

North Herts Museums Pottery Fabric Series

Late Pre-Roman Iron Age,
Romano-British
and
Sub-Roman

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The Late Pre-Roman Iron Age and Romano-British Pottery Fabric Series

Fabric 1 Black grog-tempered wares

Sandy textured ware, with translucent and opaque quartz inclusions, grog and organic matter. Bonfire-fired to dark grey, brown or black. Handmade vessels only. Exterior normally burnished.

Locally made.

Early to late first century BC, although continues into early first century AD.

Fabric 2 Grog-tempered wares

Sandy-textured, heavily tempered with grog; also some organic inclusions. Grey or brown core - though colour can vary from buff to black - with grey or brown surfaces. Bonfire-fired, but often with short period of oxidation. Handmade and wheel-thrown vessels.

'Fine' wares and combed 'cooking-pots'.

Locally made: probably some from the Hadham area.

Mid first century BC to mid first century AD.

2A - "grain jar".

2B - "finer ware", also with shell inclusions.

Fabric 3 Mixed grog and shelly wares

Sandy textured matrix, tempered with coarse quartz sand, some grog, organic, flint or shell inclusions, some pebble-sized. Usually oxidised to orange or orange-brown surfaces with blue or grey core. Usually handmade and bonfire-fired. Colours range from red to grey.

Mostly cooking pots.

Late Pre-Roman Iron Age.

Fabric 4 Shelly wares

Sandy-textured matrix heavily tempered with shell, up to 5mm in length. In use from the first century AD to the fourth century. Early vessels were bonfire-fired, surfaces oxidised when fuel spent; orange-red in first century AD; yellowish-buff or light orange in second century; later pots variegated pink/grey. Shell temper suggests source in Lias clays of Lower Jurassic. Handmade and wheel thrown.

Basic cooking pots, storage jars, dishes and bowls.

Early versions had several sources. From the mid-second century on they became increasingly standardised, perhaps a single large-scale regional production.

First century to fourth century AD.

Fabric 5 Yellow-buff fine sandy wares

Fine sandy, micaceous wares with incidental grog and organic grits and natural clay pellets. Often with dark grey or blue core and oxidised orange-buff surfaces. Can be totally reduced.

Used for wheel thrown copies of imported fine table wares, eg. girth and butt beakers and platters.

Similarities with Fabric 11 suggest the Much Hadham area as the source.

Mid to late first century AD.

Fabric 6 Fine white sandy wares

Fairly iron-free clay matrix, tempered with fine quartz sand. Occasional grog grits and clay pellets. Wheel thrown, usually white, sometimes with smoky grey or mauve haze over exterior, or with pink tones. The grog inclusions streak the surfaces with a burnished finish.

Used for butt beakers - Camulodunum Form 113.

Northern Gaul?

Early to mid first century AD.

