded 'corner'. Fairly hard dirty grey flint-tempered ware. Fairly profuse, coarse temper with dominant 2-3 mm. grits.
14. CBP (28). Body sherd in fairly soft dark grey flint-tempered ware with dirty brown-buff interior surface. Temper is fine (rarely exceeding 1 mm.) and fairly sparse. Micaceous clay with plates up to 0.01 mm. Exterior with incised decoration and traces of medium burnish.
15. CBP (30). Small foot-ringed base in fairly hard dark grey flint-tempered ware. Exterior patchy brown/dirty dark grey-brown. Moderate fairly fine temper, rather ill-sorted (1 mm. grits against finer background down to < 0.01 mm.). Clay visually has little or no mica. Occasional chaff inclusions to fabric. Fairly neat foot-ring added separately. Both surfaces smoothed.
16. CBP (30). Lid ? in fairly soft grey flint-tempered ware with grey surfaces (dirty pink-grey where the pink-buff core lining shows through). Moderate temper ranging from 0.01 mm. — sparser 2-4 mm. grits. Clay finely micaceous. Both surfaces, particularly interior, burnished.

Residual pottery from Belgic Romano-British features.

17. CBP (12). Large jar in fairly soft dirty grey flint-tempered ware with dirty grey-buff/pink-buff surfaces, the external oxidisation process extending 2-3 mm. into core. Temper is fairly profuse and ill-sorted (fairly dense 0.01 mm. — 1 mm. with clusters of larger 2-4 mm. grits). The clay is micaceous and contains moderate angular black sand and ironstone grains (0.01 mm. — 2 mm. range). Rim and interior wiped; the temper pimples the untreated exterior surface. Poorly made.
18. CBP (12). Small pot with lower body square with pinched corners; actual sub-square base added separately. The flint-tempered ware is dark brown and fairly hard. Dark grey surfaces. Temper is moderate and fairly fine — mostly finer than 1 mm. Sides and interior partially burnished. ? Function.
19. CBP (48). Large shouldered bowl in fairly hard dirty dark grey flint-tempered ware with dirty brown-buff/grey-buff surfaces. Moderate, fairly coarse and ill-sorted temper (usual range with foreground grits up to a rare 5 mm.). Clay has little visual mica. Interior wiped; exterior and rim lightly burnished. Sherd sooted after breakage.
20. CBP (48). Body sherd from large jar in fairly soft, brittle, dirty pink-buff flint-tempered ware; dirty buff-grey surfaces. Temper as no. 19. Fabric has occasional chaff inclusions. Clay fairly micaceous. Both surfaces roughly wiped — some grit-drag. ? Shoulder/neck decorated with deep overlapping finger-presses.
21. CBP (49). Rim sherd from jar in fairly soft dark grey-brown flint-tempered ware. Temper is moderate with few grits larger than 1 mm. Lip and exterior burnished black. Sooted.
22. CBP (UN). Shouldered jar in fairly hard dirty grey-buff flint-tempered ware with worn dirty brown-pink surfaces, the oxidization process extending

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1-2 mm. into core. Irregular pink-buff lining below exterior oxidization (sherd may have been refired after breakage). The original dirty buff-grey burnished skin is flaky. The temper is moderate, open-spaced, with a slight tendency to cluster (< 0.01 mm. - 1 mm. background with larger 2-3 mm. grits - rare). The clay is fairly micaceous and contains some angular black sand (up to 0.04 mm.) and occasional grains of maroon-red haematite.

23. CBP (UN). Bowl/closed form jar in fairly soft dark chocolate-brown flint-tempered ware, with dirty dark grey-brown surfaces. The temper is moderate and fairly fine with clusters of 1-2 mm. grits. Fabric contains occasional chaff. Clay slightly micaceous. Broad, poorly defined internal ledge — ? lid-seating. Interior wiped, exterior untreated; rim and ledge with slight burnish.

Discussion

In the absence of a really thorough study of Iron Age pottery from east Kent no attempt has been made either to date this group or to suggest possible 'internal' sequences using the formal traits present. However, nos. 1, 19 and 22 are broadly paralleled at Highstead, near Chislet (1976 CAT excavation : report forthcoming) and at Barham Downs, 1971, and Bridge By-pass, Site 8 (Macpherson-Grant : forthcoming). More usefully, this is the fourth site so far studied producing wares tempered with both flint and chaff or dung (nos. 1, 8, 11.). Internally, the real fabric outsiders are nos. 4-6 from Pits 7 and 9, in a fine sandy ware with little additional temper. The form and decoration of no. 6 also sets it apart and looks 'archaic'. Altogether five separate fabric types were recorded, and interestingly only these two pits contained the full range.

- B. The Romano-British Features (Figs. 4-10, nos. 24-116).
(See also Figs. 1-2 and pp. 271-3).

Though the pottery from these features is figured in excavated sequence, the coarse sandy wares from the kiln and associated features are described as one group. For convenience the Belgic material has been extracted.

Belgic Pottery

Wares of this type were recorded from only three Romano-British features: Pits 23, 29 and the kiln (60) and are all probably residual (but see discussion below pp. 287-9).

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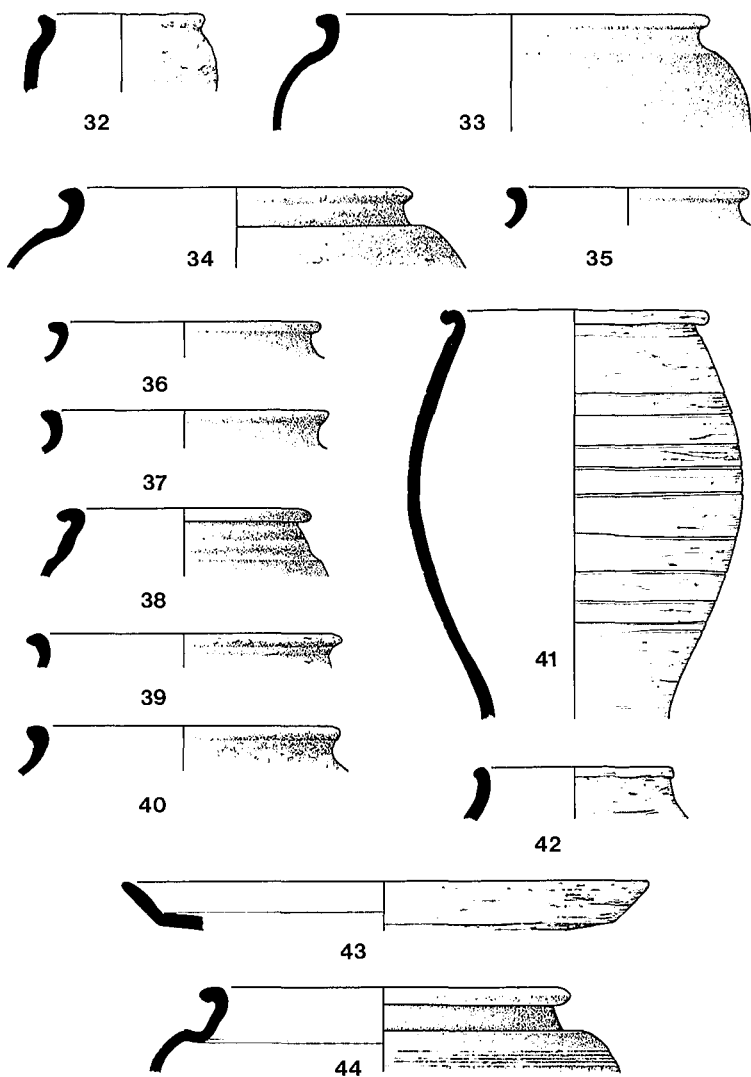


Fig. 5. Canterbury By-pass 1979 : Early Roman Coarse Ware.
 Nos. 32-40 : Pit 23; 41-44 : Pit 29 (41-43 —
 Belgic). (1/4).

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30. CBP (23). Jar in soft dirty grey partially grog-tempered ware with dirty grey surfaces (darker exterior). The fabric is finely micaceous and contains some fine sand, the latter eroding out, leaving numerous small voids on both surfaces, giving a corky texture. Worn diagonal combing, downwards from the weak shoulder. Exterior sooted.
41. CBP (29). Beaker in soft dark brown ware. Red-brown interior surface; patchy red-brown/buff/dark grey exterior. Fabric contains profuse black, pale buff and maroon-red/brown grog grains (c. 2 mm. max.). The buff grains, in particular, give a characteristic pale 'freckle' to the surface; they are slightly harder than the matrix. The fabric also contains a little black sand, occasional stone and milky quartz grits (up to 1 mm.), and rare chalk grains (3 mm. max.). Single groove incised into rim top. Rim and exterior body has a light, worn, overall burnish — glossy on rim. Body decoration uneven and tooled.
42. CBP (29). Small jar in fairly soft dirty grey sandy ware. Interior buff, exterior dirty buff-grey. Fabric contains ill-sorted scatter of brown-buff grog grains (up to 4 mm.). Poorly made. Traces of sooting on rim.
43. CBP (29). Platter. Fairly soft grey grog-tempered ware. Dark grey surfaces; exterior smoothed, interior burnished.

Romano-British Coarse Sandy Ware

A large selection of pottery is illustrated from Pit Complex 12, 13, and 15, Pits 23 and 29, the kiln proper (60), its first and second flues (61 and 62 respectively) and Features 49 and 70. Detailed visual fabric studies show that the material from all these features is basically identical and that the pottery from the non-kiln features is waste products deposited during the kiln's use. All the pottery is, therefore, treated as one group. No statistical analyses are presented since a comparative review is proposed of the Canterbury area kiln products against the large quantities of coarse wares being excavated from the City.

Fabric. The clay used contains abundant close-set coarse quartz-sand consisting of profuse angular and sub-rounded grains of clear and milky quartz (the latter dominating), and lesser quantities of angular black sand. The grain sizes rarely exceed 0.03 mm., with the black sand a little finer. Where 'fresh' the surfaces look and feel harsh, the quartz grains tending to pimple densely and sparkle the pot skin; where weathered the surface is pitted with small voids. In some sherds the grains are more open-spaced, but this is rare. Equally rare are small rounded chalk grains (< 1 mm.). The second major visual fabric characteristic is the presence of haematite/iron-stone grains, mostly brick/maroon red, less frequently buff-dull brown. The grain sizes (0.01 mm.-1 mm., occasionally up to 2 mm.), and quantities vary considerably, but no pot is free of iron-stone. Rarely some sherds have linear voids where accidentally included chaff/grass has burnt out. When fired the clay produces a

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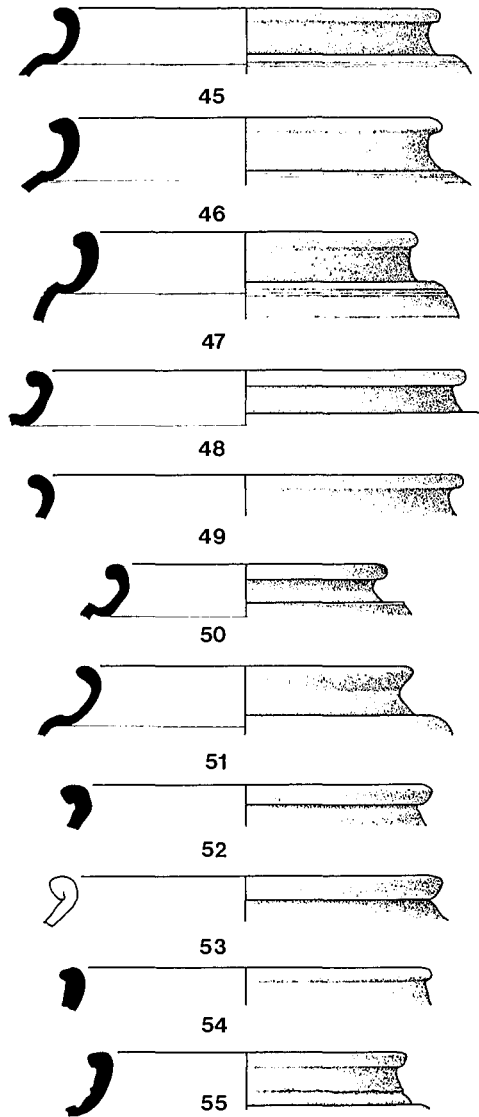


Fig. 6. Canterbury By-pass 1979 : Early Roman Coarse Ware. Nos. 45-55 : Pit 29. (1/4).

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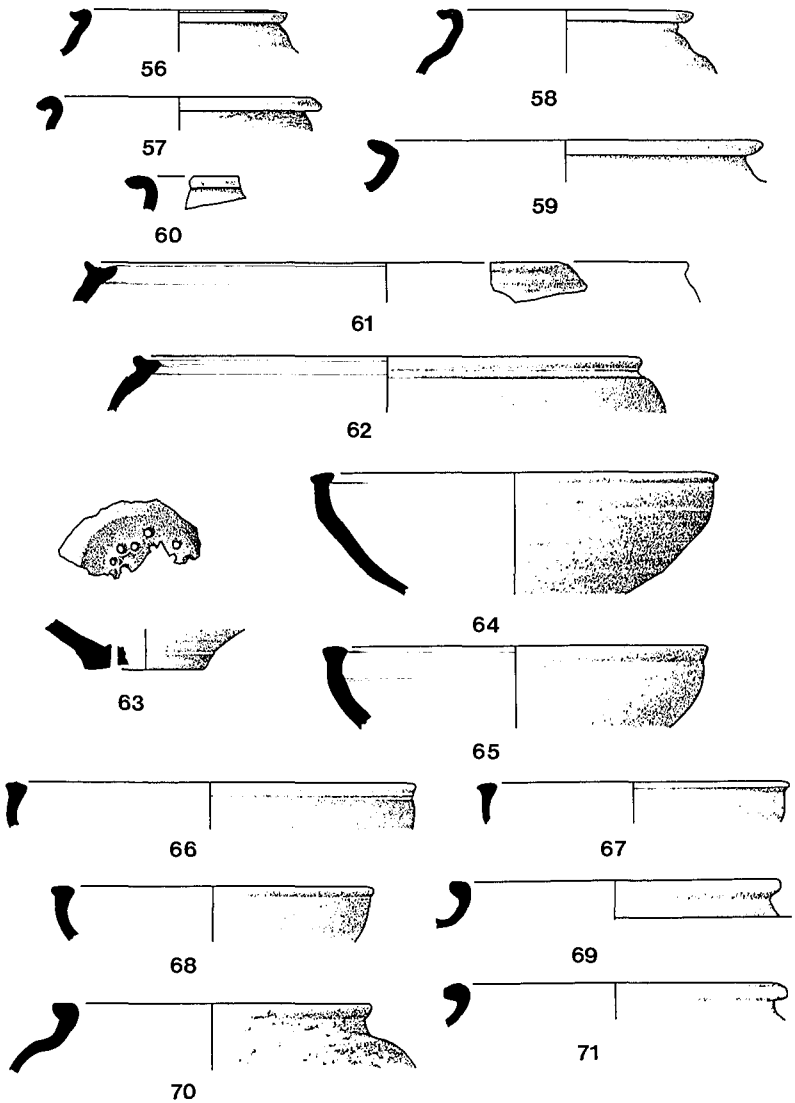


Fig. 7. Canterbury By-pass 1979 : Early Roman Coarse Ware. Nos. 56-68 : Pit 29.
69-71 : Kiln Flue 1 (61). (1/4).

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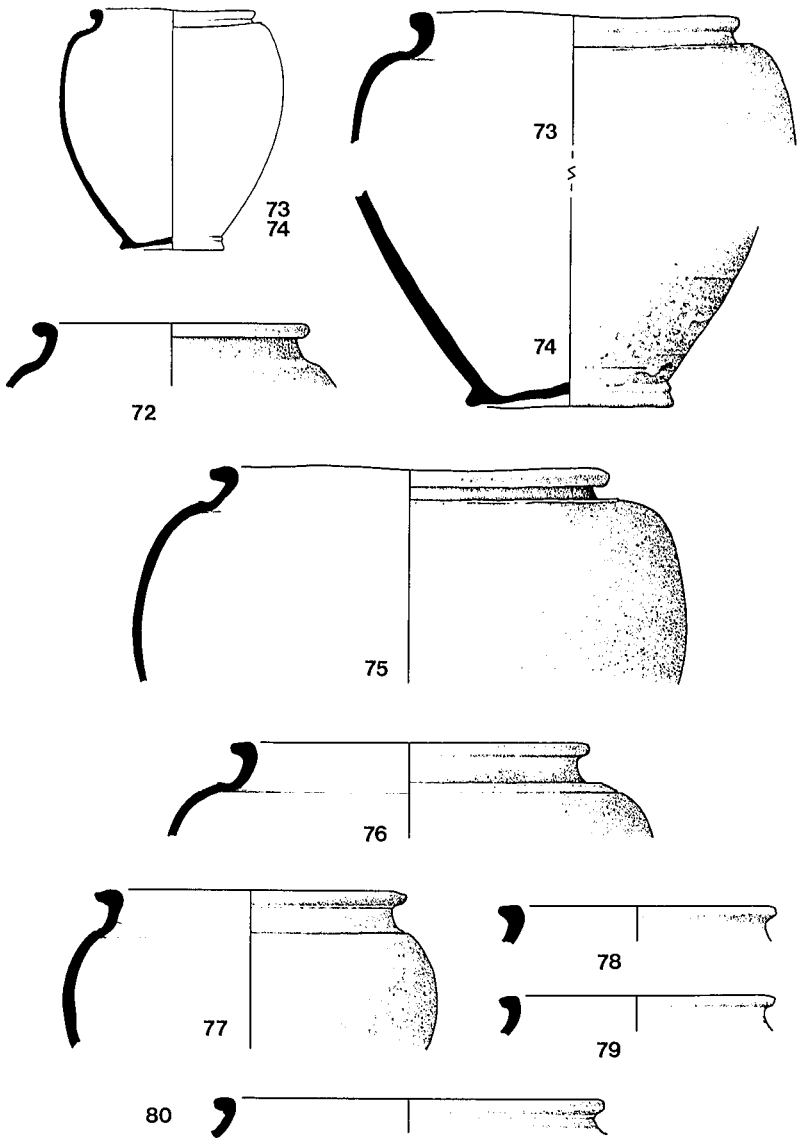


Fig. 8. Canterbury By-pass 1979 : Early Roman Coarse Ware. No.72 : Kiln Flue 1 (61);73-80 : Kiln (60); 73/74 : Reconstruction 1 : 2. (1/4).

fairly hard surface, but scratchable. Exposed to use the sand grains are unlikely to have bonded well and some meals must have been rather gristy.

Firing. The post-fired ware colours range from dark/light grey, if reduced, to buff-orange/orange/orange-red, if oxidized. Of the total material examined, rather less than one-half was completely reduced, and approx. one-quarter completely oxidized, the remainder being partly oxidised. The latter have either a grey cored sandwich, with the depths of the oxidization process varying from skin-deep to c. 2 mm. or, more frequently, an oxidized core with grey reduced surfaces. Whatever the degree of firing few samples have internal/external colours that match, and of the one-quarter remainder, patchy surface colouration is characteristic, and in one example this patchiness is reflected outside to inside through the pot wall.

Forms. Five main form-types were recorded:

1. Necked jars.
2. Bowls.
3. Lid-seated jars/bowls.
4. Strainers.
5. Miscellaneous.

Necked jars. (Figs. 4-10). Over 80 per cent of the identifiable forms were jars. All were short-necked, with a persistent slightly closed tendency. The neck and the rim variations are the only really diagnostic traits. All have short everted rims. The full range is illustrated to show the variety of rim forms. They are difficult to classify tightly, but the main types are:

A. Flat everted - e.g. nos. 44 and 58, not found in the kiln itself.

B. Angled everted - e.g. nos. 59 and 96.

C. 'Rolled'/beaded everted - e.g. nos. 47, 48, 50, 99 and 101.

D. Triangular everted - e.g. nos. 34, 39, 56, 89, 92 and 116.

E. Triangular everted, 'snub-nosed' - e.g. nos. 46, 75-78.

Of these, C-E appear to be the dominant elements. Others are variations on the traits listed above. Some rims have a tendency to drop or 'sit' on the neck (nos. 26, 52, 53, 57). Most rims tend to 'flow' out of the neck, only rarely is the junction sharply defined (nos. 82, 89, 100). Diameters tend to be concentrated between the 12-20 cm. range, peaking slightly between 14-16 cm. and again at 20 cm.; few diameters fall on either side of this range. Some necks have a tendency to swell between shoulder and rim (nos. 38, 56, 58, 98). Shoulders are set high and fall into three groups: weak (e.g. nos. 70, 72, 99), slightly angled (e.g. nos. 38, 58, 89, 98) or rounded with the shoulder/neck junction strongly accentuated (e.g. nos. 44, 45, 51, 55, 93, 116). This latter tendency often becomes extreme as

FOUR MINOR EXCAVATIONS IN 1978-79

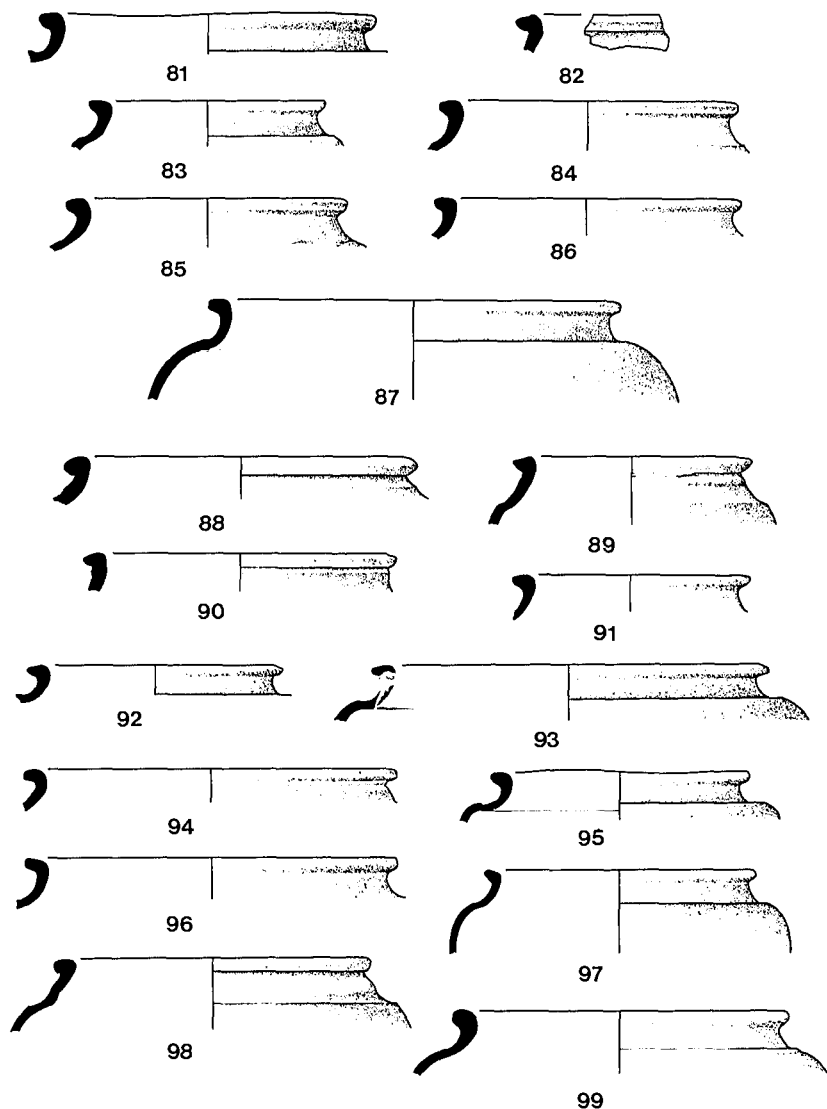


Fig. 9. Canterbury By-pass 1979: Early Roman Coarse Ware. Nos. 81-99: Kiln (60).
(1/4).

with nos. 47, 50, 69, 92, 95. Bases are either plain or very slightly footed (in one case possibly added - no.105), rarely rest flat, and internally often have a remnant central 'tump'. The 1:2 reconstruction (Fig. 8) is based on rim no. 73 and base no. 107 and, though approximate, is the suggested basic pattern for most jars, perhaps rather more tapered than illustrated. Maximum girth appears to be placed high.

The remaining form types 2-4, Bowls (Figs. 7 and 10), Lid-seated jars/bowls (Fig. 7, nos. 61-2), and Strainers (Fig. 7, no.63) are self-explanatory. Only no. 32 falls into the Miscellaneous group (Fig. 5), and is a small hand-made pot: child/apprentice/firing test-piece.

Decoration. Not a dominant characteristic, and mostly very restrained. Occasionally, rim and neck junctions are emphasized by a single incised groove (nos. 89, 90) or slight beading (nos. 77, 80, 103). The neck-swelling tendency noted above is sometimes 'condensed' into a slight ridge (nos. 89, 114) and only once accentuated into a pronounced cordon, no. 55. A small proportion of jars, notably from Pits 29 and 49, was decorated on the shoulder with limited zones of incised horizontal lines (e.g. nos. 44, 47, 115).

Wastage. Though wasters and 'seconds' were recorded from the kiln itself (nos. 73-5, 95, 107) few obvious examples were noted from the non-kiln features. However, a high proportion of rim sherds broken at the shoulder/neck junction, was recovered from the kiln and pits. The tendency noted above for this junction point to be over-exaggerated indicates a structural point that was inherently weak. Visually the neck and rim sections often appear to sag into the pot.

Discussion

This Stuppington Lane kiln is a most fortunate find. For some time two distinctive and, presumably, local, sandy fabric types have been recorded from Canterbury excavations and broadly dated to mid-later first century A.D. One is a fine sandy ware, the other is a harsh, coarse, sandy ware. Both are considered as being 'transitional' because:

1. They are always associated in moderate quantities with the dominant Belgic grog-tempered coarse ware.
2. They come, mostly, from contexts where the characteristic 'Roman' coarse ware forms of the later first/second centuries A.D. are only beginning to emerge.
3. More specifically both wares have formal and decorative traits (i.e. rouletted decoration/copies of same) that appear to be shared with the Belgic grog-tempered tradition.

FOUR MINOR EXCAVATIONS IN 1978-79

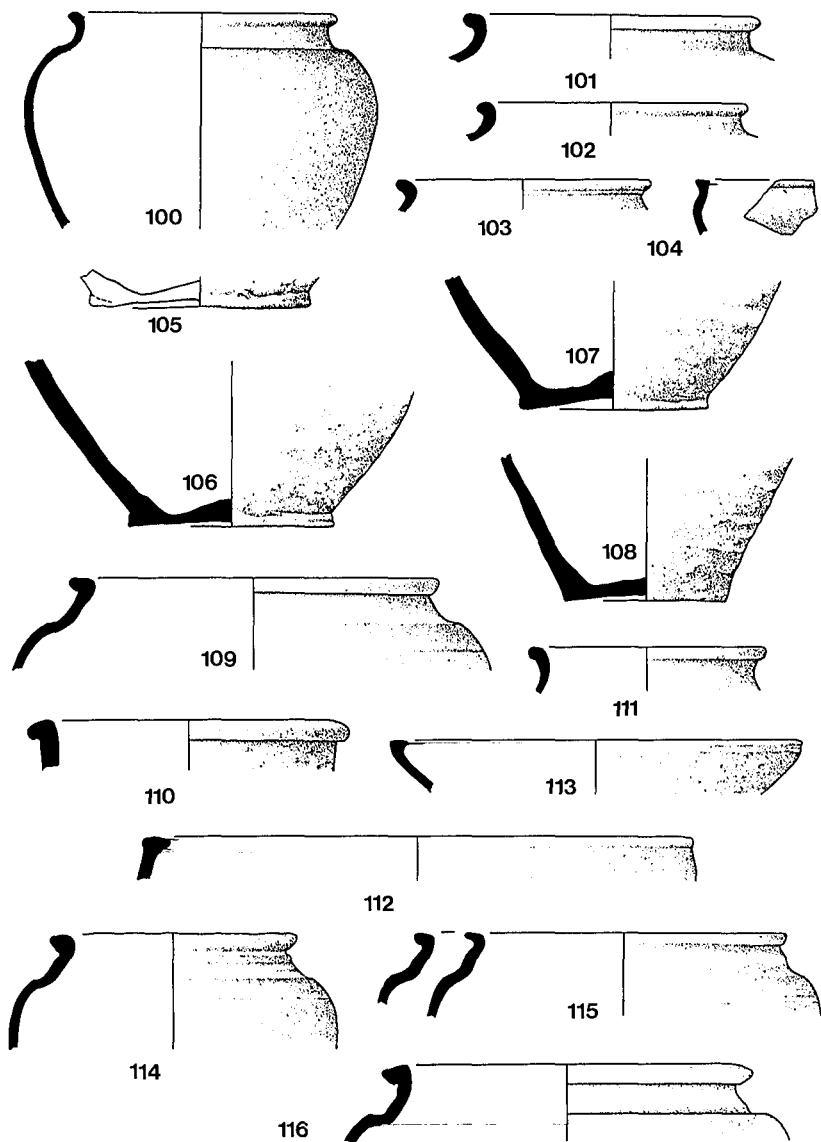


Fig.10. Canterbury By-pass 1979 : Early Roman Coarse Ware. Nos. 100-108 : Kiln (60); 109-113 : Feature 49; 114-115 : Feature 70; 116 : Unstratified. ($\frac{1}{4}$).

4. And finally because it is not unreasonable to expect the 'point' of fusion between two cultures to be reflected somewhere in the local pottery record.

To date the genuine existence of local 'transitional' ware production has been mostly based on the above. Though the hard evidence cannot be presented here the present kiln group does strongly enhance the possibility, because

1. Wares from this kiln (jars and bowls), or one producing very similar forms in a very similar fabric, have been found in small amounts from mid-later first-century A.D. contexts within the City.
2. Some of the jar rim forms are reflected in the Belgic grog-tempered tradition.
3. Though a few rim traits present here (e.g. the 'rolled'/beaded rim and variants of no. 52) continue into the second century, most of the forms illustrated are unlikely to last beyond the end of the first. This definitely applies to the bowl forms, which are certainly replaced by the end of the first century A.D. by flanged and reeded-rim bowls, and somewhat earlier by plain flanged-rim types.
4. The fairly high proportion of oxidized products, too, suggests a pre-second century A.D. date. A consistent fact from the City excavations is that both the smooth 'Upchurch'-type wares and the local sandy wares coming from pre-second century A.D. contexts tend to have a fairly high proportion of oxidized types, irrespective of form, i.e. prior to the colour/function differentiation clearly observed in later levels.
5. The Belgic wares present are probably residual, but not by much. No. 41 is typical of a specific group of forms; the characteristic red-brown surface being mostly confined to tall barrel-'beakers', copies of Hofheim-type flagons and, occasionally, small jars, a trend probably dying out between c. A.D. 60-70.

To summarize, the Stuppington Lane kiln was certainly operating during the second half of the first century A.D., and quite probably (if the above reasoning remains valid) between c. A.D. 50-70, possibly earlier. It is suggested that the kiln products are of a 'transitional' type and reflect the period of cultural fusion between the truly 'Belgic' and subsequent truly 'Roman' potting traditions.

FOUR MINOR EXCAVATIONS IN 1978-79

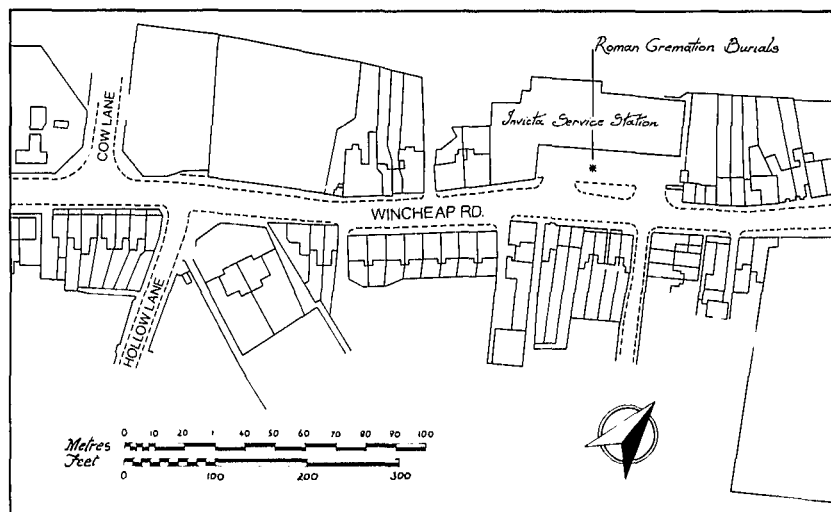


Fig. 11. Wincheap, Canterbury, 1979. Location Plan.

2. THE WINCHEAP CREMATIONS (N.G.R. TR 14155705) (Fig. 11)

In the spring of 1979, contractors cutting a foundation for a new petrol pump at the 'Invicta' Service Station, 116-190 Wincheap, recovered the remains of five Roman pots from what were probably two cremation burials.

The pump foundation pit measured 1.66 m. north-south by 1.15 m. east-west. The pots, all previously damaged by earlier brickwork, were set in the natural brickearth at a depth of 1.40 m. below the surface of the station forecourt. The earlier brickwork had been laid just above the level of natural brickearth and had cut away much of the upper parts of most of the pots, which were closely grouped in the north-west corner of the foundation trench. As the pots had been removed and emptied by the workmen, it was impossible to tell whether there was one burial or two. The presence of two large urns in the group, does, however, strongly suggest two adjacent burials. The pots have been roughly dated to the first half of the second century A.D.

Many Roman cremations and inhumations have previously been found outside the Roman Worthgate,⁴ though this group of pots is the furthest known cremations found south-west of the city. Two cremations and a double inhumation, were found during the recent excavations north of Canterbury Castle Keep,⁵ and a single crem-

⁴ *VCH (Kent)*, iii, 1932, 77-8.

⁵ Excavations at Canterbury Castle (forthcoming).

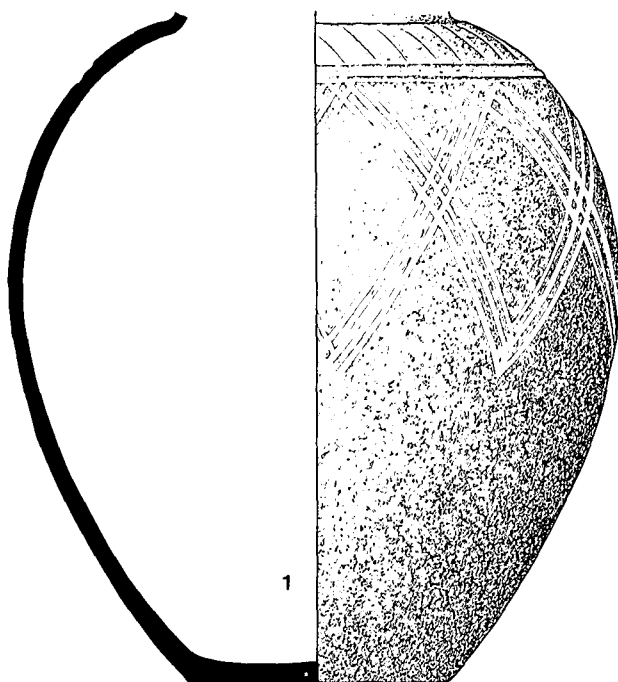


Fig. 12. Wincheap, Canterbury, 1979. No. 1 Cremation Jar. ($\frac{1}{4}$).

ation was found by Professor S.S. Frere during the 1953 excavations at Canterbury Castle.⁶ A further three cremations are recorded as having been found in the area formerly within the bailey of Canterbury Castle.⁷

There are also a number of unsubstantiated reports of other cremation burials found during the building of an extension to Canterbury Gasworks in 1957, but no record of the finds nor the finds themselves has yet come to light.

The Trust wishes to thank the Esso Contractors, Messrs. S. Dearing, R. Greytrix and R. Jarvis, for bringing the find to our attention, and Mr. Mark Duncan, for making the drawings.

PAUL BENNETT

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ *op. cit.*, in note 4, 78.

FOUR MINOR EXCAVATIONS IN 1978-79

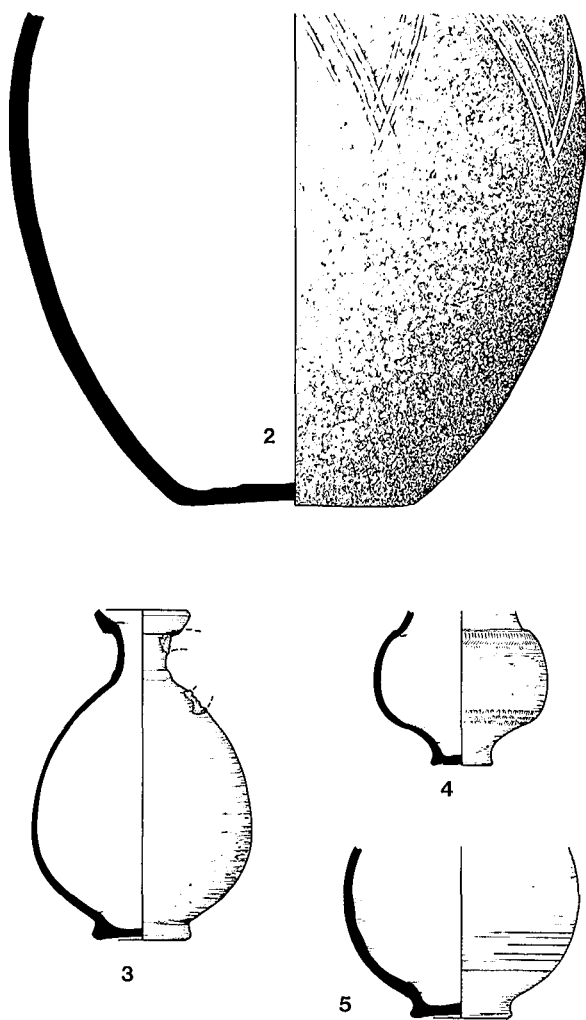


Fig. 13. Wincheap, Canterbury, 1979. No. 2 Cremation Jar; nos. 3-5. Accessory.

FOUR MINOR EXCAVATIONS IN 1978-79

The Pottery (Figs. 12-13)

1. Large jar, containing cremation, in fairly hard finely grog-tempered ware. Dirty grey-pink interior; exterior fired patchy dirty grey-buff/pink-grey. The fabric also contains a mixture of black stone (c. 1 mm. av.), flint and quartz grits, the latter rare. The flint is fairly fine and open-spaced (0.01 mm. - rare 3 mm. range), with a slight tendency to cluster. The quartz is clear and rounded (up to c. 2 mm.). Worn, tooled, 'open'-trellis decoration on mid-upper body. Barely visible fine incised cross-hatched zone between broad shoulder grooves and base of neck.
2. Large jar, containing cremation. As no. 1, except that flint content in fabric is very sparse.
3. Small flagon, with handle missing. Fairly hard smooth deep pink ware with pale flesh-pink/buff surfaces. Traces of worn cream colour-coat. Clay contains fairly profuse brown-red, crisp, ironstone grains, which freckle the worn surfaces. Fairly finely micaceous.
4. Beaker in fairly hard smooth grey ware. Neck and rim missing. Fabric contains a little fine ? haematite/ironstone grains. Finely micaceous.
5. Part of small flagon in fairly soft smooth pale purple-pink ware, with deep pink exterior surface. ?Originally colour-coated. Clay as no. 3. Mica content fairly fine (up to 0.01 mm.).

Discussion

All five pots were damaged during machine excavation, and the original grouping lost. However, nos. 1 and 2 indicate that at least two cremations are represented. The two cremation jars are fairly typical of the refined post-'Belgic' grog-tempered tradition that may have continued as a sub-stratum throughout most, if not all, of the Roman period, finally re-emerging in the devolved and locally dominant, hand-made late Roman grogged wares. Only a broad second-century A.D. date can be given, tentatively confined to the first half.

N.C. MACPHERSON-GRANT

3. TYLER HILL 1979 (N.G.R. TR 142624)

In November, 1979, a quantity of medieval pottery sherds was recovered by Mr. W. McLaughlin from the upcast of a recently cut drainage ditch in Cane Wood, Tyler Hill. The pottery, dating to the mid to later fourteenth century, is undoubtedly residue from a nearby kiln, as yet unlocated, and represents yet another working site from this very important and widespread pottery, tile and brick manufacturing area.

PAUL BENNETT

FOUR MINOR EXCAVATIONS IN 1978-79

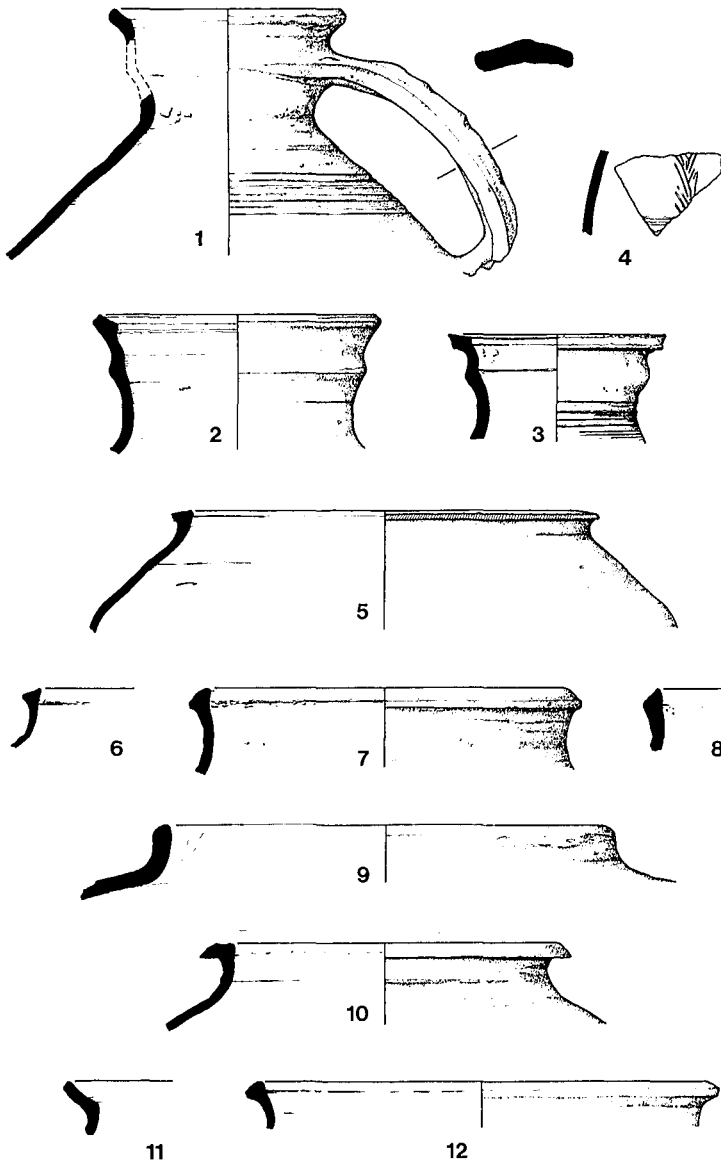


Fig. 14. Tyler Hill, 1979. Nos. 1-12. (1/4).

FOUR MINOR EXCAVATIONS IN 1978-79

The Pottery (Figs. 14-15).

(Drawn by L. Sartin)

Approximately 300 sherds were recovered, along with a few fragments of tile and burnt clay. Two main fabric types were present : a coarse sandy ware, and a smoother finely sanded ware.

Fabrics Fabric 1. Represented by the bulk of the pottery. A fairly micaceous clay containing abundant quartz-sand. The milky quartz grains are mostly sub-rounded, only rarely exceeding 0.02 mm., and have a tendency to cluster. Smaller quantities of fine angular black sand are fairly evenly distributed throughout, with average grain size c. 0.01 mm. Occasional larger inclusions of rounded stone grits and purple-brown haematite (up to c. 1 mm.) are also present. Ill-sorted additions of grog also occur in most sherds, though varying considerably in size and quantity. Where present, they show as smooth 'islands' in the sandy surface. Rare linear voids also exist where stray organic inclusions have been burnt out. The majority of the collection is of hard/fairly hard reduced sherds with dirty grey/grey/dark grey surfaces, but about one-quarter were oxidized with dirty buff-brown/orange surfaces. Interestingly most of this latter group were worn with burred and rounded edges.

Fabric 2. Represented by one sherd. A fairly smooth micaceous clay, the fabric containing a fairly profuse mixture of angular black sand and milky quartz grains, both finer than in Fabric 1, but with the same quantity ratio between the two. Rare, larger angular stone grits also occur (up to 0.02 mm.) together with sparse haematite grains and ill-sorted flecks of ? grog. The fabric is hard and has been fired orange with dirty buff-grey surfaces

Forms Too small a sample was recovered to warrant a statistical analysis of form frequencies present. Equally, as the illustrations show, the range of forms per vessel type is too varied to draw any useful conclusions. However, form types present included jugs, cooking-pots, pans and at least one spigot-spout.

Decoration Moulded or incised decoration was limited to one example each: a single shallow medial thumb-pressed strip (but not applied) on the handle of jug 1 (Fig. 14), and incised vertical 'feathering' on a jug body sherd (Fig. 14, no. 4). Horizontal incised wheel-turned decoration is represented by jugs 1 and 3 (with shoulder and neck sitings respectively). Glazes, including over-fired examples, were present on several sherds. The drab glazes of no. 3 (dark green) and no. 4 (mottled brown/dark brown) are typical, and of poor matt quality.

Discussion

Fabric 1 is typical of the medieval sandy wares produced in the Tyler Hill area during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, and

FOUR MINOR EXCAVATIONS IN 1978-79

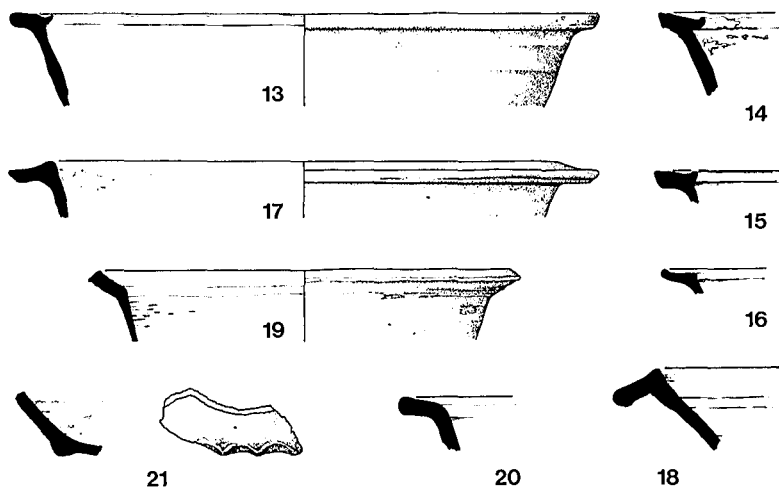


Fig. 15. Tyler Hill, 1979. Nos. 13-21. ($\frac{1}{4}$).

possibly earlier (see A.D.F. Streeten in *The Archaeology of Canterbury*, Vol. III, forthcoming). But the collection of Fabric 1 forms illustrated here is not easy to date. Cooking-pot no. 12, for instance, is identical to forms from twelfth-century Saxo-Norman levels within Canterbury, and only instinct suggests that it is indeed of this date. However, it is quite feasible that certain rim forms will re-appear during the life-span of a long-standing pottery tradition. This possibility is highlighted by no. 8, formally of Saxo-Norman type but with fabric and feel typical of the fourteenth century. The rest of the Fabric 1 forms belongs almost certainly to this century. Though nos. 1 - 3 would not be out of place in the late thirteenth century, present knowledge suggests an early - mid fourteenth-century date range. The cooking-pot forms 5 - 7 and 9 (no. 7 may be a jug) again fit into the fourteenth century, with a tentative emphasis on the mid - later years. The local emergence of the spigot-spout is unknown, but unlikely to be much before c. 1350.

The Fabric 2 example (no. 10) cannot be dated closely. It is superficially identical to wares from late medieval levels in Canterbury (i.e. c. 1400-c. 1550). Interestingly, fabrics of 1 and 2 type occur together in these levels, and to a certain extent share form types. In slightly later levels the local sandy fabrics disappear to be replaced by finer earthenwares of Fabric 2 type. The conjunction of these two fabrics suggests a potential 'transition' period. An arguable date bracket of c. 1400-1450 is suggested.

Late medieval Canterbury earthenwares of Fabric 2 type were almost certainly made locally and probably in the Tyler Hill area. The form of no. 10 appears to be closer to the medieval cooking-pot traditions than those of the late medieval. So, though no satisfactory claim can be made that this overall collection represents waste from a 'transition' period kiln or kilns, the presence of no. 10 *could* imply that finer earthenwares were being made in the Tyler Hill area before c. 1400.

Temporarily disregarding no. 12 as a problem piece, it is possible that the group as a whole represents the dumping of waste sherds from a kiln or kilns over a fairly long period, tentatively from c. 1325 - 1375. On objective grounds, the Fabric 2 example cannot be included in this date bracket, and for the time being must be considered a 'stray'.

N.C. MACPHERSON-GRANT

4. EXCAVATIONS AT KENNARD'S, CANTERBURY, 1979

In July 1979, the cutting of a foundation trench in a yard to the rear of Messrs. Kennard and Sons Ltd., 85 to 88 Northgate, Canterbury, for a workshop extension to the premises, resulted in the discovery of several inhumation burials. With the consent of Messrs. Kennard and Sons, the Canterbury Archaeological Trust were able to undertake the recording and lifting of the burials within the area of the foundation trench. This work took place on 28th July, a watching brief being maintained thereafter whilst the foundation trench was completed. The five graves and their accompanying inhumations were part of the graveyard of St. Gregory's Priory and were aligned on a north-west—south-east axis, with the head to the north-west.

THE SITE

A foundation trench, between 60 and 80 cm. wide, had been dug for three sides of the extension (Fig. 17). Stratigraphy within the trench consisted of 70 - 80 cm. of loose brick, mortar and tile rubble layers beneath the hardcore surfacings of the yard. The inhumations lay directly below an horizon of rubble, which was badly disturbed by later service trenches and the foundations of boundary walls. In most cases the graves were very shallow, ranging from 20 - 40 cm. in depth and were filled with a dark grey-brown clayey loam with occasional flecks of charcoal and mortar. The graves were cut into a

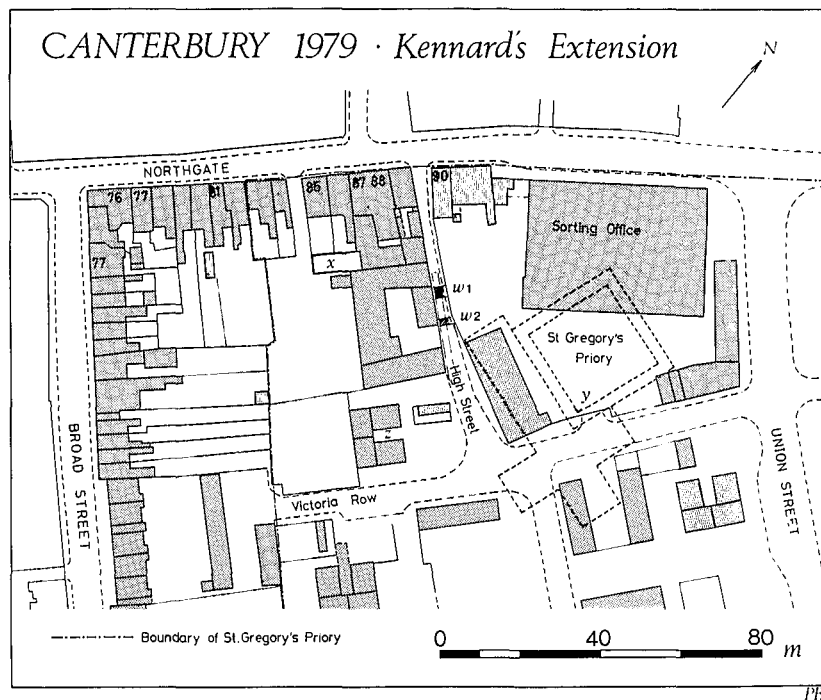


Fig. 16. Location of St. Gregory's Priory.

layer of mid-dark grey-brown sticky loam which extended over the whole area of the foundation trench. Due to the shallowness of the graves, it is apparent that the graves have been truncated, possibly by terracing of the site in the late sixteenth century, prior to the construction of outhouses and gardens to the rear of premises fronting onto Northgate. Abundant disarticulated human bones, some within the fill of the recorded graves, indicate the disturbance of earlier inhumations by later graves and the terracing mentioned above, shallow graves having been totally removed.

The foundation trench reached a total depth of 1.40 m. No datable archaeological material was located from either the graves or the underlying deposits, so the dating of the burials, by documentary evidence, will be discussed below.

No evidence, in the form of wood-staining or iron nails, was observed to suggest that the inhumations were contained in coffins. It must be noted that the inhumations, recorded in Fig. 2, were disturbed when the foundation trench was cut and are therefore reconstructed. See Appendix A for an account of the stratified bones.

FOUR MINOR EXCAVATIONS IN 1978-79

PREVIOUS FINDS FROM THE AREA

A group of human skulls was located during the digging of foundations for a block of flats on the west side of High Street St. Gregory in 1961 ('Z' in Fig. 16).⁸

In 1954 part of the cloister of St. Gregory's Priory was located during the digging of foundations for a gateway to the Post Office garage.⁹ (Y in Fig. 16). This has enabled the position of the Priory Church of St. Gregory to be located (Fig. 16), but the exact size is uncertain.

Other finds on the site of the Priory relate to a post-medieval clay-pipe works situated under the sorting office.¹⁰ ¹¹

THE CEMETERY

Documentary research has indicated that the burials relate to the cemetery in the grounds of St. Gregory's Priory, which was established by Archbishop Lanfranc in A.D. 1084.¹²

Dr. Urry has shown, by reference to 'Rental D',¹³ that the south-west corner of St. Gregory's graveyard was at a point 40.26 m. from the corner of Broad Street. This point coincides with the property boundary of 82/83 Northgate (Fig. 16). The northern boundary extended along the south side of Northgate, whilst the western boundary ran along the rear of tenancies on the east side of Broad Street. This boundary can be traced today; the properties along the east side of Broad Street have retained their original layout in the form of long, narrow strips at right angles to Broad Street. This boundary conforms to measurements in 'Rental D'.¹⁴

From the evidence available, it therefore appears that the cemetery of the Priory lay to the west and south-west of the Priory Church.

The early history of the graveyard has been well documented and has been discussed at length by Somner¹⁵ and Hasted.¹⁶ Originally,

⁸ *Kentish Gazette*, 29th February, 1961.

⁹ F. Jenkins, 'St. Gregory's Priory' *Arch. Cant.*, lxxii (1958), 199. The finds/records of the discovery were deposited with the City Museum Canterbury in 1958.

¹⁰ F. Jenkins, *pers. comm.* The finds include a possible clay-pipe kiln, which was unfortunately destroyed before it could be recorded.

¹¹ *Kent Messenger*, 11th July, 1958.

¹² Eadmer, *Hist. Nov. Lib.*, i, 9.

¹³ W. Urry, *Canterbury Under the Angevin Kings* (1967), 201, map 2b.2.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 201.

¹⁵ W. Somner, *Antiquities of Canterbury* (Batteley's ed., 1703), 48-50.

¹⁶ E. Hasted, *The History of the Ancient Metropolitan City of Canterbury* (1799), 239-242.

FOUR MINOR EXCAVATIONS IN 1978-79

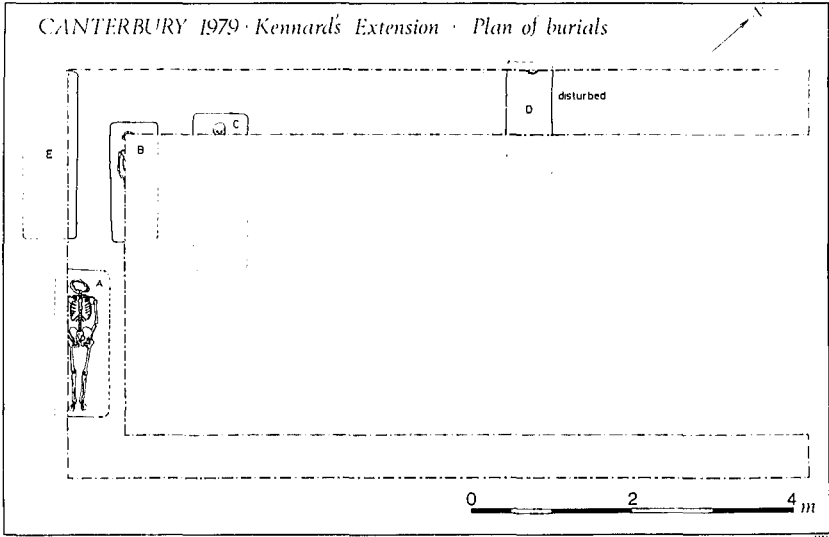


Fig. 17. Kennards' Extension: Plan of Burials.

it appears that secular canons were placed at St. Gregory's on its initial foundation in A.D. 1084;¹⁷ Eadmer informs us that the canons were to administer to the infirm of St. John's Hospital, which had been established on the north side of Northgate by Archbishop Lanfranc in the same year.¹⁸ The canons were also responsible for the burial of the patients of St. John's. It is likely, since St. John's did not possess its own churchyard until the early seventeenth century, that the burials took place in the churchyard of St. Gregory's Priory. However, the cemetery was not only used for the burial of the domestics and infirm of St. John's Hospital, but also for '... the parishioners of Northgate, their neighbours likewise',¹⁹ both before and after the Dissolution.

It was frequently the case for parishioners of those parish churches belonging to Christchurch, not possessing their own cemeteries, to state in their wills a chosen place of burial in one of the churchyards supplied by the monasteries.²⁰ Regarding this matter, a conflict arose between the City and the Priory as to whether the precincts of the Priory were within the liberties of the City.²¹

¹⁷ E. Hasted, *The History of the ancient metropolitical City of Canterbury* (1799),

¹⁸ Eadmer, *op. cit.* in note 5.

¹⁹ Hasted, *op. cit.* in note 9, 244.

²⁰ Hasted, *op. cit.* in note 9, 244.

²¹ Somner, *op. cit.* in note 8, 49.

Hasted's research at the prerogatory office, Canterbury, located the wills of persons buried within the Priory Church of St. Gregory, and in its graveyard.²² The list of persons, which covers the period 1464 to 1533, includes parishioners of Northgate, St. Andrew's, St. Dunstan's, and St. John Baptist parishes, and the infirm of St. John's Hospital, Northgate.

The monastery of St. Gregory's was dissolved in A.D. 1536, the last Prior being Sir John Symkins. Having come into King Henry VIII's hands, it was soon exchanged with the Archbishop of Canterbury for St. Radigund's, Dover, and became part of the See of Canterbury. The Priory and its possessions were leased by the Archbishop in one piece until the lease was sold in 1773.

Throughout that period the lease passed through many hands. Documentary references to many lessees serve to elucidate the later history of the graveyard of St. Gregory's Priory. In 1560 the tenant was Mr. May, who withheld part of the churchyard in that year.²³ In 1573 at another visitation, it was alleged that the graveyard was not properly kept, and thereafter burials were only allowed 'on payment of 2*d.* for an old body and 1*d.* for a child'.²⁴

After this date the history of the burial ground is obscure. Hasted states that the lessee 'in Queen Elizabeth's time' was Sir John Boys,²⁵ who obtained an appropriate to inclose the Priory 'upon exchange of the modern churchyard ground for it with the churchwardens of Northgate', after which time burial presumably ceased. The exact date of the inclosure is uncertain, but can be fixed between the visitation of 1573 and Sir John Boys' death in 1612.

CONCLUSION

Due to the lack of artifactual dating for the inhumations, we must rely on the documentary evidence discussed above. A date of deposition between the initial founding of St. Gregory's Priory in A.D. 1084 and the death of Sir John Boys in 1612 — the maximum life-span of the cemetery — is suggested by the documentary sources mentioned above. The property boundaries overlying the graves do not assist in the narrowing of this date range. A map of the city dated to 1578 indicates that tenements stood along the south-east side of Northgate at that date, but their property boundaries are not

²² Hasted, *op. cit.* in note 9, 241.

²³ Somner, *op. cit.* in note 8, 49.

²⁴ Somner, *op. cit.* in note 8, 49.

²⁵ Hasted, *op. cit.* in note 9, 242.

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indicated. The present buildings standing on the south-east side of Northgate from no. 82 north-eastwards are of post-1800 construction.

The bone report (Appendix A) details the stratified human bones within the graves recorded in Fig. 2. Within these graves, residual bones accounted for a further six individuals; two adult males, one adult female and three children of approximately 3, 5 - 10 and 10 years respectively.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to Dr. P.H. Garrard, for preparing the report on the human bones, which appears in Appendix A; also to Kevin Blockley, for comments on an initial draft of this report and to Becky Bennett for typing the text.

ADDENDUM

Emergency repairs to a broken sewer, during July, 1980, entailed the excavation by council workmen of a trench down the centre of High Street (Fig. 16). Permission was kindly granted for the Canterbury Archaeological Trust to undertake a watching brief during the trench cutting.

Although shuttering obscured the sections along much of the trench, two flint and mortar walls were observed and recorded (W1 and W2 in Fig. 16).

Both survived to a depth of 1 m. and ran approximately at right angles to High Street. The thickness of W1 was *c.* 3.0 m. whilst that of W2 was *c.* 1.80 m. The top of the walls was *c.* 1.20 m. below the present street surface.

No floor levels were located in the trench, these presumably having been truncated by later activity on the site. Due to the proximity of these walls to the assumed position of the Priory Church of St. Gregory, it may be suggested that they belong to either the Church or other buildings of the Priory complex.

APPENDIX A

THE HUMAN BONES P.H. Garrard, M.B., B.S.

Burial A

Skull, mandible, scapula ribs, foot bones, two thoracic and three cervical vertebrae, part of the left radius.

The skull bones consist of most of the vaults intact, including the parietal bones, occipital bone, right temporal and part of the frontal. Three teeth remain in the mandible, the rest having fallen out post mortem. All teeth have erupted, including the third molar on the left, which shows advanced attrition.

The left radius is deformed and curved.

Age: 35-45 years
Sex: Male
Disease: Rickets in the radius
Injury: None.

Burial B

Fragments of skull, mandible, a few ribs, some short bones of the hands, fragments of vertebrae.

The dentition in the left mandible shows that the first five permanent teeth have erupted.

Age: 10 years approximately
Sex: Not determined
Disease: None
Injury: None

Burial C

The skull and mandible, with most of the maxilla and facial bones, present, with five thoracic vertebrae.

The teeth in the mandible are all present. The second molar on each side is split into two and is much smaller than the adjacent teeth. This poor development may be due to abscesses suggested by cavities in the bone at the base of these teeth. Molar attrition on the right is 4 plus and on the left molar 3 shows uneven wear. Molar attrition 5 plus.

FOUR MINOR EXCAVATIONS IN 1978-79

Age: 35-45 years
Sex: Male
Disease: Old abscesses at the base of teeth as above
Injury: None.

Burial D

This consists of fragments of a skull, a few fragments of vertebrae and the crown on a premolar tooth.

The skull pieces are very thin and when pieced together give a skull diameter of about 14 cm., or about 44 cm. circumference. The tooth suggests a temporary molar tooth about to fall out.

Age: 9-10 years
Sex: Not determined
Disease: Possibly a minor degree of hydrocephalus, suggested by the thin skull
Injury: None.

Reference: D.R. Brothwell '*Digging up Bones*' (British Museum (Natural History), London, 1963.