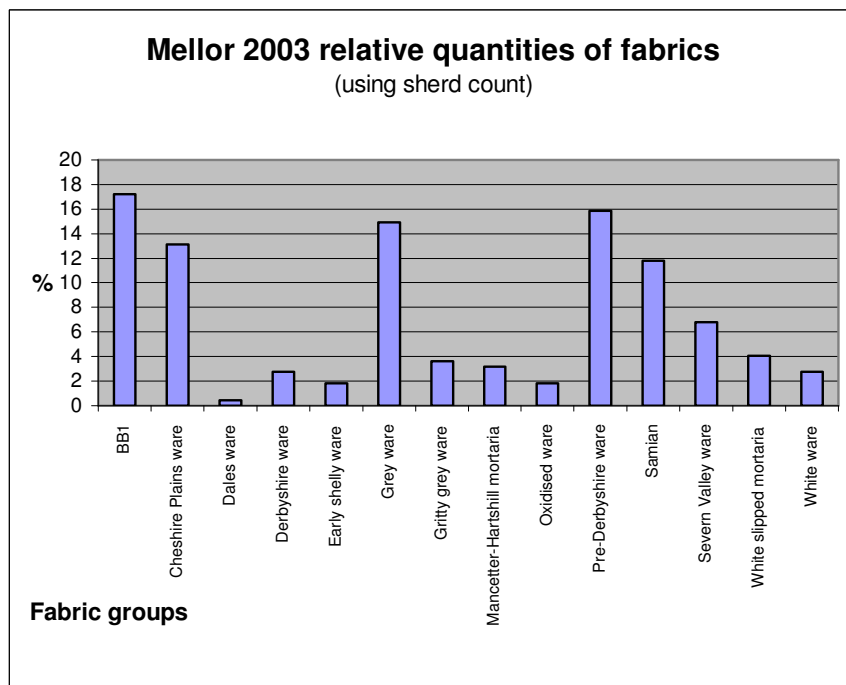


Mellor Romano-British pottery 2003

R.S. Leary

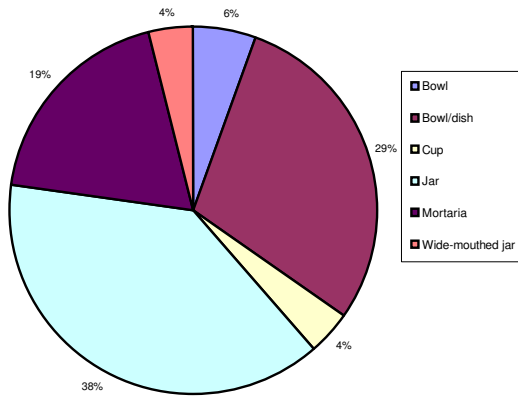
221 sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from the excavations along with around 40 scraps of briquetage. As in previous years the excavations produced a wide range of wares (chart 1) coming from distant sources including Dorset, Mancetter-Hartshill, the Severn Valley kilns to the south, the Cheshire Plains kilns, Derbyshire kilns around Belper, Lincolnshire kilns and mortaria, perhaps from Wilderspool. Most of the pottery came from the large ditch 304/5. The vessel types indicate a date range from the late first/early second centuries to the mid third century at least. One jar rim sherd may date as late as the late-fourth century and the Dales ware and developed flanged bowl is more likely to be late third or early fourth century. This extends the date range suggested during spot dating of the material recovered during 2002.



The pottery was abraded and sherds tended to be small, particularly the samian. Although the samian was badly abraded and the sherds were small, many vessels were represented. The group seems to be a rubbish deposit which has accumulated elsewhere over several centuries before being cleared into the ditch. Many of the jars, particularly in BB1, dales and gritty grey ware retained signs of use in the form of burnt deposits still adhering around the rim and upper bodies, perhaps where food had boiled over and burnt on. Rivet holes indicate that pottery supply was not always regular and curation was necessary. This is common in Wales but not South Yorkshire where it has been suggested that pottery supply met demand.

The vessel types indicate a high status site (chart 2). Evans has done extensive work on this area and the Mellor assemblage compares with urban and villa sites rather than rural sites on the basis of its jar:bowl ratio. This conclusion is supported by the range of traded wares present (chart 1)

Mellor: vessel types (using estimated vessel equivalents)



Trench	No in circle	Sherd group	Fabric Code	Count	Weight	Abrasion type	Part of vessel	Form	Rim diam	Rim %	Decorative technique	Decorative motif	Position on pot	Decorative technique2	Decorative motif2	Position on pot2	Condition	Comments
18	304	6	MOW1	1	9	very abraded	bodysherd											
18	304	7	OBB3	2	12	abraded	simple base sherd	footring base										Jar
18	304	8	SV?	8	43	abraded	bodysherd											
18	304	9	TS	4	10	abraded	rim sherd	Dr 27	10	10								
18	304	10	OBC1	3	3	very abraded	scraps											
18	304	11	OAB4	1	4	moderately abraded	bodysherd	closed vessel			painted	vertical white	outside body	grooved	double	outside upper body		
18	304	12	CT	2	7	abraded	bodysherd											
18	304	13	GRC7	2	21	moderately abraded	rim sherd	double lid seated rim jar, probably 4th	16	13								Burnt matter outside rim
18	304	14	BB1	2	19	abraded	rim sherd	flat rim bowl or dish, 2nd-E3rd	27	8	burnished		all over					
18	304	15	BB1	1	12	abraded	rim sherd	Splayed rim jar, EL3rd-4th	20	5				L3rd-e4th				Burnt

Trench	No in circle	Sherd group	Fabric Code	Count	Weight	Abrasion type	Part of vessel	Form	Rim diam	Rim %	Decorative technique	Decorative motif	Position on pot	Decorative technique2	Decorative motif2	Position on pot2	Condition	Comments
18	305	39	BB1	1	2	moderately abraded	rim sherd	flat rim bowl or dish, 2nd-E3rd	18	5	burnished		all over rim					
18	305	40	BB1	1	22	moderately abraded	profile	flat rim bowl or dish, 2nd-E3rd	24	5	burnished	intersecting loops						
18	305	41	BB1	1	21	moderately abraded	rim sherd	flat rim bowl or dish, 2nd-E3rd	22	6	burnished	acute lattice	outside body					
18	305	42	BB1	1	22	moderately abraded	rim sherd	flat rim bowl or dish, 2nd-E3rd	24	7								
18	305	43	MH1	4	44	moderately abraded	body sherd											
18	305	44	MH1	1	10	unabraded	incomplete rim section											
18	305	45	FLA1	1	3	moderately abraded	body sherd	flagon										
18	305	46	FLA1	3	27	moderately abraded	rim sherd	carinated bowl, L1st-E2nd	16	6	cordoned	single	outside upper body					

Trench	No in circle	Sherd group	Fabric Code	Count	Weight	Abrasion type	Part of vessel	Form	Rim diam	Rim %	Decorative technique	Decorative motif	Position on pot	Decorative technique2	Decorative motif2	Position on pot2	Condition	Comments
18	305	47	OBA16	1	18	moderately abraded	rim sherd	bowl with cupped rim. L1st-E2nd	20	9								
18	306	1	TS	1	4	abraded	bodysherd	Dr 18/31										
18	311	1	OBA15	1	8	abraded	bodysherd	closed vessel										
18	311	2	SALT?		0													
18	314	1	SALT/FC?	11	21	abraded	scraps											
18	315	1	FC/SALT	1	5													
18	329	1	FC/PRE	1	5	abraded	bodysherd											
21	02	1	GR	1	10	abraded	bodysherd											
21	02	2	PM?	1	6	abraded	simple base sherd											
22	442	1	SALT?	1	3	very abraded	scraps											
23		1	SALT?	2	5	very abraded	scraps											
4		1	flower pot	4	0													

