

THE POTTERY FROM GCWA16

By Gordon Hayden

Introduction and Summary

The excavation yielded 4 sherds (weighing 47 grams) of pottery. The diagnostic rims found in this assemblage have a combined date range of *c.* AD 20-90, but there is also one sherd of Late Bronze Age and one sherd of post-medieval to modern pottery found during the excavation.

Methodology

The pottery was quantified by number and weight of sherds per fabric. Rims were measured using a rim chart to determine Estimated Vessel Equivalents (EVE's) and to ascertain vessel forms. The colour values of the fabrics have been described using *Munsell Soil Color Charts* (Munsell 2000). Sherds were examined using a hand lens at X20 magnification, whilst a pocket microscope (at X60 magnification incorporating a built-in artificial illumination source) was used to ascertain the size, form, frequency and nature of inclusions and also to determine the fabric types.

The Pottery Fabrics

All four of the pottery fabrics found during this excavation have been noted during previous excavations undertaken by Worthing Archaeological Society. A concordance of the fabrics is listed below (Table 1).

Fabric FT2: Prehistoric Flint-Tempered Coarseware 2

A handmade, fairly soft, rough fabric with an irregular fracture and rough feel. The outer surface is coloured brown (7.5YR 5/4) with a very dark grey (7.5YR 3/1) inner surface and core. Inclusions consist of abundant, poorly-sorted, angular flint particles varying from 0.5-2.0mm in size, with sparse to rare, sub-angular ferrous and mica up to 0.02mm. Possibly Late Bronze Age in date (Judie English *pers. comm.*).

Fabric ST3: Southern Atrebatian Overlap Sandy Coarseware 2

A handmade hard, rough fabric with an irregular fracture and rough feel except where there are areas of burnishing. The outer surface is coloured very dark grey (10YR 3/1), with a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) inner surface and core. Inclusions consist of common, well-sorted, sub-angular quartz particles of 0.03-0.1mm in size, sparse, sub-angular cemented fine-grained sandstone of 0.05-0.2mm and mica of 0.02mm, and rare sub-angular ferrous of 0.2mm (Hayden 2011b: Table 2; fabric code 2). The major period of production is from the very early-1st century AD until c. AD 60 (Lyne 2005a: 105).

Fabric ST6A: Arun Valley Reduced Coarseware 1

A wheel-thrown hard, rough fabric with an irregular fracture and rough feel. The surface is coloured light grey (10YR 7/1) with a light grey (7.5YR 7/1) core. Inclusions consist of abundant, well-sorted, sub-angular quartz particles between 0.3-1.0mm in size, common sub-rounded ferrous particles up to 0.5mm, rare angular mica particles of 0.1mm, and sub-angular particles of 0.3mm which are possibly glauconitic (Hayden 2011b: Table 3; fabric code 4). The major period of production dates from the mid-1st century to the latter part of the 2nd century AD (Lyne 2005a: 105-106).

Fabric PM3: Post-Medieval to Modern Oxidised Ware

A wheel-thrown hard, slightly rough fabric with an irregular fracture and smooth feel, which is coloured red (2.5YR 5/8) throughout. Inclusions consist of sparse, well-sorted, sub-rounded quartz and ferrous particles, and rare sub-angular mica between 0.1-0.3mm in size. No provenance could be ascertained, but likely to be a local source.

Table 1. Concordance with Worthing Archaeological Society pottery fabrics.

Fabric Group	Worthing Fabric Group
FT2 - Prehistoric Flint-Tempered Coarseware 2	Goblestubs Copse Fabric FT2 (Hayden 2013a)
ST3 – Southern Atrebatian Overlap Coarseware 2	Blacksmith's Corner Fabric C11B (Hayden 2014)
ST6A - Arun Valley Reduced Coarseware 1	Blacksmith's Corner Fabric C2A (Hayden 2014)
PM3 – Post-Medieval to Modern Oxidised Ware	Slindon Park Fabric PM3 (Hayden 2011a)

The Pottery Forms

Two diagnostic rims were found, both within the main ditch fill from Trench 7 (Table 2). The bead rimmed Southern Atrebatian Overlap bowl or jar (Figure 1) has a

parallel in the early ditch at Fishbourne, and there is dated to the late Augustan to Claudian period (Lyne 2005b: pp.68-70 & fig.8, no.1). The everted rimmed Arun Valley bowl (Figure 2) is similar to examples at Fishbourne (Cunliffe 1971: p.194 & fig.91, no.83.2) which date from the Neronian period into the last decade of the 1st century AD.

Table 2. Catalogue of the GCWA16 pottery.

SF No.	Context	Qty	Wgt	Fabric	Rim Dia	EVE	Vessel
7201	701 (topsoil)	1	3g	PM3	N/A	N/A	N/A
7106	702 (spit) 713 (fill)	1	16g	ST3	180mm	0.05	Bead rimmed Bowl/Jar
7113	714 (spit) 713 (fill)	1	22g	ST6A	180mm	0.06	Everted rimmed Bowl
8111	802 (spit) 807 (fill)	1	6g	FT2	N/A	N/A	N/A



Figure 1: A Southern Atrebatian Overlap bowl or jar from the main ditch fill in Trench 7 (photograph © Worthing Archaeological Society).



Figure 2: An Arun Valley bowl from the main ditch fill in Trench 7 (photograph © Worthing Archaeological Society).

Discussion

With the exception of the single Southern Atrebatian Overlap vessel, none of the Arun Valley Late Iron Age derivative sandy fabrics which characterized the previous excavation at Goblestubby Copse (Hayden 2013b), were found during this excavation. It is highly likely this Southern Atrebatian Overlap bowl/jar is contemporary with those found previously and therefore a date of *c.* AD 20-60 can be assigned to this particular vessel. The Arun Valley bowl also found in the ditch fill can be tentatively dated to *c.* AD 50-90, and therefore a date of somewhere in the early third quarter of the 1st century

AD can be postulated for the main backfilling of the ditch. The Late Bronze Age sherd does not emanate from a securely stratified layer and therefore can only hint at the longevity of occupation at the site.

References

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