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**Early Iron Age Pottery from Rodborough Common and
Duntisbourne Abbots**

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EARLY IRON AGE POTTERY FROM RODBOROUGH COMMON AND DUNTISBOURNE ABBOTS

Pottery found in 1953 on Rodborough Common and in 1957 at Duntisbourne Abbots during the digging of foundations for houses seems worth recording, since the material from both sites can be compared with similar finds from Bagendon, near Cirencester. The pottery from both places is here described by Miss C. I. Fell.

1. Rodborough Common

At the request of the Stroud Urban District Council, I visited this site which lay within the earthworks described in earlier volumes of these *Transactions*.¹ Together with Captain H. S. Gracie and other friends a small area of an occupation level was uncovered. A considerable quantity of pottery and the bones and teeth of ox, horse, sheep and pig were found. The pottery is mainly of Belgic (Western Third C) character.

The Pottery (FIG. 1, nos. 1-9)

The pottery is in keeping with other pottery from Rodborough referred to above. All should date within the second quarter of the 1st century A.D.

1. Sherd of fine quality Butt-beaker, greyish white in colour with traces of a dark grey wash. Compare *Bagendon* Form 56.A2; *Trans. BGAS*, LXXVIII, p. 42, fig. 6, no. 29.
2. Sherd probably from a lid of a large jar. Wheel-made red-brown ware with polished outer surface. Compare *Camulodunum*, pl. lxxxv, nos. 1 and 15, p. 273.
3. a-b. Neck and pedestal foot of an urn of *Camulodunum* Form 204. Soft, sandy, wheel-made red ware. A few fragments, probably from pedestal urns are included under *Bagendon* Form 86, p. 231.
4. Rim and shoulder of handmade dark brown to black bowl of native tradition, with burnished outer surface. *Bagendon* Form 116 B.
5. Rim sherd of wheel-made reddish buff ware from bowl of *Bagendon* Form 120, fig. 66, no. 20.
6. Shoulder and base of a bowl in soft grey ware with red surface finish. Two shallow grooves at shoulder. *Bagendon* Form 122.
7. Wheel-made ring-foot of soft, sandy red ware from bowl of uncertain form.
8. Wheel-made base in dark grey ware, with soft, soapy, black burnished surface in native tradition. Form uncertain.
9. Rim of large, grey store-jar. Wheel-made, rather soft ware. Dark wash on outer surface. *Bagendon* Form 173, fig. 56, no. 27.

2. Duntisbourne Abbots

Workmen employed by Messrs M. J. Partridge of Birdlip unearthed a few sherds which are described below and have been given

¹ *Trans. BGAS*, LIX, pp. 290-91 and 301-4; LXXVIII, pp. 24-43.

by Mr Partridge to the Corinium Museum, Cirencester. The sherds are the first Belgic (Western Third C) material to be recorded between Bagendon and Minchinhampton.¹

The Pottery (FIG. 1, nos. 10-11).

The few sherds collected from this site appear to belong to two separate vessels:—

10. Rim and body sherds from a native Butt-beaker in red-brown, well smoothed ware. Rim diameter $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Two cordons border decorated zone consisting of irregular vertical lines, scratched with a pointed instrument before firing.

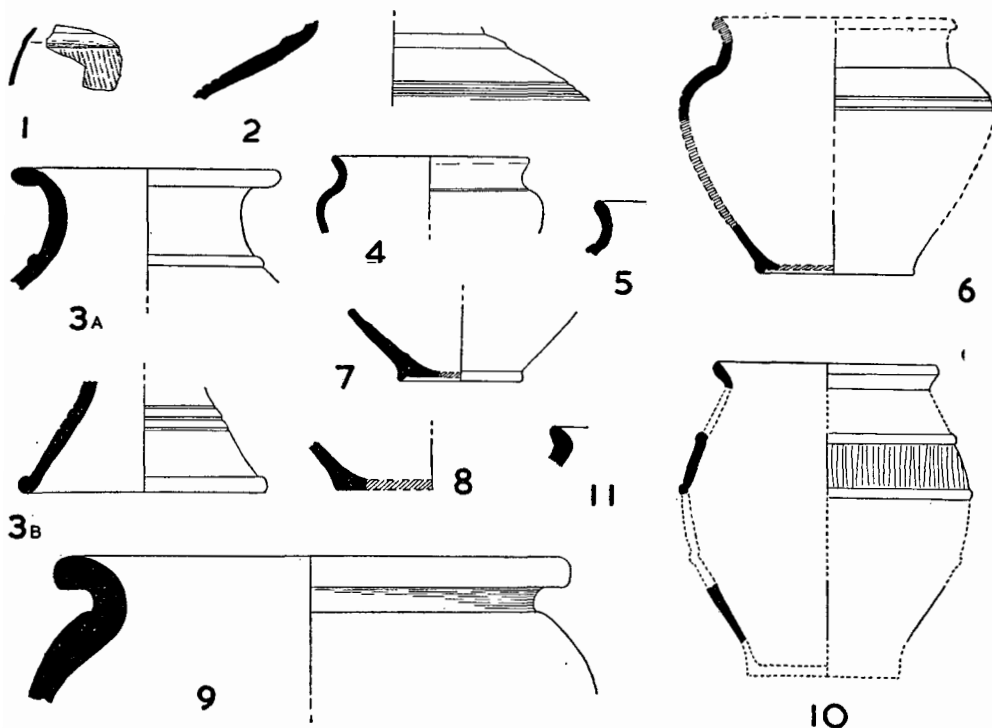


Fig. 1. (¼)

The ware is finely gritted and this and the decoration are similar to *Bagendon* Form 61, which came from a Period II level at that site—second quarter of the 1st century A.D.² The rough decoration simulates the fine rouletting found on imported and fine-quality Butt-beakers. A tentative reconstruction is given here.

11. Rim sherd of coarse, heavily gritted cooking pot in soft, black ware with well smoothed surfaces. Rim diameter about 7 inches. Similar to *Bagendon* Form 164 at which site the native, hand-made cooking pots reflect the underlying Iron Age A/B element of the region.³ Vessels of this kind occurred more frequently in the earlier levels at Bagendon, but were recorded from all periods—first half of 1st century A.D.

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¹ *Trans. BGAS*, LIX, pp. 295-7 and 304-5.

² Clifford, *Bagendon, a Belgic Oppidum*, p. 226.

³ *Ibid.*, pp. 243-5; *Trans. BGAS*, LXXVIII, p. 39, fig. 5, nos. 9-10.