

Late Roman Dorset Black-Burnished Ware (BB1)

A corpus of forms and their distribution in
southern Britain, on the Continent and in the
Channel Islands

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Introduction and acknowledgements

This publication is based on part of the author's PhD thesis presented at Reading University (Lyne 1994) and heavily revised to take account of further research during the last 26 years. It deals with the technology employed by the Dorset Black-Burnished (BB1) ware industry and presents a new corpus of late Roman forms produced by it during the 3rd to early 5th centuries, based on that created by the author for the Bestwall Quarry production site (Lyne 2012A) with amendments. This publication also deals with the distribution of BB1 wares across south-eastern England and in the Channel Islands, France, Belgium and the Netherlands: it also discusses how such wares were marketed and when the industry ceased production.

There are frequent references in this publication to the fabric and form breakdowns of numerous site pottery assemblages without reference to published reports. These pottery assemblages are either unpublished or published without detailed quantification but were examined by this author in museum and archaeological unit stores, in a programme of research between 1989 and 1994. Pottery spot-dating and reports produced by the author for a variety of clients between 1989 and the present day have also been used in the preparation of this publication.

I am indebted to the staff of the numerous museums and archaeological units, as well as amateur groups and private individuals visited and worked for between 1989 and the present day: a full list of these can be found in Appendix 6 (p. 181).

In the matter of work on Continental pottery assemblages during various visits to France, Belgium and the Netherlands between 1985 and the present, I must also thank Michael Batt at DRAC Rennes, Loic Languette at Rennes University, Nicola Coulthard and Karine Jardel at DRAC Caen, Bayeux Museum, Yves-Marie Adrian and Lenaig Feret at INRAP Rouen, Sonja Willems, Raphael Clotuche and Julie Flahaut at INRAP Amiens, Sofie Vanhoutte at the Flemish Heritage Institute, Mark Driessen at the Amsterdam Free University and others for their help and co-operation.