

Cambourne New Settlement

Iron Age and Romano-British settlement
on the clay uplands of west Cambridgeshire

Volume 2: Specialist Appendices

Web Report 2

Prehistoric pottery, *by Matt Leivers*

Late Iron Age pottery, *by Grace Perpetua Jones*

Romano-British pottery, *by Rachael Seager Smith*

Saxon pottery, *by Rachael Seager Smith*



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Iron Age and Romano-British Settlement on the Clay Uplands of West Cambridgeshire

By
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Volume 2: Specialist Appendices
Part 1. Artefacts
Part 2. Ecofacts

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Prehistoric Pottery

By Matt Leivers

Introduction

The prehistoric pottery assemblage studied here consists of 3871 sherds weighing 33,553 g, recovered from eight sites: Lower Cambourne (comprising Lower Cambourne 'A' School Lane (45977), Lower Cambourne 'B' and 'C' including Collector Roads (45978), Lower Cambourne 'D'/Lower Cambourne 16 (45978), and Upper Cambourne (45976)), Poplar Plantation (45978), Knapwell Plantation (45972), Broadway Farm (site 45976/45978), and Little Common Farm (45978). Quantities of pottery recovered by site are given in **Table Prehistoric Pot 1**. Other site assemblages were too small to justify full analysis.

Table Prehistoric Pot 1. Prehistoric pottery totals by site

<i>Site code and name</i>	<i>No. Sherds</i>	<i>Weight (g)</i>
Lower Cambourne A	204	1,478
Lower Cambourne 'B'/'C'	710	4,403
Lower Cambourne D	441	5,347
Upper Cambourne	126	881
Poplar Plantation	156	1,174
Knapwell Plantation	1,302	9,755
Broadway Farm	215	1,266
Little Common Farm	717	9,249
TOTAL	3,871	33,553

Diagnostic forms are under-represented, and consequently dating has to rely very heavily on the identification of fabric types and region-wide trends. Most fabrics are sandy, with predominantly chalk and shell tempers and minor components of flint, grog and organics. Within Cambridgeshire (as indeed for eastern and southern England) fabrics of these types and relative proportions indicate a predominantly Middle Iron Age date.

Methods

The material was analysed in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's recording system (Morris 1994), which follows the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group's guidelines (PCRG 1997). Sherds were examined using a x20 binocular microscope to identify clay matrices and tempers, and fabrics were defined on those bases.

A number of research aims were identified in the proposal for post-excavation analysis and publication (Wessex Archaeology 2005), and analysis was carried out with these in mind.

In addition, analysis of the assemblage was intended to elucidate issues concerning the location of manufacture of vessels, assisting the understanding of local and non-local production; to characterise the range of forms present within chronological groups; and to identify any correspondences between those forms and observed or implied functions.

Condition

Condition of sherds was assessed on the basis of the degree to which edges and surfaces were abraded. The assemblage was dominated by sherds in moderate to poor condition, with much smaller proportions of good sherds. There were very few reconstructable profiles, despite the occurrences of probable single-vessel deposits. The presence of residues was also recorded.

Middle Iron Age Pottery

In total 22 fabric groups were defined, all of which have been grouped as Middle Iron Age, with the proviso that – in the absence of diagnostic forms – fabric types can only indicate a *floruit* and will inevitably exclude any earliest or later occurrences of a type. The breakdown of ceramics by fabric group is given in **Table Prehistoric Pot 2**. Fabric descriptions are given on p. 8.

Table Prehistoric Pot 2. Middle Iron Age pottery fabrics

<i>Fabric</i>	<i>No. sherds</i>	<i>Weight (g)</i>	<i>ASW (g)</i>
C1	1	6	
C2	24	117	
C3	15	153	
C4	699	6058	
C5	41	557	
F1	2	35	
G1	66	270	
G2	2	6	
QU1	485	4047	
QU2	435	3098	
QU3	1278	8170	
QU4	113	864	
QU5	3	11	
QU6	8	57	
QU99	3	3	
SH1	66	804	
SH2	215	3050	
SH3	101	910	
SH4	25	110	
SH5	45	3387	
V1	101	494	
V2	144	1,370	
TOTAL	3871	33,553	8.67

Fabrics

All sherds are hand-made, of materials that could have been obtained locally from the varied drift geology. The variety of inclusions suggests that a number of different clay sources were being used. Although coarse and fine wares are present, very few fabric types are exclusively one or the other: only the shelly fabrics are predominantly coarse.

As noted, the Middle Iron Age pottery is typified by sandy fabrics with chalk and shell temper. Across eastern England, the use of flint as a tempering agent had been in decline since the Early Iron Age, and in this period disappeared almost entirely. Only a single fabric type from Cambourne has flint as the main temper (F1), and that group contains only two sherds. An associated change from angular to rounded profiles around 400–300 BC (Bryant 1997, 26) is not visible within the assemblage – although its results are, suggesting a date in the full Middle Iron Age rather than in the earlier part of the period. Again, the lack of diagnostic forms must be stressed.

The Middle to Late Iron Age transition is difficult to identify within the ceramics, as ‘a general conservatism in pottery manufacture and use during the later Iron Age’ (*ibid.*) results in the same fabric types and vessel forms remaining current into the Roman period. For this assemblage, an arbitrary division in terms of the change from sandy to grog-tempered fabrics has been used to separate the material, since very little grog temper is present amongst diagnostically Middle Iron Age groups (two fabrics containing 68 sherds), but a much higher proportion is found in Late Iron Age forms (Leivers and Jones, this volume).

Forms

A very small number of vessels have features suggesting that they may be Early rather than Middle Iron Age in date. These include a high-shouldered jar with a pedestal base from Knapwell Plantation; a relatively fine burnished bowl with a widely flaring wall and at least one horizontal incised line from Little Common Farm, a decorated globular jar with a short straight neck from Knapwell Plantation (**Fig. 30**, 27) and a very thin-walled possibly furrowed bowl with a simple round rim from Lower Cambourne ‘B’.

Amongst the quantities of featureless body sherds are some which support the Middle Iron Age date indicated by the fabrics. A number of forms have been identified:

- *round or slack-shouldered bipartite jars*
The majority of identifiable vessels are of this form, with short upright or slightly everted rims (examples come from Broadway Farm, Knapwell Plantation, Little Common Farm and Lower Cambourne (**Fig. 29**, 1, 2, 4, 6–9));
- *bulbous-bodied or tub-shaped jars with inturned rims*
A minor component. Examples come from Knapwell Plantation, Little Common Farm, Poplar Plantation and Lower Cambourne (**Fig. 29**, 3, 10; **Fig. 30**, 11–12);
- *proto bead-rimmed jars*
A minor component. Examples from Little Common Farm, Lower Cambourne and Poplar Plantation (**Fig. 30**, 13);
- *short-necked shouldered bowls*
The predominant bowl form. Examples come from Broadway Farm and Knapwell Plantation (**Fig. 30**, 14–16);

- *slightly closed bowls*
Examples come from Knapwell Plantation and Upper Cambourne (**Fig. 30**, 17);

Other forms suggested by a very few sherds include a thick-walled vessel with a large, flat, everted rim (**Fig. 30**, 18) and a very small, round-bodied vessel from Little Common Farm.

Bases tend to be simple and flat, with or without feet. Rims tend to be simple and plain, upright or everted, with rounded, pointed or flat tops, although a few internally bevelled (**Fig. 30**, 19), externally rolled (**Fig. 30**, 20), hooked (**Fig. 30**, 21), 'T'-shaped (**Fig. 30**, 22), expanded (**Fig. 30**, 23), and out-turned (**Fig. 30**, 24) examples are present.

Two large handles are likely to derive from jars (**Fig. 30**, 25); one is clearly plugged into the wall of the vessel. A sub-conical piece may be an applied boss (**Fig. 30**, 26).

Decoration

A single vessel of uncertain form from Upper Cambourne was elaborately decorated with an all-over pattern of complex incised designs (**Fig. 31**, 28). Apart from some surface smoothing, other decoration and surface treatments are limited to finger impressed or incised rims and shoulders, burnishing of some or all of interior or exterior surfaces, and a technique which ranges from light wiping to deep deliberate scoring. This latter technique is characteristic of the East Midlands Scored ware tradition (previously referred to as Trent valley AB ware and Ancaster/Breedon ware) introduced in the 4th century BC (Elsdon 1993, 2). Most vessels of this type are large shouldered jars in coarser fabrics (**Fig. 31**, 29–30), although at least one example appears to be a slightly closed bowl (**Fig. 31**, 31). The types of scoring – ranging from light wiping, probably with a pad of vegetable matter, to heavy incision – underlies the difficulty in determining whether the technique is decorative, functional or both. Some examples seem to be decorative, whereas others are more likely to be roughened to aid handling. In one instance (**Fig. 31**, 32) the scoring continues onto the base of the vessel. Decorated bases are known in the region, but are generally scarce (Knight 1984 i, 27).

Site assemblages

Lower Cambourne ('A': School Lane)

Pottery was concentrated in two features, pit 120 and ditch 388. The material from 120 includes a single rim from a shouldered jar or bowl and, from the upper fill of the pit, one large expanded rim from a convex bowl. The group from ditch 388 contained some similar wares but is dominated by shelly wares. Other Iron Age material, in similar fabrics, occurred residually in small quantities in features across the site.

Lower Cambourne ('B'/'C')

In general, the Middle Iron Age pottery occurred as small groups of sherds which were generally associated with pieces of Romano-British date. Only 11 features contained more than 10 prehistoric sherds (pits 68, 109 and 140, post-hole 1171, spread 311, ditch 29, enclosure 1356, ring ditch 1169, ring ditch 1370, ditch 1152, and

ring ditch 1343). All the sherds found in pit 68 were from a small, weakly-shouldered jar made in a sand and organic-tempered fabric that may have been deliberately deposited. The sherds from ring ditch 1370 derive from a pair of weakly-shouldered jars which may be similar deposits. The distribution and condition of all the remaining sherds is typical of normal domestic settlement debris.

Lower Cambourne ('D': Lower Cambourne 16)

Overall average sherd weight is 12.1 g, but this obscures the small number of groups of large sherds which stand out from the general distribution. The presence of these large sherds and some complete profiles suggests that at least some of this material occurs in its primary context, close to the areas where the vessels were used.

Examples of deposits containing larger sherds include ditch 5404, which – amongst a very large and chronologically mixed assemblage – contained a bulbous jar with short neck and everted rim, the body decorated with incised vertical lines mostly ending in arcs below the neck (**Fig. 30**, 12). Ditch 5406 had an assemblage dominated by Middle Iron Age forms, including a shouldered short-necked bowl with a lightly burnished exterior (**Fig. 30**, 16) and a round-shouldered bowl or jar with fingertip impressions on the edge of rim and light wiping in the neck (**Fig. 31**, 34). Pit 5505 contained a short-necked shouldered jar (**Fig. 29**, 9), small fragments of a sandy vessel, and a little animal bone. With the possible exception of this pit the distribution and condition of the sherds is typical of normal domestic settlement debris.

Lower Cambourne (Upper Cambourne)

A total of 114 of the 126 sherds (average weight 7 g) were recovered from a pair of ditches (168605, 79 sherds; 168609, 35 sherds). Amongst the material from the former were a flat closed rim with diagonal incised lines on top (**Fig. 31**, 35) and the lower portion of a vessel elaborately decorated with an all-over pattern of complex incised designs (**Fig. 31**, 28). This vessel has no parallels amongst the other Cambourne material, or amongst the known regional comparanda. A large flat everted rim sherd (**Fig. 30**, 18) came from 168609.

Poplar Plantation

Small quantities of pottery were recovered from ditches, gullies, ring ditches, pits and layers. The mean sherd weight of 7.5 g suggests that the material is secondary settlement debris, which probably entered the fills of these features naturally through the erosion of land surfaces, rather than as direct deposits.

Knapwell Plantation

The pottery was recovered from numerous features in small quantities. Only ten features contained more than 40 sherds (pits 60167, 60189 and 60637, ring gullies 60245, 60321, 60339 and 60373, ditch 60197, gully 60160 and enclosure ditch 60141). Although much of the assemblage is very fragmentary (mean sherd weight is 8g), the few larger sherds (some joining to form sizeable parts of vessels) suggests that much of this material occurs in its primary context, close to areas where the vessels were used. The distribution and condition of the material is typical of normal domestic settlement debris.

Broadway Farm

The pottery was recovered from eight enclosure ditches and a single pit or post-hole. Most contained small quantities of sherds (under 40); only ditch 50103 contained more (79 sherds). The average sherd weight is low (6.07 g), and the material appears to be secondary settlement debris, which probably entered the fills of these features naturally through the erosion of land surfaces, rather than as direct deposits.

Little Common Farm

Middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from features dating into the Romano-British period. In general, the condition of the sherds was good, with very little surface or edge abrasion and a mean sherd weight of 14.1 g. Nine enclosure ditches, three roundhouse gullies and a pit containing Middle Iron Age ceramics were of that date. Of the enclosure ditches, four contained less than 40 sherds, while the remaining five had more substantial assemblages of up to 98 sherds.

A very small, round-bodied vessel in a mixed temper fabric was found in context 90410 of roundhouse 90524. Similar objects, interpreted as pygmy cups, toys or thimbles, are known from Market Deeping, Lincolnshire, within a Middle Iron Age briquetage assemblage (Morris 2001, fig. 94, 15) and from Parson's Drove, Cambridgeshire, in an organic tempered fabric identical to the Romano-British briquetage containers found on this site (Every 2006, fig. 5, 12).

Discussion

The main difficulty in assessing the nature of this assemblage is the lack of an internal chronology. Other sites in the region where Early and Middle Iron Age ceramics occur together demonstrate both the flint to sand temper and sharply angled to weak or rounded form changes typical of those periods (for instance Blackhorse Road, Letchworth: Birley 1988), and the bulk of the Cambourne assemblage – being sandy and rounded – conforms with a Middle Iron Age date. There are however a number of indications of an Early Iron Age element in very similar if not identical fabrics, suggesting that this period may be under-represented, with more of the featureless body sherds belonging to Early Iron Age vessels. Nothing is to be gained from attempting to place such a limited quantity of pottery into ceramic families or style zones.

In terms of the demonstrably Middle Iron Age material, local parallels are more readily forthcoming, with both broad similarities and differences in detail. At Blackhorse Road, Letchworth, and Twywell, Northamptonshire, recurrent decoration was limited to fingertip or nail impressions on rims and scoring on bodies. Twywell has a range of jar and bowl forms broadly similar to the Cambourne material (Harding 1975); the dominant vessel form at Blackhorse Road however was the shouldered bowl (Birley 1988, 80), suggesting assemblages for different purposes drawn from a wider shared tradition of Scored wares.

Both Elsdon and Birley suggest that there may be a chronological implication to the differing decorative schemes evident in many Middle Iron Age assemblages, with lighter scoring (where combined with smaller, rounded forms and fingertip – rather than fingernail – impressions on the tops of rims) later than heavy techniques with fingernail impressions on rim tops. Earliest of all are essentially plain vessels with

fingernail impressions on the outside of rims. There are too few reconstructable profiles among the Cambourne material to test this suggestion, although one notable rim fragment from Knapwell Plantation has finger impressions on the top of the rim as well as on its outer edge (**Fig. 31**, 33), while a second round-shouldered jar or bowl has light scoring/wiping in the neck and fingertip impressions on the outside of the rim (**Fig. 31**, 34), suggesting that – as Birley suggests – any such schemes may have only highly localised or even site specific relevance.

More broadly, the assemblage fits comfortably within the East Midlands Scored ware traditions, consisting of scored, twig-brushed or plain burnished jars, with or without finger impressed rims (Elsdon 1992; 1993). Elsdon has suggested that the East Midlands Scored ware tradition may represent low status ceramics associated primarily with rural sites (Elsdon 1989, 22), beginning in the 4th century BC but not becoming widespread until the 3rd century, possibly continuing into the 1st century AD on rural sites (Elsdon 1992, 89).

Fabric Descriptions

C1	moderate limestone, sparse iron minerals and quartz sand
C2	sparse medium chalk and voids; sandy matrix
C3	very fine well-sorted chalk
C4	moderate coarse chalk, sparse voids and mica
C5	moderate fine chalk; sparse fine shell; micaceous sandy matrix
F1	moderate poorly sorted angular flint; micaceous sandy matrix
G1	sparse medium grog, fine shell, mica
G2	moderate grog, sparse fine flint, shell, mica
QU1	fine-grained sandy fabric; sparse quartz, linear voids and mica
QU2	medium-grained sandy fabric; moderate quartz, sparse linear voids and mica
QU3	medium-grained sandy fabric; moderate quartz, sparse chalk and mica
QU4	medium-grained sandy fabric; sparse fine chalk and mica. Iron minerals and organics
QU5	medium-grained sandy fabric; moderate fine shell
QU6	fine sandy fabric; occasional small pebbles; sparse iron minerals
QU99	sandy crumbs
SH1	fine-grained sandy fabric; sparse shell, voids, sparse quartz and mica
SH2	abundant shell, sparse rock fragments and mica
SH3	moderate shell, sparse mica
SH4	moderate shell, sparse flint
SH5	sparse coarse shell; moderate fine iron minerals; sparse voids
V1	leached (probably calcareous) fabric; sparse flint
V2	linear voids; sparse mica

List of Illustrated Vessels

Fig. 29

1. Out-turned rim of shouldered jar; fabric SH2. PRN [Pottery Record Number] 283. 45972, context 60393, ditch 60333. 60mm diameter.
2. Out-turned rim of shouldered jar; fabric C4. PRN 319. 45972, context 60537, gully 60535. 100mm diameter.
3. Rim and body sherds of a large bulbous-bodied jar with deep even vertical scoring on the exterior and horizontal scoring on the outside edge, top and interior of the rim and inside the neck; fabric SH5. PRN 471/2. 45978, context 90098, ditch 90023. 250mm diameter.
4. Upright rim with internal burnish and finger nail impressions on the top, from shouldered jar; fabric SH3. PRN 479. 45978, context 90098, ditch 90023. 120mm diameter.
5. Body sherds with vertical scoring on the exterior; fabric QU2. PRN 473. 45978, context 90098, ditch 90023.
6. Shouldered jar with very short upright burnished neck/rim and irregular finger grooves on body; fabric V2. PRN 588/9. 45978, context 90203, pit 90178. 70mm diameter.
7. Weakly shouldered jar; externally expanded rim with broad groove along centre of top and irregular finger grooving in neck; fabric SH2. PRN 696. 45977, context 7119, pit 7120. 230mm diameter.
8. Rim of shouldered jar with fingertip impressions on shoulder and top of rim; fabric SH2. PRN 860. 45978, context 5303, ditch 5310. 70mm diameter.
9. Short-necked shouldered jar; fabric V2. PRN 886. 45978, context 5507, pit 5505. 80mm diameter.
10. Inturned flat rim of tub-shaped jar; fabric SH3. PRN 437. 45972, context 60759, pit 60375.

Fig. 30

11. Bulbous jar with very short upright neck/rim; fabric C5. PRN 789. 45978, context 5103, ditch 5101.
12. Bulbous jar with short neck, everted rim and plain base with foot; body decorated with incised vertical lines mostly ending in arcs below the neck; fabric C4. PRN 867, 869-870, 872. 45978, context 5316, ditch 5312. 100mm diameter.
13. Proto-bead rim; fabric QU2. PRN 106. 45978, context 72107, ditch 72101.
14. Everted rim of short-necked shouldered bowl; fabric QU3. PRN 430. 45972, context 60754, ditch 60752. 130mm diameter.
15. Shouldered bowl with short neck and everted rim; fabric C5. PRN 717. 45978, context 110, pit 109. 70mm diameter.
16. Shouldered short-necked bowl with lightly burnished exterior; fabric QU1. PRN 913. 45978, context 5607, ditch 5605. 90mm diameter.
17. Pointed, closed bowl rim; fabric C4. PRN 232. 45972, context 60254, pit 60167. 110mm diameter.
18. Large flat everted rim sherd; fabric G1. PRN 82. 45976, layer 168607. 190mm diameter.
19. Internally bevelled, closed rim; fabric QU3. PRN 1113. 45978, context 2644, ditch 2639.
20. Externally rolled rim; fabric SH2. PRN 577. 45978, context 90180, pit 90178.
21. Hooked rim fragment; fabric G1. PRN 743. 45978, context 253, ditch 252.
22. Irregular 'T'-shaped rim; fabric SH2. PRN 336. 45972, context 60544, pit 60189.
23. Expanded rim with finger impressions on outer edge and broad line along centre of top; fabric QU3. PRN 560. 45978, context 90167, ditch 90165. 120mm diameter.
24. Flat out-turned rim with single horizontal line in external angle; fabric C4. PRN 791. 45978, context 5103, ditch 5101.
25. Handle from jar; fabric C5. PRN 972. 45978, context 1654, ditch 1655.
26. Boss? Fabric QU3. PRN 684. 45978, context 90488, ditch 90487.
27. Upright rim, straight neck and shoulder of jar, chevron between horizontal lines at neck/shoulder junction; QU1. PRN 143. 45972, context 60006, post-hole 60005. 80mm diameter.

Fig. 31

28. Decorated body sherds of uncertain vessel type; one small pointed rim fragment; two fragments of base with foot; fabric QU2. PRN 68. 45976, layer 168606.
29. Slightly everted rim of shouldered jar with deep vertical incisions; fabric C4. PRN 597. 45978, context 90206, ditch 90204. 60mm diameter.
30. Everted rim of shouldered jar, decorated on shoulder and neck with incised cross-hatch; fabric V2. PRN 881. 45978, context 5331, ditch 5325.

31. Rim and body sherds of closed bowl. Diagonal incisions on outer edge of rim, deep scoring in irregular cross-hatch on exterior of body below single horizontal line; fabric QU3. PRN 498/9. 45978, contexts 90046 and 90047, ditch 90045. 70mm diameter.
32. Base without foot. Scoring on base and wall; fabric QU1. PRN 526. 45978, context 90009, ditch 90008.
33. Flat upright rim with fingertip impressions on the top and outer edge; fabric SH2. PRN 440. 45972, context 60764, ditch 60763. 110mm diameter.
34. Round-shouldered bowl or jar; fingertip impressions on edge of rim and light wiping in neck; fabric QU1. PRN 899. 45978, context 5602, ditch 5601. 50mm diameter.
35. Flat closed rim with diagonal incised lines on top; fabric QU3. PRN 60. 45976, layer 168604. 80mm diameter.
36. Pointed out-turned rim burnished externally; fabric QU2. PRN 103. 45978, context 72107, ditch 72101. 90mm diameter.
37. Body sherd, decorated with intersecting bands of parallel lines probably combed; fabric SH2. PRN 399. 45972, context 60703, pit 60407.

Late Iron Age Pottery

By Grace Perpetua Jones

Little Common Farm

A total of 933 sherds (11,855 g) of Middle to Late Iron Age and Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from 72 contexts. Later material comprises a single sherd of post-medieval redware. No Romano-British material was identified. The assemblage predominantly derives from ditches, however a significant quantity was recovered from pits, with smaller amounts from other feature types (**Table LIA Pot 1**). The condition of the material is good, with a mean sherd weight (MSW) of 12.7 g, however some surface degradation is present. A small number of sherds were burnt. The distribution and condition of the sherds was typical of normal domestic settlement debris. The presence of large sherds and some complete profiles suggested that most of this material occurred in primary contexts, close to the areas where the vessels were used.

The assemblage is dominated by grog-tempered fabrics (77% by count and weight), with small quantities of sandy wares (20% by count), shell-tempered (2%) and organic-tempered (<1%) fabrics (**Tables LIA Pot 2–4**). A single sherd of Italian amphora was also identified. The sandy fabrics are quite difficult to date where diagnostic traits are not present, with very similar fabrics used in both the Middle and Late Iron Age. However, the Late Iron Age sandy wares tend to be quite well fired, often unoxidised and sometimes burnished on the exterior surface. The vast majority of vessels had been handmade, with only 37 sherds positively identified as wheel-thrown.

The most commonly occurring forms are bead-rimmed jars and necked cordoned bowl/jar forms, including nine examples of the upright-necked cordoned form (R106) that continued in use into the Romano-British period (**Fig. 34**, 4 and 7). At least two bowls forms were present, one a very well burnished wheel-made carinated bowl with upright neck, flared rim and sharp grooves and cordon at the neck/shoulder junction (context 90074, ditch 90038, **Fig. 34**, 2), the other a carinated bowl with wide cordon and out-turned rim (context 90401, ditch 90037, **Fig. 34**, 8). A long-necked cordoned vessel from context 90482 (ditch 90413, **Fig. 34**, 6) may also represent a bowl. A very large example of an R106 was present in context 90405 (ditch 90525, **Fig. 34**, 5) in a shell-tempered fabric. Given its size, this vessel may have been used for storage. A storage jar with slightly turned out and externally thickened rim was identified in context 90401 (ditch 90037, **Fig. 34**, 9), decorated with a cordon, band of notches and scoring. The latter is characteristic of the East Midlands Scored Ware tradition, a technique that was introduced sometime in the 5th–4th centuries BC and continued in use into the Romano-British period. Other instances of decoration occur infrequently and consist of combing, rilling, burnished lines, and two sherds with tooled lozenge shapes.

Bead-rim storage jars were present in four contexts (90074, 90132, 90508, and 90519), all in grog-tempered fabrics. These are a relatively late form. A grog-tempered platter from context 90405 is a local copy of a CAM 16 (Thompson 1982 form G1–10). A handle stump from a Dressel 1 found in context 90164 (ditch 90491) indicates that the inhabitants of Little Common Farm settlement has access to

amphorae, at least as empty containers, and possibly even to the Italian wine that was transported in these vessels during the 2nd and 1st centuries BC. Although some of the Belgic forms were still in use at the end of the 1st century AD (Farrar *et al* 1999, 117), there is little in this assemblage to suggest that its date range extends much beyond c. 1 BC/AD.

Pottery belonging within the earlier part of the Late Iron Age (ie, the 1st century BC) is not well-represented within the wider Cambourne development area, however small quantities of Late Iron Age forms do occur at Lower Cambourne. Contexts 05209 and 05230 (ditch 05443) and context 05214 (gully 05221) produced only Middle and Late Iron Age pottery. The Late Iron Age forms from Lower Cambourne include the R144, a low-shouldered bead-rim jar with scored decoration (context 05209, grog-tempered); the R145, a tub-shaped vessel with gently curving walls and simple bead-rim defined by an external groove, scored decoration is again present (context 01982, sandy ware and 05209, grog-tempered); the R148, a thick-walled jar with thickened and slightly everted rim, (contexts 05214 and 05230, grog-tempered); and the R180, copy of a CAM 16 platter (context 02692 sandy ware). In the East Midlands, the Roman conquest had little immediate impact on the native, pre-Roman ceramic tradition and it is difficult to establish the precise chronological range of pottery from c. 50 BC–AD 100. Two forms could be dated only to the Late Iron Age/early Romano-British period (R124 and R171). The R124 is a jar or bowl with long, upright neck with slightly beaded rim. It was recorded from Lower Cambourne and The Grange, and mostly occurs in sandy wares (ten vessels, including three greywares), two grog-tempered examples were also recorded. The R171 is an in-turned triangular rim on a globular-bodied vessel which occurs in contexts where Roman material was also present (contexts 01688 and 01729, grog-tempered).

Table LIA Pot 1. Quantification of Late Iron Age pottery at Little Common Farm by feature type.

<i>Feature type</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>% of count</i>	<i>Weight (g)</i>	<i>% of weight</i>	<i>MSW (g)</i>
Ditch	606	65	8915	75	14.7
Pit	274	29	2489	21	9
Ring gully	26	3	149	1	5.7
Posthole	17	2	237	2	13.9
Uncertain	10	1	65	1	6.5
Total	933		11,855		12.7

Table LIA Pot 2. Form type by fabric group at Little Common Farm, by count of Late Iron Age vessels.

<i>Vessel Type</i>	<i>Grog-tempered</i>	<i>Sandy wares</i>	<i>Shelly wares</i>	<i>Total</i>
Jar	13	10	3	26
jar/bowl	6	2		8
Storage jar	6		1	7
Bowl	2			2
Cup		1		1
Platter	1			1
Total	28	13	4	45

Table LIA Pot 3. Quantification of Late Iron Age fabrics at Little Common Farm.

<i>Fabric Code</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Weight (g)</i>
<i>Amphora</i>		
E251 (Dressel 1)	1	166
<i>Grog-tempered coarsewares</i>		
G102	318	3024
G103	39	551
G104	348	5260
G105	7	48
<i>Sandy coarsewares</i>		
Q100	15	129
Q110	162	1644
Q111	9	25
Q403	1	4
<i>Grog and sand-gritted coarsewares</i>		
QG100	11	223
<i>Shell-gritted coarsewares</i>		
S101	20	760
<i>Organic-tempered coarsewares</i>		
V100	2	21
Total	933	11,855

Table LIA Pot 4. Quantification of Late Iron Age fabric groups at Little Common Farm.

<i>Fabric group</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Weight (g)</i>
Grog-tempered	723	9106
Sandy wares	186	1798
Shell-tempered	20	760
Organic-tempered	2	21
Amphora	1	166
Post-medieval	1	4
Total	933	11,855

The Romano-British Pottery

By Rachael Seager Smith

Introduction

The Romano-British assemblage spans the entire period, from the 1st to 4th centuries AD, although smaller quantities of 2nd–3rd century sherds suggest that there was a hiatus or at least a sharp decline in the level of activity in this area during the middle Romano-British period (c. AD 150–early/mid-3rd century). Romano-British pottery was recovered from five sites (**Table RB Pot 1**) and is illustrated in **Figures 34–9** and **43**.

Table RB Pot 1. Totals of Romano-British pottery recovered.

<i>Site</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Wt. (g)</i>	<i>Av. wt. (g)</i>
Lower Cambourne	11,011	130,865	12
Mill Farm	792	13,594	17
Knapwell Plantation	429	6671	16
Jeavons Lane	2205	36,560	17
The Grange	2431	19,080	8
Total	16,868	206,770	12

The condition of the assemblage ranges from fair to poor; many sherds are heavily abraded with rolled battered edges and lost surfaces. Overall, the average sherd weight for the Romano-British assemblage is 12 g. This is comparable with the material from the adjacent A428 Caxton to Hardwick Improvement Scheme sites, where the average sherd weight was 13 g (Lyons nd). Rims were often broken at the neck/shoulder junction, hampering the recognition of form.

The highly fragmentary, abraded condition of the assemblage is entirely consistent with the local soil conditions and the nature of the archaeology encountered – most of the feature groups contain sherds of very mixed date because the pottery has been in and out of the ditches etc on numerous occasions as they silted up and were cleaned and/or recut to facilitate drainage on the heavy soils of the area.

Nature of the assemblage

The range and quantity of the various fabrics identified on the Cambourne development area sites is summarized in **Table RB Pot 2** while the proportions of the various fabrics and major ware groups, expressed as a percentage of the number of sherds from each site is presented in **Table RB Pot 3**. Information concerning weight is available in the archive but has not been used here for ease of reporting.

Imported finewares

Imported finewares represented 1.6% of the Romano-British sherds. Only samian occurred with any frequency, the only other imported fabric being two sherds of Moselkeramik, dating from the late 2nd into the 3rd century, possibly even 4th century. These two tiny sherds, both probably from beakers, were found in a Phase 2 ditch 01356 at Lower Cambourne and in the Phase 3 group 80120 at Jeavons Lane.

Table RB Pot 2. Range and quantity of fabric types

<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Description of fabric</i>	<i>Lower Cambourne</i>	<i>Mill Farm</i>	<i>Knapwell Plantation</i>	<i>Jeavons Lane</i>	<i>The Grange</i>	<i>Total no</i>	<i>Total wt (g)</i>	
E301	South Gaulish samian	23/76	2/12	3/34	3/7	3/240	34	369	
E304	Central Gaulish samian	149/1507	9/139	20/462	18/517	32/149	228	2774	
E305	Central Gaulish samian (Les Martres)	6/57					6	57	
E308	East Gaulish samian			1/5	1/43		2	48	
E121	Moselkeramik	1/1			1/1		2	2	
E254	Dressel 2-4	2/166					2	166	
E256	Dressel 20 amphora	25/2144	2/162			1/197	37	3989	
E207	Verulamium region mortaria	2/243			2/427	4/857	8	1545	
E209	Oxon white ware mortaria	1/78			2/73		3	151	
E210	Oxon white-slipped red ware mortaria	5/130					5	130	
E211	Oxon colour-coated ware mortaria	21/286			1/18	1/49	23	353	
E213	Nene Valley white-ware mortaria	27/857		3/93	11/566		41	1516	
Q109	unassigned mortaria	1/32					1	32	
E159	British colour-coat				5/33	1/15	6	48	
E170	Oxon colour-coated ware	136/1965	1/13			3/65	140	2043	
E176	Nene Valley colour-coated ware	605/9338	2/7	9/120	159/1674	18/237	793	11376	
E180	Nene Valley grey ware	81/1036	5/28		11/382	2/33	99	1479	
Q100	coarse sandy oxidised wares					146/773	146	773	
E182	Much Hadham oxidised wares	548/4320		14/63	30/341	18/132	610	4856	
Q102	misc oxidised sandy wares	294/1552	129/2399	46/261	111/1359	116/977	696	6548	
Q105	unassigned white wares	69/757	17/127	2/15	3/38	73/433	164	1370	
Q106	white-slipped red wares	46/537		17/114	2/44		65	695	
Q107	Verulamium region white wares	275/3560	136/2215	19/215	45/980	110/806	585	7776	
Q108	Hadham white slipped wares	10/68					10	68	
E101	South-east Dorset Black Burnished ware	11/137			18/455		29	592	
G100	grog-tempered wares	987/15658	1/8	2/40	1/23	9/83	1000	15812	
Q101	'Romanised 'greyware'	1738/16715	72/1064	107/1262	754/9248	413/3401	3084	31690	
Q103	other sandy wares	3866/36332	346/5964	147/3372	705/12083	1406/9385	6470	67136	
S100	shelly wares	2082/33313	70/1456	39/615	313/6762	75/1230	2579	43376	
		Total:	11,011/130,865	792/13,594	429/6671	2205/36,560	2431/19,080	16,868	20,6770

Table RB Pot 3. Number of sherds in the main fabric groups as a percentage of totals recovered from each site and in the assemblage as a whole
 NB. * = present but in negligible quantities (<1%)

Fabric	Description of fabric	Lower Cambourne	Mill Farm	Knapwell Plantation	Jeavons Lane	The Grange	All sites
E301-8	Samian – all centers	1.6	1.4	6	1	1.4	1.6
E254 +56	amphora	0.2	0.2	Absent	0.4	0.04	0.23
E207-13, Q109	mortaria	0.5	Absent	0.7	0.7	0.2	0.5
E159	British finewares	7	1	2	8	1	6
E170	<i>British colour-coated wares</i>				*	*	*
E176	<i>Oxon colour-coated ware</i>	1	*			*	*
E180	<i>Nene Valley colour-coated ware</i>	5	*	2	7	*	5
	<i>Nene Valley greyware</i>	*	*		*	*	*
Q100	oxidised wares	11	36	23	8	19	13
E182	<i>coarse sandy oxidized wares</i>				6		*
Q102	<i>Hadham oxidized wares</i>	5		3	1	*	4
Q105	<i>Misc oxidized sandy wares</i>	3	16	11	5	5	4
Q106	<i>Unassigned white-wares</i>	*	2	*	7	3	1
Q107	<i>White-slipped red wares</i>	*		*	*		*
Q108	<i>Verulamium region white wares</i>	2	17	4	2	4	3
	<i>Hadham white-slipped red wares</i>	*					*
E101	'Reduced' coarsewares	79	62	69	81	78	78
G100	<i>South-east Dorset Black Burnished ware</i>	*			*		*
Q101	<i>grog-tempered wares</i>	9	*	*	*	*	6
Q103	<i>'Romanised' greyware'</i>	16	9	25	34	17	18
S100	<i>other sandy wares</i>	35	43	34	32	58	38
	<i>shelly wares</i>	19	9	9	14	3	15
	Total number of sherds:	11,011	792	429	2205	2431	16,868

Sherds from Central Gaul dominate the samian assemblage (228 sherds) with 34 from Southern, six from Les Martres and two from Eastern Gaulish sources. Identifiable pieces include form 15/17, 18, 18/31, and 18/31R platters, form 15/31, 29, 30, 31, 36, 37, and 38 bowls, cup forms 27, 33, 35 and 46, dish from 42, form 45 mortaria and closed form 68. Decorated sherds were scarce – 14 sherds in all; two (joining) from a form 30 bowl and 12 from form 37s (although six of these were from a single bowl from ditch 07112 at Lower Cambourne. The only stamps occurred among the Central Gaulish sherds (probably as a result of the greater quantities present):

- form 18/31R platter base; long edge of the stamp survives but no letters are visible; Lower Cambourne ditch 00025, layer 00298,
- form 33 cup base stamped ATTI[; Lower Cambourne layer 02833
- form 18/31 series base fragment; edge of cartouche only survives; Jeavons Lane, group 80111, context 80205
- form 18/31 dish stamped ALBINVS. Lezoux. Lower Cambourne, ditch 00026, layer 00001.
- complete profile of a form 18/31 dish from segment 60193 of the Romano-British (Phase 3) gully 60807 (context 60193) at Knapwell Plantation; the stamp is damaged and illegible (this vessel has also been repaired – see below)

The reason for the unusually high proportion of samian in the assemblage from Knapwell Plantation is probably a result of three groups of joining sherds (five from a form 18/31 and six and four sherds from form 36 bowls from layer 60193 and group 60231, context 60504 respectively) within the relatively small collection from this site.

The general proportion of samian in the assemblage is consistent with the pattern for Roman Britain, *c.* 1% of the sherds from rural sites (Willis 2005). The proportion of decorated sherds is low, however, it usually being *c.* 15% of all the samian from this sort of site. On the adjacent A428 Caxton to Hardwick sites, samian represented 0.9% of the sherds.

The only other imported wares were amphorae, present in only very small amounts (0.23% of the sherds overall). No featured sherds were present among this group.

- Two sherds were of the distinctive ‘black sand’ fabric made in the Campanian region of Italy and probably derived from the Dressel 2–4 form. These date from the later 1st century BC to the mid-2nd century AD, although their popularity was in decline by the middle of the 1st century AD (Peacock and Williams 1986, class 10) and were mainly used to carry wine from this region. Both sherds were found in Phase 2, Iron Age to ?2nd–3rd century AD contexts (groups 01154 and 01342, contexts 02241 and 02569 respectively) at Lower Cambourne.
- All the other amphorae belong to the Dressel 20 globular-bodied type that were used for the long-distance transport of olive oil from southern Spain from the Augustan period up to at least the late 3rd century AD (Peacock and Williams 1986, classes 24 and 25). This was the most common amphora type imported into Roman Britain. Dressel 20 sherds were most numerous in the larger assemblage from Lower Cambourne, although sherds from these vessels

were also found at Jeavons Lane, Mill Farm and The Grange, always in Phase 3 or later contexts.

Its scarcity is consistent with results from the area – only five amphora sherds were recognised on the A428 sites.

Mortaria

Mortaria, too, were scarce – 0.5% of all the sherds.

- These vessels are often interpreted as being indicative of the adoption of Romanised methods of food preparation and consumption, especially in the early Romano-British period – clearly, in this area, they did not much want them!
- No imported mortaria (eg from north-west France or the Rhineland) were recorded although these were available in Roman Cambridge, albeit in very small amounts (four out of 109 vessels; Hartley 1999, 206, table ix.1)
- The earliest mortaria were supplied by the industry based in the *Verulamium* region and include a very well-worn vessel with a high, hooked flange (type R164, typical of the pre- to early Flavian period (Davies *et al.* 1994, 17, fig. 39, 205) from Jeavons Lane as well as a flatter flanged 2nd century form (R182) stamped, unfortunately incompletely, near the spout (MG Wilson 1984, 289, fig. 119, 99) from The Grange.
- During the second half of the 3rd and 4th centuries, the Oxfordshire and Nene Valley potters more or less shared the mortaria market – although from the vessel forms present, it seems that the mortaria market really only got going in this area in the 4th century. Vessels such as the Oxfordshire white ware example with an upstanding rim and a closed hook (Young 1977, 72, type M18) dates from *c.* AD 240–300 but most of the other types from both centers (Young 1977, types WC7 – one example and C100 – six examples; R121 – five examples and R163 – one example) are exclusively of 4th century date. Types C97 (four examples) and R116 (one example) span the period from *c.* AD 240 to AD 400 but weight of numbers suggests that these too probably belong within the 4th century. This also fits the pattern of supply to Roman Cambridge (Hartley 1999, 206)

British finewares

- No rims were present among the handful of unsourced British colour-coated ware (E159) sherds – most were probably from beakers and may just represent slight variations of the local Nene Valley ware fabrics
- The Oxfordshire colour-coated wares are all common products of the industry (Young 1977, types C45, C51, C78, and C83). Although forms C45 and C51 were made throughout the life of the Oxford industry, the presence of types C78 and C83, together with other body sherds with impressed decoration, suggest that much of this assemblage may be of 4th century date. This increase apparently coincides with a more extensive re-organisation of ceramic supply to the East Midlands and changes within the local Nene Valley industry during the late 3rd or early 4th centuries (Perrin 1999, 126), opening the local markets to competition from the west. However, it is possible that at least some of the sherds identified as Oxfordshire colour-coated ware may have been the products of a migrant Oxfordshire potter working the Obelisk kilns at Harston,

to the south of Cambridge during the second quarter of the 4th century (Pullinger and Young 1982, 8-9).

- Nene Valley colour-coats dominate the Romano-British fineware assemblage, alone representing 5% of all the sherds from the Cambourne development area sites. These were produced from the mid-2nd century until the end of the 4th century and encompassed the entire range of utilitarian kitchen vessels as well as finer tablewares. Vessel forms include Caistor box and lid fragments (R117), shallow dishes with plain, grooved and beaded rims (R107), triangular rimmed bowls (R120), incipient flanged (R147) and dropped flange (R130) bowls, bowls copying samian forms 36 (R170), 37 (R100) and 38 (R140), as well as a range of wide-mouthed jars/bowls (R104, 109, 115 and 155). A variety of beaker types, some with cornice rims (R137 and 153), some indented (R162) and bag-shaped (R168) forms, some plain or with rouletted or underslip barbotine figures, scale or scroll decoration and in one instance crude, white painted decoration, were also recognised. All these are well-known products of the industry (Perrin 1999, fig. 62, 198–213, fig. 63, 216–20, 231–5, and 245–7; fig. 64, 255–62; and fig. 65, 278–82). Less common forms included a cup-mouthed jug or flagon (R102), a flagon or jug with a ‘pulley-wheel’ rim (R167), sherds from a bead rim bowl (R100) with moulded decoration and face mask from a flagon (Howe *et al.* 1980, fig. 8, 96) of 4th century date. A similar range of forms occurred in the grey ware made in this region – forms R107, 109, 120, 147, and 177 as well as small ‘pulled’ bead rim beakers (R141), small jars with thickened rims (R142) and flat-flanged bowls/dishes (R154).

Oxidised coarsewares

The **oxidised coarsewares** form part of the standard range of wares found on all Romano-British sites.

- They include wares of known provenance, such as the Hadham oxidised (E182) and white-slipped wares (Q108) as well as a series of ‘catch-all’ groups, encompassing the products of more than one source and covering a wide date range. These comprise coarse sandy oxidised wares (Q100), miscellaneous oxidised wares (Q102), unassigned whitewares (Q105), and white-slipped red wares (Q106). The white wares were defined as including all the pale firing white/pink/buff fabrics while the oxidised wares included the orange/red fabrics, the majority containing variable quantities of sand.
- Sherds with dark grey/brown ‘smoked’ surfaces, especially around the rims, were especially common among the *Verulamium* region white-wares (Q107). As at Eaton Socon (Gibson 2005, fig. 8, 16), jars with grooved rims (R129) were the most frequently occurring form, dated to *c.* AD 125–180 at *Verulamium* (MG Wilson 1984, fig. 93, 2244–6, 2249–51, and 2254). However, at least some of this fabric may be a more local product – Marney (1989, 112) highlights the difficulties of distinguishing between the white and pink sandy fabrics at Milton Keynes and it is possible that a *Verulamium* region-look-alike white ware was made in Northamptonshire (it occurred in very significant quantities at Stanwick) or possibly even at Godmanchester (Perrin, pers. comm.), approximately 15 km north-east of the Cambourne development area, during the 2nd century.
- Overall, the oxidised wares represent 13% of all the sherds recovered but their frequency varies wildly between sites. The relatively high proportion (19%)

from The Grange can be explained by the presence of two semi-complete vessels broken into many sherds – 146 pieces from a cup-mouthed flagon (R102) in a very distinctive coarse sandy fabric (Q100) from pit 20075 (this vessel is also repaired – see below) and 60 sherds from the base, body and neck of another flagon in an unassigned white-ware fabric (Q105) from pit 20784 – but at the other sites the reasons for the variations in frequency are unclear

- Most of these wares were probably used at table, providing a range of medium-quality vessels between the coarse storage and food preparation vessels used in the kitchen, and the fine tablewares. Overall, forms included various types of flagons, jars, bowls and dishes as well as more unusual types such as a strainer and a possible tazza sherd from the Phase 3 ditch 01200 (context 01110) at Lower Cambourne. Jars with grooved rims and necks (cf Perrin 1999, fig. 66, 317) were especially common and other forms (ie. *ibid.*, fig. 66, 327, 342–5) were also recognised. There were a few butt beaker sherds that can be paralleled among the 1st century AD groups in Cambridge (Pullinger *et. al.*, 1999, pl. 1, 188 and 191, pl. lvii, 239, pl. lxiii, 306, pl. lxiv, 332).
- Although the majority of these wares could not be dated with any precision, the Verulamium region-like fabric is of later 1st to late 2nd century date while the Hadham fabrics belong within the 4th century, although it is possible that a small volumes of trade with this area began as early as the mid–late 2nd century (Marney 1989, 124).

Other coarsewares

Unsurprisingly, these wares dominate the assemblages from every site, although again, the exact proportions of each vary from site to site (**Table RB Pot 3**).

- The sandy coarsewares were divided into two broad groups: ‘Romanised’ greywares (Q101), encompassing the wheel-made grey and blue grey fabrics and forms of more Roman styles, and ‘other sandy wares’ (Q103) used for all other fabrics including those following on in the native ceramic tradition, imitation black burnished wares and other dark coloured sandy wares. In reality, there is probably considerable overlap between these two groups which are considered together in this report
- Most are likely to fairly local. Potential sources include the Nene Valley industry and kilns to the north and east of Cambridge (Hull and Pullinger 1999, 141, fig. vii.1). Other, more distant sources may include West Stow and Watisfield, the Much Hadham and the Caldecote kilns (Slowikowski and Dawson 1993). A distinctive flanged bowl (R165; from ditch 01088 at Lower Cambourne) in a conspicuous white quartz-tempered fabric originating in the Milton Keynes area (Marney 1989, 82, fig. 33, 6) highlights the possibility of other, less diagnostic fabrics and forms being derived from this area. Similarly, huge storage jars manufactured at Horningsea (R138; cf Perrin 1999, 114, fig. 68, 383–5)) were noted among the material from Lower Cambourne (six examples), Jeavons Lane (two examples) and Mill Farm (one example) and may highlight other products from these kilns
- Vessel forms are largely utilitarian although a small number of finer vessels probably used at table were also included, for example an imitation form 29 bowl (R175) in a London ware-style fabric from Phase 3 ditch 20846 (context 20724) at The Grange.

- First–early 2nd century forms are confined to a few Belgic style jars with everted or lid-seated rims; bead rim types are scarce and it appears that the sandy greywares formed a relatively minor component of the assemblage at this time.
- A much expanded range of forms dated from the mid 2nd century onwards, comprised wide and narrow-necked jars and bowls with upright and everted rims, everted, large storage jars, plain rimmed dishes, flat-flanged and triangular flanged bowls, poppy-head beakers, flagons, lids, and strainers
- A few characteristically late forms such as dropped flanged bowls, shallow, plain rimmed dishes and rilled jars with triangular or hooked rims indicate that these fabrics remained an important component of the assemblage through into the late 4th century.
- The calcareous wares represent a continuation of the native, pre-Roman Iron Age ceramic tradition of the area. Although probably derived from a number of different centers (Gurney 1996, 200), the crushed fossil shell present in most examples suggests that at least some of these were located on the Jurassic limestone beds in the south Midlands. One major source spanning the entire Romano-British period is known at Harrold in Bedfordshire (Brown 1994) but it is probable that other, as yet unknown kilns existed in the area and possible that shell-gritted wares were also produced, at least to a limited extent, in the Nene Valley (Perrin and Webster 1990, 37; Perrin 1999, 118; Wessex Archaeology 2006)
- The calcareous wares enjoyed two main periods of popularity – during the 1st–early 2nd centuries, the lid-seated, bead rim jar (type R111, cf Marney 1989, fig. 24, 1–9) is the most common form while others include triangular bead rim jars and a few Belgic style jars.
- As at Cambridge (Hull and Pullinger 1999, 142) and other sites in the region (Gibson 2005, 34; Every 2005, 33), these wares suffered a severe numerical decline in the late 2nd century, being replaced by the sandy greywares, but their popularity again increased during the late 3rd–4th centuries.
- The late vessels, generally jars with hooked, everted rims and horizontally rilled bodies, fall within a widespread South Midlands tradition. Other late forms include storage jars, plain rimmed dishes, dropped flange and other large, heavy bowls.
- The fabric of the large jar containing the hoard of five glass vessels, found in segment 1233 of ditch 1001 at Lower Cambourne, suggests that this vessel is from a non-Harrold but as yet unknown source (Slowikowski pers. comm.). Its form is unusual too but broadly similar rims, also with pie-crust decoration, are known from late Romano-British layers in Cambridge (Pullinger *et al*, 1999, pl. cxxxvii 1000 and 1001).
- Proportion of these shelly wares varies widely between the different site assemblages (**Table RB Pot 3**) but at all but the Grange, it appears to be much more frequent than on the adjacent A428 Caxton to Hardwick sites where it represented *c.* 7% of all the sherds, compared with 15% for our Cambourne development area sites.
- The grog-tempered wares (G100) are almost exclusively of 1st–early 2nd century date and were probably made locally. The vessel forms are dominated by bead rim jars and bowls, Belgic style jars and carinated bowl forms; scored ‘decoration’ is also relatively common. These wares really only occurred in

any quantity in the Phase 2 contexts at Lower Cambourne; elsewhere they are likely to be residual although some of the thick-walled storage jar sherds may be of later Romano-British date. Only two plain body sherds of the distinctive pink-grogged fabric (G101) made in the Towcester/Milton Keynes area from the mid-2nd century onwards were identified, one from Jeavons Lane and one from Lower Cambourne, although this fabric was relatively common on sites in Northamptonshire (Perrin 1999, 124).

- The small quantity of Black Burnished ware from the Wareham/Poole Harbour region of Dorset probably arrived in the area with the personal belongings of an individual or travelling piggy-back with some other commodity and is probably related to the movement of people and goods along Ermine Street. The vessel forms present (shallow, straight-sided dishes – seven examples as well as base sherds from other straight-sided dish/bowl forms) date from the mid/late 2nd century onwards, although they are perhaps most common and widely distributed during the later 3rd and 4th centuries; an everted rim jar also dates to this later period. This low level of BBI is paralleled at other rural sites in the region (Marney 1989, 127, Hancocks *et al.* 1998, 45, Gibson 2005, 34); it is not mentioned in the fabric list for the A428 sites

Vessel forms

Using rim forms only, the proportions of the main vessel classes have been presented for each fabric group (**Table RB Pot 4**).

Table RB Pot 4. Quantification of the main vessel classes present in the major fabric groups at each site (number of examples shown)

Vessel Type	Fabric Group					Total
	Samian	Mortaria	British finewares	Oxidised wares	Reduced wares	
Drinking vessels (cups, beakers)	23		20	2	20	65
Flasks/flagons			3	10	13	26
Bowls/dishes	43		100	33	222	398
Jars (and jar/bowls)			37	64	521	622
Storage jars					48	48
Mortaria	2	22				24
Lids					8	8
Castor boxes			5			5
Total	68	22	165	109	832	1196

Overall, jar forms predominate (52%) while bowls/dishes represented 33% of the vessels recognized. Other forms were much less common – drinking vessels 5%, flasks/flagons 2%, storage jars 4% and mortaria 2% while lids and Castor boxes represented less than 1% each. Flask and flagon forms are probably under-represented in this assemblage, rims of these vessels being relatively scarce compared with body sherds. The equal split of drinking vessels in samian, British fineware, and reduced coarseware fabrics highlights the absence of the traditional differentiation between ‘coarse’ and ‘fine’ wares in this area, the local industries, in particular that in the Nene Valley, producing the entire range of utilitarian kitchen vessels as well as finer tablewares, often in the same fabrics

For most vessel classes, proportions do, however, vary considerable between sites (**Table 5**), although the relatively small number of rims present in the smaller assemblages (Knapwell Plantation, Mill Farm and The Grange) may make these figures unreliable.

Table RB Pot 5. Percentages of the main vessel classes present at each site

<i>Vessel Type</i>	<i>Site</i>				
	<i>Lower Cambourne</i>	<i>Mill Farm</i>	<i>Knapwell Plantation</i>	<i>Jeavons Lane</i>	<i>The Grange</i>
Drinking vessels	5	6	2	6	6
Flasks/flagons	2	-	-	4	6
Bowls/dishes	33	20	34	41	9
Jars	52	63	58	42	75
Storage jars	4	8	2	4	-
Mortaria	1	-	2	6	3
Lids	<1	3	-	-	1
Castor boxes	<1	-	-	<1	-
Total no of vessels	819	35	41	234	67

Table RB Pot 6. Romano-British vessel classes by phase for the whole assemblage (no of examples)

<i>Vessel Type</i>	<i>Phase</i>						<i>Unph.</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>0 natural</i>	<i>2 MIA-ERB</i>	<i>3 M-LRB</i>	<i>4 Saxon</i>	<i>5 Medieval</i>	<i>6 Mod.</i>		
Drinking vessels	1	7	49	1	1		6	65
Flasks/flagons		3	21		1		1	26
Bowls/dishes	3	38	323	6	5		23	398
Jars	2	120	452	10		1	39	566
Storage jars		11	29	3			5	48
Mortaria		1	19	1			3	24
Lids		2	6					8
Castor boxes			5					5
Total:	6	182	904	21	7	1	77	1140

Overall, the vessel form classes show remarkably little change between Phases 2 and 3 (**Table RB Pot 6**) – just a slight increase in the number of bowls/dishes and a corresponding decrease in jars, probably reflecting the diversification of the Nene Valley industry to produce a much wider functional range, largely comprising multi-purpose, non-stick, oven-to-table wares made in the colour-coated fabrics from the 3rd century onwards.

Only at Lower Cambourne can any sort of change through time be charted; the numbers of rims from Knapwell Plantation, Mill Farm and The Grange are too small to make it a worthwhile exercise while at Jeavons Lane all but 13 (11 unphased, one Phase 2 and one Phase 0) of the 234 rims recognised were from Phase 3B contexts.

But even at Lower Cambourne (**Table RB Pot 7**), there is actually very little differences between the two Romano-British phases, only a slight change in the jar and bowl/dish proportions being noted.

Table RB Pot 7. Percentages of the main vessel classes present at Lower Cambourne

<i>Vessel Type</i>	<i>0 Natural</i>	<i>2 MIA-ERB</i>	<i>3 M-LRB</i>	<i>4 Saxon</i>	<i>5 Medieval</i>	<i>Unph.</i>	<i>No. of rims</i>
Drinking vessels	25%	4%	5%	5%	14%	7%	44
Flasks/flagons		2%	2%		14%	1%	18
Bowls/dishes	75%	21%	37%	28%	71%	33%	274
Jars		64%	50%	47%		48%	425
Lids		1%	<1%				6
Storage jar		7%	3%	14%		6%	35
Mortaria		<1%	1%	5%		3%	13
Castor box		-	<1%				4
No. of rims:	4	163	559	21	7	66	819

Distribution

In general, the Romano-British pottery sherds occurred in relatively small numbers in a wide range of contexts across the sites and there were few large feature groups – of the 380 feature groups containing Romano-British pottery only 73 contained more than 50 sherds, while 196 had less than ten pieces. These largest groups are summarized in **Table RB Pot 8** (see p. 28).

The overall potential of the Cambourne assemblages to contribute to our understanding of chronology and the range of activities carried out at each site is limited by the nature of the excavated features themselves and the resulting problems of intrusion and residuality among the ceramics. Of the 12,639 sherds from these larger groups, for instance, 68% (8669 sherds) were from ditches, 13% (1674 sherds) from pits, and 18% (2296 sherds) from ‘other’ feature types. In general, material found in ditches is only rarely linked to the use of the ditch itself, but rather represents material, often spanning a wide date range, present in the area once a feature has gone out of use and was being filled up. The speed and frequency with which the ditches at Cambourne silted up and were then cleaned out and recut further complicates the picture, and is evidenced by the very mixed date range of the sherds present within the larger groups.

Evidence of use/re-use/repair

Interesting evidence for the curation and comprehensive repair of vessels was also noted. A dark brown or black pitch/resin-like substance, probably representing glue, was identified on some broken (in antiquity) edges of six groups of sherds:

- sherds from the base of a Central Gaulish (E304) form 18/31 series vessel with small, post-firing perforations generally taken to indicate the attempted repair of a vessel with metal staples or leather lacing as well as traces of glue on some of the broken edges; unphased ditch 01056 (context 02722), Lower Cambourne;

- pieces from a cup-mouthed flagon (R102) in a very distinctive coarse oxidized sandy fabric (Q100); Phase 3 pit 20075 (context 20781), The Grange;
- sherd from a shelly ware (S100) jar with a flattened, out-turned, lid-seated rim (R135); Phase 3 pit 02143 (context 02144), Lower Cambourne;
- a 'Horningsea' storage jar rim (fabric Q101, R138); Phase 3 ditch 01361 (context 02005), Lower Cambourne;
- a Romanised greyware (Q101) jar rim fragment; Phase 3 ditch 01365, (context 02477), Lower Cambourne;
- a possible example on a Romanised greyware (Q101) bowl or platter rim fragment; Phase 3 pit 80189 (context 80191), Jeavons Lane.

Similar glue repairs have been noted on a range coarseware forms of 1st–early 2nd century date from Springhead Roman town, near Gravesend, Kent (Seager Smith *et al.* forthcoming), Staines (McKinley 2004b, 31), and at Manor Farm, Guildford where analysis has indicated that this substance consisted of a mixture of birch resin, clay, and animal fat (English 2005). Similar adhesive also seems to have been used to repair a pot found at West Cotton, Northamptonshire (Dudd and Evershed 1999). These repairs are not very usual and are only just beginning to be recognised; the Cambourne samples have been included in the programme of analysis for Springhead (Wicks forthcoming).

Small, post-firing perforations indicating repair with metal staples (lead or sometimes copper alloy) or lacing with perhaps, leather have also been recorded on a number of sherds:

- a Central Gaulish samian body sherd from context 01886, group 01046, Lower Cambourne;
- complete profile of a Central Gaulish 18/31 dish; Phase 3 gully 60807 (context 60193), Knapwell Plantation; this vessel is also stamped (see above)
- a Central Gaulish form 35 cup; Phase 3 gully 60807 (context 60193), Knapwell Plantation;
- Jar with a flat-topped rim, grooved on its outer edge (R129) in a miscellaneous oxidized sandy fabric (Q102); perforation drilled through neck; Phase 3 ditch 40018 (context 40214), Mill Farm;
- large grog-tempered storage jar rim (R122), with scored decoration and a post-firing perforation drilled thru the shoulder; Phase 2 ditch 01783, Lower Cambourne;
- base from a grog-tempered ware jar/beaker form; square post firing perforation near the base; Phase 2 ditch 01077, Lower Cambourne;
- body sherds from a carinated, grog-tempered ware jar/bowl form; perforation in neck; Phase 2 ditch 01077, Lower Cambourne;
- carinated, necked jar/bowl (R124) in a sandy fabric with traces of a perforation through the shoulder, and body sherds from this or another vessel of this same form with perforations through the neck; Phase 3 ditch 20854, The Grange;
- carinated, necked jar/bowl (R124) in a sandy fabric with perforations in the neck; Phase 3 ditch 01307, Lower Cambourne;
- other sandy ware (Q103) body sherds with part of a perforation in the vessel wall; Phase 2 ditch 01356, Lower Cambourne;

- everted rim jar with a triangular rim (R112), with a perforation drilled through the neck; Romanised sandy greyware (Q101); Phase 4 feature 05730, group 05257, Lower Cambourne. Unusual in that this is a late Roman form;
- everted rim jar with a triangular rim (R112,) with a perforation drilled through the neck; other sandy ware (Q103); Phase 3 ditch 01151, Lower Cambourne. Unusual in that this is a late Roman form.

Most vessels with post-firing perforations appear to be of mid/late 1st century AD date, possibly extending into the 2nd century – most of the early ones are of coarsewares while the repaired samian is of 2nd century date, possibly an indication that it was harder to get hold of at this time.

The examples on the triangular rimmed jars (R112) from the Phase 3 ditch 01151 and Phase 4 feature 05730, group 05257 at Lower Cambourne are unusual in that these are Late Roman, possibly even 4th century forms.

Unfortunately, none of the perforated sherds are from the same contexts as the lead pot-mends (Brown, this vol).

There are also several re-used sherds (as objects):

- two sherds from the base of a large Southern Gaulish samian vessel deliberately altered to form a flat, sideless dish or plate. Original vessel form uncertain. Phase 3 ditch 20846 (context 20819), The Grange;
- one small sherd of Hadham oxidized ware trimmed to form a small disc, 18mm in diameter and 5 mm thick – counter; Phase 3 ditch 20844 (context 20517) at The Grange;
- two deliberately trimmed Oxfordshire colour-coated ware footring base sherds from ditch 01154 (context 02243) at Lower Cambourne. One has the start of a central drilled perforation but this was abandoned before completion.
- Romanised greyware body sherd neatly trimmed into a disc c. 70 mm in diameter – counter or weight; Phase 2 ditch 01342 (context 02631), Lower Cambourne;
- Grog-tempered ware sherd trimmed to form a square or rectangle with rounded corners and a hour-glass shaped perforation drilled through the center (one corner, c. 25% survives); Phase 3 ditch 01003 (context 01780), Lower Cambourne.

Items such as these form part of the standard range of artefacts identified variously as counters, spindle-whorls or weights found on most Late Iron Age and Romano-British sites.

Finally, there is one example for the change in use of a vessel:

- Sherds forming the profile of a carinated jar/bowl with a long upright neck and a slightly beaded rim (Q101, R124) has two post-firing perforations drilled through the vessel wall just above the base; Phase 2 ditch 01783, context 01943, Lower Cambourne. Mid-1st century AD.

Conclusions

All the Romano-British fabrics and forms are encompassed by the range of products expected in this area and compare well with those from the adjacent A428 sites (Abrams and Ingham 2008), Cambridge (Hull and Pullinger 1999), Eynesbury (Ellis 2004) and Eaton Socon (Gibson 2005). The distribution, condition and nature of the assemblage are all consistent with the repeated redeposition of domestic debris from rural farming communities, although the deliberate burial of the large jar containing the glass hoard (Seager-Smith, this Volume) clearly stands out as unusual. It is probable, however, that the distribution networks of imported tablewares and other specialist vessels, such as amphorae and mortaria barely reached the more remote, small-scale communities like those at Cambourne. Furthermore, especially during the 1st and early 2nd centuries AD, it is highly likely that only a small proportion of the native, rural population was ever in direct contact with a market or was an active participant in the Romanised economy (Condon 1995, 103).

List of Illustrated Sherds

Fig. 34

1. Upright-necked jar with cordon at neck/shoulder junction; coarse grog-tempered ware. PRN (Pottery Record Number) 7021, Little Common Farm, context 90074, ditch segment 90066, group 90038
2. Necked, cordoned biconical bowl with burnished exterior surface; sandy ware. PRN 7014, Little Common Farm, context 90074, ditch segment 90066, group 90038
3. Ovoid jar with inturned, slightly beaded rim; coarse grog and sand-tempered ware. PRN 7020, Little Common Farm, context 90074, ditch segment 90066, group 90038
4. Upright-necked jar/bowl with cordon at neck/shoulder junction; coarse grog and sand-tempered ware. PRN 7192, Little Common Farm, context 90404, ditch segment 90418, group 90525
5. Large upright-necked jar with cordon at neck/shoulder junction; shell-tempered ware. PRN 7279, Little Common Farm, context 90405, ditch segment 90418, group 90525
6. Long-necked, cordoned cup or bowl; Coarse grog and sand-tempered ware. PRN 7255, Little Common Farm context 90482, ditch segment 90481, group 90413
7. Upright-necked jar/bowl with cordon at neck/shoulder junction; coarse grog and sand-tempered ware. PRN 7278, Little Common Farm, context 90488, ditch segment 90487, group 90037
8. Bead-rimmed carinated bowl with cordoned band half way between rim and carination; fine grog-tempered ware. PRN 7341, Little Common Farm, context 90401, ditch segment 90484, group 90037
9. Large, thick-walled jar with a thickened, everted rim, a shoulder cordon and scored decoration; coarse grog-tempered ware. PRN 7342, Little Common Farm, context 90401, ditch segment 90484, group 90037

Fig. 35

10. Long-necked, cordoned jar/bowl with an out-turned rim; Romanised greyware; post-firing perforation drilled through the neck. PRN 6081, The Grange, context 20639, ditch segment 20638, group 20854
11. Long-necked, cordoned jar/bowl with an out-turned rim; sandy ware; post-firing perforation drilled through the neck. PRN 6078, The Grange, context 20639, ditch segment 20638, group 20854
12. Long-necked, cordoned jar/bowl with an out-turned rim; sandy ware; post-firing perforation drilled through the neck. PRN 6079, The Grange, context 20639, ditch segment 20638, group 20854
13. Jar with everted rim; sandy ware. PRN 6080, The Grange, context 20639, ditch segment 20638, group 20854
14. Jar/bowl with a thickened, out-turned reeded rim, 'fumed' white ware. PRN 6092, The Grange, context 20639, ditch segment 20638, group 20854
15. Jar with an everted rim, corrugated neck and gently carinated shoulder; sandy ware. PRN 5333, Mill Farm, context 40214, ditch segment 40213, group 40018
16. Narrow-necked flask/flagon with an everted rim; sandy ware. PRN 5347, Mill Farm, context 40214, ditch segment 40213, group 40018
17. Jar with an everted rim, corrugated neck and gently carinated shoulder; oxidised sandy ware. PRN 5317, Mill Farm, context 40214, ditch segment 40213, group 40018
18. Jar with a grooved, everted rim; oxidised sandy ware. PRN 5320, Mill Farm, context 40214, ditch segment 40213, group 40018
19. Jar with out-turned, lid-seated rim; Verulamium region white ware. PRN 5327, Mill Farm, context 40214, ditch segment 40213, group 40018
20. Jar with a grooved, everted rim; Verulamium region white ware. PRN 5323, Mill Farm, context 40214, ditch segment 40213, group 40018
21. Lid-seated bead-rimmed jar; shelly ware. PRN 5314, Mill Farm, context 40214, ditch segment 40213, group 40018

Fig. 36

22. 'Horningsea' jar with everted rim; Romanised greyware. PRN 5620, Lower Cambourne, context 2993, pit 1308, group 3070

23. Straight-sided incipient flanged bowl; Romanised greyware. PRN 5622, Lower Cambourne, context 2993, pit 1308, group 3070
24. Straight-sided flat-flanged bowl; Romanised greyware. PRN 5621, Lower Cambourne, context 2993, pit 1308, group 3070
25. Funnel-necked indented beaker with barbotine scale decoration; Nene Valley colour-coated ware. PRN 5624, Lower Cambourne, context 2993, pit 1308, group 3070
26. Round-bodied, bead-rimmed bowl with moulded decoration; Nene Valley colour-coated ware. PRN 5504, Lower Cambourne, layer 2888
27. Upright-necked jar/bowl with cordon at neck/shoulder junction; grog-tempered ware. PRN 5581, Lower Cambourne, context 2922, ditch segment 2759, group 1077
28. Necked jar; shell-tempered ware. PRN 1297, Lower Cambourne, context 7194, pit 7195, group 7397
29. Hooked rim jar; shell-tempered ware. PRN 1291, Lower Cambourne, context 7194, pit 7195, group 7397
30. Upright-necked jar/bowl with cordon at neck/shoulder junction; sandy ware. PRN 4028, Lower Cambourne, context 2137, ditch segment 1942, group 1783
31. Upright-necked jar/bowl with cordon at neck/shoulder junction; sandy ware. PRN 4102, Lower Cambourne, context 2183, ditch segment 2169, group 1356
32. Upright-necked jar/bowl with cordon at neck/shoulder junction; Romanised greyware. PRN 2956, context 1216, ditch segment 1109, group 1200

Fig. 37

33. Shallow dish with a grooved rim; Romanised greyware. PRN 1904, Jeavons Lane, context 80651, ditch segment 80560, group 80079
34. Shallow, plain rimmed dish; Nene Valley colour-coated ware. PRN 2999, Lower Cambourne, context 1234, ditch segment 1233, group 1001
35. Shallow, plain rimmed dish with burnished line decoration; South-east Dorset Black Burnished ware. PRN 1557, Jeavons Lane, context 80178, ditch 80099
36. Wide-mouthed jar/bowl; Nene Valley colour-coated ware. PRN 3004, Lower Cambourne, context 1234, ditch segment 1233, group 1001
37. Lid-seated bead rimmed jar; shelly ware. PRN 2169, Lower Cambourne, context 284, ditch segment 283, group 693
38. Lid-seated bead rimmed jar; shelly ware. PRN 1240, Lower Cambourne, context 7165, pit 7172
39. Lid-seated bead rimmed jar; grog-tempered ware. PRN 3866, Lower Cambourne, context 2036, ditch segment 1994, group 1356
40. Miniature everted rim jar (object no. 62038); Romanised greyware. PRN 1466, Knapwell Plantation, context 60293, grave 60292
41. Bag-shaped jar/beaker with a small out-turned rim and burnished-line lattice decoration; sandy ware. PRN 4530, Lower Cambourne, context 2416, ditch segment 2436, group 1003
42. Everted rim jar; Romanised greyware. PRN 1652, Jeavons Lane, context 80191, pit 80189
43. Large storage jar with a rolled rim, scored decoration and a post-firing perforation through shoulder; grog-tempered ware. PRN 3662, Lower Cambourne, context 1943, ditch segment 1942, group 1783
44. Jar/bowl with an upright neck and a corrugated shoulder; Romanised greyware. PRN 3665, Lower Cambourne, context 1943, ditch segment 1942, group 1783
45. Carinated jar/bowl with a long, curved neck; sandy ware. PRN 4692, Lower Cambourne, context 2438, ditch segment 2436, group 1003

Fig. 38

46. Jar with a grooved rim; Verulamium region white ware. PRN 5248, Mill Farm, context 40074, ditch segment 40318, group 40319
47. Jar with a grooved rim and rilled shoulder; Verulamium region white ware. PRN 2409, Lower Cambourne, context 5133, ditch segment 5131, group 1066
48. Dropped-flange bowl; Nene Valley colour-coated ware. PRN 4191, Lower Cambourne, context 2277, ditch segment 2436, group 1003
49. Hemispherical bowl with a flat-topped, internally thickened rim; shell-tempered ware. PRN 2204, Lower Cambourne, context 316, ring gully segment 315, group 50

- 50. Narrow-necked flask/flagon; Romanised greyware. PRN 1635, Jeavons Lane, context 80191, pit 80189
- 51. Large jar with an out-turned, internally flattened rim; shelly ware. PRN 3647, Lower Cambourne, context 1933, pit 1931
- 52. Round-bodied bowl with a heavy, reeded rim; Verulamium region white ware. PRN 4166, Lower Cambourne, context 2186, ditch segment 2158, group 1361
- 53. Small jar with a flared or 'pulled' bead rim, faint burnished line decoration on the body; Romanised greyware. PRN 3711, Lower Cambourne, context 1954, ditch segment 1233, group 1001
- 54. Small bead rim jar with arched scored decoration; grog-tempered ware. PRN 2546, Lower Cambourne, context 5209, ditch segment 5210, group 5443
- 55. Large, thick-walled jar with a thickened everted rim and a shoulder cordon; grog-tempered ware. PRN 2555, Lower Cambourne, context 5214, gully 5216, group 5221
- 56. Large, thick-walled bowl with a corrugated rim; shell-tempered ware. PRN 1633, Jeavons Lane, context 80191, pit 80189

Fig. 39

- 57. Large, relatively thin-walled, narrow-mouthed storage jar; pie-crust decoration around rim and burnished line decoration on shoulder (object no. 562); shelly ware. PRN 2982, Lower Cambourne, context 1234, ditch segment 1233, group 1001
- 58. Large, narrow-necked jar with a frilled, cupped rim; Romanised greyware. PRN 4487, Lower Cambourne, context 2410, well 2409
- 59. Large, everted storage jar rim, grooved around outer edge; sandy ware. PRN 1715, Jeavons Lane, context 80205, spread 80220, group 80111
- 60. Carinated bowl with a triangular rim; sandy ware. PRN 1914, Jeavons Lane, context 80651, ditch segment 80650, group 80079
- 61. Carinated bowl with a flat rim; grog-tempered ware. PRN 5417, Lower Cambourne, context 2837, ditch segment 2940, group 1077
- 62. Round-bodied jar/bowl with an everted rim; Romanised greyware. PRN 1760, Jeavons Lane, context 80312, ditch segment 80311, group 80060
- 63. Bowl with an inturned flanged (lid-seated) rim; sandy ware. PRN 3560, Lower Cambourne, context 1878, ditch segment 1877, group 1088
- 64. Necked bowl with an out-turned triangular rim; Romanised greyware. PRN 5632, Lower Cambourne, context 2999, ditch 3001
- 65. Bowl imitating samian form 29; Romanised greyware. PRN 6147, The Grange, context 20724, ditch segment 20723, group 20846
- 66. Jar with a triangular rim and a rilled shoulder; Romanised greyware. PRN 4563, Lower Cambourne, context 2397, ditch segment 2389, group 1001

Fig. 43

- 67. Large, narrow-necked jar or flask with a globular body and a neck cordon (object no. 24008); Romanised greyware. PRN 6224, The Grange, context 20790, ditch segment 20789, group 20846
- 68. Strainer base, pre-firing perforations; Much Hadham oxidised ware. PRN 5483, Lower Cambourne, context 5483
- 69. Necked bowl with a full, curved body, stamped and rouletted decoration; Oxfordshire colour-coated ware. PRN 2496, Lower Cambourne, context 5128, ditch segment 5127, group 1066
- 70. Face forming the front of the rim of a flagon or jug (object no. 81149); Nene Valley colour-coated ware. PRN 1686, Jeavons Lane, context 80205, spread 80220, group 80111
- 71. Small, globular-bodied flagon, tip of rim missing (object no. 81048); Much Hadham oxidised ware. PRN 1570, Jeavons Lane, context 80178, ditch 80099

Table RB Pot 8. Romano-British feature groups containing large numbers of Romano-British pottery sherds

<i>Phase</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Wt. (g)</i>	<i>Date</i>	
<i>Lower Cambourne:</i>					
IIB	Phase 2 - Iron Age to ERB	Ditch 00693	51	608	C1-2 AD
		Ditch 01077	281	4705	mixed C1-2/3 AD
		Ditch 01154	118	2563	IA and ERB
		Ditch 01156	76	652	LRB
		Ditch 01330	68	584	IA and ERB
		Ditch 01342	258	2633	Mixed IA – C4 AD
		Ditch 01356	97	2497	ERB - Saxon
		Ditch 03018	99	708	C1-2 AD
		Ditch 3023	69	893	C1-3 AD
		Ditch 03080	164	1390	IA – C2/3 AD
		Ditch 05221	52	1037	IA
		Ditch 05401	81	1262	mixed RB
		Ditch 05408	121	1713	IA - Saxon
		Ditch 05443	62	1112	IA
		Ditch 05476	113	751	C1-5/7 AD
		Pit 07172	101	849	mid C1 AD
IIC	Phase 3 - Romano-British	Ditch 00025	62	614	C2 AD
		Ditch 00026	109	1551	MIA – C5/7 AD
		Ditch 01001	351	8036	mixed RB
		Ditch 01003	562	7082	mixed RB
		Ditch 01005	98	614	C2-3 AD
		Ditch 01046	196	2260	late C3-4 AD
		Ditch 01066	116	1491	mixed C2-4
		Ditch 01082	59	541	C1-3 AD
		Ditch 01088	448	3969	late C3-4 AD
		Ring-ditch 01090	54	476	mixed C2-4
		Ditch 01151	287	3236	mixed C2-4
		Ditch 01176	89	921	mixed RB
		Ditch 01200	88	1270	C1-3 AD
		Ditch 01293	60	498	mixed RB
		Ditch 01307	152	1588	C2-3 AD
		Ditch 01311	66	537	C1-2 AD
		Spread 01326	1026	10753	mixed RB
		Ditch 01361	371	4683	C2-3 AD
		Ditch 01369	59	728	C2-3 AD
		Ditch 01401	54	215	mixed RB
		Spread 01413	52	1550	C2-3 AD
		Pit/posthole 01946	62	1012	C1-3 AD
		Scoop 02161	237	1371	mixed C2-4 AD
		Pit 02680	73	729	C1-2 AD
		Pit 03070	59	2136	mixed C1-3 AD
		Ditch 03073	51	521	late C3-4 AD
		Building 3158	146	2711	late C3-4 AD
		Pit 05139	51	1096	mixed RB
		Gully 07177	188	1865	late C3-4 AD
		Gully 07189	54	187	late C3-4 AD
		Ditch 07198	54	354	late C3-4 AD
		Ditch 07389	93	822	mixed RB
		Pit 07397	487	6445	LRB and Saxon

IVD	Phase 4 - Saxon	Ditch 05267	195	2144	LRB and Saxon
VE	Phase 5 - Medieval	Ridge + furrow 07104	57	462	mixed RB and Saxon
U	Unphased	Ditch 00053	126	35	mixed RB
<i>Mill Farm:</i>					
IIC	Phase 3 - Romano-British	Ditch 40018	380	6259	C1-3 AD
		Ditch 40088	56	510	C1-3 AD
		Ditch 40319	116	2285	C1-3 AD
<i>Knapwell Plantation:</i>					
IIB	Phase 2 - Iron Age to ERB	Ditch 60141	107	1282	mixed MIA-C4th AD
IIC	Phase 3 - Romano-British	Ditch 60140	119	2933	mixed MIA-C4th AD
		Pit 60496	50	346	post AD 150
<i>Jeavons Lane:</i>					
IIC	Phase 3 - Romano-British	Ditch 80060	68	417	C2nd-3 rd AD
		Ditch 80078	54	429	late C3rd – 4 th AD
		Ditch 80079	193	3111	late C3rd – 4 th AD
		Ditch 80099	183	2529	late C3rd – 4 th AD
		Poss building 80111	724	15521	late C3rd – 4 th AD
		Pit 80189	410	6375	late C3rd – 4 th AD
		Ditch 80387	62	650	C2nd – 4 th AD
<i>The Grange:</i>					
IIC	Phase 3 – Romano-British	Pit 20075	320	2183	C1-3AD
		Ditch 20081	63	338	C1-3AD
		Ditch 20158	75	361	C1-3AD
		Pit 20784	61	368	C1-2 AD
		Ditch 20845	106	1512	mixed RB
		Ditch 20846	139	3065	mixed RB and Saxon
		Ditch 20847	64	357	C1-3 AD
		Ditch 20854	1186	7658	C1-3 AD
<i>Total:</i>			<i>12,639</i>	<i>156,949</i>	

Saxon Pottery

By Rachael Seager Smith

In total 444 sherds (4046 g – a reasonably significant amount) of Early/Middle Saxon pottery were found at Cambourne, with most coming from Lower Cambourne and The Grange and much smaller quantities from Knapwell Plantation and Jeavons Lane and Great Common Farm.

Although most of the sherds are not large (average sherd weight 9 g), their condition is generally better than that of the Romano-British pottery; they are much less abraded with little or no edge damage.

Fabrics

The Saxon pottery belonged to four broad fabric groups (**Table Saxon Pot 1**; none is illustrated):

- sandy wares (coarse quartz and sandstone tempered ware – Fabric Q400; fine sandy ware – Fabric Q402)
- organic-tempered wares (fine organic tempered ware – Fabric V400; organic-tempered ware – Fabric V401; organic and sand-tempered ware – Fabric 402)
- calcareous wares (coarse limestone tempered ware – Fabric C400; lime- and sand- stone tempered ware – Fabric C401; oolitic limestone tempered ware – Fabric C402)
- rock-tempered ware (granitic inclusions– Fabric R400)

Most of these fabrics were probably made fairly locally, the raw materials being obtained from the Boulder Clay, perhaps accounting for the geologically mixed nature of the inclusions present – although apparently wide fabric diversity is a typical feature of hand-made assemblages where pots are made in small batches as the need arises.

Only the granitic fabric (R400) may have a non-local origin. Such fabrics are known from many Early/Middle Saxon sites across the Midlands – for example, it is paralleled by fabric RO401 at Eynesbury, Cambridgeshire (Mephram 2004, 54, table 13), and it is currently believed that most derive from a single source in the Charnwood Forest in Leicestershire (Williams and Vince 1997), although it is possible that these igneous rock fragments also derived from the Boulder Clay (Mephram 2004, 53).

Other fabrics also have parallels at Eynesbury:

Fabric C400 Coarse limestone tempered ware = fabrics LI404 and 405

Fabric Q400 Coarse quartz and sandstone tempered ware = fabric QU105

Fabric Q402 Fine sandy ware = fabric QU403

Fabric V401 Organic-tempered ware = fabric V401

Sandy wares predominate at both sites and although traditionally viewed as the characteristic Early/Middle Saxon pottery type, organic tempered wares are poorly represented in this part of the south-east Midlands (Blinkhorn 1996/7, 72).

Table Saxon Pot 1. Fabric descriptions

<i>Fabric Code</i>	<i>Description of fabric</i>
C400	Coarse limestone tempered ware. Similar to L1404 and L1405 from Barford Rd
C401	Limestone and sandstone tempered ware
C402	Oolitic limestone gritted ware
Q400	coarse quartz and sandstone tempered ware. Some also contain organics - but these are really only visible when the surfaces are missing. = fabric QU 105 at Eynesbury, Cambs (Mephram 2004, table 13)
Q401	q
Q402	Medium fine sandy fabric (finer version of Q400). = QY 403 at Eynesbury, Cambs (Mephram 2004, table 13)
R400	= Barford Rd RO401 fabric - coarse rock-tempered fabric; igneous rock fragments and mica
V100	Fine, sandy fabric with a moderate to common amount of organic inclusions
V401	= Barford Rd V401 fabric - organics, a bit of quartz and not much else! Laminated
V402	Organic and sand tempered fabric

Distribution

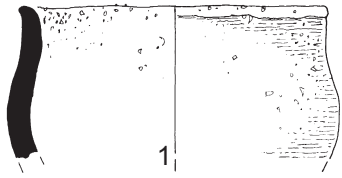
Lower Cambourne

The seven rim sherds derive from baggy, weak-shouldered vessels with short necks and simple upright or slightly everted rims, or with longer, more widely curving necks and, in one instance, a flat-topped rim. A date in the Early–Middle Saxon period (5th–7th centuries) is suggested for this material.

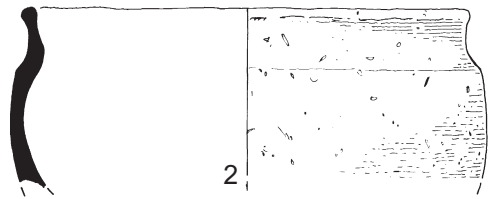
With the exception of a single sherd of the very obvious quartz-tempered fabric from pit 2409, all the Saxon sherds occurred in contexts that also contained Romano-British pottery (ie, pits 187 and 2346, ditches 26, 29, 47, 1001, 1066, 1076, and 1355, enclosure 1356 and the cobbled surface 1326). Similar pottery has also been found on other sites at Cambourne (at The Grange and Great Common Farm), invariably occurring in small quantities in the upper fills of earlier features.

The Grange

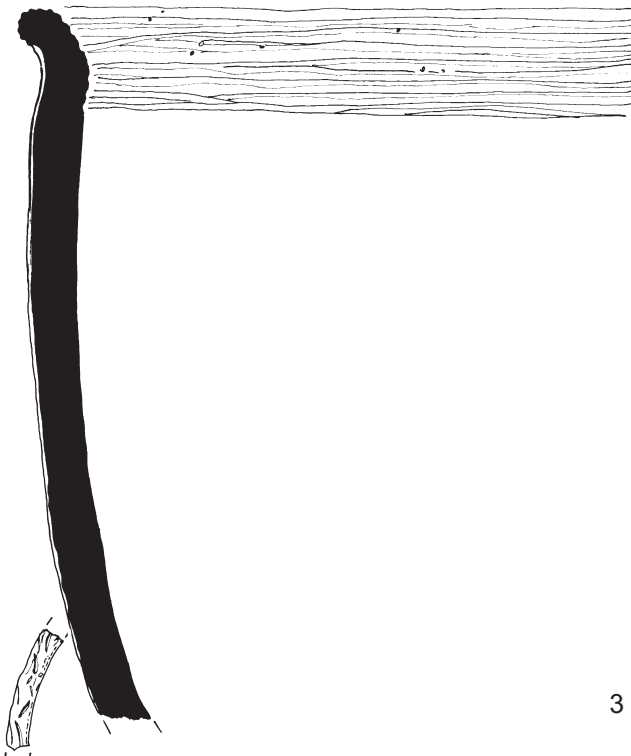
Saxon material comprises a small group of 49 sherds in three fabric groups: calcareous wares (tempered with oolitic limestone), quartzite-tempered ware, and wares containing inclusions of probable igneous origin. Apart from a single calcareous rim sherd, there are no featured sherds, and none of this material is chronologically distinctive on fabric grounds alone, although a date range within the Early–Middle Saxon period is suggested. Most if not all of these sherds occur in contexts also containing Romano-British material (eg. gully 20524 and ditches 20535, 20633, 20638, 20776, 20800).



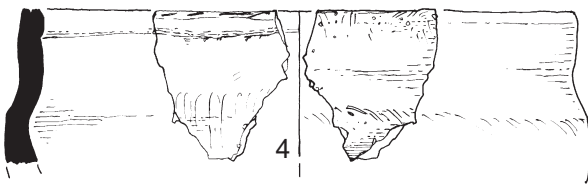
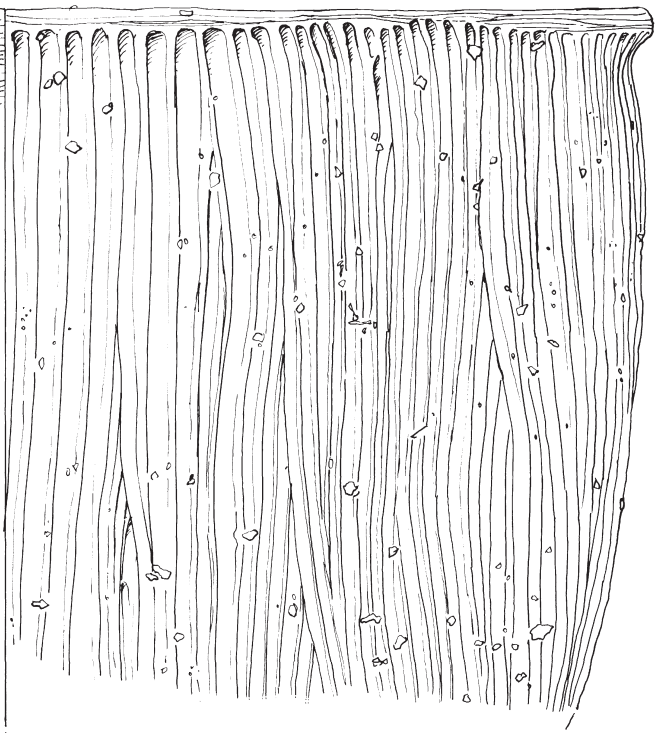
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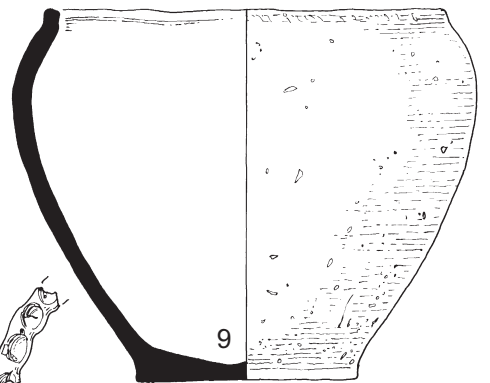
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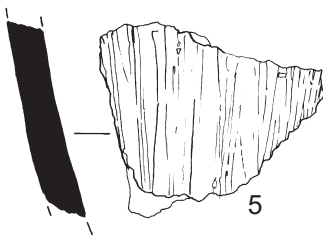
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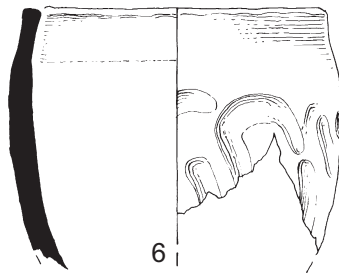
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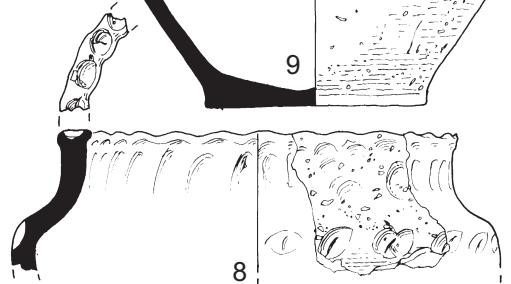
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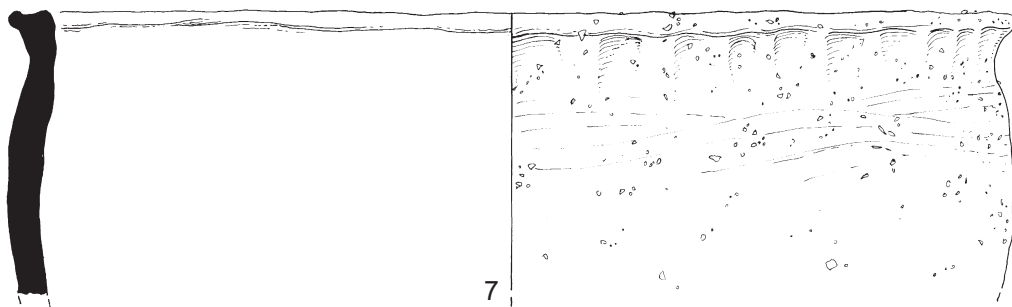
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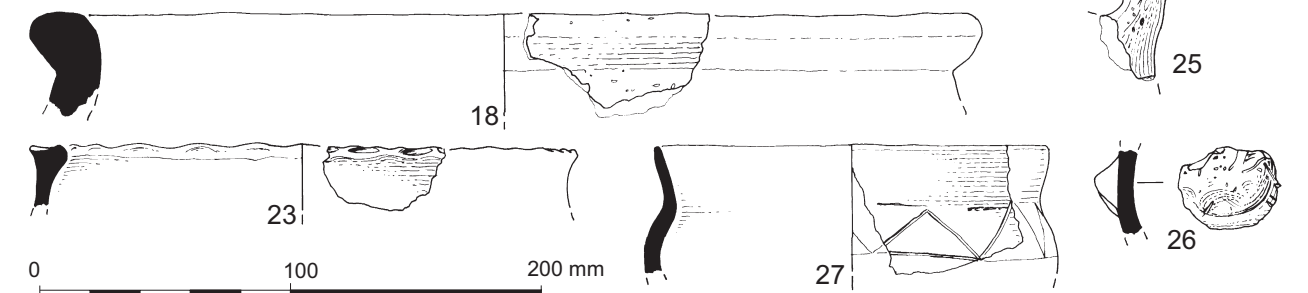
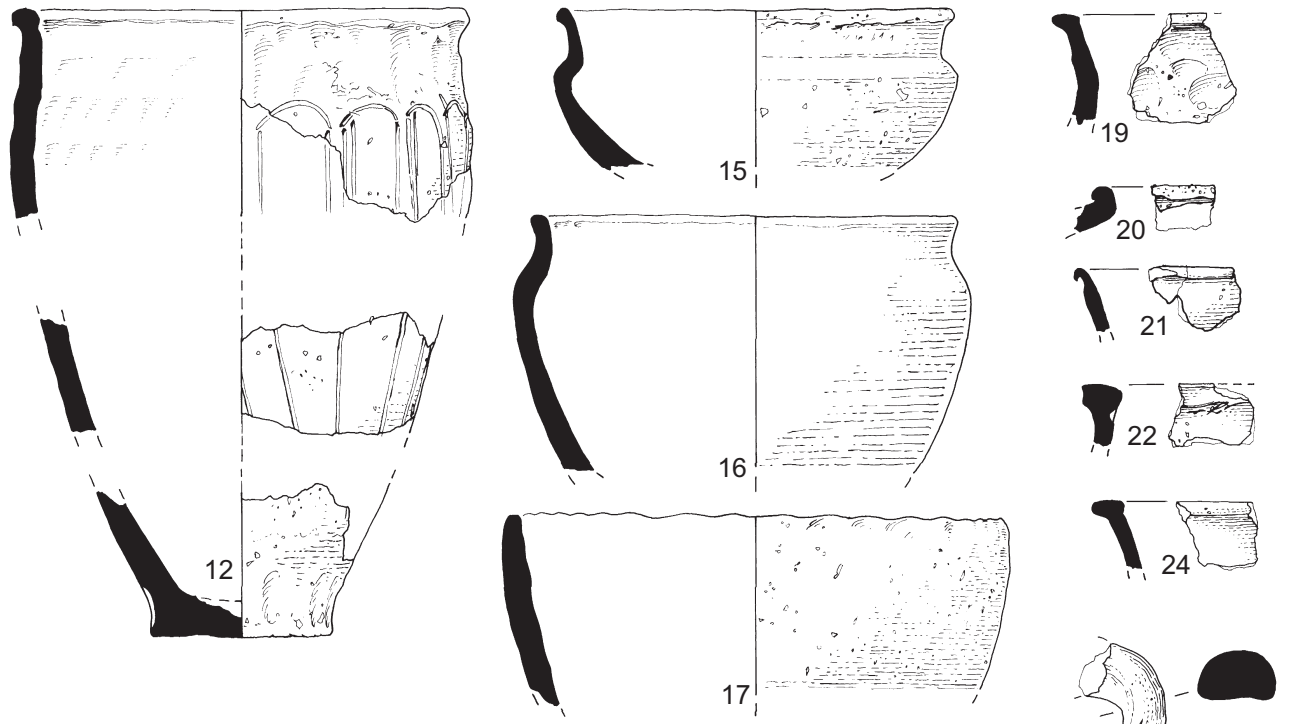
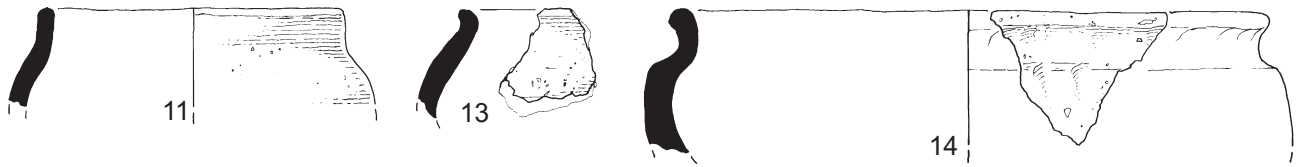
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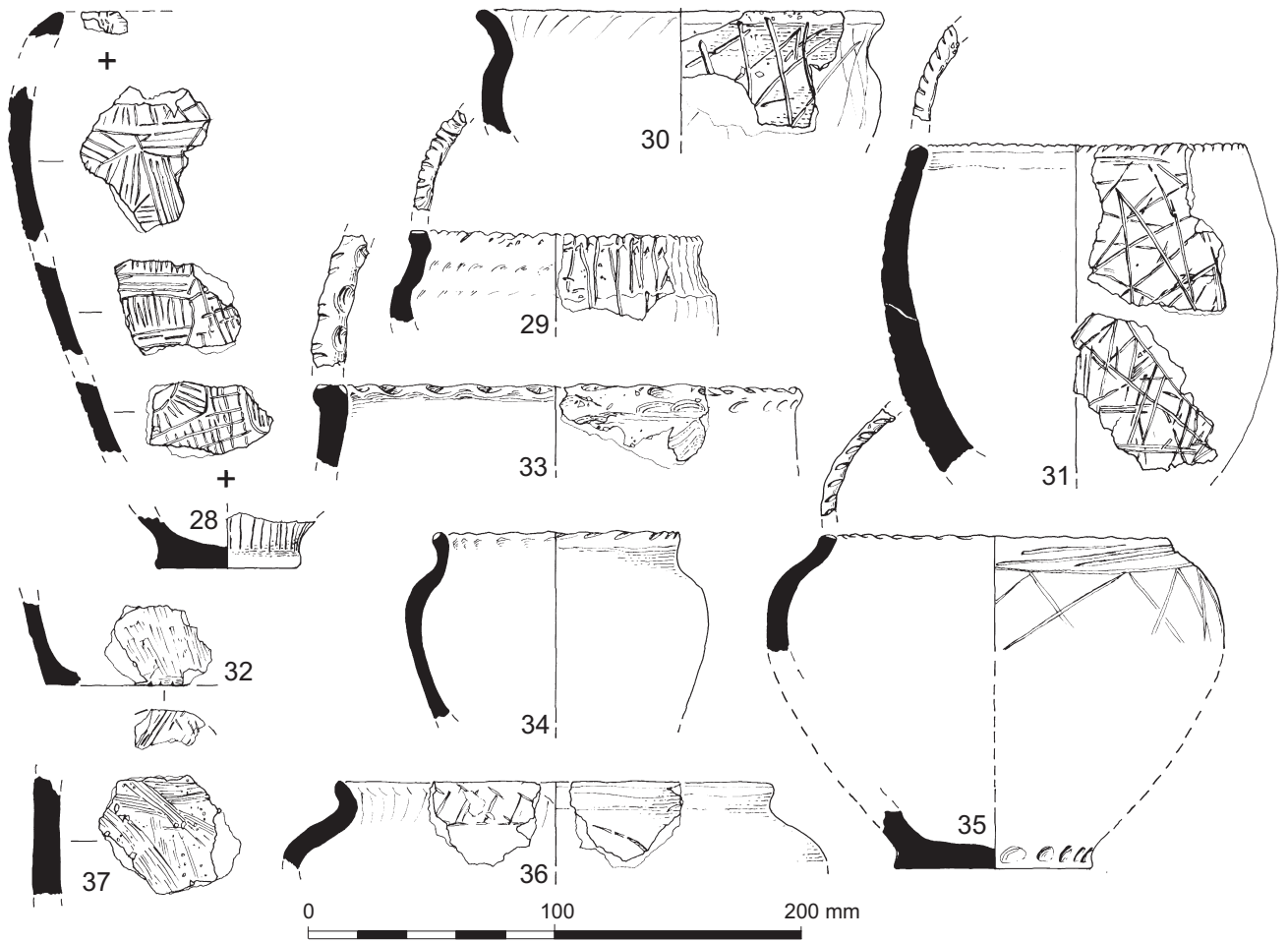
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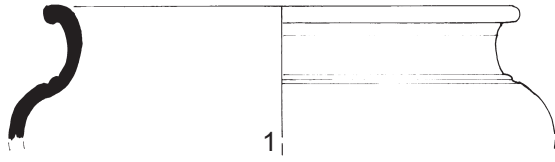


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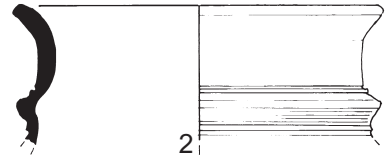


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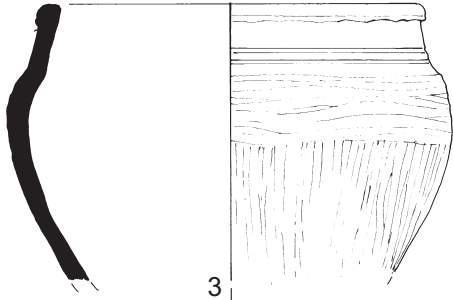




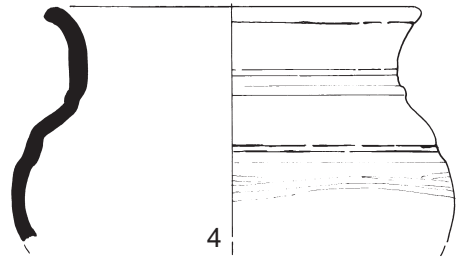
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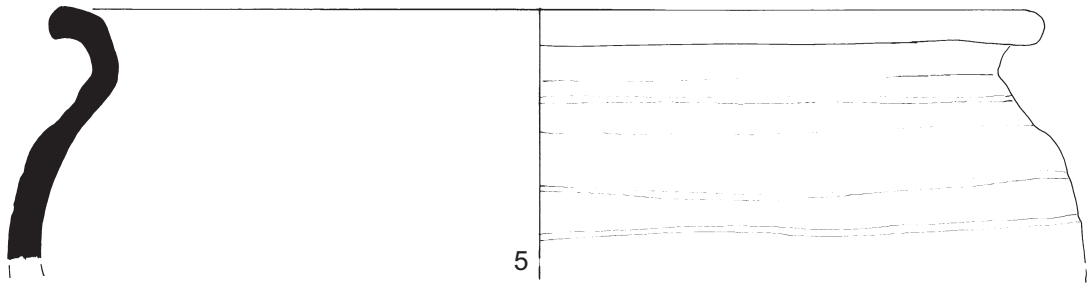
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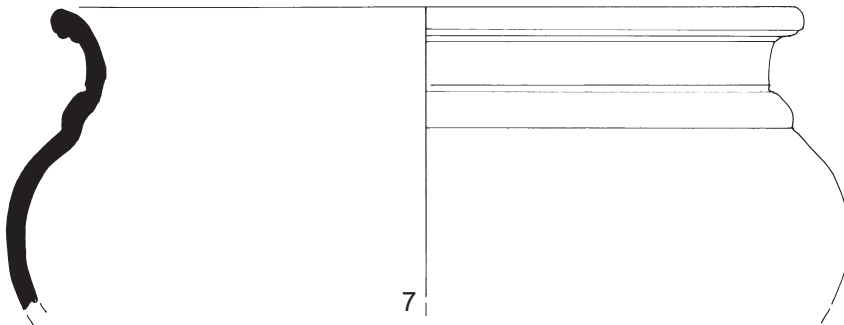
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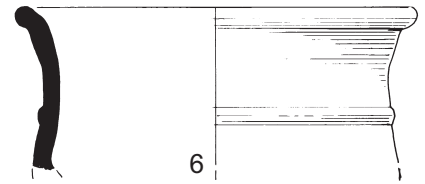
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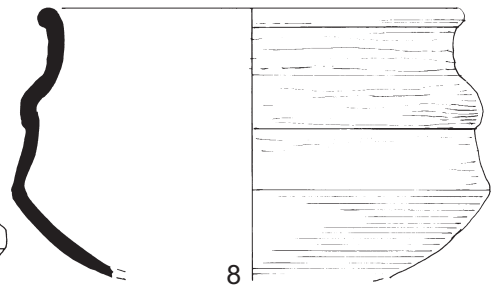
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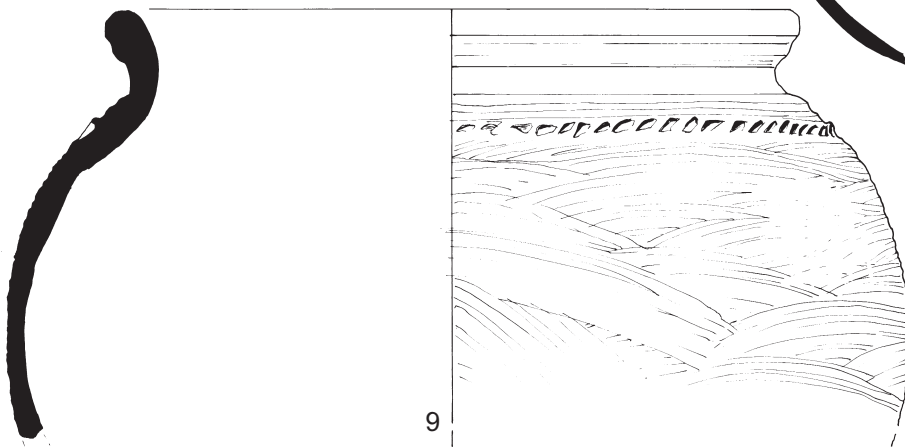
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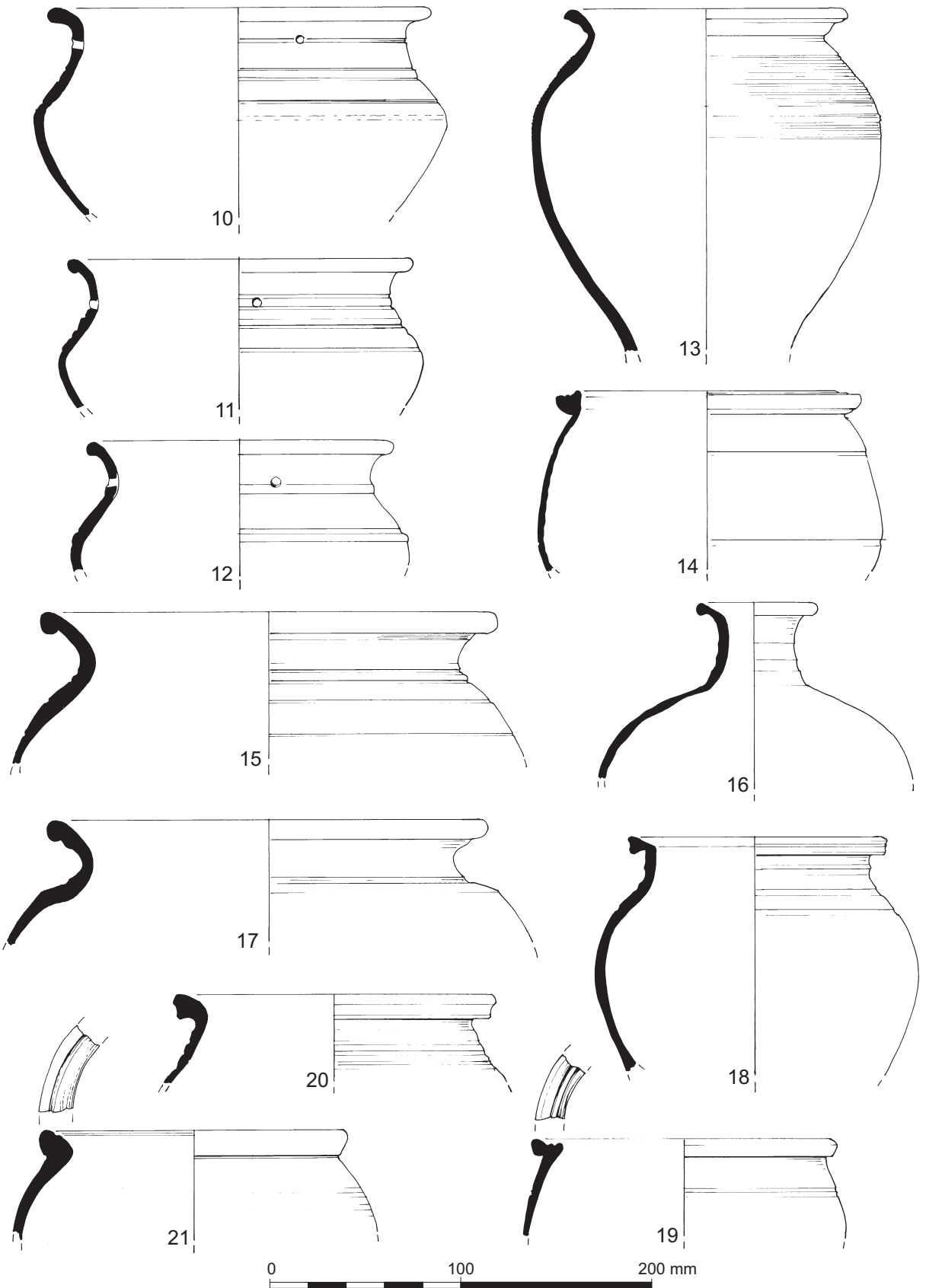
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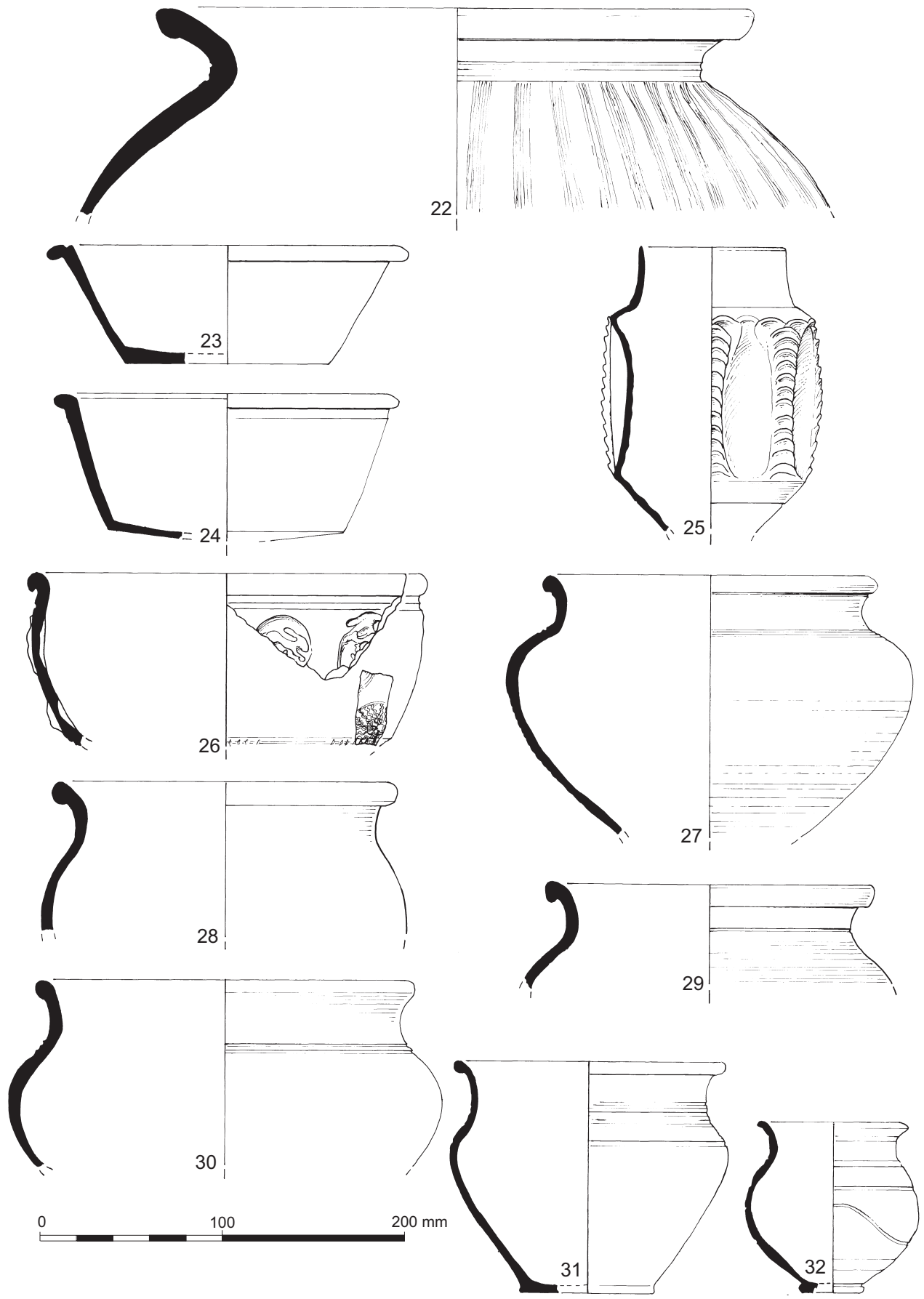


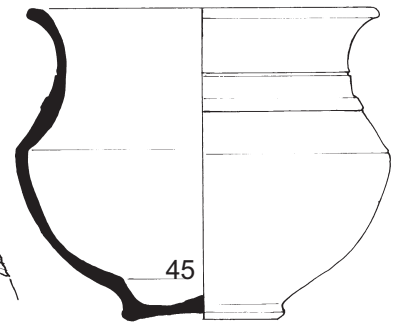
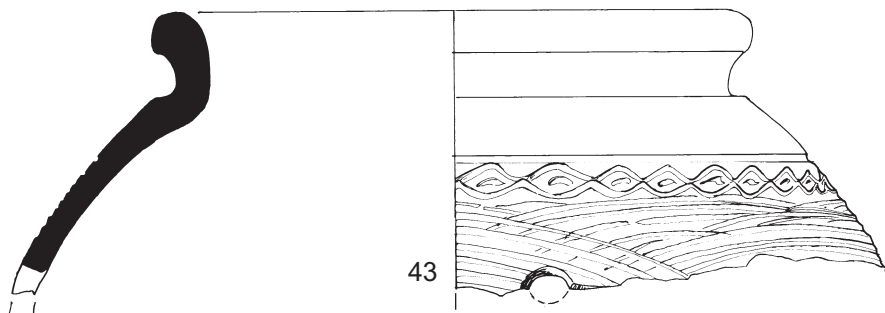
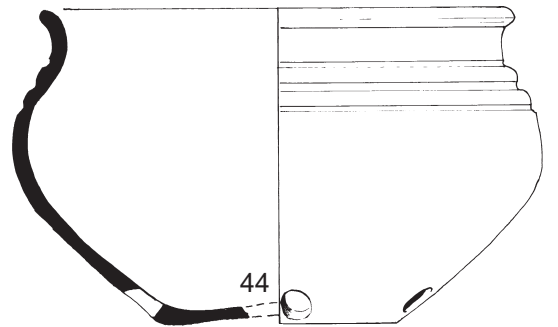
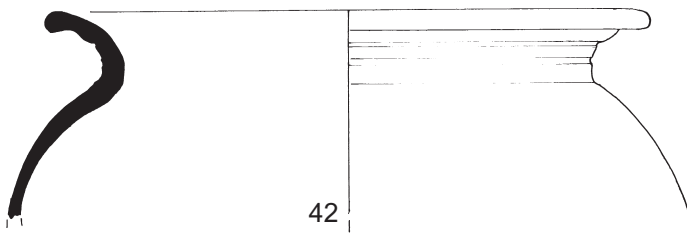
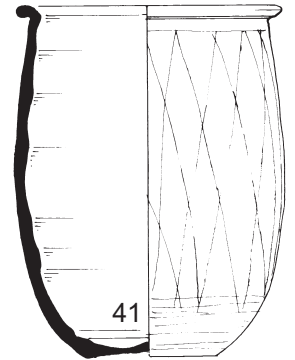
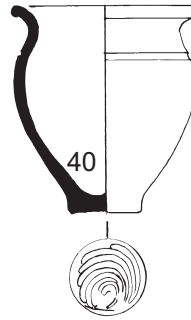
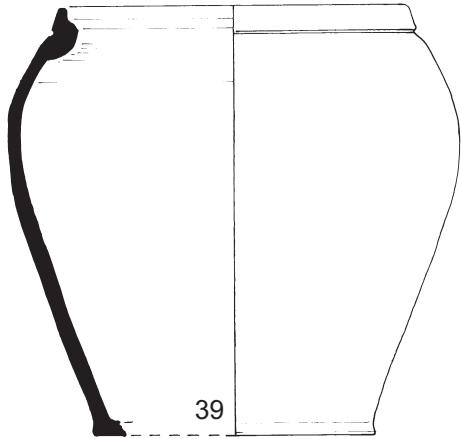
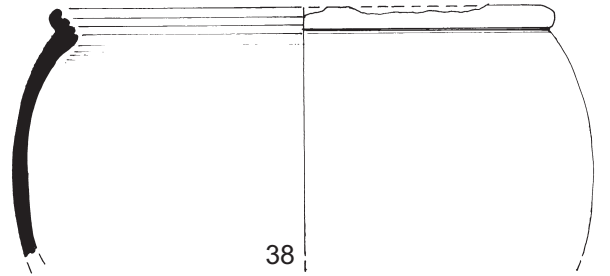
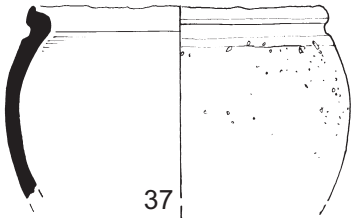
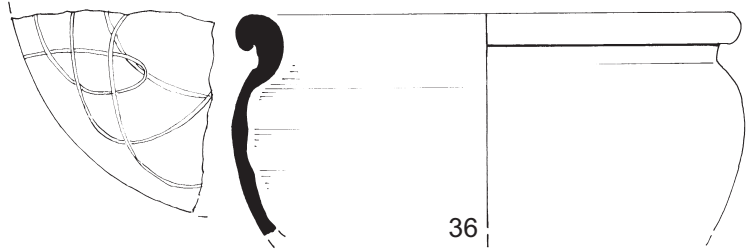
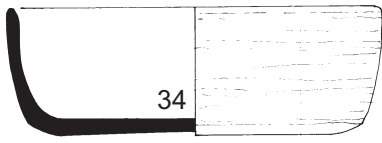
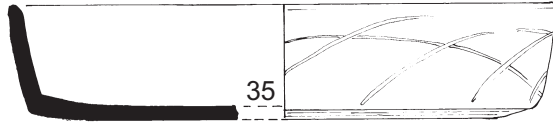
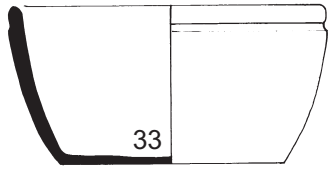
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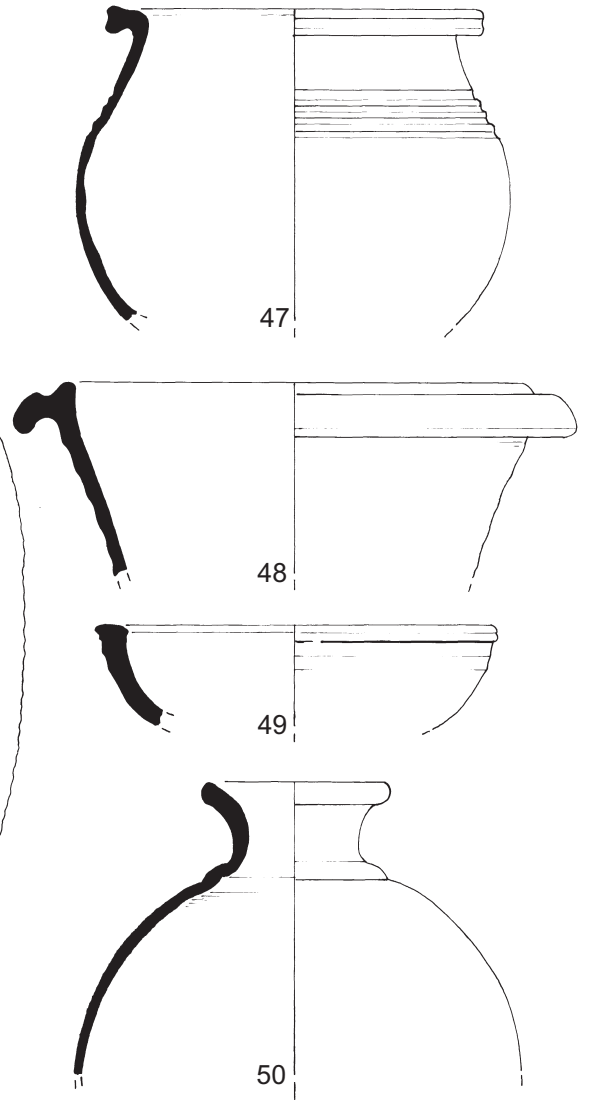
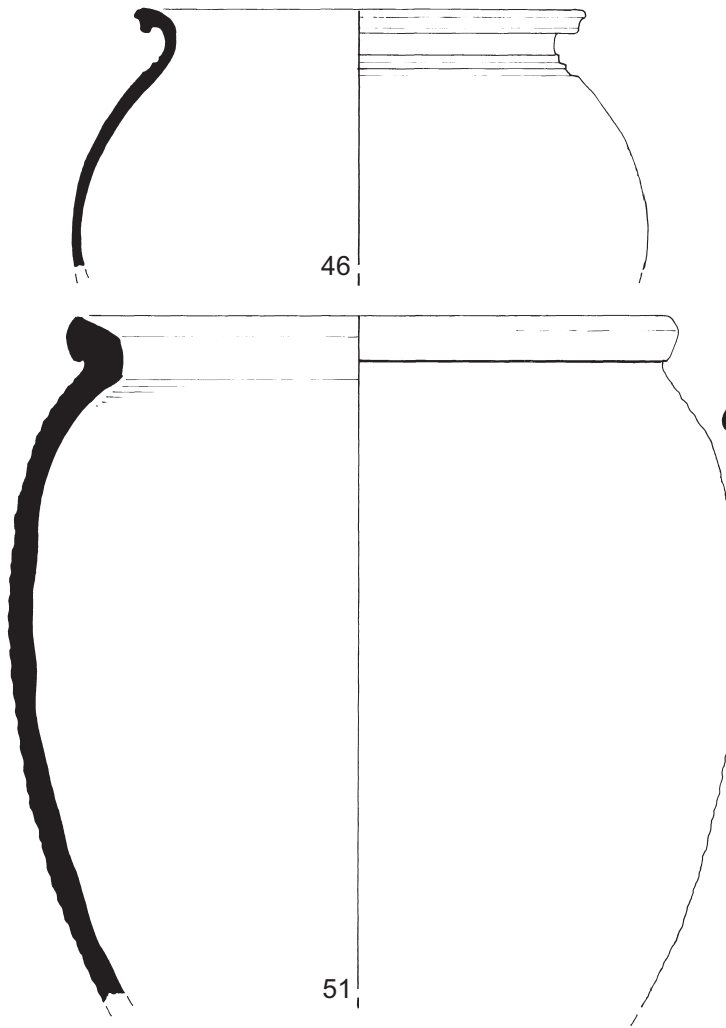


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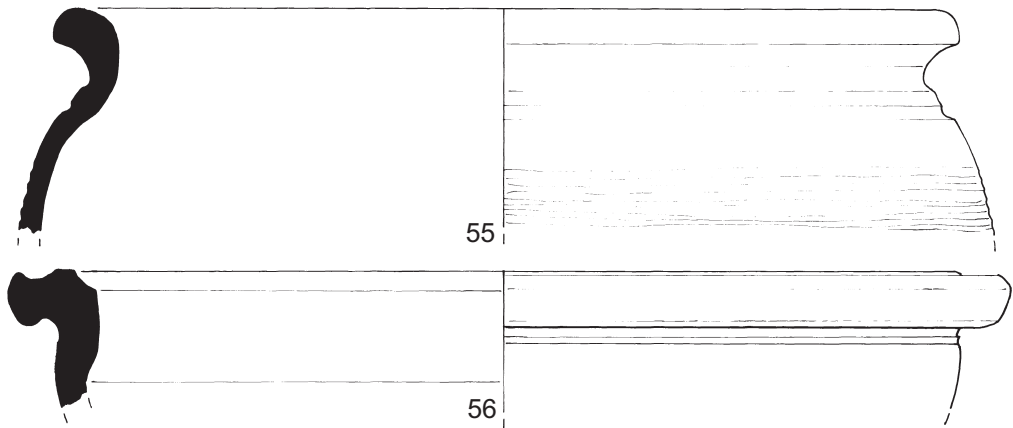
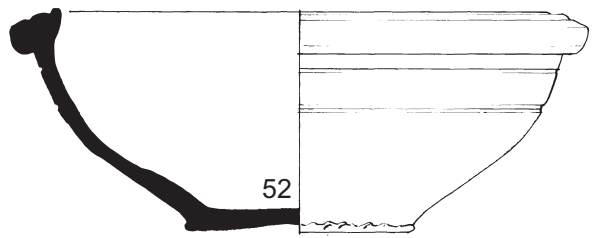
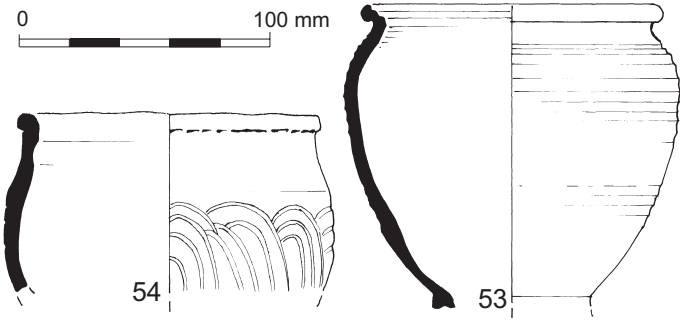


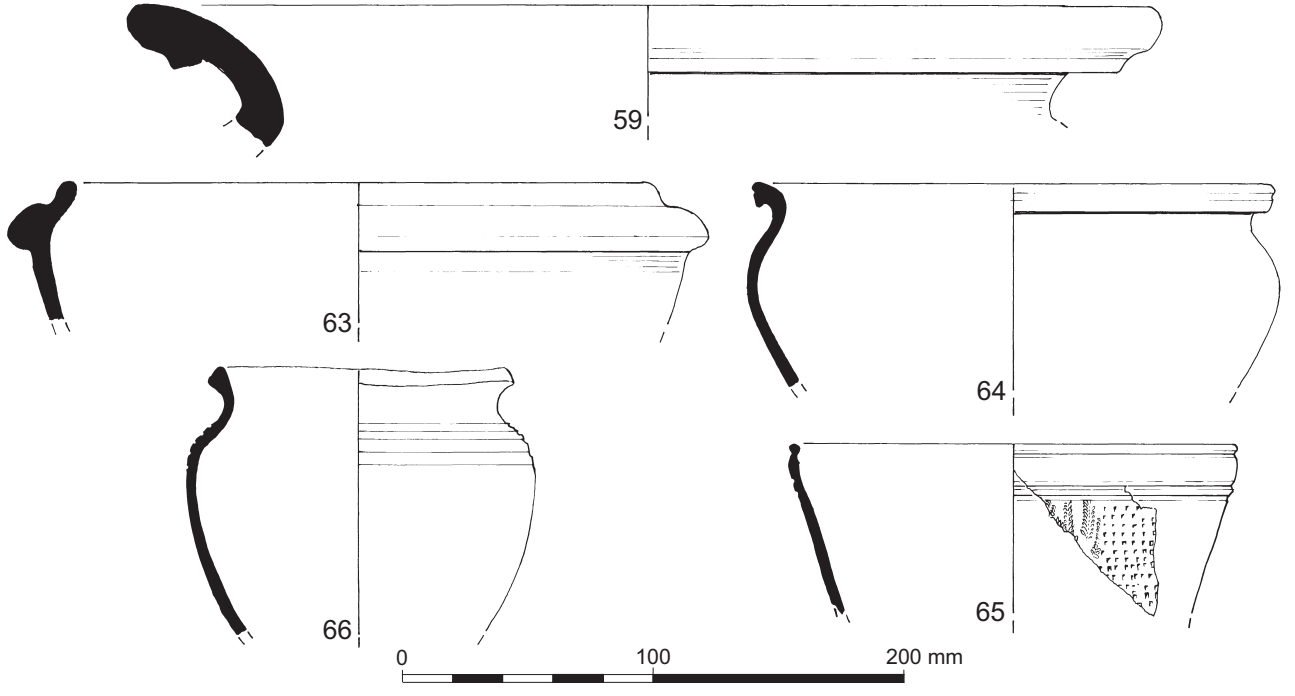
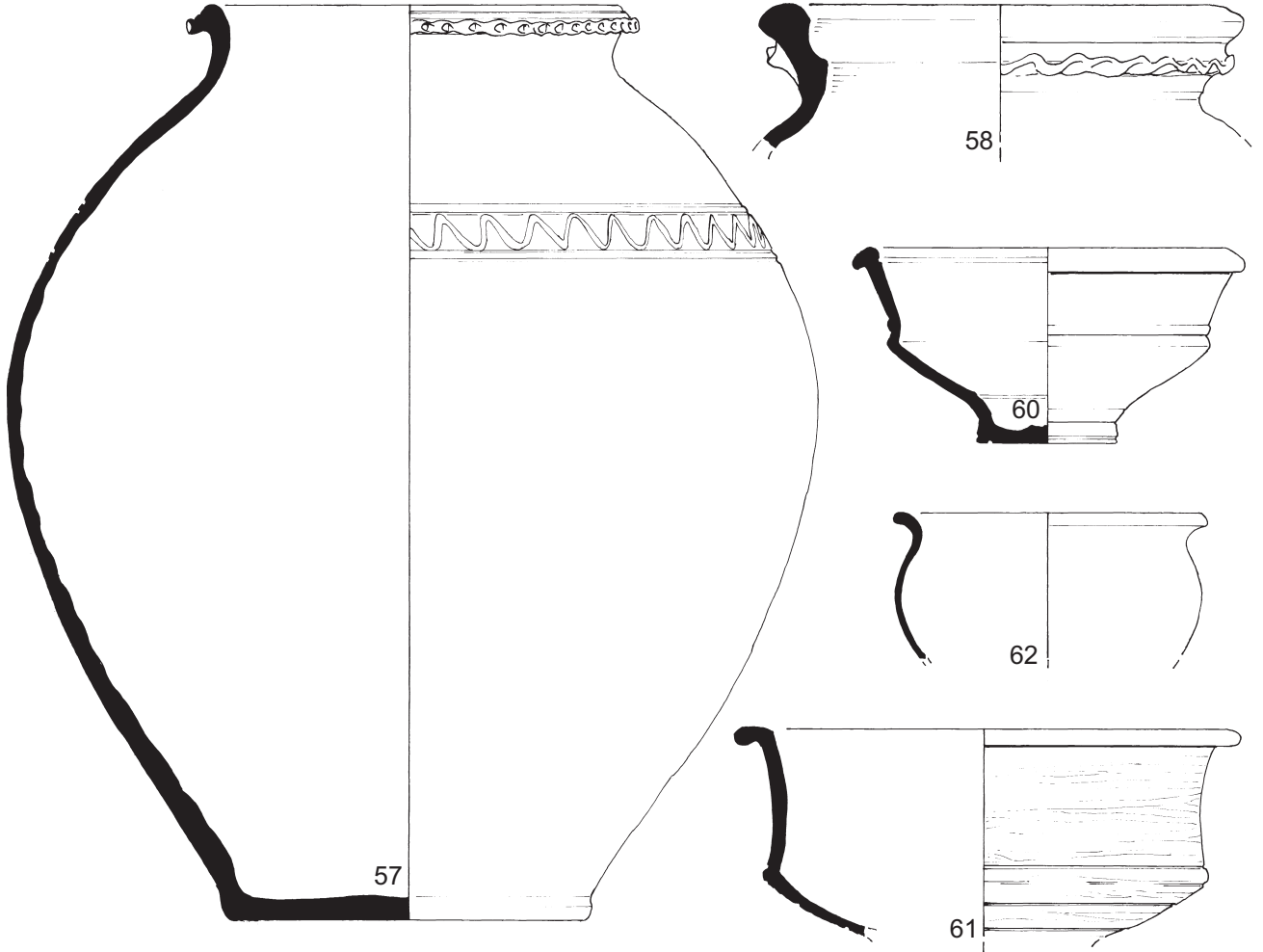


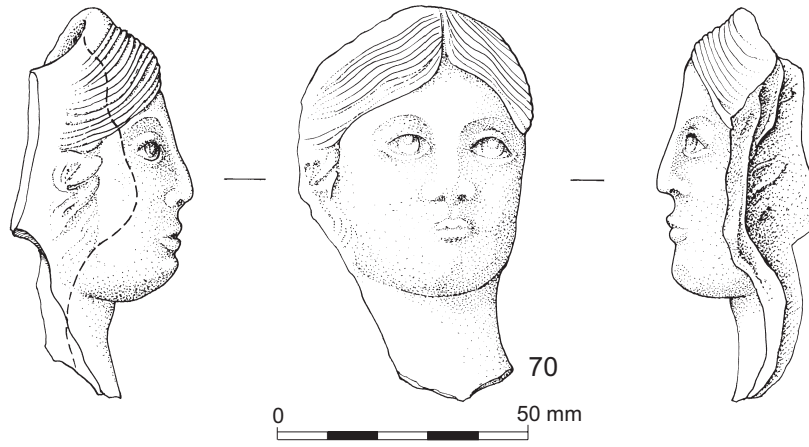
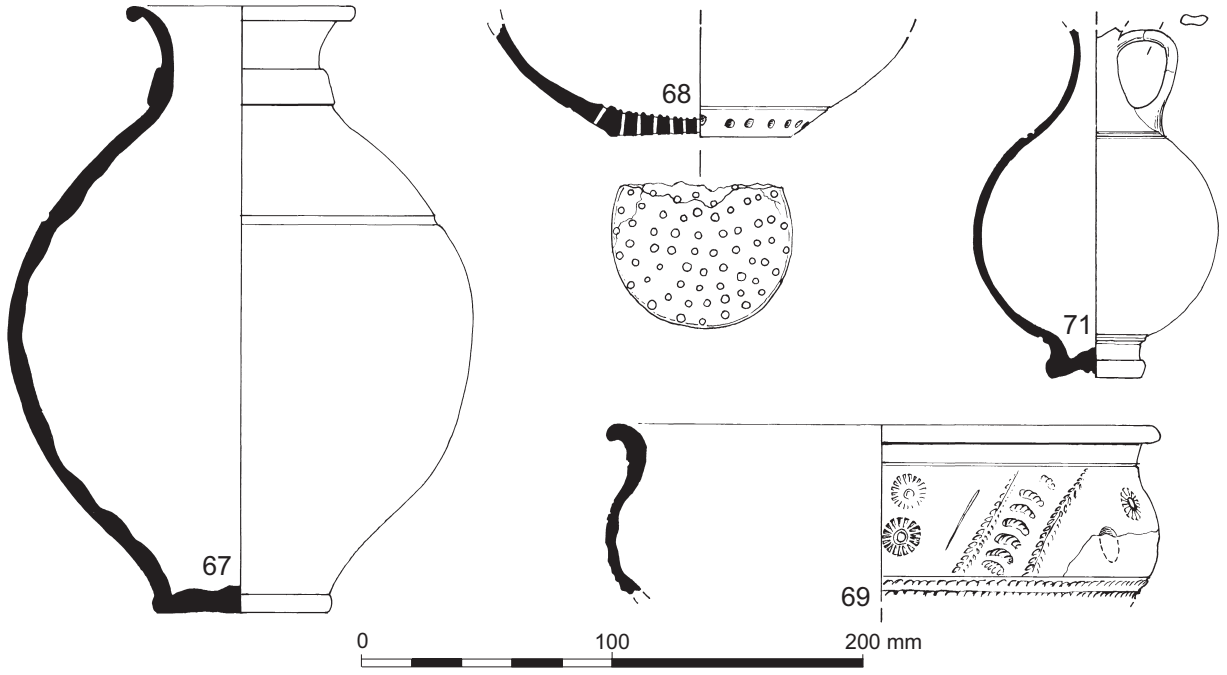




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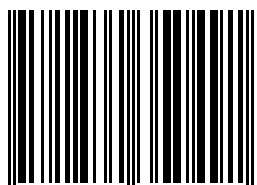
Twelve excavations were carried out by Wessex Archaeology within the Cambourne Development Area. Situated on the clay uplands west of Cambridge, which have seen little previous archaeological investigation, the results presented here are important in demonstrating the ebb and flow of occupation according to population or agricultural pressure.

Short-lived Bronze Age occupation was followed in the Middle Iron Age by small farming communities with an economy based on stock-raising and some arable cultivation. The Late Iron Age seems to have seen a recession, perhaps partly due to increased waterlogging making farming less viable.

From the mid-1st century AD new settlements began to emerge, possibly partly stimulated by the presence of Ermine Street, and within a century the area was relatively densely occupied. Several farmsteads were remodelled in the later Romano-British period, though none seems to have been very prosperous.

Dispersed occupation may have continued into the early 5th century at least, followed by a hiatus until the 12th/13th century when the entire area was taken into arable cultivation, leaving the ubiquitous traces of medieval ridge and furrow agriculture.

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CAMBOURNE

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HOMES

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Report 23

