

## EXCAVATIONS IN ROMAN LONG MELFORD

### Site Avi layer 382

52 Dr. 18/31R. East Gaulish, Antonine. Stamped, see below.

### Decorated sherds

- 13 Dr. 37. X-4 COCATUS, Trajanic. Arcaded design, presumably; uses details *C.G.P.*, 1958, 19, Fig. 6 nos. 2, 3, 4, and 6. Arrangement identical to *C.G.P.*, 1958, Pl. 17, no. 219 (from London) – same mould?
- 18, 27, 30 Dr. 29. Neronian. The lower frieze has a scroll running from right to left; each compartment contains a small extra spiral, and tendril ending in a tassel-leaf. The large spiral tendril ends in a ? seven pointed rosette. Above this scroll there is a narrow band of 'arrowhead' leaves. A sherd (18) containing what appears to be part of the contents of a panel of identical arrowhead leaves in the upper frieze is almost certainly from this bowl. Bad blurring in removal from the mould makes definite attributions of detail impossible. Thinnish ware with a very high gloss.
- 38 Dr. 29. Neronian. Fragment of upper frieze containing part of a scroll, stirrup leaf and small feather-like leaf. Thin ware with a good gloss. It is just possible that this may be a fragment of the bowl in the previous paragraph.
- 31 Dr. 37. Flavian. Double bordered ovolo with trifid-tipped tongue. A dog (O.1921) between the horizontal wavy lines. Part of a ? scroll below the lower wavy line. Quite a thin ware with a good gloss; badly moulded.

### Stamps

- 26 Dr. 27. MODE. Modestus of La Graufesenque. Claudian-Neronian.
- 52 Dr. 18/31R. OF *q*.

## THE COARSE POTTERY

by Peter Webster

Sherds marked with an asterisk\* are illustrated in Fig. 37.

### Site Aiv/v layer 311

- \*53 Rim sherd of a dish in a fine fabric which has been burnished and varies in colour between brown and dark grey (perhaps as a result of secondary burning). Cf. *Camulodunum*, Pl. L, type 24A. A.D. 43-65.
- \*54 Rim sherd of a dish in a burnished grey fabric derived from sub-Belgic dishes of a similar type to 53 (above). There are examples of this type of vessel from *Great Casterton Fort*, Pl. xvi, no. 6 and *Brixworth*, Fig. 8, no. 2. This type of derived vessel appears up to at least the end of the 1st century A.D.
- \*55 Rim sherd of a jar in mid-grey fabric burnished on the rim. Cf. *Great Casterton Fort*, Fig. 17, no. 21. ? Mid-1st century A.D.
- \*56 Rim sherd in grey-brown fabric. Cf. *Camulodunum*, Pl. LVIII type 118. Mid-1st century A.D. Feature 311 probably dates to the middle of the 1st century A.D.

### Site Aiv/v layer 311a

- \*57 Jar in grey fabric with burnished decoration below the neck and burnishing on the rim. It is of the same general type as *Brixworth*, no. 168. Pre-Hadrianic.

### Site Aiv/v layer 313

- 58 Dish base in terra nigra or related fabric. Cf. *Camulodunum*, Pl. L, types 24-32. 1st century A.D.
- 59 Beaker fragment in Lyons Ware. Cf. *Greene*, 1972, Fig. 2, type 20. A.D. 43-70.
- \*60 Rim of jar in grey fabric burnished externally and on the inside of the rim. Cf. *Leicester*, Fig. 24 no. 14 – Late 1st to 2nd century A.D.; *Verulamium*, nos. 475 and 650 – Early to mid-2nd century A.D.

### Site Aiv/v layer 334a

- \*61 Dish in smooth dark grey burnished fabric of sub-Belgic type. Cf. *Camulodunum*, Pl. L, type 26A. Mid-1st century A.D.
- \*62 Rim of butt beaker in a similar fabric to 61 (above), burnished externally. The complete vessel may have resembled *Camulodunum*, Pl. LVIII, type 119A. Mid-1st century A.D.
- \*63 Jar neck in a pinkish fabric with a dark grey burnished surface externally. A jar such as *Camulodunum*, Pl. LXXX, type 232C may be suggested. Mid to late 1st century A.D.
- \*64 Rim probably of a bowl in a similar fabric to 63 (above). A bowl of similar shape to *Leicester*, Fig. 21, no. 2 is probable.
- \*65 Jar rim in dark grey fabric burnished externally and on the rim.
- \*66 As for 65 (above).
- \*67 Jar rim in pinkish fabric with black surface.

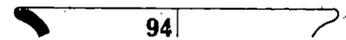
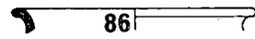
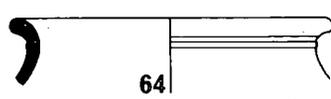
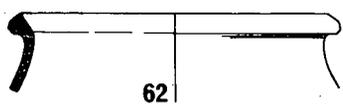
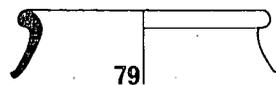
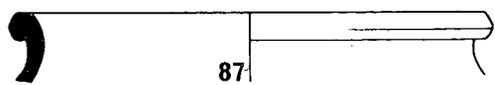
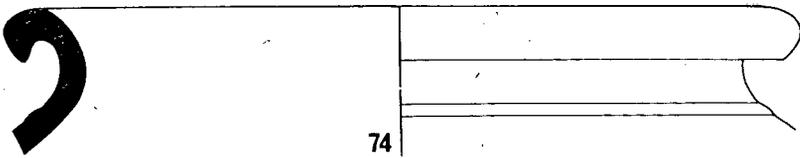
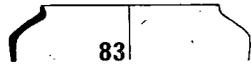
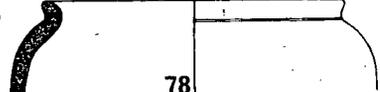
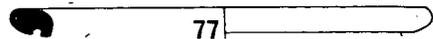
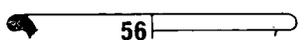
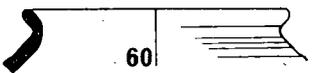
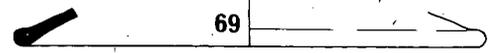
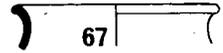
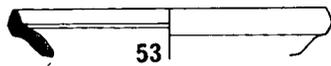
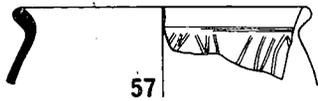
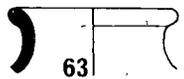
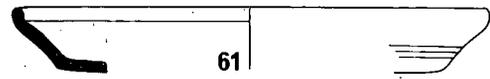
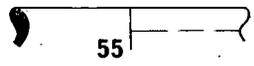
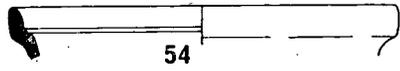


Fig. 37—Coarse pottery (1:4).

EXCAVATIONS IN ROMAN LONG MELFORD

- 68 Fragment of a straight-sided vessel in orange fabric burnished overall and burnt grey in places. An imitation of the samian form Dr. 24/25 is possible but a carinated bowl is more likely. Cf. for example, *Leicester* Fig. 36, no. 14. Mid-1st century A.D.
- \*69 Lid in red-buff fabric, with a dark grey surface and grey core. Cf. *Camulodunum*, Pl. LXXXV, type 10. 1st century A.D.
- 70 Wall fragment of a wide-mouthed jar in a dark grey fabric. For a similar vessel cf. *Verulamium*, no. 179. Mid to late 1st century A.D.
- 71 Base of a sub-Belgic dish in a similar fabric to 61 (above). Probably similar to *Camulodunum*, Pl. L, type 24. Mid-1st century A.D.
- 72 Several fragments of a jar in a gritted fabric varying in colour between light brown and grey. One fragment has a cordon on the shoulder, below which is a series of impressed circles formed by pressing the end of a tube against the wall of the vessel while it was still wet. Mid to late 1st century A.D.
- 73 Several fragments in a hard orange fabric showing rouletted decoration in zones; probably part of a butt beaker, as for example *Camulodunum*, Pl. LVII, type 115A. Mid-1st century A.D.  
All the pottery from this feature seems to be of mid-1st century A.D. date and this is borne out by the samian evidence.

Site Aiv/v layer 334c

- \*74 Rim of a jar in a gritted fabric varying in colour between light brown and grey. Cf. *Great Casterton Fort*, no. 61 – Mid-1st century A.D.; *Verulamium*, no. 308 – A.D. 75–105. The type appears to be mid to late 1st century A.D. in date.

Site Aiv/v layer 335a

- 75 Rim of a large jar in a grey gritted fabric similar to 74 (above). Cf. *Verulamium*, no. 203. A.D. 60–75.
- 76 Partial rim sherd from a jar in a similar fabric to 75 (above) and probably of a similar date.
- \*77 Jar rim in a pinkish fabric with a dark grey surface. There is a vessel from *Leicester*, Fig. 29, no. 4 which is apparently similar. 1st to 2nd century A.D.
- \*78 Jar in a dark grey fabric burnished on the upper body externally and on the rim. Perhaps 1st century A.D.

Site Aiv/v layer 336

- \*79 Fragment of a jar in mid-grey fabric. The complete vessel may have resembled *Brixworth*, Fig. 22, no. 145. Flavian or Trajanic.

Site Aiv/v layers 352-53-54

- 80 Wall sherd of Nene Valley colour-coated beaker with rough-cast decoration. Off-white with brown colour-coat. Cf. *Great Casterton*, 52, Fig. 18, nos. 2–3. Late 2nd to early 3rd century A.D.

Site Aiv/v layer 358

- \*81 Rim sherd of a jar in gritted fabric varying in colour between buff and light grey. Cf. *Great Casterton Fort*, 45, no. 44. Mid-1st century A.D.
- 82 Rim of a dish or bowl in a light grey fabric reminiscent of the samian form Dr. 18. 1st century A.D.

Site Aiv/v layer 359

- \*83 Shouldered jar in a pink fabric. For a discussion of the type cf. *Usk*, 34, no. 12. A.D. 55–75.
- \*84 Sherd from the lid of a 'Castor box'. Off-white with a brown colour-coat. Cf. *Gillam*, 1970, type 341. A.D. 180–320.

Site Aiv/v layer 360

- 85 Body sherd of a beaker in a grey fabric. Cf. *Camulodunum*, Pl. LV, type 85D. Mid-1st century A.D.
- \*86 Rim sherd of a jar in a light grey fabric with a darker surface. Reminiscent of Hadrianic-Antonine jars in black burnished ware and possibly of a similar date.

Site Aiv/v layer 366

- \*87 Jar rim in heavily gritted fabric. Possibly originally light grey but burnt in a variety of colours from grey to red-brown. Cf. *Verulamium*, no. 69. Mid-1st century A.D.
- 88 Fragments of a flagon in a pale buff fabric with a pink core. Too little remains to be certain of the form but the fairly wide cylindrical neck and the slight ridge below the handle suggest a vessel such as *Camulodunum*, Pl. LXV, type 161B. Mid-1st century A.D.
- 89 Several fragments in a grey fabric with a burnished external surface. All may be from the same vessel and suggest a wide-mouthed jar with cordoned decoration and bands of rouletting. Of similar shape to *Verulamium*, no. 65. Mid-1st century A.D.

## Site Aiv/v layer 381

- \*90 Jar fragment in a pink fabric and a pale pink buff slip with applied decoration in red in the form of circles and rows of dots. For a similar style cf. *Gillam*, 1970, type 68. A.D. 80-130. (An earlier initial date would be possible in southern Britain).

## Site Aiv/v layer 382

- \*91 Lid of 'Castor box' in Nene Valley fabric. Off-white fabric with a brown colour coat internally and red externally. Cf. *Gillam*, 1970, type 341. A.D. 180-320.
- 92 Wall sherd of a jar in a grey fabric. A zone of decoration created by impressing and slightly raising the clay with the fingernail. For what appears to be a similar technique cf. *Brixworth*, no. 176. Flavian-Trajanic.
- \*93 Sherd of a flanged bowl in a grey fabric with a reeded rim. For a possible restoration of this form cf. *Brixworth*, no. 78. A common Flavian-Trajanic type.
- \*94 Rim sherd of a jar in a dark grey fabric with a black burnished surface. Cf. *Gillam*, 1970, type 139. A.D. 100-250.

*General Comments on the Coarse Pottery*

The pottery shows a preponderance of 1st-century types and many of these can be paralleled in the mid or mid to late 1st century. True Terra Rubra and Terra Nigra are absent (with the possible exception of no. 58) but there are several vessels in fabrics derived from Terra Nigra. An initial date of occupation some time in the reign of Nero would suit the coarse pottery evidence.

Quantities of pottery tail off from the late 1st century onwards, although there was certainly some occupation up to the middle of the 2nd century, judging from the few sherds of Nene Valley colour-coated fabric. The latest types represented are the fragments of 'Castor Box' (from levels 359 and 382). These must post-date c. A.D. 150-160 at which time the Nene Valley colour coat industry is currently thought to have begun. *Gillam* dates them to c. A.D. 180-320 in Northern Britain but examination of his evidence (*Gillam* types 341-2) shows only two occurrences of the type in dated contexts, both from mid to late 2nd century levels. Therefore, even without allowing for the possibility that the type may have been in circulation near its place of manufacture earlier than in Northern Britain, it is not possible definitely to claim any date later than the mid or mid to late 2nd century for this assemblage of pottery.

## SMALL FINDS

All items are assumed to be of Roman date unless stated otherwise.

*Bronze Objects, by Janet Webster*

## Nos. 1-4. Brooches

- 1 Colchester A. A one-piece brooch with the wire for the spring and that for the cord hook drawn out from the rear of the head, and the spring protected by short side wings hammered out from the sides of the head. This is a plain rather light-weight version of the type. Cf. for example *Camulodunum*, Pl. xc, 15. The date of this type of brooch at Colchester, where it was made in considerable numbers, ranges from the early years of the 1st century A.D. to the Boudiccan revolt (see *Camulodunum*, 308-310) (Fig. 38) (Find no. 10, site Aiv/v layer 311).
- 2 Langton Down C type, (see *Bagendon*, 175 for a definition of this type). The cylindrical spring cover has been fashioned by drawing out the metal at the rear of the head both upwards and downwards and then bending into a cylindrical form; the point of junction at the back of the cover is evident. The spring cover is decorated above the head with raised scroll decoration embellished with indented dots. Cf. *Camulodunum*, Pl. xciv, 107; *ibid*, Pl. xciv, 106 (from Andernach); *Bagendon*, 174, Fig. 32, 5; *Asciburgium*, 21, 1-3. Above the central triple dotted element of the ornament the cover is cut away, though this cut does not remove any of the ornamental detail, and a hinge pivot bar can be seen within the cylindrical case. Although two coils of wire are evident at the rear of the cylinder, where the pin should emerge, it seems likely that this brooch, at least in the final stages of its use, was hinged, the pin being hooked over an iron bar inserted after the removal of the original pin. This would account for the cut-away feature in the top of the spring cover which is unnecessary in the case of a sprung pin and for the considerable protrusion, now corroded beneath the pin stump, which presumably represents the stop usually fashioned in with the head of a hinged pin to act against the rear of the bow to afford tension to the pin when in the catch. The bow is broad and tapers only slightly towards the foot. It is decorated with longitudinal ribs plain and hatched, with the central triple group off alignment. A curved decorated cross moulding separates the cylinder from the bow. The latter is not centrally positioned in relation to the spring cover.