

5 The Pottery by *Jeremy Evans with contributions by Margaret Ward and D F Williams*

Some 145 sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the excavations (6.69 kg; [Table 1](#)). This is a very small assemblage, but is just sufficient to demonstrate two periods of occupation on the site. It has been quantified following the general ware categories used by the Warwickshire Museum, Oxford Unit and this author. There are no fully quantified comparative pottery data from Cramond, the material quantified by Ford, sadly omitting data on the mortaria, amphorae and Samian Ware, which renders them of limited use ([Ford 2003](#)). The dating evidence from this site is just sufficient to demonstrate two periods of occupation. It also suggests there was a rather unusual, amphora-dominated assemblage in the vicinity, which like that from Doune ([Evans, forthcoming](#)), might reflect the rather marginal location of the site in relation to the fort.

5.1 Chronology

The rarity of BB1, BB2 and Samian Ware (all of the latter being from context 026) and the lack of diagnostic rimsherds result in only the two deposits in the well – contexts 007 and 026 – being closely datable. Both of these post-date the end of the Antonine Wall in *c* AD 160 and must be of Comnodan or Severan

date. There is very little dating evidence from the fort ditch, a second-century mortarium fragment from context 017 and a Greyware bodysherd with acute lattice from context 018 being the only pieces of any value. These both suggest a Hadrianic–Antonine date range.

5.2 Fabrics

Dressel 20 amphora sherds of first- to third-century date amount to over 47% of the sherds by count, and a massive 86% by weight. These count figures should be compared with a usual range of up to 10% and weight figures of 30–50% from forts. High levels of amphorae are generally associated with military sites ([Evans 2001](#)), but even so the levels here are remarkably high, and like those from the rampart back at Doune ([Evans, forthcoming](#)) might be an indication of the group coming from a liminal location in the fort. Although this is accounted for in part by the use of amphora sherds lining Drain 016, even without these the levels of amphorae would still be high. Marginal locations in forts seem to produce this sort of assemblage ([Evans 2002](#)).

Of the remainder of the pottery, the majority of sherds were of oxidized ware, most probably of local

Table 1 Fabric proportions in the total Cramond Kirk Hall assemblage

Fabric	No of sherds (%)	Weight (%)	Minimum no of rims (%)	Rim extent (%)
A01	47.4	85.9	22	24
B01	1.3	0.6	0	0
B02	1.3	0.1	0	0
M01	1.3	0.6	0	0
M11	0.6	0.1	0	0
O01	12.2	2.8	11	6
O05	6.4	3.7	33	30
O07	2.6	1.1	0	0
O08	0.6	0.1	0	0
R01	11.5	3.9	11	30
R02	1.3	0.3	0	0
R03	1.9	0.6	11	8
R05	0.6	0.2	0	0
R06	0.6	0.0	0	0
S20	0.6	0.0	0	0
S30	1.3	0.0	11	2
Z20 Med	6.4	–	–	–
Z30 P Med	0.6	–	–	–
N	156	6.690	9	134

manufacture, followed by Greywares, also probably mainly local, with very few sherds of Samian, BB1 and BB2. Mortaria from Mancetter and another, possibly local, source are represented. No colour-coated ware sherds occur. The oxidized wares include North African casserole forms, which Swan has persuasively argued represent the presence of African troops bringing with them their distinctive cuisine (Swan 1992). It is notable that oxidized wares, which seem to mainly represent third-century forms, are much more important in this small group than in the fort as a whole (Ford 2003; Table 2).

Fine wares are very poorly represented in this assemblage, at 1.9% by count. This compares with a usual figure for military sites of around 10%. This seems likely to relate to the marginal location of the site like the large quantity of amphorae.

A01 Dressel 20 amphorae

B01 BB1, Dorset

B02 BB2, Thameside

O01 An oxidized fabric with orange core, margins and surfaces, 'clean', with common fine silver mica >0.1mm. Local

O05 An oxidized fabric with orange core, margins and buff-orange surfaces, with some common fine sand *c* 0.2mm and some fine silver mica. Local

O07 An oxidized fabric with orange-brown core, margins and surfaces, with common sand temper *c* 0.1–0.2mm and some *c* 0.5–1mm, and common fine silver and gold mica. Local

O08 An oxidized fabric with an orange core, margins and surfaces, with common moderate-coarse sand temper *c* 0.3–0.5mm and occasional ironstone up to 1mm

M01 A white-slipped oxidized mortarium fabric with orange core and margins, with common fairly fine sand *c* 0.2mm. Trituration grits; common angular translucent quartz 2–4mm and some occasional red-brown subrounded slightly micaceous sandstone *c* 3–5mm

M11 Mancetter–Hartshill mortaria

R01 A Reduced Ware with mid grey core, margins and surfaces, 'clean' with occasional rounded black ironstone *c* 0.5–2mm. There is also a variant with a pale grey core and dark grey slipped surfaces

R02 A Reduced Ware with mid grey core, margins and surfaces, with some common fairly fine sand *c* 0.2mm and occasionally up to 0.5mm

R03 A Reduced Ware with a mid grey core and margins and mid-dark grey surfaces, with common very fine sand *c* 0.05mm

R05 A Reduced Ware with red-brown or dark grey core, dark grey–pale grey margins and dark grey surfaces, with common–abundant moderate sand *c* 0.3mm

R06 A Reduced Ware with a mid grey core, margins and surfaces, fairly 'clean' with some white inclusions up to 0.5mm

5.3 Functional analysis

The numbers of rims from this assemblage are too low to produce reliable functional data, four jars, two bowls and two amphora rims being represented. It is clear from the latter two vessels that amphorae were unusually strongly represented, as it is from the fabric figures.

5.4 Discussion

Ford has recently published a much larger corpus of material from the fort at Cramond, which includes a number of pieces that must post-date the Severan occupation (Ford 2003, particularly fig 71, nos 252 and 253, which are of later third- to early fourth-century date). It also includes a much larger number of pieces which sit rather unhappily in a Severan group and which might fit more happily with the above pieces (Ford 2003, fig 50, no 14 and fig 51, nos 21 and 33–6; fig 58, nos 6, 7?, 11, 12, and 13; fig 60, nos 31 and 32; fig 61, nos 52 and 54; fig 68, no 175; fig 75, nos 1–11). The Dalesware jars could be of Severan date but all the evidence from northern England suggests they did not travel much beyond north Lincolnshire until the later third to early fourth century. Similarly, the 'native' pottery on fig 75 (from Ford 2003) is all likely to originate in the Nene Valley/Northamptonshire/Bedfordshire area and, although there is a single piece from South Shields (Bidwell & Speak 1994, no 34) from Severan deposits, a later date might well be appropriate.

This material tends to come from the upper fill of the fort ditch, late features in the industrial complex and post-Roman and unstratified deposits. Given that most Roman material from civil sites in Scotland is of Antonine date the presence of a quantity of potentially later third/early fourth-century material at Cramond begs the question of the nature of its final 'Roman' occupation. There seems potentially rather more than can be accounted for by 'Roman patrols or by local native inhabitants through trade' (Holmes 2003, 153). Perhaps not all the casual finds of later Roman coins from the town are modern introductions.

One other vessel is worth noting from this report (Ford 2003, fig 75, no 12). The barrel jar form and organic tempering of this vessel makes it appear to be potentially Saxon. This of course would fit well with the fifth- to sixth-century zoomorphic pin (Holmes 2003, fig 108, no 9) and it may not be coincidental that both come from the area of the former bathhouse, where Ford also reports six bodysherds of possibly early medieval date (Ford 2003, 87).

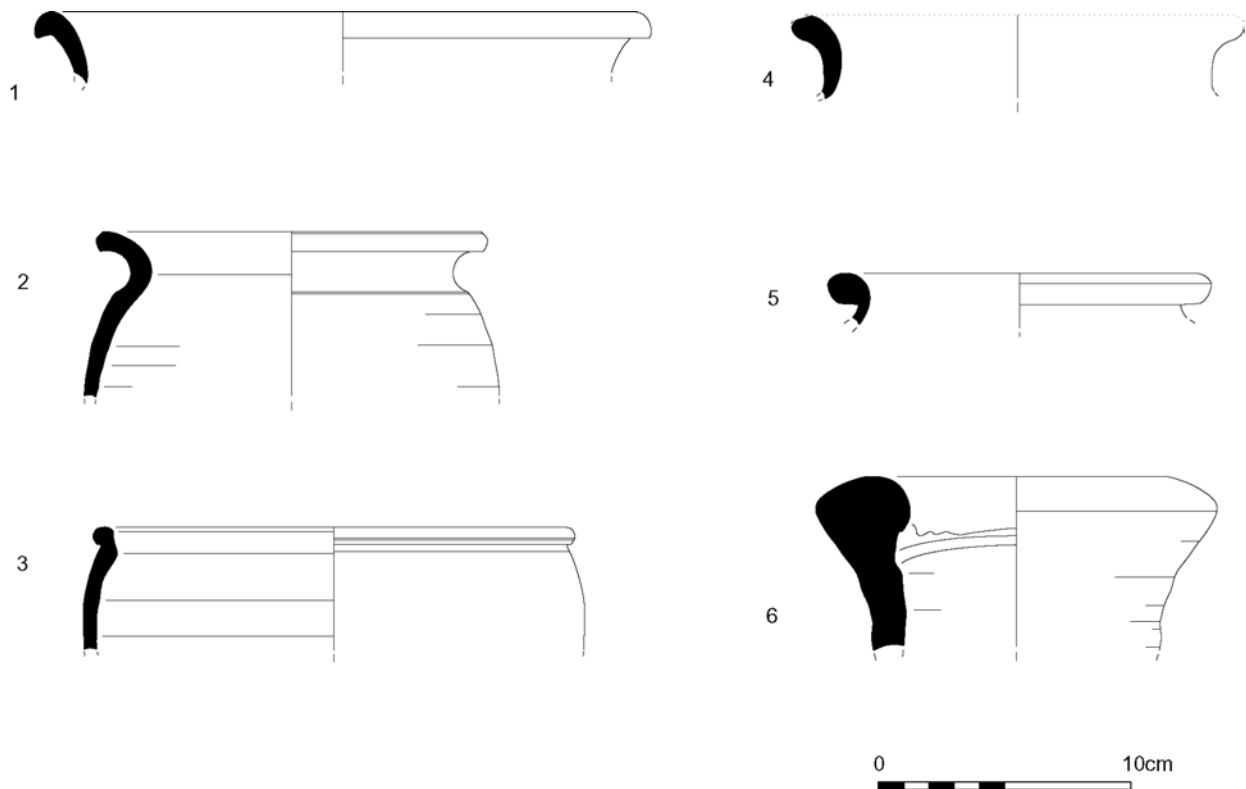
5.5 Selective catalogue (including numbered sherds; illus 3)

Context 7 (upper fill of well 8)

1 A wide-mouthed jar rimsherd with hooked rim, possibly a Severn Valley Ware form. O01 Dia 26cm, RE 8%, Wt 23g

2 An oxidized jar in the local micaceous fabric, possibly a BB-derived form, later second–early third century. Exterior slightly burnt. O05 Dia 16cm, RE 10%, Wt 53g

3 A casserole rimsherd in the cleanish local oxidized fabric O05. Two sherds from the lower fill (context 26) are adjoining parts of the same vessel (as Swan 1992, no 94, early third century). Dia 22cm, RE 15%, Wt 35g



Illus 3 Pottery objects

4 A micaceous jar rim with fine sand, reduced(?) burnt. R03 Dia 17cm, RE 11%, Wt 25g

Context 17 (upper fill of ditch 31)

5 Two Greyware bodysherds with pale core and grey slipped surfaces and a rimsherd in this fabric from a bead-rimmed jar. R01 Dia, 16cm, RE 40%, Wt 85g

Context 18 (lower fill of ditch 31)

Not illustrated: A Greyware bodysherd, grey slipped, local, decorated with acute lattice and sooted. Hadrianic–Antonine. R01 Wt 7g

Context 26 (lower fill of well 8)

Two joining casserole rimsherds in the cleanish local oxidized fabric. They cross-join no 2 (context 7). O05 (as Swan 1992, no 94, early third century). Dia 22cm, RE 15%, Wt 35g

Not illustrated: Two adjoining fragments of the rim, probably of a bowl, in a good orangey-red ware, the gloss of which is orange-red and the fabric orange. The vessel was a product of an East Gaulish workshop, probably located in the Argonne region rather than at Rheinzabern. The vessel was certainly produced in the later second or early third century. If from Argonne, its date of manufacture is most likely to have been in the range *c* AD 150–200. Dia *c*19, RE <3%, Wt 1g

Not illustrated: A small, burnt chip from the fluted base of a mortarium of form Dr 45 which was originally of fairly

good quality. Owing to the burnt condition of this fragment and the absence of its gritted interior it is difficult to identify its place of origin. Whether it was produced in Central Gaul or East Gaul, it will be dated after *c* AD 170, and if an East Gaulish product it may have originated in Trier in the period *c* AD 170–220/30. Wt 1g

Not illustrated: A decorated wall sherd and a tiny adjoining chip from a moulded bowl of form Dr 37 from Lezoux in Central Gaul. The bowl represented by this sherd must have been a fairly good product to judge from the fragment of moulded decoration. The sherd displays part of a double, corded festoon (probably Rogers 1974, Type E21) the contents of which are indistinct, but may perhaps include the tips of a leafy motif (as seen on Standfield & Simpson 1958, plates 158.15 & 160.46). Although merely fragmentary, these decorative motifs may point to the factory of Cinnamus; at any rate a date of manufacture in the early-to mid-Antonine period may be proposed, perhaps *c* AD 140/50–170/80; the general appearance of the sherd would not support a later date of manufacture. Wt 2g

Context 39 (fill of pit 40)

Not illustrated: A Dr 20 rim. A01 D F Williams identified this with Martin-Kilcher 1987, Beilage 2, no 104, dated AD 210–80. Dia *c* 15cm, RE >4%, Wt 58g

Context 41 (fill of ditch 42)

6 A Dr 20 rimsherd. A01 D F Williams identified this with Martin-Kilcher 1987, Beilage 2, no 97, dated AD 150–210. Dia 16cm, RE 28%, Wt 240g