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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS AT EBBSFLEET IN THE ISLE OF THANET

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SUMMARY

During the spring of 1990 the Trust for Thanet Archaeology carried out separate but adjoining evaluation surveys on farmland at Ebbsfleet in the Isle of Thanet. There was thus an opportunity to examine a spot of special importance in our history, that 'Ypwinesfleot' where according to tradition both the Saxons and St. Augustine first trod British soil. Both field-walking and limited excavation provided evidence in keeping with the site's antecedents, suggesting perhaps continuous occupation over 2400 years. A beaker burial formed the earliest material discovered, followed by a Late Bronze Age hoard, and both Iron Age and Belgic settlement remains. The sequence continued with a Roman presence peaking in the fourth century. A role for Ebbsfleet as major entrepot to Thanet seems indicated. Since the important horizons sampled were demonstrably vulnerable to the plough, measures for their preservation would seem imperative.

INTRODUCTION

Archaeological evaluations at Ebbsfleet Farm were commissioned by the MI Group who intend to construct a sewage works and tannery, and on adjoining land by a company planning a golf course. Thanks are due to the MI Group for funding the evaluation, and for negotiating a 'window of access' with the leasing farmer. The evaluations were carried out as consecutive but individual projects. The first dealing with Cottington Hill, and the second with Ebbsfleet

Farm, but excluding Weatherlees Hill which is now, we believe, preserved from development. For the purposes of this report data from both projects have been combined.

The geography and geology of Ebbsfleet

Ebbsfleet is bounded to the south and west by the River Stour and the Minster Marshes (drained), to the east by the A256 which follows a medieval shore-line, and to the north by the rise of chalk downland at Cliffsend, Thorne, and Sevenscore. It consists of three low hills, Weatherlees, Ebbsfleet, and Cottington, the first two rising from an alluvial plain (Fig. 1). While previously a subject of debate,¹ geological survey supports a picture of Ebbsfleet in Roman days as a sea-girt peninsula in the eastern mouth of the Wantsum, with Weatherlees an island.²

The hills are upfolds of the chalk covered by the Thanet Beds, a yellow-brown sand containing large sandstone boulders known as 'doggers'.

The history and archaeology of Ebbsfleet

Apart from the celebrated reference to Ebbsfleet in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle,³ it is seldom subsequently mentioned other than as a possession of Minster Abbey or St. Augustine's. Ebbsfleet farmhouse is a Victorian building, with no evidence of an earlier structure visible. According to local tradition and human memory, the farm was devoted to orchards and pasture time out of mind, only coming under the plough in the 1950s.

The Ebbsfleet hoard consisting of 180 Late Bronze Age objects weighing over 60 lbs. was discovered on the farm in 1895.⁴ Its exact find-spot is now unknown. By the 1970s, plough attrition brought large quantities of Roman potsherds and artifacts to the field surface north and south of the farmhouse. Some of this material was seen by the then Thanet Archaeological Unit.

¹ G. Dowker, 'On the landing place of St. Augustine', *Arch. Cant.*, xxii (1897), 123-43.

² F.W. Hardman, and W.P.D. Stebbings, 'Stonar and the Wantsum Channel', *Arch. Cant.*, liii (1940), 62-80.

³ Entry for A.D. 449 in both the Parker and Laud chronicles, as in 'The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle' translated by G.N. Garmonsway, London, 1965, 12, 13.

⁴ G. Payne, *Arch. Cant.*, xxi (1895), 1.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS AT EBBSFLEET

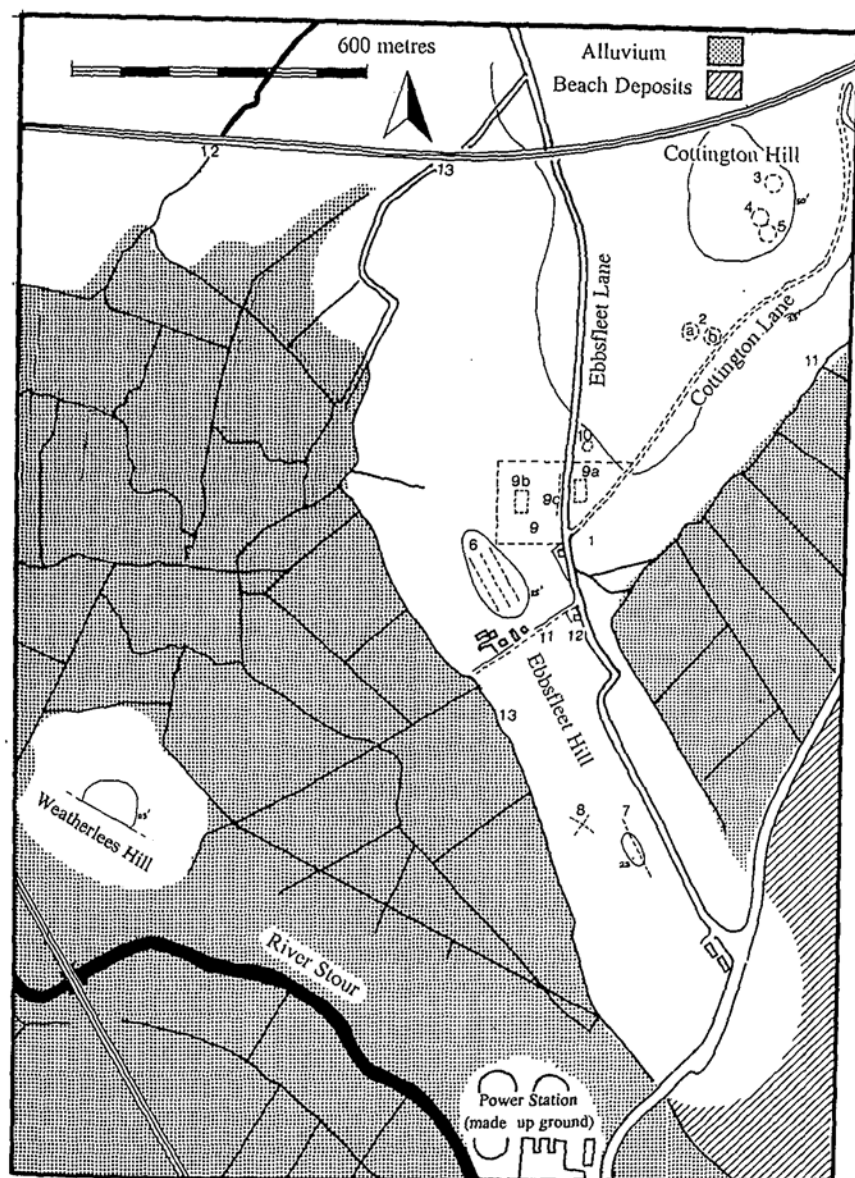


Fig. 1. The Cottington Hill and Ebbsfleet sites.

THE EVALUATION SURVEY

Methods

As a first step the whole area was field-walked while bare of crop by the excavation team and members of Thanet Archaeological Society. This was followed by a metal detector survey in which the team was assisted by volunteers from the Thanet and Wantsum Relic Association. Observed scatters of coins, ceramics, shells, etc., were further investigated by hand-cut *sondages*, and where thought necessary, by machine-cut trenches. The second step was designed to examine a crop-mark detected in a high level photograph, and finds and features reported from the area during the last three decades. It involved the cutting by machine of trenches. The trenches are shown in broken line (site 8) in Fig. 1. On completion of these steps the data so obtained were assessed, and the two major sites so identified were examined by topsoil removal and sectioning, this being dealt with under 'excavation'. Minor sites and features of interest are listed and described below, being numbered as in Fig. 1.

Site 1 (TSMR 253)

As sectioned by a pipe trench in 1976, this appeared to be a buried horizon containing occupation material some of it of Early-Mid Iron Age date, broadly *c.* 600–300 B.C., but principally Late Iron Age/Belgic. The site was recorded as being covered by a fairly deep overburden. Since no bunker or the like is intended in this location, it was decided not to investigate.

Site 2 (TSMR 254)

At point (a) the 1976 pipe trench cut through at least one large pit containing Early Medieval pottery (eleventh–early twelfth century, and what was described as heavily burnt soil, ashes, slag, etc. In 1990, this site could not be located by machine cut trenches. A scatter of medieval sherds was observed, but was only detected after careful scrutiny.

Site 3 (TSMR 255)

Here the 1976 pipe trench sliced through pits containing the sort of midden material that might be associated with an affluent Romano-British settlement, perhaps a villa. Ceramic remains included samian and late Roman fine-wares. Deposits in some parts of the site appeared to be waterlogged, so that organic remains were well preserved.

In 1990, survey and trenching at this spot yielded only worn

potsherds in Romano-British fabrics. Information gained from a ploughman working neighbouring land and from a metal detector enthusiast indicates that the features cut by the pipe trench in 1976 are beyond the boundaries of the golf course development.

Site 4

This was first observed as a scatter of flint and sandstone nodules about 10 m. across. Trenching revealed plough-damaged foundation courses of flints, a variety of iron items, and sherds of sixteenth-seventeenth century pottery. It was concluded that the site represented the remains of a dwelling of the Tudor period.

Site 5

At this point a scatter of sandstone fragments about 20 m. in diameter was seen. Investigation by trenching revealed a large sandstone boulder (a 'Dogger'). This was a roughly pear-shaped slab about 3 m. long by 1.70 m. wide, and about 0.60 m. thick. Although covered to a depth of about 45 cm., it had apparently been damaged by subsoiling. While natural to the hill, the stone was not geologically *in situ*, the surrounding and underlying soil showing traces of human presence, such as burnt and worked flint, and sherds of a pinkish flint-tempered pottery, perhaps a Neolithic fabric.

Sites 6 and 7 (TSMR 312(b) and 311)

During the mid-1970s large quantities of Romano-British potsherds were brought to Thanet Archaeological Unit for identification. These had been gleaned from the hilltop ridge north and south of the farmhouse. At the same time we are told⁵ a farmworker who owned a metal detector had amassed a collection of 'over four hundred Roman coins, and nearly a hundred bronze brooches, keys, buckles and things'.

Site 6:

This site had been prospected earlier in the year by a member of the Thanet and Wantsum Metal Detector Club who found ten coins, two being Belgic, the rest Roman. A further investigation yielded nothing. Field-walking revealed a few items, all of them comparatively heavy, such as fragments of amphora, Roman tile and brick, and pieces of querns made from Folkestone Greensand.

⁵ Mr Dyas, the former owner of Ebbsfleet Farm, and several ex-farmworkers visited the 1990 excavations and were able to supply a wealth of information on the history of the farm from the 1930s onwards.

Three 100 m. trenches were then cut across the hilltop (Fig. 1), and these were sectioned at 5 m. intervals. All that was seen was a 'geological horizon' un-influenced by human activity. The whole hill-top seems to have been truncated by ploughing in the recent past.

Site 7:

Initial field-walking and metal detecting revealed little except worn sherds of Romano-British pottery ('Upchurch Ware'), a few used flint flakes, and a Neolithic flint scraper. A 60 m. trench was then cut across the planned route of an access road. The exposed subsoil was sectioned at 5 m. intervals, nothing being found other than a few small sherds of Beaker pottery. Heavy plough attrition was evident.

Site 8 (TSMR 312a)

A high level vertical aerial photograph (c. 1950), in the keeping of Thanet District Council shows a complex linear crop-mark of interlocking rectangular form at this spot. Site 8 (TSMR 312a)

Field-walking and metal detecting over the plotted co-ordinates of the crop-mark were not fruitful. A few medieval potsherds in Tyler Hill sandy ware were found, together with iron fragments. To investigate further, two trenches 25 m. in length were cut. They revealed an horizon of sandy loam cut by what were interpreted as in-filled ditches. Finds consisted of glazed medieval pottery of the thirteenth-fourteenth century, tile, iron fragments, animal bone and shells. Interpretation: a ditch-enclosed medieval farmstead. Heavy plough attrition was evident.

Site 9 (TSMR 311, 314)

This area of horizons and building remains is dealt with in the next section.

Site 10 (TSMR 602)

The Ebbsfleet II bronze hoard. This is described in Appendix II.

Addendum, sites discovered in July 1992

While this paper was in final preparation, the writer with the Trust for Thanet Archaeology carried out a further evaluation at Ebbsfleet, as sub-contractors to Wessex Archaeology. This involved examination by trenching of part of Ebbsfleet Hill immediately south of the farmhouse, and of the alluvial plain between the hill and Wether-

lees.⁶ Three sites of archaeological interest were observed, and their approximate positions are shown in Fig. 1. They were:

Site 11: Features yielding Early-Middle Iron Age material were found close to the lane leading to the farmhouse. They had survived obvious plough damage.

Site 12: A building (probably Romano-British) was revealed in the floor of a trench cut close to and parallel with Ebbsfleet Lane.

Site 13: Here two trenches encountered ditches and larger, possibly man-made, water-courses. The fills of these contained early medieval ceramic material. One trench in running south-west, followed the surface of the Thanet Beds down under the alluvium, and exposed a stratified shore-line of unmistakable marine or lower-estuarine nature.⁷ This, in depth from surface, can be directly associated with the medieval sherds found close to it. Above were observed timbers, remains of a flood bank?

General comments

Proportionally more archaeological material was observed on the topsoil surface at Cottington Hill than has been encountered elsewhere in Thanet during 14 years of survey. Of ceramic remains, by far the most common were sherds of Early Iron Age pottery. These were most heavily distributed over the northern half of the hill. This concentration is such as to suggest more or less continuous occupation, perhaps a succession of farmsteads.

The subsoil of Ebbsfleet Hill exhibits abundant evidence of modern plough attrition. With the exception of Area 9 where downhill drift has given some protection, the hill subsoil with its ancient remains seems to have been truncated by erosion following the farm's change to arable agriculture. The exposure of potsherds and coins mentioned above probably marks the commencement of this. In most of the trenches the exposed surface was a 'geological horizon', exhibiting no trace of human activity other than the deep grooves made by a 'subsoiler'.

The proposed tannery and sewage works sites occupy an area of the alluvial plain dating from the 'inning' of the Wantsum Channel in

⁶ During the 1992 evaluation, auger borings were taken at 100 m. intervals on a line between Site 13 and Weatherlees Hill. For most of the distance the Thanet Beds sands were not encountered, only alluvial and estuarine deposits being observed to a depth of 4 m. (limit of boring).

⁷ These deposits included nodules of chalk bored with holes by piddocks (*Pholas dactylus*). Explicitly marine shells such as whelks and mussels were present, the deposits resembling the modern shoreline at nearby Pegwell Bay.

medieval days. Field-walking and metal detecting yielded only post-Tudor artifacts. At the time of the evaluation, core samples were being taken across the sites by Southern Water. These gave no evidence of ancient horizons, and indicated that the water-table was such that inundated prehistoric levels could not practically be examined by trenching.

SITE 9: EXCAVATION

Work on Site 9 was carried out in two phases three months apart and on land separated by Ebbsfleet Lane. In each phase attention initially concentrated on scatters of potsherds and building material, described herein as Sites 9a and 9b. It took a little time to realise that both were features within a large settlement area situated on the low ground between the rise of Cottington Hill to the east, and Ebbsfleet Hill to the west, see the area shown framed by broken line in Fig. 1. This encloses about 40,000 square metres, and marks the boundary of examination by field-walking, metal detecting, and trenching. The remains may well extend north-west to south-east and so be much more extensive.

Throughout this area the topsoil everywhere yielded burnt and worked flint, and potsherds in many fabrics, ranging in date from the Early Bronze Age to the medieval period. Romano-British sherds formed the majority, samian being the most common fabric. Roman building materials were also present (brick and *tegula* fragments), as were fragments of rotary querns, apparently of Folkestone Greensand. Over fifty Roman coins were found, along with fragmentary buckles, brooches, etc. While the coins have a date-range of A.D. 10–450, a histogram of coin dates gives two peaks; see Discussion and Appendix IV.

Site 9a

This was evident as a heavy scatter of potsherds, tile, bones, and oyster shells. The approximate centre of the scatter was plotted, and used as a datum point to construct a system of trenches (Fig. 2). Topsoil was removed by machine. On examination, the spoil was found to be full of ancient material, and a former landowner revealed the site to have been subject to drainage trenching and intensive subsoiling and deep ploughing during the preceding 20 years.

Below ploughsoil (Layer 1), a distinct archaeological stratigraphy was observed although the sequence was only complete just east of Feature 6, and beside Features 4 and 5 (Fig. 2.) Above a clean

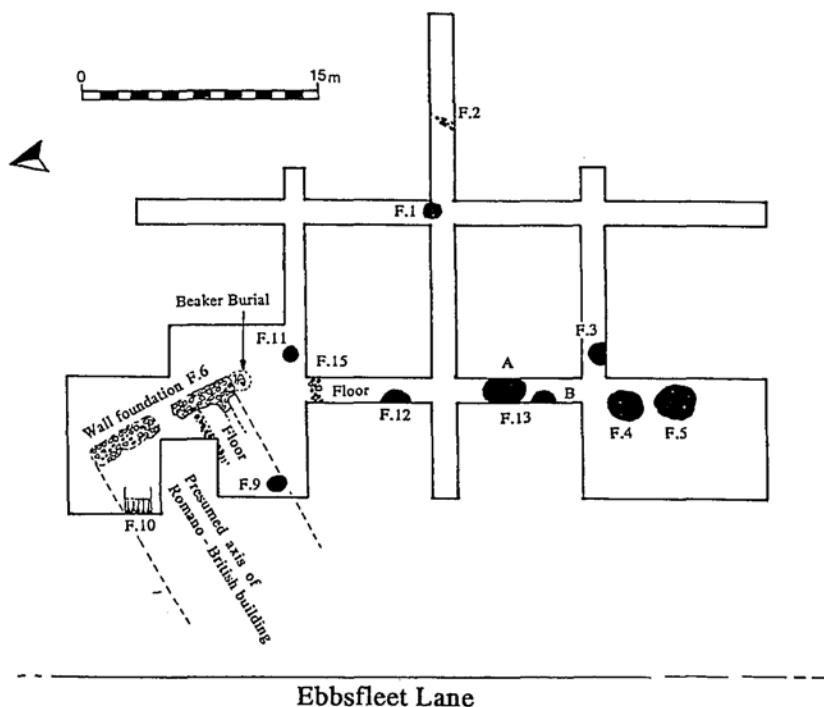


Fig. 2. Ebbsfleet, Thanet, Site 9a.

yellow-brown sand bearing no evidence of human activity the layers were in ascending order:

Layer 5, an ancient horizon of light brown sandy loam containing bones, shells, and small fragments of a flint-tempered pot fabric. Similar sherds were found in the fill of a beaker burial (see below and Appendix II), with the inference that this is an Early Bronze Age horizon.

Layer 4, a brown sandy loam containing occupation material and sherds in Early-Middle Iron Age fabrics, c. 500-150 B.C. Two pits, Features 3 and 11 appear to belong to this horizon (Fig. 2.)

Layer 3, a dark brown sandy loam with bones, shells, and sherds of Belgic pottery. This can be associated with Feature 10, an in-filled ditch in which two *potin* coins were found (Appendix IV).

Layer 2, dark brown sandy loam containing building remains and Romano-British occupation material. It was cut by or covered pits filled with black soil and midden refuse; see Features, 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 12 and 13a, b. Coins and ceramic evidence from these features suggest the main period of Roman occupation to have been from the last half of the second century to the first half of the third.

The Roman building

These remains have already been described and illustrated in *Arch. Cant.*⁸ They mainly consisted of a length of wall foundation composed of nodules of a hard white limestone, (F.6 in Fig. 2.) Within an angle of this were preserved patches of a floor of decayed mortar set with flat smooth pebbles. This structure appears to have been abandoned and part demolished, possibly after fire damage. Later building remains consisting of wall foundations of large water-rolled flints were seen to have been laid upon the layer of demolition and midden material. They had recently suffered truncation by modern ploughing and subsoiling.

Without further excavation it is not possible to state that the first building remains share the date bracket assigned to Layer 2 and its features, although it seems most likely that they do.

The Bronze Age beaker burial

A crouched burial with a beaker was found beside the southern return of the Roman Phase I foundation (Fig. 2). The burial has already been described,⁹ and the beaker is commented on at length in Appendix I.

The bronze hoard

A small Late Bronze Age hoard was found north of Site 9a (Fig. 1, 10, and Appendix III).

Sites 9b and 9c

A heavy scatter of Romano-British potsherds, building materials, etc., was observed at this point (Fig. 1.) Initially, three trenches each of 25 m. length were laid out in H form over the epicentre of the scatter (Fig. 3.). Later, a trench of 30 m. length was cut parallel and close to Ebbsfleet Lane (9c in Fig. 1). This was designed to discover whether the Roman building remains situated just east of the lane extended west of it, which was not the case. What was soon obvious though, was that Layers 5, 4, and 3, as observed at Site 9a, extended over the entire area.

⁸ L. Jay, 'Trust for Thanet Archaeology: Excavations and Evaluations 1989-1990', *Arch. Cant.*, cviii (1990), 237.

⁹ *Ibid.*, 275.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS AT EBBSFLEET

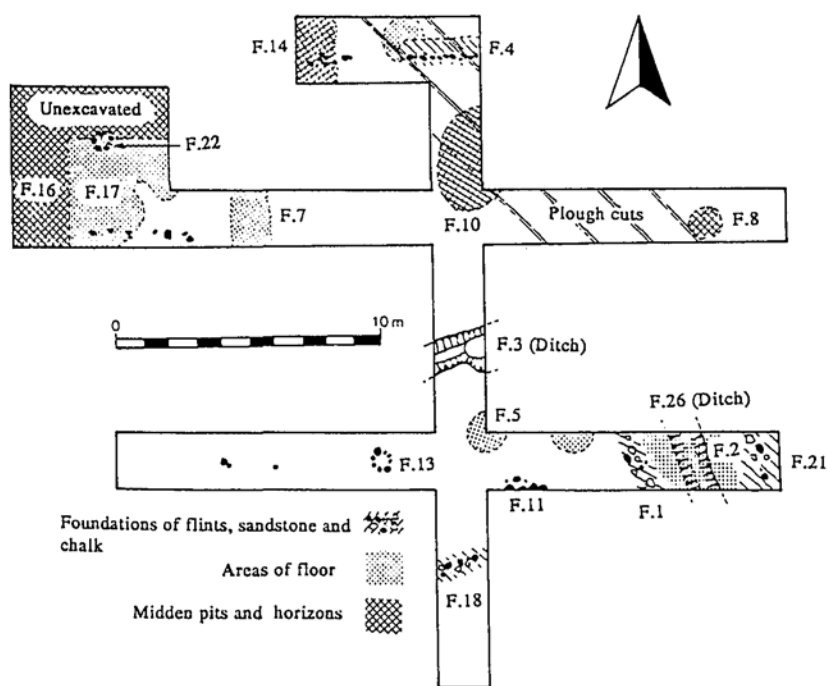


Fig. 3. Ebbsfleet, Thanet, Site 9b.

Phase I, Early Bronze Age Settlement

Layer 5 was encountered during the excavation of Feature 13, a pit or, more probably a post-hole (Fig. 3). While this feature appears to belong to Phase II, its lower fill yielded three sherds of beaker pottery; see Appendix II.

Phase II, Early-Mid Iron Age Settlement

Below ploughsoil at a depth of c. 45 cm., the Layer 4 horizon was preserved intact in the fill of three pits, Features 8, 10, 11, and 9 (Site 9c) and Feature 13, a post setting of flint boulders. All contained potsherds in fabrics that can be broadly dated to 600–300 B.C. The intensity of occupation during this period is evidenced by the same fabrics forming a high proportion of the pottery from the Belgic and Roman horizons above.

Phase III, Late Iron Age – Belgic Settlement

Above the Layer 4 features, Layers 3 and 2 had become mixed by ploughing. It was only possible to distinguish between Phases III and IV where they were represented by down-cut features or building fragments. For Phase III these were:

Pits, Features 2, 5, and the upper fill of 11. Site 9c, Feature 20.

Ditches, Features 3 and 26. As can be seen from Fig. 3, it is likely that these features represent the same ditch making a right angle. The ditch fill was rich in midden material in both sections, some of the smaller animal bones being roughly fashioned as pins or skewers. Human skeletal remains consisted of long bones from an adult and two infants.

Feature 17 was a hut floor of flint pebbles about 15 cm. thick. It was cut by Feature 22, a post setting of large flints. Material deposited on the Feature 17 surface included pottery of many styles and fabrics, a clay spindle-whorl, and bone skewers. Midden refuse consisted of hundreds of animal bones (*Bos*, *Sus*, *Ovis*), and thick layers of shells, including among them those of the Ormer (*Haliotis tuberculata*). Human skeletal material was present in the form of a skull fragment apparently detached by cutting, perhaps by an edged weapon.

Phase IV, Romano-British Settlement

Building remains: Although badly damaged, these had just survived recent ploughing and consisted of short lengths of wall foundation, Features 4, 11, 18, and 21, and small areas of floor, Features 1, 5, and 7. The foundations were of rammed chalk, a few water-worn flint boulders (some retaining traces of mortar), also fragments of brick and amphora. The surviving patches of floor were made of smooth graded pebbles in a yellow sandy layer, the decayed remains of mortar. Two Roman coins were found in the floor layers. A small pit beneath Feature 5 yielded Romano-British domestic pottery.

An occupation layer: This was only present in places, and was undergoing plough damage. Features 14 and 16 were areas where the horizon was still some 20 cm. in thickness. It consisted of a fine almost black soil containing many oyster shells, bones, and potsherds in second-fourth century fabrics. This horizon looks broadly similar to Layer 2 at Site 9a, although some rather later ceramics were present. The latter may be freshly deposited debris from a lost fourth-century horizon recently incorporated as ploughsoil.

An overview of the ceramic evidence from these excavations is given as Appendix II.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

One result of this evaluation was to add to the emerging pattern of ancient settlement in Thanet. Quite apart from the heavy concentration of remains at Site 9, the whole area of Ebbsfleet yielded lithic and ceramic material in a density observed nowhere else in the island. This evidence for concentrated and perhaps continuous occupation was contrary to expectations. Hitherto, the great majority of archaeological sites in the Thanet Sites and Monuments Register have been located on the thin soils of the chalk downland where the crop-marks they exhibit have led to their discovery and plotting. When engineering projects have sectioned the Head Brickearth little has come to light.¹⁰ At Ebbsfleet field-walking and a limited programme of trenching has now revealed thirteen sites on the sandy soil of the Thanet Beds, only one of them showing a crop-mark. This suggests that field-walking and metal detector survey over areas of similar geology could add significantly to the Thanet Register's six hundred files.

Among the smaller sites investigated, Site 5 was of particular interest. This was a buried boulder with prehistoric sherds beneath it, and allegedly one of a number of such stones. Unfortunately, the very limited objectives, funding and schedule of the first contract did not allow further examination. It is tempting to speculate, however, that it might be a part of a prehistoric construction, a fallen megalith.

Site 9, a large area of multi-phase settlement, was the focus of attention during the evaluation and is surely impressive in terms of its obvious archaeological potential. About 1.5 per cent was examined by trenching, and this in two small areas chosen because of their surface scatter of Romano-British material. The resultant evidence, however, indicates widespread and concentrated occupation throughout much of prehistory. For instance, Layer 5 was sampled in two groups of features, the groups spaced 100 m. apart. Beaker pottery (in one case a Beaker burial), turned up in each feature. This surely suggests a fairly large area of Beaker period settlement rather than a transient presence.

The Romano-British building remains at Site 9a can be firmly dated by both coins and ceramic evidence to the later second century. This phase of occupation shows strongly in a histogram of coin finds (Fig. 13, 2), where it forms the first and smallest of two peaks. It may

¹⁰ For example the Sparrow Castle-Manston water pipeline watching brief (Thanet Trust Interim Report 1989), and points S-T on the Selling-Thanet water main; *Arch. Cant.*, cvii (1989), 276.

well be asked why, when the Roman layers appear to pre-date the third century, does the bulk of coin finds (Appendix IV) strongly indicate a third-fourth century occupation? Again, why were there no Dark Age, medieval, or Tudor period finds? Regrettably, the answer seems to be that the later horizons have been entirely denuded by deep ploughing and subsequent erosion during the last thirty years. Ebbsfleet Farm had been devoted to orchards and pasture until the 1960s, when like most of Thanet's farmland, it went into an intensive arable cycle characterised by the use of the sub-soiler.¹¹

Recent damage by this agency was all too obvious during excavation. Fresh sub-soiler cuts were recorded at a depth of 50 cm. from the field surface. The time scale and measure of the damage was evidenced by a scatter of broken drainage pipe. A field drainage system was laid in the 1970s, at a nominal depth of 1.5 m. Twenty years on, loss of topsoil by erosion has brought the pipes within reach of the plough. The reported wealth of coin finds and sherds in the mid-1970s probably marks that point when ancient horizons were first encountered. Only a change of either land use or farming technique can preserve the early Roman and prehistoric remains that yet survive.

There was a prior expectation that these evaluations might throw light on Ebbsfleet's legendary role as entrepot to Kent, long a matter of contention. Scholars have found it difficult to equate the landings of Hengist and St. Augustine¹² with an obscure farm bearing no obvious traces of ancient habitation, and nearly a mile inland. 'Ypwinesfleet' it was pointed out merely indicated a tidal inlet, and could refer to any number of places in east Kent. George Dowker promoted Stonar as the true landing place,¹³ although with a marshalling of the evidence that now seems rather tendentious.

Some forty years on, civil engineering work and modern survey allowed Hardman and Stebbings to rehabilitate Ebbsfleet.¹⁴ Core samples revealed the bed of the Wantsum main channel at 40 ft. below O.D., and running close to the hill.¹⁵ Geological survey then established that the closure of the south mouth of the Wantsum had proceeded from south-west to north-east,¹⁶ a reversal of Dowker's

¹¹ Discussed in 'Archaeological sites in Thanet; their need for protection', a discussion pamphlet by the Trust for Thanet Archaeology, updated version 1992.

¹² St. Augustine's legendary landing at Ebbsfleet is discussed at length in: H.F. Bing, 'St. Augustine of Canterbury and the Saxon Church', *Arch. Cant.*, lxii (1949), 114.

¹³ Dowker, *op. cit.*

¹⁴ Hardman and Stebbings, *op. cit.*

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 70.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 74, 75.

scenario. This is also demonstrated by the succession of storm beach deposits shown on the geological survey map.¹⁷ Thus a navigable channel ran by Ebbsfleet until the northward drift of shingle was all but complete. Efforts to keep the channel open were being made in the eleventh century, when the Wantsum south mouth via Sandwich Haven was in common use and the towns of Sandwich and Stonar were in their ascendancy.¹⁸

Evidence for its later existence was obtained during the 1992 evaluation ('Excavation', Site 13).

Here, twelfth-century sherds were found at the level of transition in deposits between what was clearly a marine or lower estuarine shoreline, and the slow accumulation of alluvial clay. Above in the alluvium could be seen water-logged bark covered tree limbs, their arrangement seemingly purposeful. Are these remains of a revetment against flooding during the first stages of 'inning' the Wantsum?

To the legend, and the geophysical evidence, can now be added that of high density settlement, perhaps continuous habitation through twenty-five centuries. This must surely be a port situated between Walkers 'inner and outer harbours',¹⁹ otherwise such heavy occupation of a narrow sea-girt peninsula meets with no ready explanation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Trust for Thanet Archaeology wishes to thank the MI Group and the Southern Water Authority for making this important evaluation work possible; also the Trust for Wessex Archaeology for permission to cite data from the 1992 evaluation.

APPENDIX I: THE BEAKER FROM COTTINGTON HILL, EBBSFLEET, RAMSGATE

A.M. Gibson

The Cottington Hill Beaker is a fine, well-made vessel in a thin well-fired fabric containing finely crushed calcined flint and grog opening agents. These occasionally break the surfaces of the pot, but lie flush with them and do not detract from the surface smoothness, inclusions up to 3 mm. across can be detected in the sherd examined by the writer. Some calcareous and/or organic inclusions have also been

¹⁷ O.S. Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales), sheet 274.

¹⁸ Hardman and Stebbings, *op. cit.*, 77.

¹⁹ G.P. Walker, 'Villages on the Wantsum Channel', *Arch. Cant.*, xlv (1932), 172.

present within the fabric, but have subsequently burned out during firing (if organic) or have leached out after burial (if calcareous) leaving slightly pitted surfaces; the inner surface is more affected than the outer. The outer surface is a patchy light-brown, the core of the fabric is grey and the inner surface is grey-brown. Possible junctions between the rings or coils of clay used in the manufacture of the pot are visible in the sections.

The decoration consists of multiple horizontal lines of stab and drag technique (Fig. 4, 1.) A rounded point has been inserted into the clay and pulled through and out of the vessel wall leaving horizontal incisions emanating from a slightly bulbous end. Each individual length of incision is between 40 mm. and 50 mm. long. The multiple incisions overlap and the horizontal lines are roughly parallel – even when straying from the horizontal giving the exterior a panelled effect. This suggests that the potter, or decorator, incised a strip of decoration from top to bottom, then turned the vessel slightly and repeated the process continuing in this manner until the decoration covered the whole vessel. There is an undecorated band c. 15 mm. deep at the top of the vessel immediately below the rim. There is no internal decoration.

The shape of the Beaker forms essentially a globular bowl with an S-shaped profile. The rim is simple and rounded, slightly everted and is 130 mm. in diameter, this being only slightly less than the maximum diameter of the vessel. The body is bulbous, reaching a maximum of 140 mm. diameter about halfway up the height of the pot. The constriction of the body and base angle is quite acute resulting in a markedly protruding foot with a slightly hollow base resembling a foot-ring. The base diameter measures 55 mm. and the height of the vessel is 150 mm.

The Beaker falls within Clarke's East Anglian (E. Ang.) Group (Clarke 1970) and to Step 3 of Lanting and van der Waals's series (Lanting and van der Waals 1972). It has been dated as part of the British Museum's C¹⁴ programme for Beaker pottery to 3630+/-60 B.P. (1680+/-60bc) (BM-2725) which calibrates at 1 σ to 2130-2075 or 2045-1930 B.C. (Pearson and Stuiver 1986). This date is somewhat later than might be expected for such a stylistically early vessel but, nevertheless, falls well within the range of Beaker-associated dates and no other Beakers belonging to the E. Ang. group have been dated (Gibson and Kinnes *et al.* forthcoming).

Generally, Beakers are quite rare in Kent, and Clarke (1970) lists only some 30 find-spots. The only stylistically late Beakers are from Brendley (no. 387), assignable to Clarke's S1 group (step 5), a necked Beaker from Dover (397), assignable to the N3 group (step 5), as is vessel no. 401 from Folkestone. In addition, a S2 Beaker (step 6) has recently come to light from Manston (Perkins 1990).

The other Kentish Beakers can be regarded as stylistically early. Two East Anglian Beakers decorated with encircling lines of conjoined horizontal incisions and impressed finger-nail impressions from Great Mongenham (no. 406) and Barham (no. 386), respectively, can be assigned to step 3. So, too, can the Beakers from Preston (E. Ang., no. 409), Erith (E. Ang., no. 398), Upper Deal (E. Ang., no. 414) and Barham (E. Ang., no. 305); that from Upper Deal is decorated with three broad zones of encircling incised lines while the other three are decorated with encircling lines of comb impressions in the All-Over-Comb design. The E. Ang Beaker from Swalecliffe (Tatton-Brown 1977) is similar in proportion to the Cottingham Hill vessel though less regular in fabric thickness and more clumsily made. The decorative scheme on this vessel is zoned, but also incorporates an element of stab-and-drag motif on the lower portion of the belly.

A step 4 Beaker from Sturry (no. 411) combines encircling incised lines, bird bone impressions and encircling lines of Barbed Wire impressions. A step 3 Beaker in Clarke's Barbed Wire group has been recovered from Folkestone (no. 400) and a similar, if smaller, vessel is recorded from Tovil (no. 413). A Barbed Wire (step 3) Beaker from Canterbury (no. 390) differs from the last three in that the decoration is

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS AT EBBSFLEET

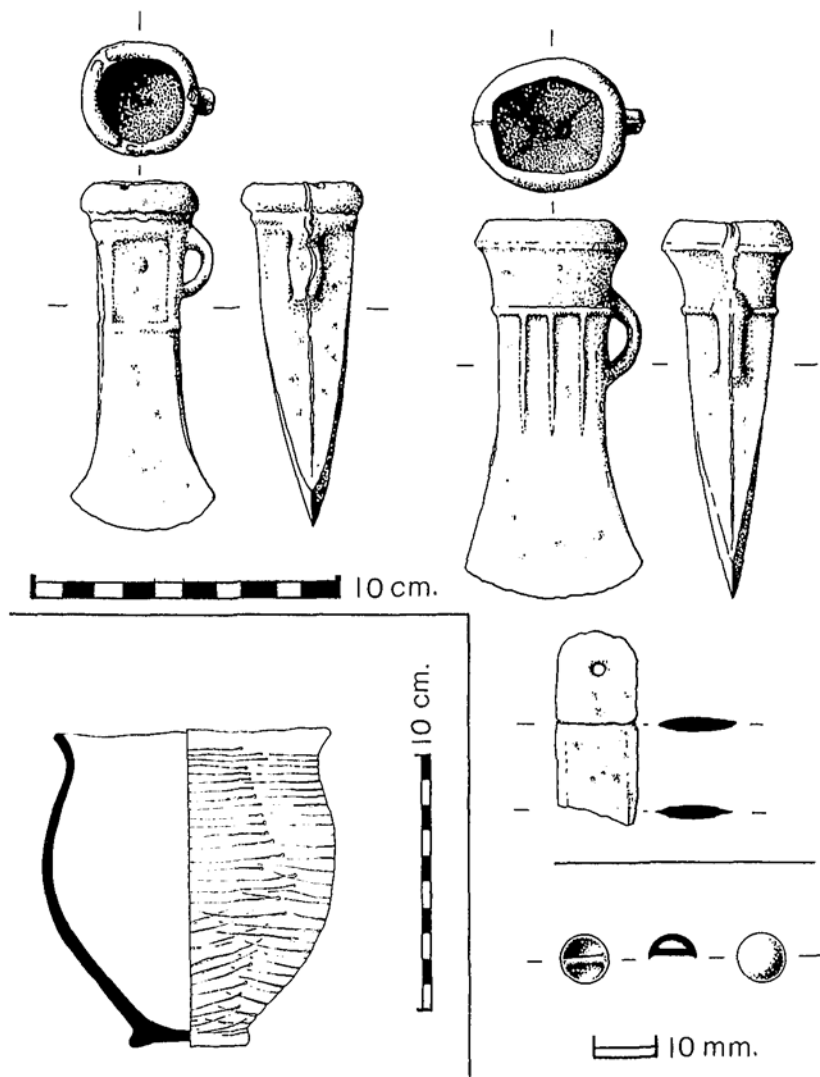


Fig. 4. The Beaker and small Late Bronze Age hoard from Ebbsfleet. Scale as shown.

arranged into three zones; the first comprises a zone of herring-bone, the middle zone comprises 1.5 lines of herring-bone, and the lowest zone is filled with oblique lines. All the decoration is stylistically early and executed in Barbed Wire technique.

The idiosyncratic form and decoration of the Barbed Wire group aside, the other comb-zoned Beakers from Kent also occupy an early position in the typological sequences. A N/MR (step 3) Beaker from Canterbury (no. 389) is decorated with zones of interrupted herring-bone motif. A European Bell Beaker (step 3) with zones

composed entirely of encircling comb lines has been recovered from Ramsgate (Macpherson-Grant 1969). A Beaker from Lower Fant (no. 408) is truly a European Bell Beaker with low belly, S-shaped profile and flaring neck. It is decorated with zones of oblique lines, cross-hatching and undirectional filled triangles, all executed with a toothed comb. Stylistically, this must represent one of the earliest Beaker vessels in the British Isles.

The Cottington Hill vessel, therefore, conforms with the majority of the other surviving Beakers from Kentish sites as being early in the stylistic sequence. Unfortunately, they all lack helpful contexts or associations, though this must be regarded as partly dependent on their earliness – associations with early Beakers are rare nationally. While contributing to the growing corpus of Kentish Beakers, the Cottington Hill vessel also provides an absolute date for the corpus complementing the almost identical date of 3630 \pm 50 (BM-2642) associated with the S2 Beaker from Manston (Perkins 1990). The date of 3610 \pm 50 B.P. from the Beaker domestic site at Holywell Coombe (inf. N. Macpherson-Grant, and Gibson, forthcoming) though similar, must be rejected on the grounds of insecure association.

Logic dictates that the proximity of the Kent coast to the Continent may well have made Kent one of the first areas of Britain to receive Beaker pottery, and a programme of provenance analysis of the fabrics combined with carefully scrutinized C¹⁴ dating may well be informative: the Rhenish characteristics of a recently discovered Beaker from Manston, already mentioned above, cannot be denied (Perkins 1990).

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APPENDIX II: THE POTTERY

N. Macpherson-Grant

INTRODUCTION

The chronological range of the ceramics recovered from the above mentioned sites is considerable and the evidence from locations 1, 3, 9a-c indicates multi-period occupation, with a consequent high residuality factor. The evaluated locations, 9a-c,

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS AT EBBSFLEET

show this clearly, with few features of any period genuinely free of intrusive/residual material. This situation has been exacerbated by recent agricultural activity, resulting in horizon-reduction and a high proportion of small, abraded sherds of all periods. Further, the abrasion pattern varies: epitomized by sherds from the last main phase of occupation, with both large, fresh and small, heavily worn late Roman Oxfordshire wares occurring together in the same topsoil contexts. For the more difficult prehistoric fabrics this hinders confident period attribution and, for all periods, inevitably makes dating discussion more complex. Despite this rather negative picture, the recovered material is important and demands a degree of study and presentation beyond the scope of this overview. A detailed available archive report is being prepared of the 1977 and 1990 pottery which, it is hoped, will also include the data from the recent 1992 evaluation instigated by Wessex Archaeology. Here presentation is confined to a brief outline of pottery/main period quantities from the 1990 evaluations and an assessment of the periods represented. The latter includes data from 1977 locations and rather more detailed treatment of the, stratigraphically, marginally better preserved 1990 material of Early-Mid Iron Age, and Late Iron Age-'Belgic'/Early Roman transition date.

CERAMIC QUANTITIES

Locations 9a-c produced an overall total of 3488 sherds (weighing 36 kg. 302 gm.). The following tabulation simplistically divides this total into three broad groups:

- | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. Flint-tempered (prehistoric) fabrics | : Total count | : 849 sherds |
| | Total weight | : 9 kg. 846 gm. |
| 2. Grog-tempered ('Belgic') fabrics | : Total count | : 1104 sherds |
| | Total weight | : 12 kg. 41 gm. |
| 3. Roman and later fabrics | : Total count | : 829 sherds |
| | Total weight | : 7 kg. 847 gm. |

The first group can be approximately divided between Early-Mid Iron Age and Late Iron Age or transitional Late Iron Age/'Belgic' indigenous (non grog-tempered) wares, but secure allocation is qualified by sherd size and condition. The last group includes Gallo-Belgic imports, some of which are pre-Conquest, but the quantities are low enough not to affect the period impression given by the group 2 quantity. Of the last group, less than 5 per cent is post-Roman so that whilst the above totals are considered to be relatively accurate for the evaluated sites, and broadly accurate as a reflection of the main chronological phases of occupation on the Cottington peninsula, the following sections indicate that further excavation in different areas of it, or the results from a comprehensive programme of straight-forward field-walking would modify the tabulated impression considerably.

Early Bronze Age (Fig. 5, 1a-b)

In addition to the complete Beaker from site 9a (Appendix I, above), the redeposited sherds associated with it, and the scraps of Beaker-type pottery from Site 7, further sherds were recovered from Site 9b (Feature 13). These were also submitted to Dr Alex Gibson, who has kindly supplied the following note:

'Three sherds, including one rim, from a finely made comb-zoned Beaker. The fabric is thin, light brown in colour with a black core and contains grog, quartz and sparse flint inclusions.



a



b



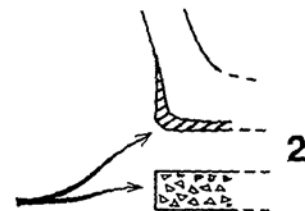
1a-b

SITE 9b: PHASE 1

EARLY BRONZE AGE
BEAKER POTTERY of
? STEPS 3 or 4 DATE
 cms.

SITE 9a:
RESIDUAL ? TRANSITIONAL
LATE BRONZE/EARLY IRON AGE
POTTERY

Basal skin of profuse flint grits



2

Fig. 5. Ebbsfleet, Thanet (Scale: $\frac{1}{2}$).

Insufficient survives to be able to reconstruct the form or the decoration and typology of the vessel. However, the slight degree of curvature on the neck suggests a straight-necked vessel, possibly of steps 3 or 4, but unlikely to be later. The decoration comprises toothed comb impressions and a zone of open cross-hatching bordered by two encircling lines is visible immediately below the rim. The sherds would all appear to be from the upper part of the vessel.'

Late Bronze/Early Iron Age transition (Fig. 5, 2)

One small residual base sherd from a Site 9a context may be of this date. The underbase skin of profuse flint grits (from making pots on a bed of burnt tempering agent) is a fairly dominant characteristic amongst regional earlier first millennium B.C. assemblages. At Highstead, near Chislehurst (Fig. 8, 17), it occurs frequently in Period 2 contexts (c. 850/750–600 B.C.), and into period 3A. By Period 3B (beginning c. 550/500 B.C.) it disappears as a potting trait.¹ The general end-date of this attribute is not firmly known and it may continue into the Iron Age proper,² but apart from a few isolated occurrences that could be of this date, examples noted so far are predominantly from LBA/EIA transition assemblages. Amongst the flint-tempered material from Sites 9a–c, there are a few coarser gritted sherds, not of Late Iron Age character and atypical of recognised local second millennium B.C. fabrics, which might be broadly contemporary with no. 2. In the interim, a date between c. 700–500 B.C. is suggested for this piece.

Early-Mid Iron Age (Figs. 6–8)

The first clearly defined major phase of occupation from Site 9a–c contexts is of this date, primarily recognisable by a number of rusticated sherds (from coarse ware jars with, mostly below-shoulder external surfaces deliberately roughened by the application of additional clay), but also by the presence of a few red-finished (haematite-coated) and polychrome-decorated fine ware bowl sherds. Site 3 (Fig. 1) produced several worn rusticated sherds, as did Site 1 (part of the Site 9 group), and also Site 11.

The largest quantities come from Site 9a–c which appears to be the focus of settlement during this period (Fig. 8B). Fig. 9 illustrates the most diagnostic forms, from two of the very few undisturbed contexts (of any date), and a selection of residual material. Most of the undecorated fine and coarse wares can be paralleled in, or are broadly typical of, regional assemblages.³ The number of vessels that can be illustrated is potentially far higher, but the degree of occupational disturbance, coupled with agricultural activity has considerably reduced the available corpus. The degree of reduction is further epitomized by the size of the decorated fine ware sherds – small and considerably abraded. Between them, locations 9b–c produced 9 sherds, representing 7 fine ware bowls/jars, 4 with plain red finishes, 3 with polychrome decoration. The first group consists of vessels given a simple overall coating of haematite, applied as a powder/slip and burnished on to vessel surfaces. The second usually employs the

¹ P. Couldrey 'The Pottery' in N. Macpherson Grant, *Excavations at Highstead near Chislehurst, Kent, 1975–1977*, (Forthcoming).

² P. Couldrey, pers. comm.

³ e.g. P. Couldrey, 'The Pottery' in Part II, Period 3B, Figs. 79–92, Highstead (Forthcoming) See n. 1. N. Macpherson-Grant 'Archaeology Work Along A2 1966–1974', *Arch. Cant.*, xcvi (1980), 133–83, Figs. 4–5; N. Macpherson-Grant 'Discussion and Dating of the Pottery', in K. Parfitt 'Some Iron Age Sites in the Deal Area', *Kent Archaeological Review*, no. 79 (1985) Figs. 6–7.

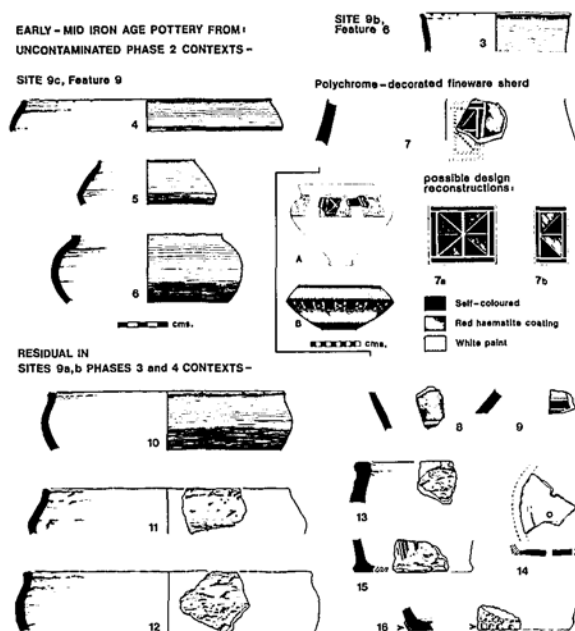


Fig. 6. Ebbsfleet, Thanet. Early-Mid Iron Age pottery.

use of bold colour contrasts: dark untreated self-coloured body surfaces and areas of applied red-finish. Main design elements are then further emphasised by white (? chalk) slip, painted on as linear borders, or as main design elements over-painted within (mostly) dark self-coloured zones (Fig. 6, 7-9). Two-colour combinations, white painted on an untreated or red-finished ground, are relatively rare (Fig. 6, inset A); it is the more complex polychrome technique that is the dominant style.

Designs, in both instances are mostly simple, effective and geometric (e.g., Fig. 6, 9 and inset). The design represented by sherd no. 7 is technically the most complex recorded to date. The two suggested, idealised, reconstructions (7a-b) are based on general contemporary design trends and logical deductions from the sherd itself. Reconstruction 7a is personally favoured as the most likely original design, principally because crossing diagonals, within a square, are one of the commonest design-elements recorded to date (Fig. 6, inset A and B). The overall design is nicely linked to a bi-chrome painted jar from Barham Downs (inset, A)⁴, and the internal diagonal element to a polychrome painted bowl from Highstead's Period 3B (inset, B)⁵, and to another example from Sarre, a large Early-Mid Iron Age settlement producing rusticated coarse wares, red-finished and polychrome-painted fine wares.⁶ The present example is so far unique in having the normal design further sub-divided into four small squares within the overall square frame, the alternately-coloured plain and red-finished zones, between the lines, creating a sub-swastika pattern. The relative

⁴ N. Macpherson Grant (1980) Fig. 4, 8; see n. 3.

⁵ P. Couldrey (Forthcoming) Fig. 81, 368; see n. 30.

⁶ A Trust for Thanet Archaeology Site (SFS/91); D. Perkins (Forthcoming).

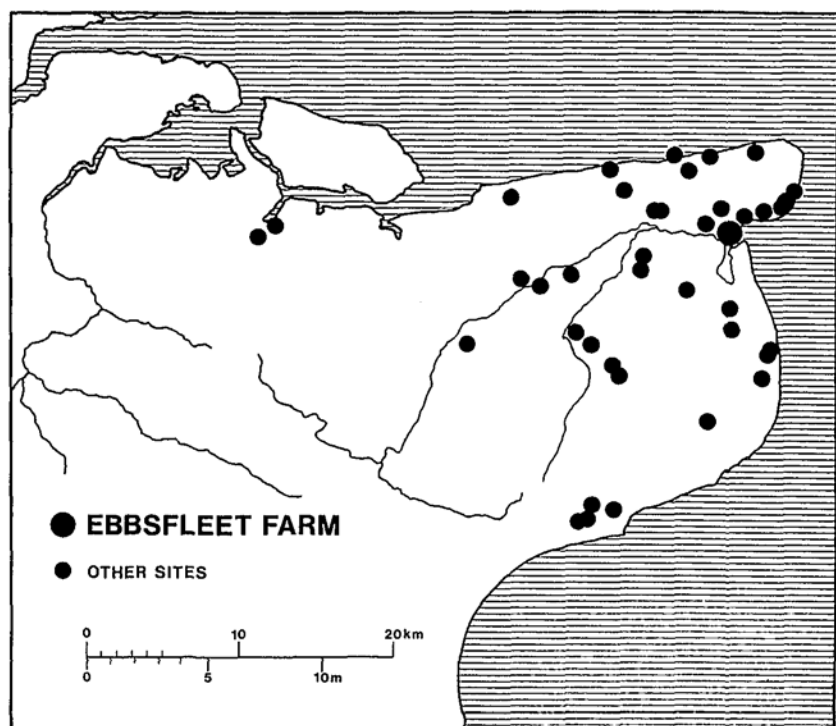


Fig. 7. Ebbsfleet, Thanet. Distribution of sites in Kent producing Early-Mid Iron Age rusticated pottery.

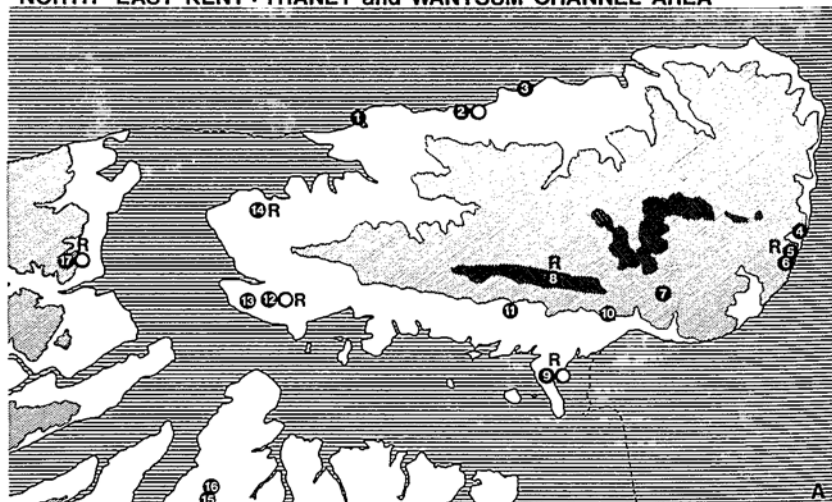
application-skill and complexity is only regionally matched to date, by a surface find from Barham Downs.⁷

It is the presence of rusticated pottery that allowed Highstead's Period 3B to be placed between c. 550/500–400 B.C., principally dated on the basis of Continental parallels. Though rustication appears to have gradually arrived (occurring in small quantities in Highstead Period 3A), it is only in the earlier Iron Age that the combination of rustication, red-and/or polychrome-finished vessels provides such a distinctive cultural package. A further internal regional cross-link is represented by Fig. 6, 6, a globular 'onion'-jar, formally related to the bi-chrome painted Barham Downs jar, itself initially placed between c. 500–350 B.C.⁸ The presence of nos. 6 and 7, together with a large rusticated sherd, all from the same context, is a useful contribution to dating the use-span of rustication, not yet firmly fixed. The present inter-site linkage adds weight to its estimated currency lasting until c. 350 B.C., though perhaps not in regular use as late as c. 300 B.C. Globular-bodied fine ware jars with

⁷ An unexpectedly well-preserved field-walking find (Mrs. J. Roberts) Royal Museum, Canterbury, Accession No. RM8780.

⁸ B. Cunliffe 'Overall Discussion of the Iron Age Pottery' in N. Macpherson-Grant (1980), 179; see n. 3.

NORTH-EAST KENT : THANET and WANTSUM CHANNEL AREA

SITES PRODUCING EARLY-MID IRON AGE
RUSTICATED POTTERY:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1 MINNIS BAY | 10 CLIFFSEND |
| 2 WESTGATE | 11 ABBEY FARM, MINSTER |
| 3 ST. MILDRED'S BAY | 12 SARRE 1987, 1991 |
| 4 BROADSTAIRS | 13 SARRE 1990 |
| 5 DUMPTON GAP 1971 | 14 THANET WAY |
| 6 DUMPTON 1992 | 15 LONGMETE ROAD |
| 7 NETHERCOURT | 16 PRESTON |
| 8 MANSTON | 17 HIGHSTEAD |
| 9 See map B | |

O Polychrome-decorated pottery
R Red-finished pottery

Land over 25, 50m.
5km.
1000m.

COTTINGTON
PENINSULA –
SITES 1, 3, 9a–b, 11
Contours every 25m.

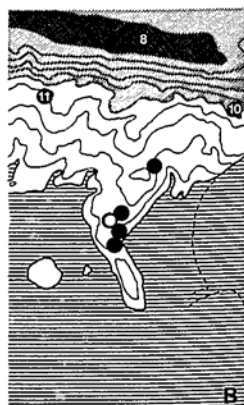


Fig. 8. Ebbsfleet, Thanet.

pedestal bases were not recognised in the large Highstead 3B assemblage, and though this does not preclude occurrence there, its growth in currency follows the decline of angular-bodied fine wares towards the onset of the Middle Iron Age, between c. 400/300 B.C. Whilst clearly broadly contemporary with Highstead, this *could* indicate that this group, at least, has a marginally later emphasis, perhaps c. 500–400/350 B.C., though the overall assemblage could extend to c. 350 B.C.

The combed decoration on jar base 15 is marginally suspect. It could be Late Iron Age, but combed decoration does occur in rusticated assemblages (e.g., at Deal),⁹ so the present placement may be correct. Linkage with the Continent, via rustication,

⁹ N. Macpherson-Grant in K. Parfitt (1985), Fig. 7; see n. 3.

form type and polychrome decoration, is one of the key aspects of this period, making it a regionally unique cultural entity, and broadly contemporary Kentish and Thanet sites are mapped in Figs. 7–8. A new study development is the recording of some coarse ware jars that have been supplied with a bevelled basal 'plinth' (Fig. 6, 16, arrowed), either intentionally applied (as here) or as a finishing by-product. This distinctive attribute has also been recorded at Folkestone.¹⁰ Rather more important, it also occurs from at least one broadly contemporary northern French site, Chassemy, in the Aisne valley, east of Soissons.¹¹ The perforated base (14), could well be Late Iron Age, but strainers with perforated walls also occur at Chassemy. Though there is no direct parallel, the fabric of this piece suggests that placement here may be appropriate.

One aspect of current research on assemblages of this date has been the scientific analysis of some of the red- and polychrome-finished wares, principally to assess the degree of fabric/manufacturing similarities between samples from various parts of the region, but also to provide an analytical data base from which to assess, in combination with research into regional/Continental decoration parallels, the socio-technological background to the production of these clearly quality wares.

Was each community self-sufficient, producing similarly decorated bowls/jars within a common regional tradition, or did specialist potters operate from one or more workshops? The recent analysis of some La Tène painted pottery from northern France has proved the existence of one such workshop,¹² and though at present there is no confirmation of a similar, earlier, scenario in east Kent, it is a possibility that has been borne in mind during a recent programme undertaken by the British Museum's Department of Scientific Research. Several sherds from Ebbsfleet (including no. 9) were submitted as part of this programme and Dr Andrew Middleton's report follows below.¹³ The possibility of a similar but more comprehensive survey of Kentish material has been recently discussed with Dr Middleton, and sherd 76 has been reserved as a candidate for future submission.

Report on the examination of some Iron Age pottery in Kent

A.M. Middleton

Introduction and Methods

The red finishes on three sherds from Ebbsfleet Farm (EFE/90. F4, F16 and F17) have been examined. All the sherds are Early–Mid Iron Age in date. One of the sherds (EFE/90, F4) appears to have had a distinct decorative band (possibly white, though the original colour cannot now be discerned), and the nature of this band has been investigated.

The red finishes on sherds EFE/90 F16 and F17 are very similar in appearance and analysis was, therefore, undertaken on only one of the sherds, F17. This sherd,

¹⁰ A Recent Canterbury Archaeology Trust Site, CT.F72 (J. Rady, Forthcoming.)

¹¹ R.M. and E.S.–J. Rowlett and M. Boureux. 'A Rectangular Early La Tène. Marnian House at Chassemy (Aisne)', *World Archaeology* (1969), 106/135, Fig. 34, 11, Fig. 35, 16.

¹² V. Rigby, A.P. Middleton and I.C. Freestone, 'The Prunay Workshop; Technical Examination of La Tène Bichrome Painted Pottery from Champagne', *World Archaeology*, vol. 21, no. 1. Ceramic Technology (1989,) 116.

¹³ I am particularly grateful to Dr A. Middleton for initially agreeing to examine these sherds, and for kindly supplying his report at extremely short notice.

together with the remaining sherd from Ebbsfleet (F4) were sampled for analysis using x-ray powder diffraction (XRD). This provided information on the mineralogical compositions of the red finishes. In addition, a thin slice removed from sherd F4 was mounted in epoxy resin and prepared as a polished section for examination in the scanning electron microscope (SEM). In this way information was obtained on the physical characteristics of the red-finished areas and decorated band, and on their relation to the underlying body of the pot. Samples examined and analyses undertaken are summarised in Table 1.

Results

The XRD analyses showed that each of the red finishes sampled is rich in iron oxide, haematite (quartz and clay, possibly from the clay body were also detected in each case). Examination of the polished section of sherd EFE/90 F4 in the SEM confirmed the presence of a well-defined, iron oxide-rich coating. The coating is somewhat variable in thickness, up to about 0.1 mm.; it is rich in relatively fine (often μ 10 m (0.01 mm.) diameter) particles of iron oxide, though these are frequently clustered together in larger aggregates up to about 0.1 mm. across.

XRD analysis of the 'white' band on sherd EFE/90 F4 indicated the presence of quartz and clay (probably from the clay body). SEM examination of this region suggested that the red finish had been removed to form a shallow trough (c. 2 mm. deep).

Discussion and Conclusions

The observations and analytical results reported have suggested that the coatings on this group of sherds were formed by the application of an iron oxide-rich coating (e.g. ochre). This may have been applied as a powder or slurry at the leather-hard stage and then burnished. An oxidising stage, probably towards the end of the firing would have been necessary to ensure the retention/development of the red colouration. The observations regarding the nature of the putative 'white' band on sherd EFE/90 F4 from Ebbsfleet Farm were inconclusive. It may be that the band was formed simply by removing the red finish, thus providing a colour contrast between the red coating and the dark brown-black body. It is, however, possible that some material (now lost) was originally applied to provide a greater colour contrast.

TABLE 1. *Summary of samples examined and analytical techniques applied*

Lab. No.	Exc. No.	XRD	SEM
Ebbsfleet Farm			
42754Y	EFE/90 F4	§	§
42755W	EFE/90 F16	—	—
42756U	EFE/90 F17	§	—

Late Iron Age and Late Iron Age/ 'Belgic' transition (Figs. 9–10)

No material could be confidently assigned to the Mid Iron Age (c. 400/300–200 B.C.). This may be partly due to the poor sherd survival rate, or to a genuine absence, at least in the areas sampled, of MIA-type pottery. Conversely, there does seem to be a strong LIA presence and the relevant material has been grouped in Figs. 9–10. However, this does not exclude the possibility of Middle Iron Age occupation in the area and, indeed, some of the sherds allocated to the LIA may be earlier.

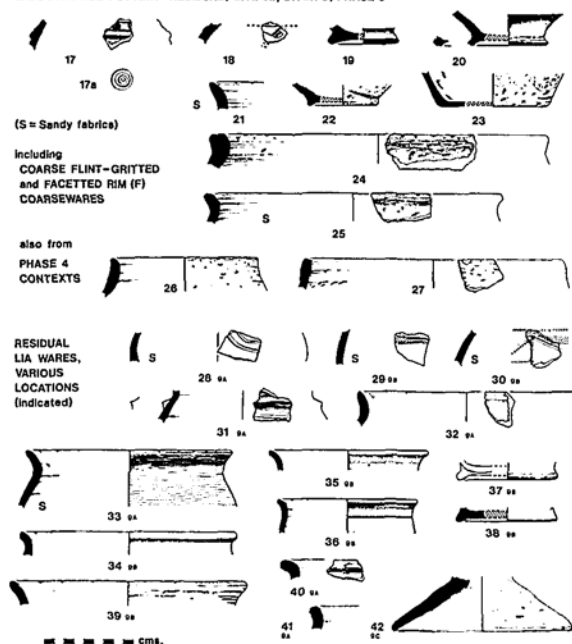
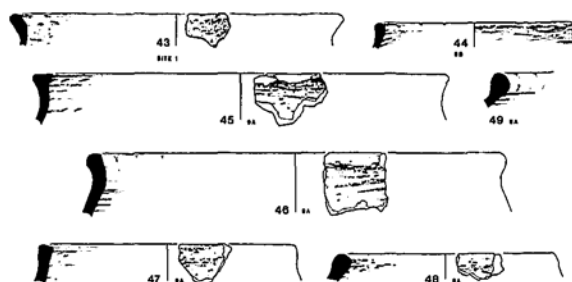
This period is fraught with difficulties, partly because a comprehensive survey of the available potential ceramic evidence is still required, and partly because sites providing direct linkage between pre-'Belgic' ceramics, contemporary metalwork types and/or associated coinage (after c. 125 B.C.) are poorly represented. A similar situation also applies to knowledge of indigenous pottery trends after the earlier-first century B.C. introduction of 'Belgic'-style grog-tempered wares. The available evidence is there, but again lacks detailed assessment, so that even now we still do not have a clear awareness of formal developments, their currency and decline, in regional indigenous flint-tempered traditions. The problem has been summarily reviewed by the author.¹⁴ What is badly needed is a series of good stratified or linkable assemblages which embrace pre-grogged traditions, the introduction of the latter, and which include good undisturbed pre-Conquest A.D. sequences. But there are a few, as yet unlinked, pointers to a resolution of the situation. One is here classically epitomised by the faceted-rim coarsewares from Site 9b, Ditch 3 (Fig. 9.24-27). This whole group (nos. 17-25) is fully illustrated in case its components should ultimately prove to be contemporary. As a group, it comes from a context dominated by 'Belgic' grogged wares of essentially mid-later first century A.D. date (though it does include a few pre-Conquest forms). It is regionally recognised that indigenous flint-tempered wares continue alongside the new grogged tradition, consciously adopting some traits, such as comb-decorated closed form thickened rim jars, arguably from c. 25 B.C., but possibly beginning earlier. But reliable LIA/B transition assemblages displaying the early stages of the adoptive process (perhaps spanning c. 75/50-25 B.C.) have still to be recorded. Forms like no. 44 (Fig. 10) almost certainly do reflect this process, since there are comb-decorated parallels from Canterbury and undecorated examples from the Highstead sequence, but in both instances the contextual/chronological relationship to grogged wares is insecure and needs further work. The difficult Highstead evidence includes a truly transitional LIA/B fabric type, grog-and-flint tempered wares, and some of the forms are essentially primitively 'Belgic' in character, and can be loosely linked to some purely flint-tempered products that Isobel Thompson has tentatively agreed could be very broadly related to more primitive grogged forms, but again the contextual information is weak.¹⁵ Whilst the latter are related to some of the Fig. 10 forms, Ebbsfleet has so far not produced any truly transitional grog-and-flint tempered material so that any concrete stylistic/technological/chronological linkage remains elusive. One consistent factor which Ebbsfleet shares with other sites is this topographic/contextual association between purely coarse-gritted, faceted-rim coarse wares and fully grogged wares: Canterbury, Highstead, Bridge Hill, several Thanet sites, Worth and Whitfield, amongst others, all share this conjunction and the frequency of its occurrence is unlikely to be coincidence. Some sort of relationship is indicated. The single exception to this trend, is a group of faceted rim jars from Barham Downs¹⁶ apparently unaccompanied by 'Belgic' occupation. It has been proposed elsewhere,¹⁶ that if this instance is not due to recovery bias, then faceted-rim coarse wares *may* be a specifically Late Iron Age, pre-grogged, tradition of arguably c. 150-100/75 B.C. date, and this dating is applied to the faceted element from Site 9. But it needs to be tested, and for the moment must be treated with caution. With the exception perhaps of nos. 45-46, this means that most of the remaining coarse wares are more likely to represent transitional LIA/B forms of

¹⁴ I am very grateful to Dr V. Rigby and Dr A. Middleton for sparing the time to discuss the viability of such a project.

¹⁵ N. Macpherson-Grant 'A Re-appraisal of Pre-Historic Pottery from Canterbury' *Canterbury Archaeology* 1990-1991, 44-48.

¹⁶ I. Thompson, pers. comm. in 'The Late Iron Age Pottery', in N. Macpherson-Grant (forthcoming), Part III, 2. 1.A. See n. 3.

LATE IRON AGE POTTERY: RESIDUAL, SITE 9b, DITCH 3, PHASE 3

Fig. 9. Ebbsfleet, Thanet. Site 9: Late Iron Age pottery (Scale: $\frac{1}{8}$), Stamp (Scale: $\frac{1}{4}$).Fig. 10. Ebbsfleet, Thanet. Sites 1 and 9, Late Iron Age pottery (Scale: $\frac{1}{8}$)

broadly c. 75/50–25 B.C. date, with some, like nos. 48–49, possibly marginally later. Another contribution lies with the sandy ware jar no. 33. This is related in fabric type to the decorated sherds nos. 28–30 and less closely to the Ditch 3 group (nos. 21, 25). These four residual examples are an important contribution. The form, neat finish and principally the sandy fabric of no. 33 are very similar to a group of small sandy ware jars with curving everted rims and sparsely flint-tempered fabrics, from Hugh Thompson's 1978 excavations at Bigberry.¹⁷ These came from the backfill of a

¹⁷ N. Macpherson-Grant (1980), Fig. 6, nos. 28–30; see n. 3.

water-hole with an uncalibrated C¹⁴ date of c. 130 B.C. An associated bronze strap-link was conventionally dated considerably later: c. 25 B.C.–25 A.D., but, if the wood was already old timber when burnt, then a date for the deposit within the first century B.C. is a reasonable likelihood. In view of the poorly understood local evidence the decorated sherds cannot be used to date with confidence, but all are broadly first century B.C., with an arguable preference of c. 100–50 B.C. for the curvilinear decoration of no. 28. For the moment it is the fabric that is the important aspect. The similarity to the Bigberry vessels is striking. The latter are made in a greensand-rich fabric¹⁸ which links them technologically (but does not source them) to Isobel Thompson's Zone 4 of 'Belgic' pottery style zones – the Medway area where glauconitic clays from the local Greensand beds are used for the production of pre-'Belgic' and pre-Conquest A.D. 'Belgic' pottery. To my knowledge, with the exception of Bigberry and some sherds from a rather unreliably sourced Birchington assemblage,¹⁹ potentially pre-'Belgic' examples of this fabric have not been previously recorded in north-east Kent. Direct comparison of jar no. 33 with the Bigberry material has still to be made, so it is too soon to claim localised 'importation', but even if it is not sourced to Greensand clays, and represents a different production centre, it is clearly contemporary and stylistically/technologically linked to the Bigberry pottery. Amongst the LIA wares from Ebbsfleet, this fabric type is a minority ware, most being, if all are contemporary, purely flint-tempered. This ought to suggest an external, but regional source, or the localised adoption of a contemporary trend for the production of fine wares.

This overview is not the vehicle to fully assess the available data, but if the c. 130 B.C. C¹⁴ date for the Bigberry water-hole assemblage is reasonably close to the pottery's original production date, then an arguable bracket of c. 125/75–50 B.C. might be appropriate for the latter, and could be applied here. Which is interesting, because it takes us close to the dating separately proposed for the currency of faceted-rim coarse wares. At least two faceted-rim jars from Site 9b Ditch 3, (nos. 21, 25) are in markedly sandy flint-tempered fabrics, different from the sandier fine wares, but also different from the bulk of LIA-type coarse ware fabrics present. Is this coincidence, or do they reflect production influenced by contemporary sandy fine wares? Faceted-type coarse wares do occur at Bigberry in small quantities, but confirmation of direct internal association with vessels of greensand fabric requires detailed re-assessment. However, a shared relative earliness for both may be reinforced by the general absence of 'Belgic' wares from Bigberry; even the presence of a few combed, grogged sherds from the water-hole fill does not prove contemporaneity and may represent late arrivals in a predominantly LIA assemblage.

Despite being rather inconclusive, and raising further questions, rather than resolving them, the Ebbsfleet data have introduced an additional dimension (the sandy fine wares) to the issue of regional LIA pre-'Belgic' fabrics, forms and their dating which, with additional work will greatly increase the possibility of at last providing a reliable framework for Late Iron Age and LIA/B ceramic trends.

'Belgic'–'Belgic'/Early Roman transition (Figs. 11–12)

The Late Iron Age ceramic content of Ditch 3 (Site 9b) was entirely residual in a large assemblage of 'Belgic' grogged wares. The decision to illustrate this group fairly comprehensively was partly because grogged ware was the largest fabric group recovered from the sampled sites, partly because the context was one of the few

¹⁸ N. Macpherson-Grant (1991), 44–6; see n. 4.

¹⁹ F.H. Thompson 'Bigberry 1979' Interim Note on 1979 Excavations (Sept. 1979).

'BELGIC' WARES IN GROG-TEMPERED and SPARSELY GROGGED FABRICS

D = DRY SPARSE GROGGED

HM = HANDMADE

SITE 9b, PHASE 3, DITCH 3

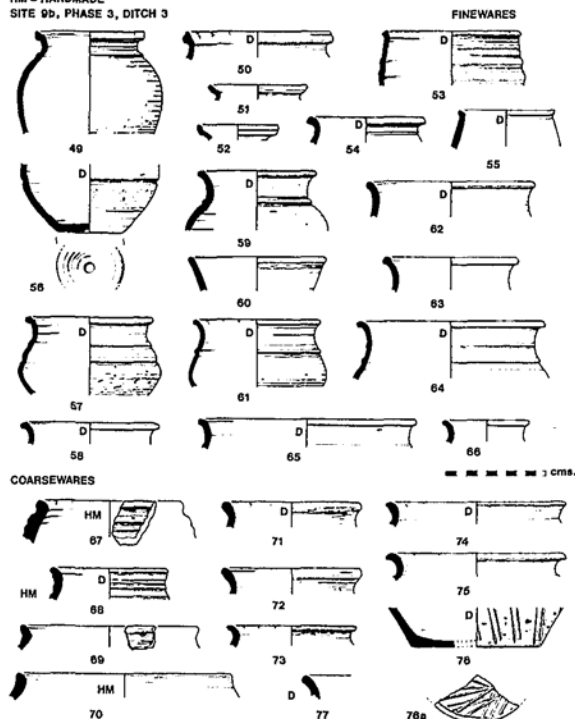


Fig. 11. Ebbsfleet, Thanet, Site 9, 'Belgic' pottery.

undisturbed features likely to best represent this group, partly because following Isobel Thompson's 1982 regional survey, which included Minnis Bay²⁰ and other more minor Thanet assemblages, it is only the second time a large Thanet assemblage has been published, and principally because it is the first to be published from a Thanet settlement context.

Full discussion and presentation is reserved for the available archive, but preliminary assessments suggest a group spanning the Conquest period, c. 25–50/75 A.D. This estimate tends to be confirmed by the clear absence of any specifically Roman wares; the presence of chaff-tempered wares (possibly associated with a coastal salt trade), e.g. Fig. 11, 91 which, on the current Canterbury evidence principally occurs in Conquest–A.D. 75 contexts (though almost certainly in use prior to the Conquest); the presence of one B/ER fine sandy ware jar (no. 90) which on regional evidence is a fabric type generally confined to the Conquest period–c. A.D. 75 with, as at Highstead, some hand-made forms suggesting pre-Conquest beginnings (the present piece is wheel-thrown but the form early and undeveloped);²¹ the presence of one

²⁰ I. Thompson *Grog Tempered Belgic Pottery of South Eastern England*, BAR 108, i 1982, 11.

²¹ I. Thompson (1982), iii, 623, see n. 20.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS AT EBBSFLEET

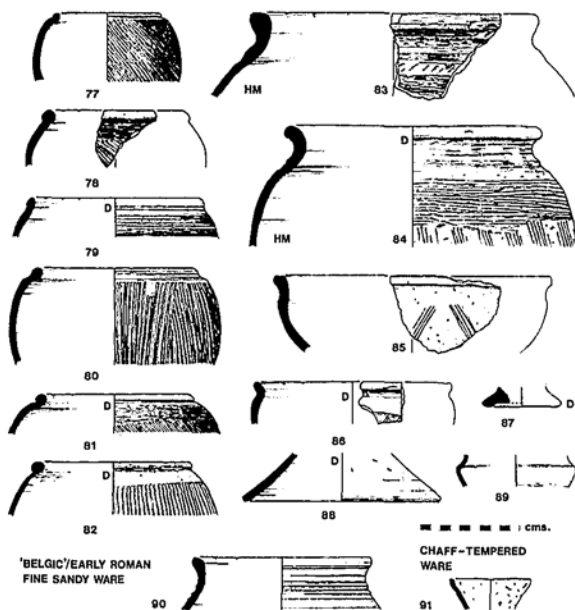


Fig. 12. Ebbsfleet, Thanet, Site 9, 'Belgic' pottery.

Gallo-Belgic Terra Rubra fine ware import (TR3, CAM 112, butt-beaker) of late Augustan-Claudian date,²² and the grogged material itself, which lacks the harder oxidised Romanising forms of the later first century.

The grogged copies of imported butt-beakers, nos. 49–51, 54, 56, are principally pre-Conquest–A.D. 50. A small red-surfaced jug rim should be pre-A.D. 43 and the bead-rimmed, combed jars (nos. 77–82), whilst competent products have an early feel. The storage jar (no. 84) is hand-made and again should be pre-A.D. 43. Other hand-made forms within the assemblage: nos. 67–8, 70, 83 ought to be rather residual in this group—but none are heavily worn so perhaps A.D. 1–25, from 25 B.C. at the earliest.

Fundamentally early or 'primitive' grogged forms are absent from this group and, to date, from all Cottington locations. The present A.D. occupational emphasis from the sampled areas, is confirmed by further Gallo-Belgic imports: Terra Rubra (platter, CAM 5A, TR1A). Terra Nigra (platters of Augustan–Neronian date; a cup, CAM 56c) and sherds from a North Gaulish butt beaker (CAM 113, Rigby IB).

Another main reason for presenting this assemblage in some detail is the clear difference in grogged fabrics: one is the standard east Kentish heavily grogged fabric, fairly hard, slightly lumpy surfaces and often soapy; the other appears to be a primarily Thanet phenomenon, epitomized by a very fine sandy fabric with a low/nil grog content, giving surfaces a smooth but characteristically 'dry' feel and visual appearance. For the combed coarse wares in particular this fine fabric gives a typically sharp outline to incisions. Vessels in this fabric are indicated in Figs. 11–12 (D). Based on spot-dating assessments this fabric appears to become dominant during the mid-later first century, accompanying a decline in (but not replacement of) the standard grogged

²² I. Thompson (1982), iii, 617, 627; n. 20.

fabric. Its emergence period may be similar to the transitional B/ER fine and coarse sandy wares found at Canterbury and Highstead, i.e. pre-Conquest. The latter wares appear to be rather infrequently represented in Thanet assemblages, possibly suggesting that this 'dry' fabric is a parallel development to its putative fine sandy equivalent found elsewhere. The fabric does travel, and has occasionally been noticed in Canterbury contexts.²³

It is an interesting fabric and its presence in this assemblage ought to consolidate assessments of its emergence date.

Early-Late Roman

This is the last major period group. Only a brief note is given here – much of the pottery is abraded; there are a number of fabrics superficially different from the normal Canterbury range and, overall, the material requires more detailed assessment.

Coastal trade, possibly associated with the salt production/distribution industry, is represented by a north Kent shelly ware storage jar rim with traces of characteristic pitch seal. Upchurch-type wares are present in small quantities, including at least one relatively early curvaceous beaker in a sub-'Belgic' form of c. A.D. 75–100. Canterbury sandy wares are surprisingly low, most being of c. A.D. 100–150/175 date, rather than earlier. Sherds from several amphorae are present, including South Spanish, several Italian Dressel 20s and at least one Pelichet 47. Earlier Roman fine ware imports are also low in frequency: one Central Gaulish beaker sherd (c. A.D. 150–200) and one Lower Rhenish roughcast beaker sherd (c. A.D. 75–175).

The more plebeian coarse ware such as BB2 has a surprisingly low frequency, and the few BB1 products may be mid-later Roman, rather than earlier. There is at least one third-century sub-sintered fine sandy ware jar.

Late Roman imports include Oxfordshire and Nene Valley colour-coated imports, from both Site 3, and the former specifically from Site 9a–b. The large fresher sherds from Site 3 confirm the impression gained that agriculturally stimulated soil erosion has tended to protect downslope contexts. The Oxfordshire colour-coats include at least one white-slipped oxidised mortarium, flanged and simple rimmed, plain or rouletted bowls (Young forms C51–C52, C61).²⁴ Site 3 produced at least one sherd of late Roman Mayen ware and at least two sherds of Argonne ware amplify the impression of an overall third-fourth century surge in importation activity.

Only 88 sherds of samian were recovered from sampled contexts and only one identifiable stamp was recorded (from Site 3). This was kindly examined by Brenda Dickinson²⁵ who provided the following note:

'The potter is Oneratus of Rheinzabern, and the stamp reads ONERA[TUZ] perhaps between guidelines. It is only the fourth stamp from this man, who does not seem to have been very successful, as all the stamps come from the same die. Rheinzabern potters are often only datable by their forms, and Oneratus is one of these. The other stamps from this die are on forms 31R, 32 and 36, so he could have worked in the late second or early third century.'

The samian has been identified by Maggy Taylor, whose note on the limited range of decorated samian is appended below. Overall the samian gives a better impression of

²³ M. Green 'Period 5A: Early Roman' in 'The Pottery' in Nigel McPherson-Grant (forthcoming), Part III, 2. 3B; see n. 3.

²⁴ St. George's Clock Tower, 1991. A recent Canterbury Archaeology Trust Excavation.

²⁵ C.J. Young, *Oxfordshire Roman Pottery*, BAR 43 (1977).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS AT EBBSFLEET

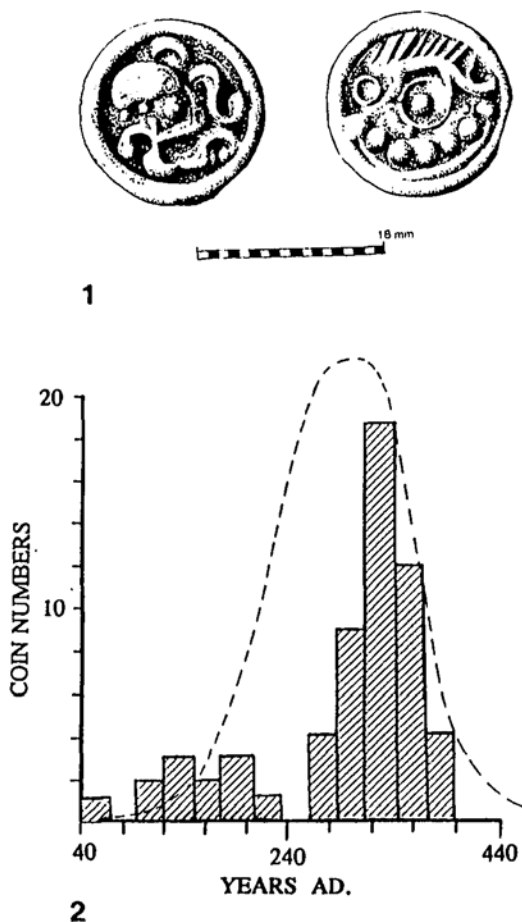


Fig. 13. Ebbsfleet, Thanet. 1, Celtic coin of the Bellovaci to scale as shown. 2, Histogram of the distribution by date of Roman coinage.

occupation/importation activity for the early-mid Roman period than the relatively low coarse ware count (from this area) initially suggests. There is a small peak in the Flavian period, a slight fall-off during the earlier second century, followed by a strong surge between c. A.D. 150 and 200.

Despite the samian evidence the overall impression given from the sampled sites is that following the Conquest, there is a decline in occupation intensity, not cessation but a significant decrease. Whilst this may be due to sampling bias, and is somewhat modified by the samian evidence, the coin histogram (Fig. 13) does indicate a much lower peak for the later first to early third centuries, compared with late Roman trends. The marked rise here is broadly reflected by an increase in imported wares for the same period.

The Decorated Samian

Maggy Taylor

All examples are from Site 9b. Context data are given at the end of each entry.

1. SG, Form 29, La Graufesenque, fragment from the lower frieze with a large grass tuft, no direct parallel but a date of c. A.D. 70–85 is likely. (Sites 9b (1) – (2)).
2. CG, Form 37, fragment of decoration, not decipherable (F 16 (16)).
3. CG, Form 37, the small neat ovolo with beaded rosette²⁶ of the Lezoux potter Butrio. c. A.D. 120–140. (Area C) (1)).

Argonne Ware

1. Argonne Ware fragment, Chenet 320, from the lower wall with Group 2-type rouletting,²⁵ 3 or 4 rouletted bands using a roulette with a row of 3 square-cut teeth. c. A.D. 320–360 (F11 (7)).

Summary

The intensity of occupation, recorded from the relatively limited surveyed and sampled areas on this narrow peninsula, coupled with its originally advantageous position, suggest that it was favoured for settlement from an early date. The following points can be made:

1. The various flint artefacts recovered from some locations suggest that Neolithic activity might be expected, if not of Early Neolithic date, at least of Late Neolithic or LN-EBA transition date. The clear evidence of a Beaker phase of activity represented by the Layer 5 horizon could reasonably encourage one to expect indigenous pottery in the Peterborough and Grooved Ware traditions to occur in less disturbed locations.
2. There was no evidence for Middle or Late Bronze Age (specifically of Deverel-Rimbury type) occupation.
3. The date of the Ebbsfleet I bronze hoard (c. 700–500 B.C.), together with the location of Hoard II, close to the apparent epicentre of Early–Mid Iron Age settlement, could well suggest that the latter phase was preceded by occupation of specifically LBA/EIA transition date, and that Fig. 5, 2 was a genuine indicator of this possibility. It is more than a reasonable expectation in view of the recognised close topographic relationship (or direct evidence for site continuity) between sites of these two periods.
4. The presence of rusticated Early–Mid Iron Age pottery from Site 3 is either a by-product of Iron Age farming practice (sherds arriving in manuring scatters), single settlement shift, or the original occupation was much more widespread. Pottery from the Wessex Archaeology location (Site 11) could be interpreted either way. The assemblage is broadly contemporary with the Site 9 settlement focus, but some elements within it suggest that it is marginally later and perhaps is a genuine example of settlement shift.
5. Middle Iron Age ceramics were not recognised. This again may be due to sampling

²⁶ This note was supplied in 1980; the number of stamps may have altered since then.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS AT EBBSFLEET

bias and settlement shift, but may also be hindered by modern sherd attrition or dispersal. A significant lapse in occupation is considered unlikely in view of the fairly intense Late Iron Age and subsequent 'Belgic' occupation in the same location as the earlier Iron Age settlement focus. Settlement shift might be a more likely explanation.

6. 'Belgic' period occupation was also recorded from Site 3, but here sherd size and condition (in this more protected position) may be more indicative of specific occupation than manuring patterns, and more widespread occupation of the peninsula in this period and subsequent Roman periods is likely.

7. Site 3 also produced a significant quantity of late Roman pottery. Whilst recovered pottery quantities representing early to mid-Roman occupation were apparently markedly lower (than preceding or following phases), which may indicate either a more reduced or dispersed usage of the peninsula, the finds evidence suggests a intensification (? deliberate) of occupation during the third and fourth centuries A.D.

Post-Roman

Despite Ebbsfleet's legendary importance, no evidence for Saxon occupation was recorded. It almost certainly remains to be discovered, perhaps in the eastern lea of Cottington Hill. The small quantities of early Medieval pottery recovered from Site 2b (of broadly c. 1075–1125 date) and the medieval pottery from the 1990 sites is discussed in the available archive.

APPENDIX III: THE EBBSFLEET II BRONZE HOARD

The small Late Bronze Age hoard here described was found in 1991 by Mr Tony Wilkinson, a metal detectorist member of Thanet Archaeological Society, who obtained permission to prospect on the golf course site during construction. The find-spot was about 70 m. north of the Site 9 excavation box, (Site 10 in Fig. 1.) The objects were found at about 35 cm. depth in the sandy topsoil. Below them, the subsoil, elsewhere compact, was very loose. It seems probable that the find-spot coincides with one of the many parallel drainage pipe trenches cut through the field. In which case the objects may well have been disturbed and brought to the surface from a depth of up to 1 m. A further systematic search with a more powerful detector yielded nothing.

The bronzes are described as numbered and illustrated in Fig. 4.

1. Two fragments joining as part of an object having a double-edged blade-like section. The end is rounded and pierced. Part of a small knife with riveted handle?
2. Socketed axe, looped, round mouth, rectangular body section, and crescentic cutting edge. Heavy collar, rib-moulding forms a rectangle framing a pellet. An unusual decoration, the only counterpart being in the Swalecliffe hoard.¹
3. A large and strongly constructed socketed axe, looped, with rectangular body section and curved edge. It has a pronounced collar and slight moulding, with three vertical ribs. Packed in the socket were: 4. Forty-two small objects together with fragments of perhaps a further two. They are hollow hemispheres cast with a cross-bar and appear to be all from the same mould. Although much smaller, they resemble the 'buttons' of which examples have been found at Runnymede and Heathery Burn and more commonly in Scandinavia.² Size would make these examples impractical as

¹⁻² Pers. comm. Dr Stuart Needham, British Museum.

buttons, so that the writer feels that 'sequin studs' would be a more appropriate description. Within the studs were retained fragments of textile and of some material provisionally identified as very thin hide. The textile was submitted for examination to Elisabeth Crowfoot who comments as follows:

Textile

With bronze studs, one fragment, 10 × 18.5 mm. overall.

Fibre: ?Flax, white, undyed (G. Edwards, HBMC, degraded bast).

Spin: S, Splied in both systems, both spin and twist very loose. The coarser thread (?warp) is definitely plied, the finer (?weft) so lightly that it lies almost in pairs.

Weave: Tabby (plain weave), no selvedge preserved, thread count c. 14/17 per 10 mm, the first (?warp) count taken as 7 on 5 mm.

The position of this little strip suggested that it may have been threaded through the little studs, and the plied and paired threads would be consistent with a narrow tape or ribbon, though no selvedge is preserved.

Fragments of ?hide, parchment or vellum were mentioned with the studs. Could the 'dress fasteners' and flax ?tape have been round a document?

DISCUSSION

These bronzes can be securely dated to the last part of the Late Bronze Age, c. 700 B.C. While the axes are of types common to Carp's Tongue and Ewart Park Tradition hoards, the 'sequin studs' appear to have no British counterparts, and are perhaps further evidence of Ebbsfleet's primary role in Continental trade.

A question that will inevitably be asked is, are the objects remnants of the major hoard found in 1893? This cannot be answered, since the find-spot location of the Ebbsfleet I hoard is unknown.³ It is surely unlikely though, that finders who excavated 190 items, weighing 160 lbs., would have missed a further three. Experience at Monkton demonstrates that three hoards may be buried within 100 m. of each other,⁴ so that two or more hoards within the Site 9 settlement area need not strain credulity.

D.R.J.P.

APPENDIX IV: COINS FOUND AT EBBSFLEET DURING 1990 AND 1991

C.R. Wren

The coins listed here were generally recovered from the trial excavations (Site Areas 9a and 9b) and by detector survey of the ploughsoil in the same vicinity during the summer of 1990. Those which have no reference number were found, mostly in 1991, by Mr Tony Wilkinson east of Ebbsfleet Lane and in and about Site Area 9a.

³ VCH, i (1908), 322.

⁴ D.R.J. Perkins, 'The Monkton Bronze Hoard', *Arch. Cant.*, cix (1991), 247-64.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS AT EBBSFLEET

References:

RIC	<i>Roman Imperial Coinage</i> (vols. VI to IX)
BMC	<i>Roman Imperial Coins in the British Museum</i> (vols. I to VI)
Ardsell	<i>The Celtic Coinage of Britain</i>

Abbreviations and terms used:

obv	obverse	laur	laureate
rev	reverse	d	diademed
stdg	standing	hel	helmeted
std	seated	cuir	cuirassed
adv	advancing	dr	draped
mm	mintmark	b	bust
l	left	emp	emperor
r	right	insc	inscribed
ex	exergue	c.	circa
f	field		
AG	silver	All dates are Anno Domini unless otherwise stated	
AE	bronze		
CU	copper		

THE COINS

Coins are listed in approximate date order but are divided into groups by century. The reference number in the left column is that used in the data base held and administered by the Thanet Archaeological Trust.

Coins which are given no reference number are those found separately during 1991. The central section provides a general description of each coin with details of bust, legends, reverse, etc. The right-hand column gives the approximate date of the coin together with reference to the standard published catalogues where appropriate.

1. *Local or Native Coinages*

Several examples of the thick *potin* coins were found, but these are generally too poorly preserved to classify in detail. Their type is the normal degraded head of Apollo to the obverse with a degraded bull to the reverse.

1194	Celtic <i>potin</i> (3 coins)	as Ardsell 1434, etc. Trinovantes A?
	obv: degraded head of Apollo	
	rev: degraded bull	

One exceptional *potin* coin, attributed to the Bellovaci or Suessiones¹ tribes of northern Gaul was recovered in 1991 from Site Area 9a, see Fig. 13, 1. Diameter 18.5 mm. weight 3.5 gr.

¹ Scheers attributes these *potins* to either the Suessiones or the Bellovaci; see S. Scheers, *Les monnaies gauloises de la collection A. Danicourt à Péronne*.

potin of Bellovaci tribeHenri de la Tour, *Atlas de Monnaies gauloises*, no. 7903

obv: degraded head r;

'S' figures in front

rev: boar 1: pellet-in-circle

and crescent of pellets below

A small number of corroded bronzes of Celtic origin were also found in 1991 but are too poor for precise classification. One silver coin was recovered. All these were found to the north of the road:

AG

Dubnovellaunus in Kent

Arsdell 171-1

obv: animal 1

rev: horned animal 1

No coins of the Roman Republic were found.

2. Coins of Roman Empire

The bulk of the Roman coins found were of mid-fourth century date with those of the second and third centuries being substantially less numerous and having significant circulation wear. The earliest coin is no. 1153, a worn *sestertius* of Antoninus Pius (c. 139) and the latest coin for which a positive date range may be given is no. 1175, an AE4 of Arcadius (c. 383-408). The later coins appear generally to have little evidence of circulation wear.

(a) First Century

No coins which could positively be attributed to this period were found.

(b) Second Century

1153	<i>AE sestertius</i> Antoninus Pius	c. 139 BMC (IV) 1140?
	obv: ANTONINVS AVG PIVS PP	
	rev: <i>Felicitas</i> ? stdg	

1154	<i>AE sestertius</i> Faustina junior?	BMC (IV) 1584?
	details unclear	

1155

1156 AE as (2) – illegible

1157 AE *dupondius* – illegible

(c) Third Century

1152	AG <i>denarius</i> Severus Alexander	c. 225 BMC (VI) 258
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1158

1159

1160 base AG *antoniniani* (5 coins)

1161 illegible, some barbarous

1162

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS AT EBBSFLEET

(d) Fourth Century

- | | | |
|------|--|--|
| 1172 | <p>AE <i>foliis</i>
Constantine I</p> <p>obv: CONSTANTINVS PF AVG
laur b r; dr and cuir
rev: COMITI AVGG NN
<i>Sol</i> stdg with globe
mm: PLN in ex</p> | <p>c. 307-337
RIC(VI) London 153</p> |
| 1170 | <p>AE3
Constantine I?</p> <p>obv: CONSTANTINVS AVG?
laur b r
rev: D N CONSTANTINI MAX AVGG
wreath with VOT/XX
mm: TSCVI? in ex</p> | <p>c. 307-337?
RIC?</p> |
| 1187 | <p>AE3
Constantine I</p> <p>obv: CONSTA—
hel b r; cuir
rev: VIRTVS EXERCITVS
2 victories/altar/tablet
insc VOT/PP
mm: PLN in ex</p> | <p>c. 320-321
RIC(VII) London 191?</p> |
| 1179 | <p>AE3
Crispus</p> <p>obv: CRISPVS NOB CAES
laur and cuir b r
rev: BEATA TRANQVILLITAS
altar insc VOT/IS/XX
and globe and 3 stars over
mm: PLG in ex</p> | <p>c. 322-323
RIC(VII) Lyons 166</p> |
| 1168 | <p>AE <i>foliis</i>
Crispus</p> <p>obv: illegible
rev: PROVIDENTIAE CAESS
camp gate
mm: PTR in ex</p> | <p>c. 324-325
RIC(VIII) Trier 452</p> |
| 1167 | <p>AE3
VRBS ROMA commemorative</p> <p>obv: VRBS ROMA
head of Roma 1
rev: no legend
wolf and twins
mm: uncertain</p> | <p>c. 330-345
RIC?</p> |

D.R.J. PERKINS

- 1166 AE3 c. 331
Constantine I RIC(VII) Arles 353

obv: illegible
rev: GLORIA EXERCITVS
2 soldiers/2 standards
mm: PCONST in ex
- 1181 AE3 c. 332–333
Constantine I RIC(VII) Trier 537

obv: CONSTANTINVS MAX AVG
d b r; dr
rev: 2 soldiers/2 standards
mm: TR. P in ex
- 1173 AE3 c. 332–333
Constantinopolis commemorative RIC(VII) Trier 548

obv: CONSANTINOPOLIS
laur b r; hel and cuir
rev: no legend
Constantinopolis stdg on prow
mm: TRP* in ex
- 1177 AE4 (copy?) c. 337–340
Constantine II RIC?

obv: CONSTANTINVS NOB C
d/laur? b r; dr and cuir
rev: GLORIA EXERCITVS
2 soldiers/2 standards
mm: T— in ex
- 1176 AE3 c. 340–350?
Constantius II

obv: DN CONSTANTIVS PF AVG
d b r; dr
rev: FEL TEMP REPARATIO
Phoenix stdg on globe
mm: illegible
- 1169 AE3 c. 347–348
Constans RIC(VIII) Lyons 40?

obv: CONSTANS PF AVG
d b r; dr and cuir
rev: VICTORIAE DD AVGG QNN
2 Victories/2 wreaths
mm: Lyons in ex?

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS AT EBBSFLEET

- | | | |
|------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1165 | AE3 (copy?)
Constantius II | c. 355–365?
RIC? |
| | <p>obv: CONSTAN—
 d b r; cuir
 rev: FEL TEMP REPARATIO
 emp spearing fallen horseman
 mm: illegible</p> | |
| 1185 | AE3
Valentinian I | c. 364–367
RIC(IX) Arles 7a |
| | <p>obv: DN VALENTINIANVS PF AVG
 laur/d? b r; dr
 rev: GLORIA ROMANORVM
 emp dragging captive
 mm: CONST. in ex
 OF in 1 f/III in rf</p> | |
| 1174 | AE3
Valentinian I | c. 364–375
RIC(IX) Aquileia 9a |
| | <p>obv: DN VALENTINIANVS —
 d b r
 rev: SECVRTAS REPVBLCAE
 Victory adv 1
 mm: SMAQ in ex
 chi-rho in 1 f</p> | |
| 1164 | AE3
Gratian? | c. 367–375
RIC? |
| | <p>obv: illegible
 rev: GLORIA ROMANORVM
 Victory adv r dragging captive
 mm: illegible
 O in 1 f/F III in r f</p> | |
| 1186 | AE3
Gratian | c. 367–375
RIC(IX) Arles 15? |
| | <p>obv: DN GRATIANVS CAES
 b r; details not clear
 rev: GLORIA NOVI SAECVLI
 details not clear
 mm: CONS? in ex</p> | |
| 1171 | AE3
Gratian | c. 367–383
RIC(IX) Arles 15 |
| | <p>obv: DN GRATIANVS CAES?
 d b r; dr & cuir
 rev: GLORIA NOVI SAECVLI
 emp stdg
 mm: PCON in ex
 N in 1 f</p> | |

D.R.J. PERKINS

- | | | |
|------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1175 | AE4
Arcadius | c. 383–408
RIC(IX) Arles 30e |
| | obv: DN ARCADIVS PF AVG
bust details not clear
rev: VICTORIA AVGGG
mm: TCON in ex | |
| 1163 | | |
| 1178 | | |
| 1180 | | |
| 1182 | AE3 (8 coins) –illegible | |
| 1183 | | |
| 1184 | | |
| 1190 | | |
| 1192 | | |
| 1188 | | |
| 1189 | AE4 (3 coins) – illegible | |
| 1191 | | |
| 1194 | AE4 (8 coins) – barbarous
(mostly FEL TEMP REP type) | |
| | AE3 – AE4 (about 50 coins)
recovered from the area to the north
of the road, these coins have not been
classified in detail but are of fourth
century date. | |

3. *Post-Roman Coins*

Very few coins of the post-Roman era were recovered and none at all from the Saxon or medieval periods.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| CU halfpenny (3 coins) | late eighteenth century |
| AE 10 centimes of Napoleon III
(France). PEARS SOAP stamped on
each side | 1856 |
| AE penny/halfpenny (4 coins)
coins of George VI and Elizabeth II | c. 1945–1964 |

CONCLUSIONS

The coins are typical of those which might be found on most Roman occupation sites in southern England and their dates, considered in conjunction with evidence of circulation wear, indicated a reasonable level of activity in the later part of the fourth century.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS AT EBBSFLEET

The presence of some Celtic coins, together with some worn second- and third-century Roman types also provides evidence of earlier occupation. Of the later Roman coins, a significant number are, as is commonly seen, either definitely or probably contemporary imitations, some very barbarous. This is especially noticeable for the *Fel. Temp. Rep.* type. No coins of the Saxon or medieval periods were found and, whilst such coins are comparatively rare as surface finds generally, this may indicate a cessation of activity in the early fifth century.