

LATE ROMAN HANDMADE
GROG-TEMPERED WARE
PRODUCING INDUSTRIES
IN SOUTH EAST BRITAIN

Malcolm Lyne

ARCHAEOPRESS ARCHAEOLOGY

ARCHAEOPRESS PUBLISHING LTD

Gordon House
276 Banbury Road
Oxford OX2 7ED

www.archaeopress.com

ISBN 978 1 78491 237 6
ISBN 978 1 78491 238 3 (e-Pdf)

© Archaeopress and M Lyne 2015

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the copyright owners.

Printed in England by Oxuniprint, Oxford
This book is available direct from Archaeopress or from our website www.archaeopress.com

Contents

List of Figures	v
Introduction and Acknowledgements	iv
1: The Late Iron Age and Early Roman Background	1
1.1: East Sussex	1
1.2: Hampshire and the Isle of Wight	1
1.3: East Kent	1
1.4: West Kent.....	2
2: Industry Group 5. East Sussex Wares.....	3
2.1: Introduction	3
2.2: A history of previous research	3
2.3: East Sussex Ware fabrics	5
Introduction	5
The fabrics.....	5
2.4: Sources	6
2.5: Industry 5A (Bardown ware).....	6
The evidence	6
The exploitation of raw materials	7
Technology	7
A Corpus of forms produced	7
Jars.....	7
Bowls	9
Dishes	9
Lids	9
Distribution	9
2.6: Industry 5B. (East Sussex Wealden Ware).....	9
Sources and exploitation of raw materials.....	9
Technology	10
A corpus of forms produced.....	10
Jars.....	10
Bowls	10
Dishes	10
Lids.	10
Asham pots.....	12
Distribution (Figure 6)	12
The end of the industry.....	13
2.7: Industry 5C. East Sussex Downland ware	13
Centres of production	13
Sources of clay, filler and fuel.....	14
Fabrics	14
A corpus of forms produced.....	14
Jars.....	14
Bowls	17
Dishes	18
Dishes with handles.....	20
Cups.....	20
Lids	20
Large dry-storage jars	20
Distribution.	20
c. 200-270 AD.	20
c. 270-370 AD.	23
c. 370-400+ AD.	25
2.8: Industry 5D. (Beddingham/Ranscombe ware).....	27
Source and exploitation of raw materials.....	27

Technology	27
The date of the industry.....	27
The forms produced.....	28
Jars.....	28
Bowls	28
Dishes	30
Distribution	30
2.9: Industry 5E. Pevensey Grit-and-Grog-Tempered ware.....	30
Introduction	30
Fabrics	30
Source	30
A Corpus of forms	32
Jars	32
Bowls	32
Dish/Bowls.....	32
?Jugs	32
Distribution	32
2.10: The relationship between Pevensey ware and East Sussex wares.....	33
2.11: Industry 5F. Barcombe/Burgess Hill vitrified ware.....	34
Introduction	34
Dating.....	34
A Corpus of forms	34
Jars.....	34
Bowls	34
Dishes	36
Flasks	36
Mortaria	36
Distribution	36
3: Industrial Grouping 6. Hampshire Grog-Tempered Wares.....	37
3.1: A history of previous research	37
3.2: Fabrics.....	37
Group 6A. Hampshire Pipe-clay tempered wares	37
Group 6B. Hampshire Camouflaged-grog tempered wares	37
3.3: Firing Technology	37
3.4: Industry 6A. Hampshire Siltstone-Grog Tempered wares.....	38
Source and exploitation of raw materials.	38
Technology	38
A corpus of forms produced.....	39
Jars.....	39
Bowls	39
Dishes	41
Beakers	41
Everted-rim storage-jars	41
Lid-seated bead-rim storage-jars.....	43
Rope-rim storage-jars	43
Lids	43
Trading patterns	43
c. 250-270 AD	43
c.270-300 AD	43
c. 300-370 AD	47
c.370-430 AD.	47
Long distance coastal trade.....	51
3.5: Industry 6B. Hampshire Camouflaged-Grog-Tempered Wares.....	51
Sources of and exploitation of raw materials.....	51
Technology	51
A corpus of forms produced.....	53
Jars.....	53
Bowls	53

Storage-jars with everted rims	55
Distribution	55
c. 250-300 AD	55
c. 300-370 AD	55
c. 370- 400+AD	55
4: Industrial Group 7. East Kent Grog-Tempered Wares	60
4.1: A history of previous research.	60
4.2: Industry 7A. East Kent Siltstone-Grog-Tempered ware	60
The Fabrics	60
Sources	60
Technology	61
A Corpus of vessel forms	61
Jars	61
Bowls	61
Dish/Bowls.....	61
Lids	63
Distribution	63
c. 270- 370 AD	63
c. 370-400+ AD	67
4.3: Industry 7B. Richborough/Canterbury Grog-tempered ware	67
The Fabric.....	67
Sources.....	67
Technology and utilisation of natural resources	68
A Corpus of forms produced	68
Jars.....	68
Jugs	68
Bowls	68
Dishes	68
Distribution	70
5: Industrial Group 8. West Kent Grog and Grit Tempered Wares	73
5.1: Introduction	73
5.2: Industry 8A. West Kent Grog and Grit-and-Grog-Tempered wares.....	73
Fabrics	73
Sources.....	73
A Corpus of forms produced	74
Jars.....	74
Bowls	74
Dish/Bowls.....	74
Beakers	74
5.3: Industry 8B. West Kent Sand, Shell and Calcite Tempered wares	74
The Fabrics	74
Source and dating	76
A Corpus of forms produced	76
Jars.....	76
Bowls	76
Dishes	76
Flasks	77
The Distribution of Industries 8A and 8B wares	77
c .270-370 AD	77
c. 370-400 AD	79
c. 400-430/450 AD.....	80
6: The Late Roman Grog-Tempered Ware Industries: A Discussion	81
6.1: The organisation of the industries	81
6.2: The reasons for the revival of handmade grog-tempered pottery during the Late Roman period	84
The period to c. 270 AD.....	84
c. 270-370 AD	85
c. 370-400+ AD.....	87

7: The End of Roman Pottery Production in Britain	89
7.1: Previous research.....	89
7.2: A decline in the use of pottery during the fourth-century?.....	89
7.3: The end of Roman Pottery production in southern Britain	92
Introduction	92
Kent	92
London	95
Hertfordshire.....	96
South-Central England	97
Appendix 1. Schedule of Quantified Site Assemblages including Late Roman Handmade Grog-Tempered wares	100
Appendix 2. Schedule of Site Assemblages examined but not quantified and those quantified but lacking grog-tempered wares	109
Appendix 3. The grog-tempered ware industries: gazetteer of examples seen	123
Appendix 4. Fabric breakdowns of quantified East Sussex Ware assemblages	161
Appendix 5. Breakdown of the East Sussex Ware percentages of quantified assemblages as per vessel type	162
Appendix 6. Breakdown of the Hampshire Grog-Tempered Ware percentages as per vessel type.....	164
Appendix 7. Breakdown of Industries 7A, 7B, 8A and 8B percentages of quantified assemblages as per vessel type	170
Bibliography	174

List of Figures

Figure 1: Industry 5A forms.....	8
Figure 2: Industry 5B forms and 5C.36 storage-jar.....	11
Figure 3: Industry 5C jar and bowl forms.....	16
Figure 4: Industry 5C dish and storage-jar forms.....	19
Figure 5: The distribution of early 3rd century girth-cordoned jar and bowl forms.....	21
Figure 6: Percentage distribution of Industries 5B and 5C wares c.200-370 AD.....	22
Figure 7: Distribution of Industry 5C developed beaded-and-flanged bowl forms.....	24
Figure 8: Percentage distribution of Industry 5C wares. c.370-400 AD.....	26
Figure 9: Industry 5D forms.....	29
Figure 10: Percentage distribution of Industry 5D wares. c.300-400 AD.....	31
Figure 11: Industry 5E forms.....	33
Figure 12: Industry 5F forms.....	35
Figure 13: Industry 6A jar and bowl forms.....	40
Figure 14: Industry 6A dish, beaker and storage-jar forms.....	42
Figure 15: Distribution of late 3 rd century Industries 6A and 6B jar and lid forms.....	44
Figure 16: Percentage distribution of Industry 6A products c.270-300 AD.....	45
Figure 17: Distribution of late 3 rd century Industries 6A and 6B storage-jar and bowl forms.....	46
Figure 18: Percentage distribution of Industry 6A products c.300-370 AD.....	48
Figure 19: Distribution of 4 th century Industry 6A bowl and convex-sided dish forms.....	49
Figure 20: Percentage distribution of Industry 6A products c.370-400+ AD.....	50
Figure 21: The eastern distribution of vessels in fabric 6.1A.....	52
Figure 22: Industry 6B forms.....	54
Figure 23: Percentage distribution of Industry 6B products c.250-300 AD.....	56
Figure 24: Percentage distribution of Industry 6B products c.300-370 AD.....	57
Figure 25: Distribution of vesicular Industry 6B products.....	58
Figure 26: Percentage distribution of Industry 6B products c.370-400+ AD.....	59
Figure 27: Industry 7A forms.....	62
Figure 28: Percentage distribution of Industry 7A products c.270-370 AD.....	64
Figure 29: Distribution of 4 th century Industries 7A, 7B, 8A, 8B and 6A.18 bowl forms.....	65
Figure 30: Industry 7B forms.....	69
Figure 31: Percentage distributions of Industries 7A and 7B products c.370-400+ AD.....	71
Figure 32: Industries 8A and 8B forms.....	75
Figure 33: Percentage distribution of Industries 8A and 8B products c.300-400+ AD.....	78
Figure 34A: North-south transect through Industries 6A and 6B marketing zones. B: East-west transect through Industry 5C marketing zone. C: North-south transect through Industries 7A and 7B marketing zone. D: Transects through Overwey/Portchester D ware marketing zone.....	82
Figure 35A: Transects through the New Forest greyware marketing zone c.300-370 AD and c.370-400+ AD. B: Transects through the combined Industries 6A and 6B marketing zones c.300-370 AD and 370-400+ AD.....	83
Figure 36: Transects through the Alice Holt/Farnham industry marketing zone c.300-370, 370-400 and 400+ AD.....	91
Figure 37: Dishes with solid hemispherical bosses.....	98
Figure 38: The distribution of dishes with bosses, Industry 5E products and Roman towns with <i>grubenhauser</i>	99

Introduction and Acknowledgements

This publication is taken from the author's PhD thesis presented at Reading University (Lyne 1994) and revised to incorporate the results of further research during the 21 years since. It deals with the Late Roman handmade grog tempered ware industries of East Sussex, the Hampshire basin, East Kent and West Kent, presenting corpora for these various wares, discussing the reasons for their appearance during the late 3rd century AD, increasing popularity during the 4th and disappearance during the early 5th century AD.

The original numbering system for the various industrial groupings is retained here, explaining why they run from 5 to 8 in this publication. Industrial Groupings 1 to 4 are BB1, BB1 imitations, Vectis ware and Other Handmade Sand –and-Grit-Tempered wares respectively: Groupings 9 and 10 concern Rawreth ware and Handmade Shell-Tempered wares. The section on BB1 in the original thesis has been published in modified form within the Bestwall Quarry, Wareham monograph; taking into account more recent work on the subject (Lyne, in Ladle 2012). The sections on BB1 imitations, Vectis ware and the other industries are the subjects of ongoing research.

There are frequent references in this publication to the fabric and form breakdowns of numerous site pottery assemblages without any reference to published reports. These pottery assemblages are either unpublished or published without detailed quantification but were examined by this author in museum and archaeological unit stores in a programme of research between 1989 and 1994.

I am indebted to the staff of the numerous museums and archaeological units, as well as amateur groups and private individuals visited and worked for between 1989 and the present day: a full list of these can be found in Appendices 1 and 2 (p.---). I must also thank Professor Fulford at Reading University for supervising the original PhD work and making useful suggestions as to improving it.

1: The Late Iron Age and Early Roman Background

1.1: East Sussex

Unlike the 'Belgic' grog-tempered wares of Kent, East Sussex Ware does not appear to have had any Continental inspiration. Cunliffe termed it Eastern Atrebatian but its connections with both the Southern Atrebatian industries of West Sussex and the Northern Atrebatian of Northern Hampshire are minimal and perhaps non-existent. East Sussex Ware production seems to have commenced at some time during the mid 1st century BC, with the earliest fabrics including those with additional calcined flint and soapy fine grog filler. Jars make up most of the output and are usually small, poorly made and plain. Some of the more elaborate examples are decorated with black paint and have incised eyebrow and other motifs on their shoulders and elsewhere. These more distinctive forms include the bulbous narrow necked Asham pot type and large storage vessels with raised finger-impressed girth cordons. The combing and furrowing of jars, characteristic of the 'Belgic' grog tempered wares of Kent, was not practised by East Sussex Ware potters.

There are major problems in the dating of Late Iron Age East Sussex Ware in that very few imported amphorae and later Augustan Gallo Belgic and Central Gaulish finewares are found in the region before the Roman Conquest. The local East Sussex Ware forms are also very conservative and change little until the 2nd century AD apart from the limited copying of Gallo Belgic platters, girth beakers and other forms after AD 43.

Production of East Sussex Wares took place on both coastal sea salt production sites in the Newhaven area and at the various iron producing settlements in the eastern Weald: both of these industries were capable of yielding large quantities of underfired clay grog filler from the grinding up of old furnace material. The distribution of East Sussex Wares appears to have been more extensive during the Late Iron Age than later on, with significant quantities being traded over the coastal plain as far west as the River Arun. This western boundary of the trading area shrank back to the River Adur during the early Roman period with Stane Street marking this boundary north of the South Downs.

There is no clear division between Early Roman East Sussex Wares and those produced during the Late Roman period. The mid 2nd century AD saw an increasing influence on East Sussex Ware forms by the products of neighbouring wheel using Romanised pottery industries. Jars began to have better formed rims and flanged bowls, lid seated examples and straight sided dishes made their appearance: at the same time, however, Asham pots and girth cordoned storage jars continued being made with little change until the mid 3rd century AD. Because of this, an arbitrary date of c. 250 AD has been selected as the boundary between early and late products.

1.2: Hampshire and the Isle of Wight

Handmade grog tempered wares feature little in the Late Iron Age of Hampshire and are mainly confined to the north of the county in and around Silchester. The rest of the county was dominated by the Middle Iron Age saucepan pot Worthy Down ceramic tradition up until the beginning of our era. Sand and sand and flint tempered Northern and Southern Atrebatian wares began to replace the Worthy Down saucepan pots after c. 25 BC and appear to have resulted from a fusion of the 'Belgic' grog tempered ware and Middle Iron Age traditions.

Grog tempered wares ceased being made even in the Silchester area soon after the Roman Conquest and do not feature again in the Roman ceramic tradition of the area until the mid 3rd century AD. These Late Roman grog tempered wares owe nothing to previous ceramic traditions in the area, leading us to ask as to their origins. The answer seems to lie on the Isle of Wight where there was a tradition of producing handmade pottery extending through the period from the Middle Iron Age to the end of the Roman occupation.

Excavations at Havenstreet and Mersley Farm on the Isle of Wight indicate that the Middle Iron Age saucepan pot tradition continued on the Isle of Wight into the earliest years of our era and, unlike on the mainland, made use of pre fired clay grog as a filler. The pottery in this tradition was supplanted by handmade Late Iron Age sand tempered Vectis ware c. 20 AD, production of which continued into the early years of the 4th century AD. Vectis ware began, in turn, to be supplanted by handmade grog tempered wares during the late 3rd century AD. The high percentages of grog tempered of Industry 6A wares in 4th century AD pottery assemblages from the Island strongly suggest that at least some of them were made there.

1.3: East Kent

As in East Sussex, there was a long tradition of handmade grog tempered ware production in Kent, with its origins going back to the early years of the Late Iron Age. This so-called 'Belgic' pottery is characteristic of the Late Iron Age in Kent, Essex and Hertfordshire and makes its first tentative appearance c. 100/75 BC but does not become predominant until c. 25 BC. The wares are characterised by the frequent use of diagonal, vertical and horizontal combing on cooking vessels and storage jars, which make up the overwhelming bulk of the forms produced. These were joined by polished fineware copies of imported Gallo Belgic platters, jugs and other forms after c. 25 BC, with the jugs being frequently and intentionally fired red: cordoned and plain fineware cups

and bowls also make their appearance at this time but tend to be fired black like most of the coarse cooking vessels produced. Many of the finewares were made on the potters' wheel but some were handmade or produced on a turntable.

Several centres of production can be distinguished in Kent: there is one centred on the *oppidum* at Canterbury and others centred on another *oppidum* at Loose, Ashford, Isle of Thanet, Folkestone, West Kent and the hill-fort at Oldbury in the Otford area. Most of these production centres used ground up underfired clay or grog as filler but the Folkestone, Loose and Isle of Thanet centres of production had an altogether wider range of fabrics, which in the case of Folkestone included grog, chalk, quartz sand and glauconitic sand in various combinations (Thompson 1982, Lyne Forthcoming C). The wares made in and around the Loose *oppidum* in the upper Medway valley are overwhelmingly in fabrics with glauconitic sand filler (Kelly 1972) but also include some with such sand combined with sparse calcined flint. The production centre at Minster on the Isle of Thanet made both grog tempered and silty wares (Lyne 2011): those along the shores of the Thames estuary at Highham and elsewhere in West Kent made use of a wide variety of fillers, such as shell, grog and quartz sand both by themselves and in various combinations (Pollard 1988: 39-42). The use of calcined flint as a filler has its origin in earlier periods but lingered alongside the new Late Iron Age ones, employed on some of the new coarseware forms, until sometime between the beginning of our era and c. 25 AD.

The distribution zone for these Late Iron Age wares in Kent and elsewhere in the south-east of Britain is an insular extension of a more substantial one in Gallia Belgica on the other side of the Channel, making similar forms in a wide variety of shelly and sand tempered wares from c.100 BC onwards. It may be indicative of the importation of ideas followed by movements of people into Britain during Caesar's Gallic wars and later.

In that part of Kent east of the River Medway, Late Iron Age pottery assemblages are dominated by wares in the Aylesford-Swarling ceramic tradition. Here the handmade grog tempered ware producers continued to flourish throughout the late 1st and 2nd centuries with little change other than the abandonment of body combing and furrowing during the mid 2nd century, the increasing inclusion of sand in the grog filler and firing to slightly higher temperatures than previously. Some of these handmade ware producers operating on the banks of the Wantsum channel adopted superior kiln firing technology during the the mid to late 2nd century AD, resulting in the production of high fired semi vitrified 'Native Coarse Wares' in a variety of grog, sand and flint tempered fabrics (Pollard 1988: 98). This industry produced little other than everted rim cooking-pots fired

grey with glassy surfaces and red 'scorched' patches. It supplied significant quantities of such wares to much of East Kent during the early to mid 3rd century AD before production tailed off and ceased during the early years of the 4th century.

1.4: West Kent

The best known Early Roman source of grog tempered wares in West Kent was the so called Patchgrove pottery industry, which was probably produced at several centres in the Otford area. These production centres supplied Surrey and Kent west of the River Medway with distinctive bead rim and everted rim jars, as well as other forms, in soapy grey cored oxidised fabrics with or without crushed black grog filler. The jars include large storage vessels, frequently decorated with finger tip jabbed or incised horizontal cordons on their shoulders. Such storage vessels had a considerably wider distribution than the other forms, suggesting that they may have been used as packaging for an as yet indeterminate local product.

Patchgrove ware is regarded as a post Conquest development by Champion (1976: 71) but Pollard (1988: 39) argues that its presence in early pit groups with an absence of Romanised fabrics at the North Pole Lane, West Wickham site (Philp 1973) is indicative of such wares having their origins in the latest pre Roman Late Iron Age.

The various production centres west of the Medway went into decline during the period after AD 70 and finally ceased most activity towards the end of the century. They were replaced by a variety of fine sanded, wheel turned greyware producers, including the early Thameside industry, Highgate Wood and other more local centres. As regards handmade storage jars, however, the small Romanised kilns of the late 1st and 2nd centuries AD could not accommodate such large pots: they retained their old coarse fillers and handmade natures so that they could still be fired in bonfires and clamps. The Thameside industry continued producing large shell tempered bead rim storage jars and the Patchgrove one oxidised grog-tempered examples; the former until the 170s AD and the latter until c. 270 AD. The shell tempered storage jars frequently have resin on their rims, indicating that they, like the Patchgrove ones, were also used as packaging for some kind of traded commodity.

Significant quantities of handmade East Sussex Ware had been supplied to and were produced in the Weald of Kent during the early Roman occupation and upped their share of markets in the upper Medway valley during the early 3rd century AD before being slowly supplanted by similar products in siltstone grog tempered ware from a new supplier, Industry 7A, after AD 250-270.