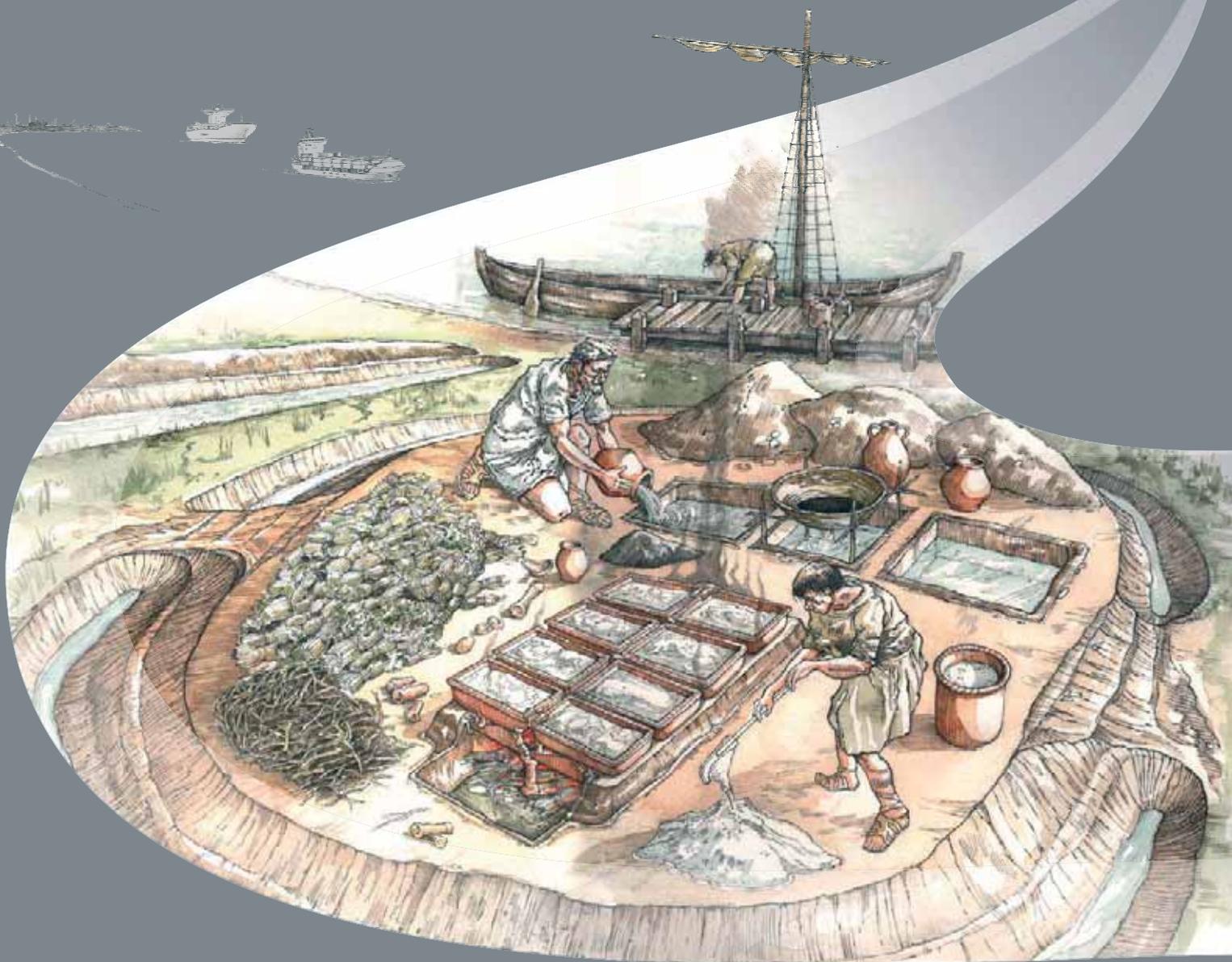


LONDON GATEWAY

IRON AGE AND ROMAN SALT MAKING IN THE THAMES ESTUARY

EXCAVATION AT STANFORD WHARF
NATURE RESERVE, ESSEX



SPECIALIST REPORT 3

POST-ROMAN POTTERY

BY JOHN COTTER

Specialist Report 3

Post-Roman Pottery

by John Cotter

Introduction

A total of 261 sherds of pottery weighing 3888g was recovered from 16 contexts. This comprises a mixture of medieval and early post-medieval pottery. All the pottery was examined and spot-dated during the assessment stage. For each context the total pottery sherd count and weight were recorded on an Excel spreadsheet, followed by the context spot-date, which is the date-bracket during which the latest pottery types in the context are estimated to have been produced or were in general circulation. Comments on the presence of datable types were also recorded, usually with mention of vessel form (jugs, bowls etc.) and any other attributes worthy of note (eg decoration). Fabric codes assigned in the comments are those of the Essex County Council medieval pottery reference collection (Cunningham 1985; Cotter 2000), or, where appropriate, those of the Museum of London.

Date and nature of the assemblage

Overall the pottery assemblage is in a fragmentary condition, although several sherds are quite large and fresh, particularly the late medieval and post-medieval wares. Ordinary domestic pottery types are represented. These are detailed in Table 3.1 and summarised here.

The pottery types comprise a mixture of wares commonly found in south Essex and the London area and range in date from the 12th to the 16th centuries. Although early post-medieval wares are present (mainly Fabric 40 post-medieval red earthenwares), there is nothing in the assemblage that obviously dates later than c 1600. The earlier part of the assemblage includes some very soft and fragmentary examples of jars/cooking pots in 12th-13th century shelly wares, probably from south Essex. Other grey sandy medieval coarsewares are present, including jars/cooking pots and a few jugs. Most of these are probably Essex products (Fabric 20), but a few wheel-turned jar rims may be in South Hertfordshire greyware (SHER). One or two

coarsely flint-tempered sherds may be a flintier variant of the latter. White-slipped jugs in London-type ware (LOND, mainly *c* 1150-1350) are also fairly common in the earlier assemblage. Three or four sherds in off-white sandy ware may be medieval Surrey whitewares, but these are plain and unglazed and difficult to assign to specific sources although the finer sherds in contexts 7055 and 7056 are probably from 15th-century Cheam whiteware jugs (CHEA).

A few sherds of Mill Green ware (Fabric 35 or MG) jugs were noted from medieval contexts and residual in later contexts. This was made around Ingatestone, near Chelmsford, and has a London date range of *c* 1270-1350, but may have continued in production as late as *c* 1400, though with a more restricted distribution. Mill Green fineware jugs can occur, as here, with an all-over white slip under a clear or green glaze, or with white slip-painted decoration under a clear glaze or no glaze at all. A few Mill Green coarseware jars/cooking pots also occur. In central and southern Essex there may have been a number of late medieval production sites producing fine red earthenwares in the Mill Green tradition, and these seem to have evolved in the late 15th century into the first 'post-medieval' red earthenwares – heavier thicker-walled vessels with thin white slip decoration and little or no glaze (Cunningham and Drury 1985). Two contexts in particular (7054 and 7055) have large quantities of these transitional late medieval/early post-medieval redwares, including jugs, jars and plain large bowls, which seem to belong to the 15th or early 16th century. One of these (7055) produced sherds from two thumbled jug bases in an unusual pink-buff fabric which may be late medieval Hertfordshire glazed ware (LMHG) dating to *c* 1350-1450. The only definite post-medieval pottery group, dated *c* 1500-1575, came from context 7056. This produced a small collection of early post-medieval redwares (Fabric 40) and also the base of a Beauvais sgraffito ware dish with traces of incised and polychrome decoration. This relatively costly tableware is the only continental import in the entire assemblage. No obviously later wares were recovered.

In general the range of medieval wares present is what one would expect from a coastal site in south Essex and close to London. The assemblage dates within the period *c* 1200-1600 and includes a high proportion of 15th- to early 16th-century local redwares.

References

Cotter, J P, 2000 *Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester 1971-1985*, Colchester Archaeological Report **7**, Colchester

Cunningham, C M, 1985 A typology for post-Roman pottery in Essex, in *Post-medieval sites and their pottery: Moulsham Street, Chelmsford* (C M Cunningham and P J Drury), CBA Research Report **54**, London, 1-16

Post-Roman Pottery Table

TABLE 3.1: POST-ROMAN POTTERY

Context	Spot-date	Sherds	Weight (g)	Comments
3002	c1180-1350	1	30	London-type ware (LOND) baluster-style jug rim, clear glz
4079	c1180-1350	1	79	LOND thickened jug rim with rod handle, green glz on white slip
4147	c1270-1350	2	39	Body sherd (bs) prob Mill Green ware, sl worn, & squared cook pot rim - poss Mill Green coarseware? Fresh
4267	c1080-1200?	6	72	3x bss (1 vess) early med shelly ware (fossil shell, no sand), 3 x early med sandy grey-brown sandy ware - poss London-type? Incl sagging base sherd. Sl worn
7023	c1175-1250	46	241	3x LOND (1 vess) worn bss - poss early rounded jug? Mostly 1-2 vess in grey coarseware, poss wheel-turned (Fabric 20?). Few bss shelly ware. 1x v coarse flint and quartz-tempered sherd. (Also 5x Rom, extracted)
7024	c1175-1250	7	153	JOINS 7023. 2x LOND (prob 1 vess) incl bs & narrow rod handle. Fresh squared wheelthrown greyware cpot rim - poss S. Herts or Fabric 20? 1x worn shelly ware cpot rim & bs. 2x v coarse flint and quartz-tempered bss as in 7023
7028	c1150-1300	2	31	2x shelly ware incl hammerhead/squared cpot rim, fairly sand-free
7033	c1100-1250	2	25	bss sand-free shelly ware. Fresh
7040	1480-1525	14	114	Prob early Fabric 40 - transitional Mill Green/Fab 40 with ext unglazed jug bss with painted white slip dec in thin white slip. Worn base w trace thumbed foot. 2 bases w allover int glaze. Worn Fabric 21 incl jar rim
7044	c1270-1350	14	106	6x bss Mill Green unglz incl thumbed jug base. Some worn, 1-2 v fresh. Rest = 1 vess, worn sandy-shelly ware (coarse sparse flint & quartz) cpot rim poss w combed dec on top & thumbed strip on neck, worn
7045	c1150-1300?	1	27	Cpot rim shelly-sandy ware - prob JOINS 7044. Incised wavy line dec on top of rim & same inside neck. Thumbed strip. Sl worn
7047	c1150-1300	2	94	Fresh large squared/hammerhead cpot rim in pale grey sand-free shelly ware, prob 13C. 1x unidentified poss wheelthrown off-cream sandy sherd w ext surfaces flaked off - poss from a Kingston ware jug base?? Date based on shelly rim
7054	1480-1525	70	1117	Early Fabric 40. Fresh assemblage incl few bss w allover int clear glaze. Few with thin white slip painted dec. Large shallow bowl/pancheon rim. Rod-section jug handles. Thumbed jug bases & plain sag & flat bases. Also few residual incl 1x green-glz Mill Green & fresh 13C shelly ware cpot rim
7055	c1400-1450/75?	71	1313	Transitional late med/post-med assemblage. Mainly Mill Green-type fine redware incl slip-painted and glazed jug bss & jug rim, fresh cpts w glaze on int base only. Generally sparse use of glaze except 6 classic allover slip MG jug bss & 1 worn highly dec. Few unglz bss possibly in the early Fabric 40 class (?) - thicker walled. 1x prob unglz Cheam whiteware. 4x sherds from 2 separate jug bases - 1 frilled & 1 w thumbed impressions - uncertain pink-buff green glz fabric - poss LM Herts glazed ware c1350-1450. 2-3 residual 13C shelly & greyware
7056	c1500-1575	15	330	1x base dish Beauvais double sgraffito slipware - sgraffito dec scheme unclear except concentric banding, poss blue as well as green glaze highlights. Rest is early Fabric 40, mostly unglz, incl jar/jug rim w splash white slip. 1x poss residual unglz Cheam whiteware jug handle
7062	c1270-1350	7	117	1x small bs unglz Mill Green w white slip dec, 1 x plain. Rest prob 13C residual incl Kingston or Coarse Border ware hammerhead ?jar rim. 1x Fabric 20 greyware jug rim/handle, 3x shelly ware incl 2 cpot rims
TOTAL		261	3888	

This is one of 26 specialist reports
within a digital volume that supports the findings
presented in
London Gateway:
Iron Age and Roman salt making in the Thames Estuary
(ISBN 978-0-904220-71-1)

The digital volume can be accessed here:
<http://library.thehumanjourney.net/909>



DP WORLD
London Gateway



ISBN 978-0-904220-71-1



9 780904 220711 >