



COVINGTON HISTORY GROUP ROMAN POTTERY REFERENCE COLLECTION



How to use this book:

The book gives information about the pottery types contained within the Roman Reference Collection. All the pottery in the Reference Collection has been found within the Parish of Covington. The photographs and detailed descriptions can be used to help identify newly discovered sherds.

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 Descriptors of pottery types found so far
 Descriptors of types of decoration
 Tables of rims and bases within the collection
 A table showing other items of interest in the collection
 Glossary

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

The following sources have been used:

- Dr. Stephen Upex
- www.potsherd.net
- Access Cambridge Archaeology
- Jigsaw Cambridgeshire Best Practice Users' Guide – Roman Pottery Identification by Alice Lyons ed. Jemima Woolverton
- <http://leicsfieldworkers.co.uk/resources/fieldwalking/pottery-identification/>



Cell Inventory – Roman Top Layer 'A'

A1 Calcite Gritted Ware (Shellyware) (8)	A2 Grog Tempered Ware (7)	A3 Decorated Shellyware Coarseware from Harrold Oxidised and wheel-thrown Shellyware (3)
A4 Black Burnished Ware (2)	A5 Cream Ware (7)	A6 Grey Ware – possibly Stanground (1)
A7 Local Black Fumed (3)	A8 Lower Nene Valley Grey Ware (6)	A9 Lower Nene Valley Grey Ware rims (2)
A10 Decorated Grey Ware (5)	A11 Lower Nene Valley Grey Ware base (1)	A12 Fine Lower Nene Valley Grey Ware (5)

Cell Inventory – Roman Middle Layer 'B'

B1 Lower Nene Valley Grey Ware Stibbington? (1)	B2 London Ware Style Godmanchester? (4)	B3 Fine Grey Ware Flask Rouletted (1)
B4 Lower Nene Valley Colour Coated Ware Late C3-early C4 colours (12)	B5 Lower Nene Valley Colour Coated Ware Late C3-early C4 colours. (fingerprints!) (7)	B6 LNVCCW Barbotine decoration (2)
B7 LNVCCW Rouletted decoration (2)	B8 Godmanchester Barbotine decoration (1)	B9 LNVCCW Scale decoration Rouletting (7)
B10 Samian (3)	B11 Decorated Samian (5)	B12 Oxfordshire Red Ware (2)

Cell Inventory – Roman Bottom Layer 'C'

C1 Colander sherds RSGW with hole. (3)	C2 Mortaria: Oxford Parchment Oxford Red Slipware Mancetter? (8)	C3 Straight sided Rims (8)
C4 Lower Nene Valley Grey Ware Rims (8)	C5 LNVCCW Beaker foot Bases (3)	C6 LNV Grey Ware Bases (2)
C7 Shelly Ware Bases (3)	C8 LNVCCW Rims (10)	C9 Shelly Ware Rims (4)
C10 Shelly Ware Rims (5)	C11 Samian Base (1)	C12 Jar Rim – possibly waster Lid Seat Rims (3)

Box	Cell	Name	Sherd Count	Description	Context
R	A1	RSGW	1	Body	COVTP14 200
R	A1	RSGW	1	Body. Incised and striated - wavy line	COVTP14 302
R	A1	RSGW	1	Body, black	COVTP14 502
R	A1	RSGW	1	Typical rilling	COVTP14 802
R	A1	RSGW	1	Different rilling	COVTP14 303
R	A1	RSGW	1	Body, oxidised surface, very fine rilling, C1-C2 - pre main industries	COVTP14 702
R	A1	RSGW	2	Same cooking pot - C1-early C2	COVTP14 103
R	A2	Grog Tempered	1	Fumed surface, red edges, grey core, late C1-C2	COVTP14 902
R	A2	Grog Tempered	1	Pale fabric, grey core	COVTP14 103
R	A2	Grog Tempered	3	Body sherd - external ridges, internal scoring. 2 Rims from same vessel	COVTP14 801
R	A2	Grog Tempered whiteware	4	1 rim, 3 body. Also iron temper?	COVTP14 802
R	A3	RSGW	1	Body. Line and incised decoration	COVTP14 702
R	A3	Roman Coarse Ware - Harrold?	1	Body	COVTP14 103
R	A3	RSGW	1	Oxidised and wheel thrown	COVTP14 302
R	A4	Black Burnished Ware	1	Body. Ridged - post industrial Roman.	COVTP14 302
R	A4	Black Burnished Ware	1	Horizontal incised decoration.	COVTP14 602
R	A5	Cream Ware	2	Flagon sherd. Sharp rim.	COVTP14 702
R	A5	Cream Ware - possibly Fen Edge/Stilton	2	Body. One with thumbnail decoration	COVTP14 303
R	A5	Cream Ware - possibly Fen Edge/Stilton	1	Rim - undercut and reeded	COVTP14 303
R	A5	Cream Ware - possibly Cambridge or Huntingdon	1	Rim. Some grog temper.	COVTP14 304
R	A5	Cream Ware - possibly Cambridge or Huntingdon	1	Body. Wiped	COVTP14 705
R	A6	Greyware - possibly Stanground	1	Body. Curved line and lattice decoration.	COVTP14 705
R	A7	Local Black Fumed	1	Body	COVTP14 103
R	A7	Local Black Fumed	1	Rim of jar	COVTP14 302
R	A7	Local Black Fumed	1	Body	COVTP14 802
R	A8	LNVGW	6	Bases 2, Rim 1, Body 3	COVTP14 302
R	A9	LNVGW	2	Same vessel - platter rims	COVTP14 802
R	A10	LNVGW	1	Body. Incised decoration (thumbnail)	COVTP14 201
R	A10	LNVGW - probably	2	Body - Incised line ?rouletting - same pot	COVTP14 802
R	A10	LNVGW - probably	2	1 Part Rim, 1 body with incised line	COVTP13 103
R	A11	LNVGW - typical	1	Flat base with circular striations	COVTP14 302
R	A12	LNVGW	1	Body - patterned and incised line	COVTP14 705
R	A12	LNVGW	2	Body. Incised lines	COVTP14 303
R	A12	LNVGW	1	Indented (pinched) beaker	COVTP14 802
R	A12	LNVGW	1	Body. ? Writing.	COVTD12 D14

Roman Reference Box Inventory					
R	B1	LNVGW - possibly Stibbington	1	Pot bottom - very good example. C4	COVTP14 303
R	B2	Godmanchester - London style	4	Body sherd , rim. ?London Ware - Godmanchester. Form similar to Samian of earlier date. Circular decoration, hole shows how circles were drawn. C2	COVTP14 802
R	B3	Fine Grey Ware - probably LNVGW	2	Flask. Rouletted shoulder, pedestal base.	COVTP14 303
R	B4	LNVCW	1	Body - bowl. Classic late C2 interior.	COVTP14 202
R	B4	LNVCW	9	Body . Various decorated. Striations on inside. Late C3 early C4 colours.	COVTP14 302
R	B4	LNVCW	1	Body. Finger print. Very fine. Late C3 early C4 colours.	COVTP14 103
R	B4	LNVCW	1	Body. Late C3 early C4 colours.	COVTP14 201
R	B5	LNVCW	4	Bases. Inscribed lines, decorated - with finger prints, oxidised. Late C3 early C4 colours.	COVTP14 303
R	B5	LNVCW	1	Base. Inscribed lines. Late C3 early C4 colours.	COVTD12 D20
R	B5	LNVCW	1	Body. Thumb print. Late C3 early C4 colours.	COVTD12 D27
R	B5	LNVCW	1	Body. Rouletting. Late C3 early C4 colours.	COVTP14 702
R	B6	LNVCW	2	Slip decoration - Barbotine	COVTP14 702
R	B7	LNVCW	2	Body. Rouletting.	COVTP14 702
R	B8	Godmanchester	1	Body. Burnt on outside. Barbotine slip decoration.	COVTP14 702
R	B9	LNVCW	1	Body. Rouletting.	Deanacres
R	B9	LNVCW	1	Body. Scaling decoration.	COVTD12 D31
R	B9	LNVCW	2	Body. Rouletting.	COVTP14 302
R	B9	LNVCW	1	Body. Rouletting.	COVTP14 701
R	B9	LNVCW	1	Body. Rouletting.	COVTP14 101
R	B9	LNVCW	1	Body. Rouletting.	COVTD12 D27
R	B10	Samian	2	Body	COVTP14 302
R	B10	Samian	1	Decorated rim	COVTP14 701
R	B11	Samian	1	Rouletted base	COVTP14 303
R	B11	Samian	3	Highly decorated. Cinnamus ii Lazoux 135-180AD	COVTP14 802
R	B11	Samian	1	Incised lines	COVTP14 200
R	B12	Oxford Red Ware	1	Body. Red slip.	COVTP14 302
R	B12	Oxford Red Ware	1	Body or rim	COVTD12 D33

Roman Reference Box Inventory

R	C1	LNVGW	1	Colander body	COVTP14 901
R	C1	RSGW	1	Colander body	COVTP14 302
R	C1	Unknown coarse gritted	1	Sherd with hole	COVTP14 201
R	C2	Oxford Parchment Ware	4	Mortaria. 3 Rims, body	COVTP14 802
R	C2	Mortarium - possibly Mancetter	1	Body	COVTD12 D26
R	C2	Mortarium	1	Body	COVTD12 D32
R	C2	Mortarium	1	Body	COVTD12 D25
R	C2	Mortarium	1	Rim, edge of spout	COVTD12 D20
R	C3	LNVCW	1	Straight sided rim	COVTP14 302
R	C3	Late Black Ware	1	Straight sided rim, dish, slightly burnished.	COVTP14 303
R	C3	Roman Coarse Ware	1	Rim. Reduced firing, incised line	COVTP14 802
R	C3	LNVCW	1	Beaker rim	COVTP14 303
R	C3	LNVCW	1	Base and side of shallow dish	COVTP14 102
R	C3	LNVGW	1	Rim. Grey fabric with rilling and incised line.	Deanacres surface find.
R	C3	LNVCW	2	Rims	COVTP14 702
R	C4	LNVGW	3	Rims. Rim of flat bottomed pie dish.	COVTP14 302
R	C4	LNVGW	5	Rims. Light fabric. Rim of flask, jar	COVTP14 302
R	C5	LNVCW	1	Beaker foot, finger print	COVTP14 303
R	C5	LNVCW	1	Beaker foot. Would have been decorated.	COVTD12 D20
R	C5	LNVCW	1	Dog bowl base, incised circles on base.	COVTP14 902
R	C6	LNVGW	1	Base and side of small jar	COVTP14 303
R	C7	RSGW	1	Base	COVTP14 302
R	C7	RSGW	1	Base	COVTP14 102
R	C7	RSGW	1	Base - possible stamped writing.	COVTP14 303
R	C7	RSGW	1	Base	COVTP14 702
R	C8	LNVCW	1	Rim	COVTP14 702
R	C8	LNVCW	3	Rims. Red	COVTP14 302
R	C8	LNVCW	1	Handle to lid, slip decoration	COVTD12 D28
R	C8	LNVCW	1	Flagon neck with handle fixing, black.	COVTP14 705
R	C8	LNVCW	4	Rims	COVTP14 302
R	C9	RSGW	1	Rim, huge storage jar	COVTP14 302
R	C9	RSGW	2	Handle, rim of large jar	COVTP14 103
R	C9	RSGW	1	Rim of large jar	COVTP14 702
R	C10	RSGW	1	Jar rim	COVTP14 302
R	C10	RSGW	1	Rim	COVTP14 702
R	C10	RSGW	1	Rim	COVTP14 303
R	C10	RSGW	1	Rim of large vessel	COVTP14 202
R	C10	RSGW	1	Rim of flanged bowl	COVTP14 302
R	C11	Samian	1	Body, large platter	COVTP14 304
R	C12	Unknown	1	Rim of large pot - lid seat	COVTP14 802
R	C12	Unknown	1	Rim - lid seat	COVTP14 303
R	C12	Possibly Huntingdon	1	Rim - not lid seat. Waster?	COVTP14 801

Roman Period – General Introduction

Notes taken from a talk given by Dr. Stephen Upex, Covington, September 2014

Area surrounded by known Roman sites, e.g. Stibbington, Stanground, Stilton, Godmanchester, Duston, Irchester (no pottery kilns), large Roman site north of Thrapston. Local road links include Ermine Street, road between Bedford and St. Neots, road linking Durobrivae, Thrapston and Irchester. By the middle-end 44AD troops from the 43 Claudian invasion were overwintering in our area in forts at Longthorpe, Godmanchester and others.

In Peterborough, North Cambridgeshire and the East Midlands, wheel thrown pottery first appeared in the Iron Age. The military brought Roman pottery to this area – between 45AD and 60AD 2,500 soldiers were stationed at Longthorpe. Kilns were spoon-shaped and a yard from end to end. Produced platters, bowls and dishes. Production stopped by 65AD. By 2-4th centuries there was a spectacular Roman landscape at Durobrivae – the bridge where Ermine Street crossed the River Nene. There were planned industrial suburbs in the modern Normangate Field, between Caster and Durobrivae. There were hundreds of kilns in the Peterborough area. They were dumbbell shaped and block built. Neighbouring woodland was coppiced to feed the fires. Stibbington has the most complete pottery production workshop so far found in the Northern Provinces, with emplacements for potters wheels including flywheels. Kilns were also found along the A1 in the 1950s. There are four main groups of kilns: Stanground, Holme (Fen Edge) – producing sandy clay coarsewares; Fengate; Chesterton, Sibson, Castor, Nailsworth, Wansford – the main production centre with hundreds of kilns; west of Wansford – very early kilns. Nene Valley pottery has been found in Fenland and was transported up the Nene to Northampton. It has also been found in London, Leicester, Lincoln and York. Small amounts also went to Hadrian's Wall. Specialist wares travel long distances by pack animals, trains of several hundred pack horses each. Sawtry has more horse bones than any other site in Cambridgeshire which suggests it was connected with the pack animals. Colour coated ware has even been found in the Rhineland, having been transported across from The Fens.

Main types:

Iron Age: Tacitus, commenting on what the Romans found when they arrived in Britain, said that the 'population is very dense' and that there were cattle and farming. Society was run from the paramount chief down. There were hillforts, e.g. at Stonea Camp on the edge of the Fen. Round houses continue into the 4th century and become Saxon. The local tribe, the Catavelauni, imported a wide variety of goods such as wine pottery and metal jewellery. Nene mussels and oyster shell was used as temper as well as limestone sometimes. Pots were clamp fired but in the last 100 years of the Iron Age pottery was wheel turned and fired in small kilns. These were in the banks of ditches, using the ditch as a stoke hole.

Burnished ware – quite fine – on the cusp of BC/AD.

Imports from Iberia and North Africa from late Iron Age onwards.

Samian was produced mainly in the Massif Central in France and in Germany. Produced up until the end of the 1st century AD. It is considered ancestral tableware so was repaired when broken. Could have been bought at Durobrivae but very expensive so only for a wealthy villa. Cottestock was possibly the biggest villa in Roman Britain. There are 12 big villas around Durobrivae and villas spaced at regular intervals along the Nene Valley, e.g. Fotheringhay. There were large villas also at Stanwick, and Great Staughton to the East.

Roman shellyware was produced e.g. at Longthorpe from 1st-4th centuries. Used for general storage and cooking. Can use the rims for dating. Lid seating rims. Most lids were made of wood. Waterproofing with milk.

Greyware: reduced wares produced from 1st to 3rd centuries. Made in the Nene Valley by Flavian potters in mid 1st century. When leatherhard, the pots were placed upside-down in the kiln and fired very gradually up to 900 degrees. When up to temperature, the flue was bunged up with plant material such as straw to produce a carbon-rich atmosphere resulting in greyware. Often have lattice decoration.

The Nene Valley is also famous for its colour coated ware. After pots were leatherhard, they were dipped into slip (runny clay with different minerals added to it), then dried and fired. The kiln wasn't bunged up but the flue was left

open, producing an oxidising atmosphere. This ware can be decorated and rims changed with the fashion (plain, beaded, corniced – early to late period).

Decoration:

Rouletting – like a pastry wheel

Barbotine – swirls, swags, dots of slip – 2-3rd centuries

Applique – moulded pieces stuck on with slip – ditto 2-3 centuries

Sand stuck onto the outside

Stamped ware – e.g. London ware but in 2nd century also made in this area.

Creamwares: Cooled more quickly in the kiln. 2-4th centuries. Fashionable rims and handles.

Black burnished reduced ware produced again at the end of the Roman period – 4th-5th centuries. **Also red material imported from Oxfordshire.**

Going into the **Saxon period** at about 600AD, pottery was very similar to that produced in the Iron Age. More soups and stews at the end of 4th century whereas in the 1st century there were more platters. End of the Hadrianic to beginning of the Antonine period was a very prosperous time – lots of beakers produced. By end of 4th century, beer becomes dominant drink.

Roman Shelly Ware (aka Calcite Gritted Ware)

C1-4

Very difficult to date within the period. C1 pottery is transitional (IA-Roman) ie IA material in Roman tradition. Wide mouthed storage jars. Frequent shell inclusions. Yellowy finish has been fired in oxidised atmosphere, blackish finish in a reduced atmosphere. Lid seated jars has rim for lid which was usually made of wood. Huge variety of fabrics and finishes. Later pots tend to be casseroles, earlier tend to be plates and dishes. Often outer surface of pots covered in regular fine horizontal lines called rilling (grooves applied to the clay while on the potter's wheel).

Box	Cell	Name	Sherd Count	Description	Context
R	A1	RSGW	1	Body	COVTP14 200
R	A1	RSGW	1	Body. Incised and striated - wavy line	COVTP14 302
R	A1	RSGW	1	Body, black	COVTP14 502
R	A1	RSGW	1	Typical rilling	COVTP14 802
R	A1	RSGW	1	Different rilling	COVTP14 303
R	A1	RSGW	1	Body, oxidised surface	COVTP14 702
R	A1	RSGW	2	Same cooking pot – C1-2	COVTP14 103
R	A3	RSGW	1	Body. Line and incised decoration	COVTP14 702
R	A3	RSGW	1	Oxidised and wheel thrown	COVTP14 302
R	C1	RSGW	1	Colander body	COVTP14 302
R	C7	RSGW ?	1	Base	COVTP14 302
R	C7	RSGW	1	Base	COVTP14 102
R	C7	RSGW	1	Base - possible stamped writing.	COVTP14 303
R	C7	RSGW	1	Base	COVTP14 702
R	C9	RSGW	1	Rim, huge storage jar	COVTP14 302
R	C9	RSGW	2	Handle , rim of large jar	COVTP14 103
R	C9	RSGW	1	Rim of large jar	COVTP14 702
R	C10	RSGW	1	Jar rim	COVTP14 302
R	C10	RSGW	1	Rim	COVTP14 702
R	C10	RSGW	1	Rim	COVTP14 303
R	C10	RSGW	1	Rim of large vessel	COVTP14 202
R	C10	RSGW	1	Rim of flanged bowl	COVTP14 302







Roman Grey Wares (LNVGW)

C1-3

Very variable fabrics. Grey (all shades), without obvious inclusions. Cookware through to tableware. Jars, dishes, bowls, plates, lids, cups, cauldrons and frying pans. Used to boil water. Can be smooth or sandy, thin walled or thick. Sometimes sandwich effect from incomplete firing. Roulette decoration (shaped stamper rolled around the wet clay pot).

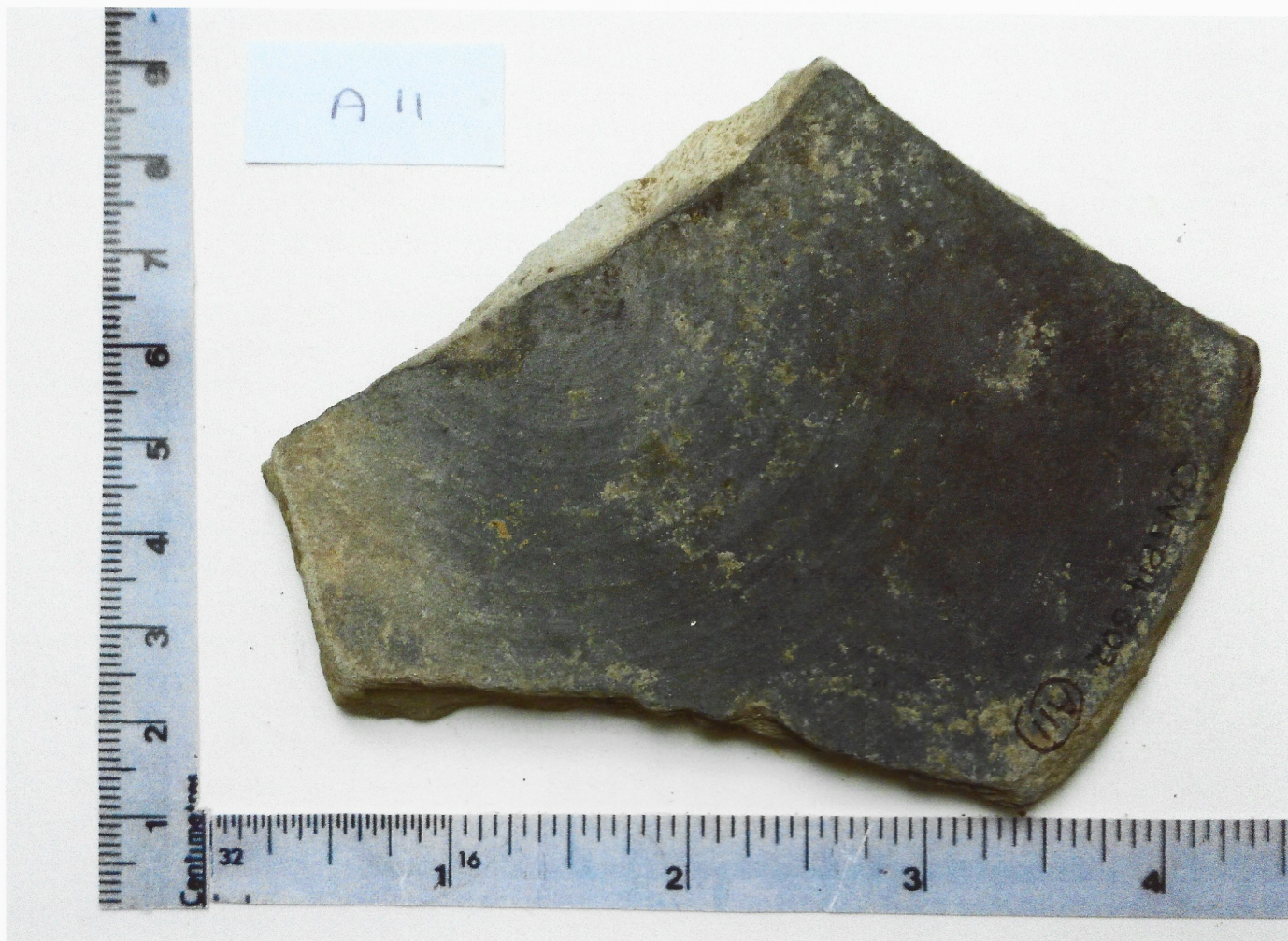
Box	Cell	Name	Sherd count	Description	Contexts
R	A6	Greyware – possibly Stanground	1	Body. Curved line and lattice decoration.	COVTP14 705
R	A8	LNVGW	6	Bases 2, Rim 1, Body 3	COVTP14 302
R	A9	LNVGW	2	Same vessel	COVTP14 802
R	A10	LNVGW	1	Body. Incised decoration (thumbnail)	COVTP14 201
R	A10	LNVGW	2	Body -Incised line ?rouletting - same pot	COVTP14 802
R	A10	LNVGW	2	1 Part Rim, 1 body with incised line	COVTP13 103
R	A11	LNVGW	1	Flat base with circular striations	COVTP14 302
R	A12	LNVGW	1	Body - patterned and incised line	COVTP14 705
R	A12	LNVGW	2	Body. Incised lines	COVTP14 303
R	A12	LNVGW	1	Drinking flagon pinched top	COVTP14 802
R	A12	LNVGW	1	Body. ? Writing.	COVTD12 D14
R	B1	LNVGW - ?Stibbington	1	Pot bottom - very good example.	COVTP14 303
R	B3	Fine Grey Ware – probably LNVGW	2	Rouletting.	COVTP14 303
R	C1	LNVGW	1	Colander body	COVTP14 901
R	C3	LNVGW	1	Rim. Grey fabric with rilling and incised line.	Deanacres surface find.
R	C4	LNVGW	3	Rims	COVTP14 302
R	C4	LNVGW	5	Rims. Light fabric.	COVTP14 302
R	C6	LNVGW	1	Base and side of small jar	COVTP14 303



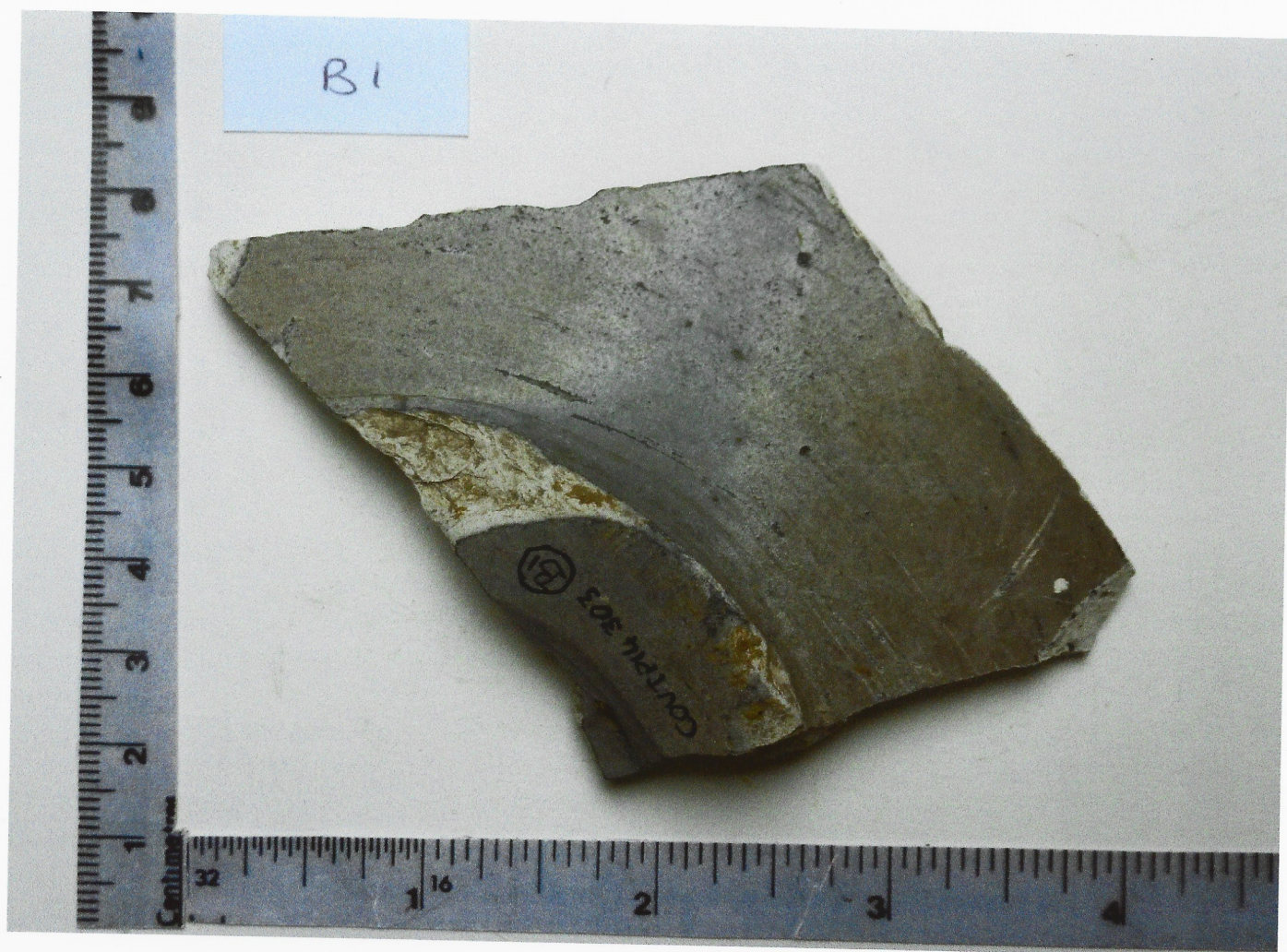












Cream/White/Buff wares

C2-3

Fired at a slightly lower temperature and cooled quickly. Stilton (Fen Edge), Cambridge and Huntingdon were local potteries producing this type of fabric. Water bottle and beakers. C2 Pinched neck flagon.

Box	Cell	Name	Sherd count	Description	Context
R	A7	Sandy white ware – East midlands? – copy of Verulamium area wares	3	Body – same vessel	COVRSN15 503
R	A6	Creamware	1	Rim	COVRSN15 503
R	A7	Sandy white ware – East midlands? – copy of Verulamium area wares	1	Body	COVTP14 802
R	A5	Buff ware 2 nd century (see also grog tempered)	2	Thin buff fabric, pink matt finish, fine red grog 2 body sherds, same vessel	COVRSN15 503
R	A7	Creamware – possibly Fen Edge / Stilton	1	Rim – undercut and reeded. Large beaker. Very sandy fabric	COVTP14 303
R	A6	Creamware – possibly Cambridge or Huntingdon	1	Body. Wiped	COVTP14 705



Grog Tempered Wares

Grog is fired and then crushed clay. It is added to fresh clay before it is worked and helps to prevent shrinkage during firing. A variety of fabrics, but generally grey, brown or black with frequent inclusions of grog, sand, and occasionally flint and shell. Surface can be burnished or wiped, often with 'soapy' finish. Sometimes decorated with lattice or other lines.

We have examples of grog tempered wares dating from the Iron Age through to late Roman. Most are locally made, either in Northamptonshire/Buckinghamshire and not mass produced. The Northamptonshire fabrics often have red grog inclusions. A very distinctive thin, slightly chalky to the touch, orange/pink surface with black or very dark grey fabric was produced in Northants during the first century. There are also groggy white wares, dating from 2-3 centuries.

Box	Cell	Fabric	Sherd count	Description	Context
P/S	A12	Grog tempered – local, late 1 st century.		(Mostly) thin, black fabric, orange/pink surface, 2 X base and side, body, rouletting, horizontal shoulder decoration, rims	COVSE15 SPOILHEAP2 COVRSN15 203 (2) COVRSN15 205 (X3) COVRSN15 203 (X2) COVRSN15 B12 COVRSN15 T3 SPOIL (4) COVRSN15 503 (2) COVRSN15 203
P/S	A6	Iron Age grog tempered	1	Thick grey fabric, packed with medium/large grog	COVRSN15 B12
R	A3	Northamptonshire white ware 2-3 century	17	White or pink surface, white fabric, lumpy, infrequent to frequent fine red grog, fumed, rims (lid seated jars), body sherds	COVTP14 801 X2 COVTP14 304 COVTP14 303 COVRSN15 110 COVRSN15 602 X2(3?) COVRSN15 602 COVTP14 103 COVTP14 802 COVRSN15 702 COVHIG16 F4 COVTP14 801 COVTP14 802 COVRSN15 B12 COVRSN15 B12 COVTP14 103 COVTP14 103
R	A4	Local grog tempered white ware 1-3 century	4	White-grey fabric, lumpy, large white or grey grog, also small red grog, fumed, horizontal incised line	COVTP14 802 COVRSN15 704 COVTP14 103 COVRSN15 503
R	A5	Buff ware 2 nd century	4	Thin buff fabric, pink matt finish, fine red grog 2 body sherds, same vessel	COVRSN15 503



Local Black Fumed

Grey fabric with a smooth, but slightly sandy blackened surface.

Box	Cell	Name	Sherd count	Description	Context
R	A7	Local Black Fumed	1	Body	COVTP14 103
		Local Black Fumed	1	Rim of jar	COVTP14 302
R	A7	Local Black Fumed	1	Body	COVTP14 802



Black Burnished Ware

C2-C4

Reduced (grey) slightly sandy fabric. Surface burnished (polished with a tool) at the leather hard stage, prior to firing. Silky shiny surface.

Roman-type vessels but fabric more like the Saxon (browny-grey) – post industrial Roman.

Box	Cell	Name	Sherd count	Description	Context
R	A4	Black Burnished Ware	1	Body. Ridged - post industrial Roman.	COVTP14 302
R	A4	Black Burnished Ware	1	Horizontal incised decoration.	COVTP14 602



Shelly Ware from Harrold (Bedfordshire)

Late C3-early C5

Fairly hard, slightly soapy fabric with irregular texture. Dark grey or black core with brown or grey margins and black to light brown surfaces (frequently patchy). Lots of fine or medium flakes of shell, with occasional fine black and red iron ores and white mica, and rare coarse flint and limestone particles. Wheel-thrown. Surfaces smoothed, and often with horizontal rilling. Sometimes with scored wavy-lines. Distinctive undercut rims which can be decorated with slashing. Frequently found sooted which gives their exterior surface a dark colour. Necked jars, flanged bowls and plain dishes.

Box	Cell	Name	Sherd count	Description	Context
R	A3	Roman Coarse Ware - Harrold?	1	Body	COVTP14 103

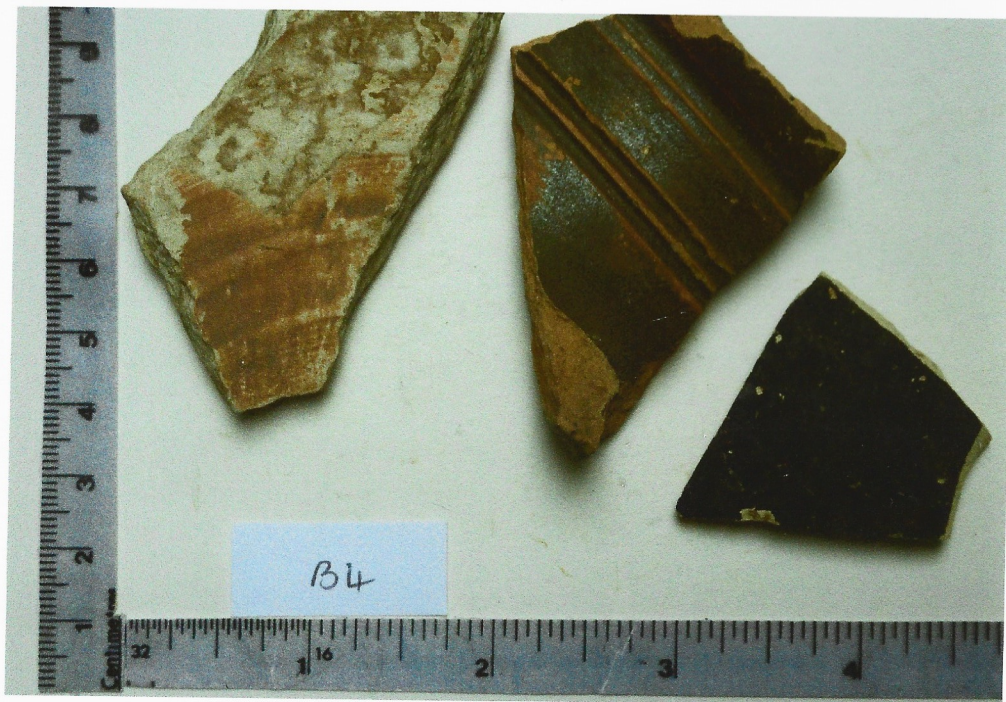


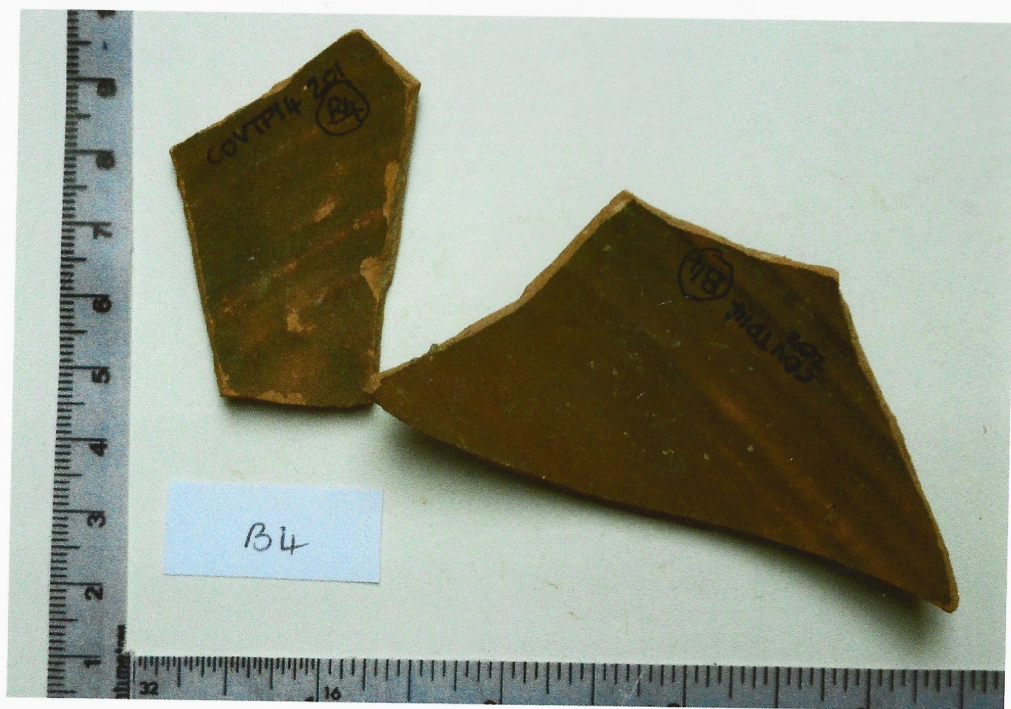
Nene Valley Colour Coated Ware (LNVCCW)

150-400

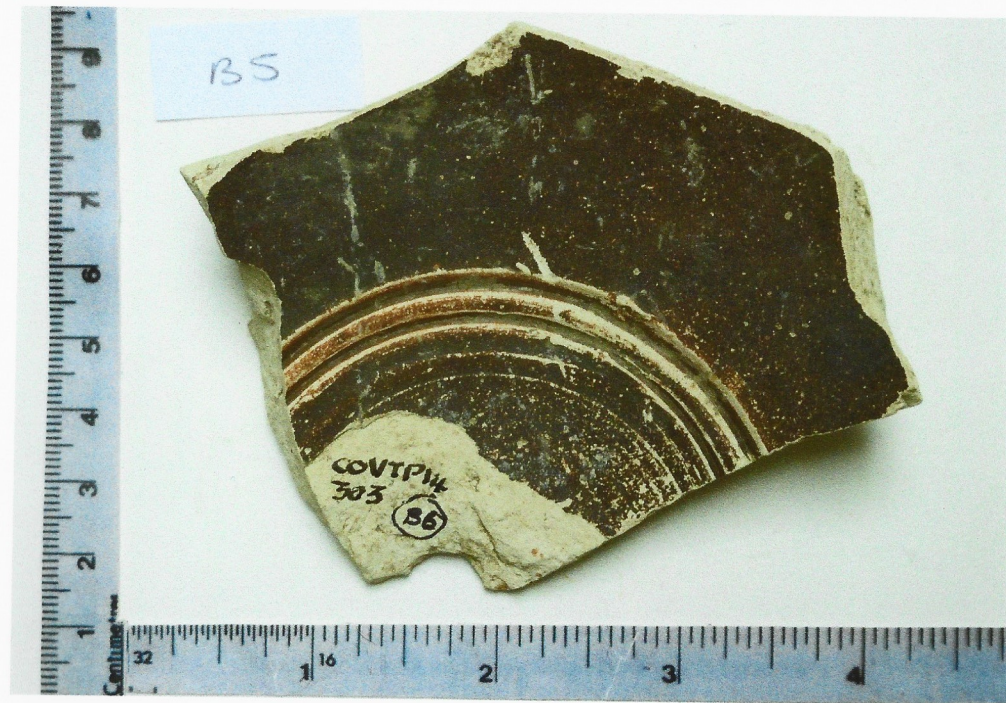
Fine cream/pink/orangy colour fabric dipped in coloured slip e.g. red, orange, blue, black. Sometimes the potter's thumb prints are visible in the slip where the pot was held. Huge variety of forms. Fine tableware. Often has decoration e.g. rouletting, scales, indentation, barbotine, appliqué. Most common during C3 and C4. Early forms include beakers and bag shaped vessels with white fabric and dark, nearly black slip. Mid 3rd-4th century saw the introduction of utilitarian forms such as more chunky jars and dishes. Generally, the finer the fabric, the earlier the pot.

Box	Cell	Name	Sherd count	Description	Context
R	B4	LNVCCW	1	Body – bowl. Classic Late C2 interior.	COVTP14 202
R	B4	LNVCCW	9	Body . Various decorated. Striations on inside.	COVTP14 302
R	B4	LNVCCW	1	Body. Finger print. Very fine. Late C3 early C4 colours.	COVTP14 103
R	B4	LNVCCW	1	Body. Late C3 early C4 colours.	COVTP14 201
R	B5	LNVCCW	4	Bases. Inscribed lines, decorated - with finger prints, oxidised.	COVTP14 303
R	B5	LNVCCW	1	Base. Inscribed lines.	COVTD12 D20
R	B5	LNVCCW	1	Body. Thumb print.	COVTD12 D27
R	B5	LNVCCW	1	Body. Rouletting.	COVTP14 702
R	B6	LNVCCW	2	Slip decoration - Barbotine	COVTP14 702
R	B7	LNVCCW	2	Body. Rouletting.	COVTP14 702
R	B9	LNVCCW	1	Body. Rouletting.	Deanacres surface find
R	B9	LNVCCW	1	Body. Scaling decoration.	COVTD12 D31
R	B9	LNVCCW	2	Body. Rouletting.	COVTP14 302
R	B9	LNVCCW	1	Body. Rouletting.	COVTP14 701
R	B9	LNVCCW	1	Body. Rouletting.	COVTP14 101
R	B9	LNVCCW	1	Body. Rouletting.	COVTD12 D27
R	C3	LNVCCW	1	Beaker rim	COVTP14 303
R	C3	LNVCCW	1	Base and side of shallow dish	COVTP14 102
R	C3	LNVCCW	1	Straight sided rim	COVTP14 302
R	C3	LNVCCW	2	Rims	COVTP14 702
R	C5	LNVCCW	1	Beaker foot, finger print	COVTP14 303
R	C5	LNVCCW	1	Beaker foot. Would have been decorated	COVTD12 D20
R	C5	LNVCCW	1	Dog bowl base, incised circles on base.	COVTP14 902
R	C8	LNVCCW	1	Rim	COVTP14 702
R	C8	LNVCCW	3	Rims. Red	COVTP14 302
R	C8	LNVCCW	1	Handle to lid, slip decoration	COVTD12 D28
R	C8	LNVCCW	1	Flagon neck with handle fixing, black.	COVTP14 705
R	C8	LNVCCW	4	Rims	COVTP14 302









Samian

50BC-100AD

From France or Germany. Fine red fabric with a glossy surface.

Moulded. Not glazed but a mica lustre to the surface when fired. Can be decorated or plain. Signature stamps sometimes visible. If has white flecks, it is C2 or later. Posh stuff - in Covington, this was likely to have been a family heirloom!

Box	Cell	Name	Sherd count	Description	Context
R	B10	Samian	2	Body	COVTP14 302
R	B10	Samian	1	Decorated rim	COVTP14 701
R	B11	Samian	1	Rouletted base	COVTP14 303
R	B11	Samian	2	Highly decorated. Potter identified as Cinnamus ii 135-180AD	COVTP14 802
R	B11	Samian	1	Incised lines	COVTP14 200
R	C11	Samian	1	Body, large platter	COVTP14 304





Oxfordshire Parchment Ware Mortaria

C2-C4

A hard white fabric with occasional large red and black inclusions. Pink core, sometimes pink or orange-pink throughout. Decorated with brown paint. Sometimes fired dark grey.

A mortaria was a bowl, usually with heavy flanges and lots of very coarse grits in the interior surface, used for grinding or mixing food. Sometimes they had spouts for pouring.

Box	Cell		Sherd count		
R	C2	Oxford Parchment Ware	4	Mortaria. 3 Rims, body	COVTP14 802



Roman Oxfordshire

Hard, fine-textured fabric. Colour varies from orange-buff to red or red-brown, often with grey core. Can have fine red iron inclusions and sometimes large lumps of chalk. Slip varies from orange-red to red to dark brown. Wheel-thrown. Can be soft and powdery, with poor slip, but best examples have high gloss. Often decorated in variety of ways. Can look a bit like Samian but the surface is not so richly coloured and glossy.

Box	Cell	Name	Sherd count	Description	Context
R	B12	Oxford Red Ware	1	Body. Red slip.	COVTP14 302
R	B12	Oxford Red Ware	1	Body or rim	COVTD12 D33



London Ware style

C2

Fine-textured grey or black wares with incised or compass drawn decoration produced at a number of sites in south and east England.

Box	Cell	Name	Sherd count	Description	Context
R	B2	Godmanchester – London Ware style	4	Body sherd 4, rim. ?London Ware or Godmanchester. Form similar to Samian of earlier date. Circular decoration, hole shows how circles were drawn.	COVTP14 802



Forms of Decoration (see Glossary)

Barbotine

Box	Cell	Name	Sherd count	Description	Context
R	B6	LNVCW	2	Slip decoration - Barbotine	COVTP14 702
R	B8	Godmanchester	1	Body. Burnt on outside. Barbotine slip decoration.	COVTP14 702

Lattice

Box	Cell	Name	Sherd count	Description	Context
R	A6	Greyware - possibly Stanground	1	Body. Curved line and lattice decoration.	COVTP14 705

Incised

Box	Cell	Name	Sherd count	Description	Context
R	A1	RSGW	1	Body. Incised and striated - wavy line	COVTP14 302
R	A3	RSGW	1	Body. Line and incised decoration	COVTP14 702
R	A4	Black Burnished Ware	1	Horizontal incised decoration.	COVTP14 602
R	A10	LNVGW	1	Body. Incised decoration (thumbnail)	COVTP14 201
R	A10	LNVGW - probably	2	Body -Incised line ?rouletting - same pot	COVTP14 802
R	A10	LNVGW - probably	2	1 Part Rim, 1 body with incised line	COVTP13 103
R	A12	LNVGW	1	Body - patterned and incised line	COVTP14 705
R	A12	LNVGW	2	Body. Incised lines	COVTP14 303





Rilling

Box	Cell	Name	Sherd count	Description	Context
R	A1	RSGW	1	Typical rilling	COVTP14 802
R	A1	RSGW	1	Different rilling	COVTP14 303
R	A1	RSGW	1	Body, oxidised surface, very fine rilling, C1-C2 - pre main industries	COVTP14 702
R	C3	LNVGW	1	Rim. Grey fabric with rilling and incised line.	Deanacres surface find.

Rouletting

Box	Cell	Name	Sherd count	Description	Context
R	A10	LNVGW - probably	2	Body -Incised line ?rouletting - same pot	COVTP14 802
R	B3	Fine Grey Ware - probably LNVGW	2	Flask. Rouletted shoulder, pedestal base.	COVTP14 303
R	B5	LNVCW	1	Body. Rouletting. Late C3 early C4 colours.	COVTP14 702
R	B7	LNVCW	2	Body. Rouletting.	COVTP14 702
R	B9	LNVCW	1	Body. Rouletting.	Deanacres surface find
R	B9	LNVCW	2	Body. Rouletting.	COVTP14 302
R	B9	LNVCW	1	Body. Rouletting.	COVTP14 701
R	B9	LNVCW	1	Body. Rouletting.	COVTP14 101
R	B9	LNVCW	1	Body. Rouletting.	COVTD12 D27
R	B11	Samian	1	Rouletted base	COVTP14 303

Scale

Box	Cell	Name	Sherd count	Description	Context
R	B9	LNVCW	1	Body. Scaling decoration.	COVTD12 D31







Rims

Box	Cell	Name	Sherd count	Description	Context
R	C2	Mortarium	1	Rim, edge of spout	COVTD12 D20
R	C3	LNVCW	1	Straight sided rim	COVTP14 302
R	C3	Late Black Ware	1	Straight sided rim, dish, slightly burnished.	COVTP14 303
R	C3	Roman Coarse Ware	1	Rim. Reduced firing, incised line	COVTP14 802
R	C3	LNVCW	1	Beaker rim	COVTP14 303
R	C3	LNVGW	1	Rim. Grey fabric with rilling and incised line.	Deanacres surface find.
R	C3	LNVCW	2	Rims	COVTP14 702
R	C4	LNVGW	3	Rims. Rim of flat bottomed pie dish.	COVTP14 302
R	C4	LNVGW	5	Rims. Light fabric. Rim of flask, jar	COVTP14 302
R	C8	LNVCW	1	Rim	COVTP14 702
R	C8	LNVCW	3	Rims. Red	COVTP14 302
R	C8	LNVCW	4	Rims	COVTP14 302
R	C9	RSGW	1	Rim, huge storage jar	COVTP14 302
R	C9	RSGW	2	Handle , rim of large jar	COVTP14 103
R	C9	RSGW	1	Rim of large jar	COVTP14 702
R	C10	RSGW	1	Jar rim	COVTP14 302
R	C10	RSGW	1	Rim	COVTP14 702
R	C10	RSGW	1	Rim	COVTP14 303
R	C10	RSGW	1	Rim of large vessel	COVTP14 202
R	C10	RSGW	1	Rim of flanged bowl	COVTP14 302
R	C12	Unknown	1	Rim of large pot - lid seat	COVTP14 802
R	C12	Unknown	1	Rim - lid seat	COVTP14 303
R	C12	Possibly Huntingdon	1	Rim - not lid seat. Waster?	COVTP14 801













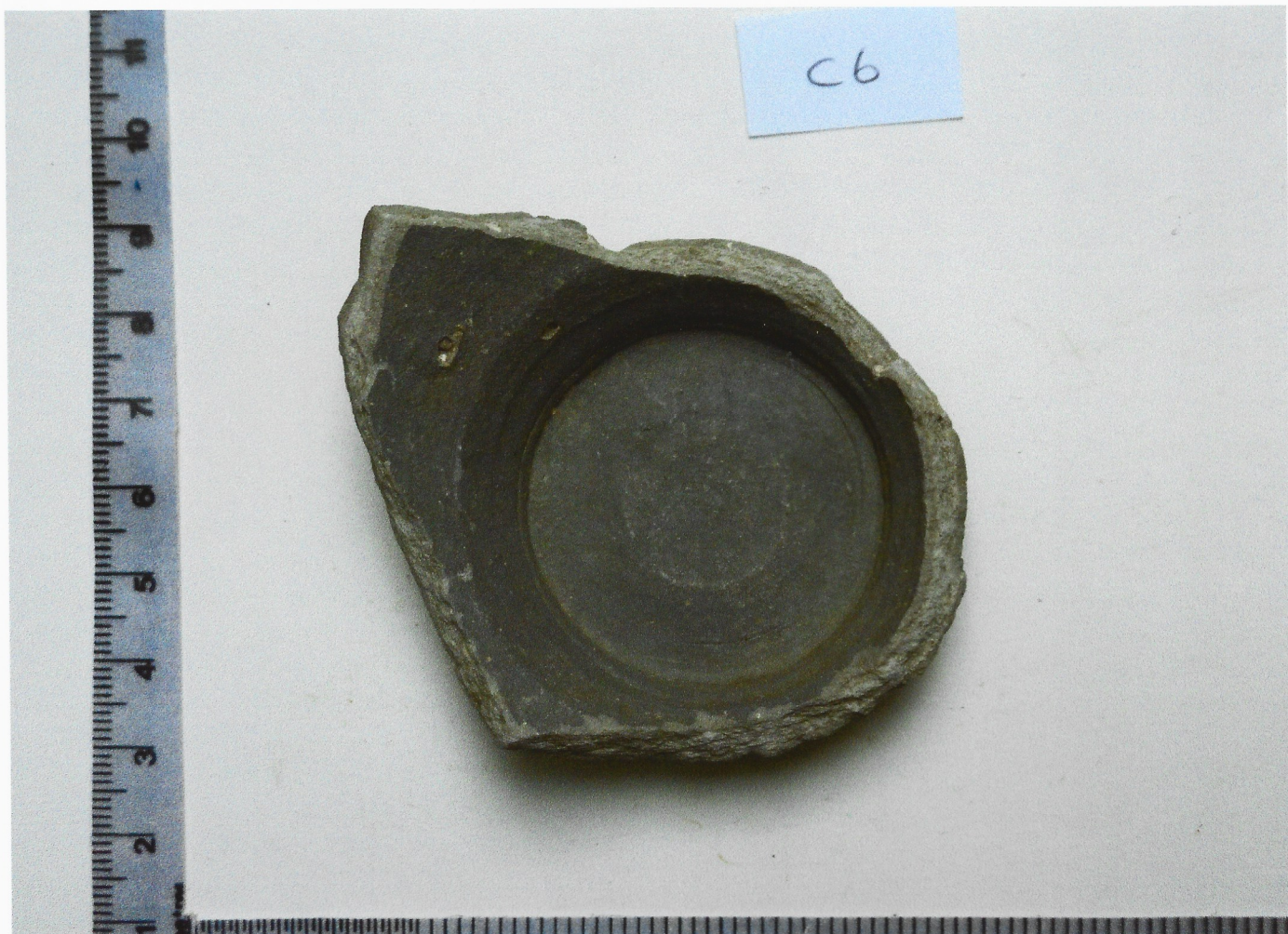




Bases

Box	Cell	Name	Sherd count	Description	Context
R	C3	LVNCCW	1	Base and side of shallow dish	COVTP14 102
R	C5	LVNCCW	1	Beaker foot, finger print	COVTP14 303
R	C5	LVNCCW	1	Beaker foot. Would have been decorated.	COVTD12 D20
R	C5	LVNCCW	1	Dog bowl base, incised circles on base.	COVTP14 902
R	C6	LVNGW	1	Base and side of small jar	COVTP14 303
R	C7	RSGW	1	Base	COVTP14 302
R	C7	RSGW	1	Base	COVTP14 102
R	C7	RSGW	1	Base - possible stamped writing.	COVTP14 303
R	C7	RSGW	1	Base	COVTP14 702









Other

Box	Cell	Name	Sherd count	Description	Context
R	C1	LNVGW	1	Colander body	COVTP14 901
R	C1	RSGW	1	Colander body	COVTP14 302
R	C1	Unknown coarse gritted	1	Sherd with hole	COVTP14 201
R	C2	Oxford Parchment Ware	4	Mortaria. 3 Rims, body	COVTP14 802
R	C2	Mortarium - possibly Mancetter	1	Body	COVTD12 D26
R	C2	Mortarium	1	Body	COVTD12 D32
R	C2	Mortarium	1	Body	COVTD12 D25
R	C2	Mortarium	1	Rim, edge of spout	COVTD12 D20
R	C8	LNVCW	1	Handle to lid, slip decoration	COVTD12 D28
R	C8	LNVCW	1	Flagon neck with handle fixing, black.	COVTP14 705
R	C9	RSGW	2	Handle , rim of large jar	COVTP14 103





GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED IN THIS COLLECTION

TERM	DEFINITION
Barbotine	Slip piped onto the surface of a pot.
Beaker	Small, straight sided pot that can be held in one hand.
Body	Main part of the pot - not rim, handle, base etc.
Burnished	Smooth, quite shiny, surface achieved by polishing the pot with a tool at the leather hard stage (when the clay is dry but not yet fired).
Combing	Decoration made by dragging a comb.
Cordon	A raised band around a pot.
Dog bowl	Small straight-sided dish.
Fabric	What the pot is made of.
Flanged	A prominent, continuous, projection from the rim or body of a vessel.
Fumed	At some stage during the firing, the surface of the pot was in a reduced atmosphere (ie bung in).
Girth beaker	Vertical sided beaker with horizontal bands - so that the sides look corrugated.
Grog	Clay that has been fired and then crushed. Grog is added to clay before working and helps prevent shrinkage when fired.
Incised	Cut into.
Indented	Where the sides of the pot have been pushed in in a regular pattern.
Lattice	Diagonal criss-cross decoration.
Lid seat	Indentation (behind the rim of a jar) for the placement of a lid.
Mortaria	Flat bowl for grinding ingredients. Has frequent large grits on inside surface and pouring spout.
Oxidised	Buff through yellow to red exterior surface caused by the bung being left out during firing process.
Pinch neck	Flagon top pinched by finger and thumb into a figure of eight shape to facilitate pouring.
Reduced	Grey through to black exterior surface caused by kiln being bunged up or clamp firing.
Reeded	Thin bead of clay around the pot.
Rilling	Fine, close-set, horizontal lines found particularly around shelly ware jars.
Rouletting	A shaped stamp rolled around the pot before firing.
Scoring	Lines cut into the pot before firing.
Sherd	Piece of pottery.
Slip	Semi liquid - liquid clay. Slip was coloured by the addition of minerals. It was then applied to the pot before firing. Pots could be dipped in coloured slip, in which case the potter's fingerprints often remain on the pot.
Tempered	Clay is strengthened with the addition of another material such as crushed shell, limestone, ironstone, plant material, flint etc.