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Late Iron Age Pottery Production and Techniques in Southern Britain

Among the upheaval of the Later Iron Age lie the beginnings of massive changes in the production of material culture. The late Iron Age (c.150/50 BC-AD 43) sees the introduction of a number of technical innovations that changed the ways that objects looked, were made and used. One of the best evidenced of these is the technique of wheel potting. Such an introduction begs many questions as to the social significance of technological change.

This talk, which details part of the speaker's PhD research, will present new data on the introduction and initial phases of use of the potter's wheel, utilising radiographic analyses of 191 ceramic vessels from the case-study region of Berkshire and northern Hampshire, and including results from the recent excavations at Silchester's Insula IX. This data will be used to consider patterns in the techniques of wheel-use during the first centuries BC and AD. These techniques will then be put into their wider social and economic surroundings, considering in this context the significance of changing knowledge, skill, and apprenticeship relations as barometers of wider social change during the Later Iron Age of southern Britain.

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