



Old Sarum Water Pipeline Specialist Reports

Pottery
By R. Every





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Old Sarum Water Pipeline Specialist Reports

Pottery

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(July 2003)

A total of 1589 sherds of pottery, weighing 15,399 g, was recovered from excavations along the Old Sarum Trunk Main, deriving from several sites identified along the route. The assemblage ranges in date from the Middle Neolithic through to post-medieval, with significant groups of Middle Neolithic and Middle Bronze Age date. The breakdown of pottery by site (omitting post-medieval) is given in Table POT1. No pottery (apart from post-medieval) was recovered from Site 4.

Table POT1 Pottery totals by period and by site (number of sherds / weight in grammes)

<i>Date range</i>	<i>Site 1</i>	<i>Site 2</i>	<i>Site 3</i>	<i>Site 5</i>	<i>Site 6</i>	<i>Unstrat.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Middle Neolithic	-	-	77/274	197/2671	-	6/59	280/3004
Beaker	-	16/67	8/64	11/64	-	-	35/195
Middle Bronze Age	-	93/714	122/1174	30/123	10/78	-	255/2089
Late Bronze Age	1/4	-	12/50	4/8	107/762	-	124/824
Mid/Late Iron Age	-	18/139	4/9	25/940	1/8	-	48/1096
Romano-British	652/6551	40/330	7/54	61/387	4/46	-	764/7368
Medieval	-	-	3/6	76/727	-	-	79/733
Total	653/6555	167/1250	233/1631	404/4920	122/894	6/59	1585/15,309

Methods of Analysis

Methods of analysis have followed the standard Wessex Archaeology recording system (Morris 1994), which accords with nationally recommended guidelines for the recording of prehistoric pottery (PCRG 1997). This focuses on detailed recording of fabric and form. In addition, details of manufacture, surface treatment, decoration, evidence for use (residues and perforations), vessel dimensions and cross context joins were recorded. Fabric totals by period are given in Table POT2, and fabric descriptions are presented in Appendix 1.

Middle Neolithic

A moderate amount of pottery (267 sherds, weighing 2929 g) has been identified as Middle Neolithic. Five separate fabric types have been identified, two flint-tempered (FL5, FL6), one grog-tempered (GR4) and two sandy (QU4, QU5). The flint-tempered fabrics are most commonly represented here, and the grog-tempered and sandy fabrics are each likely to be represented by single vessels.

Forty rim sherds are present, representing a minimum of 18 vessels. These belong to two of the substyles of Peterborough Ware: nine Mortlake style vessels (four illustrated: Fig. POT1, 6, 9, 11, 12) and nine of Ebbsfleet style (five illustrated: Fig. POT1, 1, 2, 4, 8, 13). To these can be added at least three further vessels, of uncertain substyle, identified on the basis of fabric and/or decorated body sherds. With the exception of six body sherds found unstratified, these vessels all came from pits on Sites 3 and 5.

Table POT2 Pottery fabric totals by period

<i>Date range</i>	<i>Fabric code</i>	<i>No. sherds</i>	<i>Weight (g)</i>
Middle Neolithic	FL5	69	1376
	FL6	199	1560
	GR4	4	23
	QU4	1	8
	QU5	7	37
	<i>sub-total</i>	280	3004
Beaker	GR1	10	16
	GR2	9	83
	GR3	16	96
	<i>sub-total</i>	35	195
Middle Bronze Age	FL3	19	516
	FL7	229	1554
	LI1	2	3
	SH1	5	16
	<i>sub-total</i>	255	2089
Late Bronze Age	FL1	3	32
	FL2	21	361
	FL4	4	5
	SH2	57	189
	SH3	30	221
	VE1	9	16
	<i>sub-total</i>	124	824
Middle/Late Iron Age	QU1	2	19
	QU2	11	44
	QU3	15	866
	QU6	19	152
	QU7	1	15
	<i>sub-total</i>	48	1096
Romano-British	Samian	2	3
	New forest fineware	36	353
	Oxfordshire fineware	3	44
	Oxfordshire mortaria	2	2
	Brockley Hill mortaria	5	411
	Black Burnished Ware	86	646
	Coarse grog-tempered	21	383
	Coarse greywares	608	5504
	Whiteware	1	22
	<i>sub-total</i>	764	7368
Medieval	E420	1	3
	E421	11	276
	E422a	37	219
	E422b	27	224
	E428	3	11
	<i>sub-total medieval</i>	79	733

Assignment to substyle has been achieved largely on the basis of rim form, although it is acknowledged that there may be a certain amount of overlap between the two substyles of Mortlake and Ebbsfleet; certainly the two substyles cannot be distinguished here on fabric grounds, as the same fabrics are used for both. All four sherds in the grog-tempered fabric GR4 are of Ebbsfleet style. The Mortlake rims tend to be heavy and T-shaped, while Ebbsfleet rims are inturned, with a flat top (Smith 1965, 48). Decoration is impressed, using twisted cord, animal bone and fingernails or fingertips. Elaborately decorated vessels (eg. Fig. POT1, 12) can be contrasted with at least one vessel that has only random wipe-marks on the lower part of the body (Fig. POT1, 11). Diameters can be estimated for two of the Ebbsfleet vessels (2 and 8), and for four of the Mortlake vessels (6, 9, 11 and 12). Number 12 has an

almost complete profile present, showing that the vessel was approximately 170mm deep. From these examples for which measurements can be taken it appears that the Ebbsfleet vessels are generally smaller than the Mortlake vessels, although the sample is really too small for comment in this respect.

These vessels can be paralleled amongst the assemblage from Windmill Hill (Smith 1965, fig. 32, P252 and P254). The examples of Ebbsfleet style vessels from Windmill Hill display a strong preference for whipped cord impression (*ibid.*, 74) which echoes the decoration on the pipeline assemblage, with S-twisted cord decoration. The Mortlake vessels also find parallels within the 7 Windmill Hill assemblage (*ibid.*, fig. 33; P258), with similar decoration of deep finger-impressed pits in the neck zone, and fingertip impressions. Sherds of Peterborough Ware have also been found closer to the site during excavations to the north at the Beehive (Cleal and Corney 2003, 58), and to the south of the site (east of Old Sarum), during an earlier excavation relating to a pipeline (Musty 1959, 186, fig. 3).

Distribution

Peterborough Ware was present within eight pits on Site 3 (pits 3000, 3007, 3005, 3020, 3031, 3119, 3197, 3328), and five pits on Site 5 (pits 6056, 6061, 6076, 6093, 6100). The Site 3 pits produced small quantities of sherd material, with no reconstructable profiles; two Ebbsfleet rims are illustrated, from pits 3000 and 3197 respectively (Fig. POT1, 1, 2). Pottery in these pits does not appear to have formed part of any deliberately placed deposits, and were just incorporated randomly in the pit fills. Sherds are small and relatively heavily abraded (mean sherd weight is 3.1g).

In contrast, the deposits within pits on Site 5 contained larger parts of single vessels, and in four of the pits (6056, 6076, 6093 and 6100), these vessels formed part of placed deposits with animal bone and flint and/or stone - in the case of pit 6093, in two separate episodes, and in pit 6056, in three separate episodes. Sherds from the Site 5 pits are in general in much better condition – larger and less heavily abraded - than those from Site 3; mean sherd weight overall is 14.3g. In three pits (6056, 6063 and 6093), the sherds identifiable to substyle are exclusively Mortlake ware (Fig. POT1, 5-7, 10, 11), in one pit (6056) only Ebbsfleet (Fig. POT1, 4), and in one pit (6076) the two substyles are mixed within the primary placed deposit (Fig. POT1, 8, 9). Two, possibly three instances of conjoining sherds between features were noted. Two of these came from adjacent pits 6093 and 6100, where Mortlake style rim sherds (Fig. POT1, 11) from the primary placed deposit in pit 6100 and backfill in pit 6093 were found to conjoin, as well as two Ebbsfleet style rim sherds (Fig. POT1, 13) from the primary placed deposit in 6100 and from a placed deposit in the backfill of 6093. Two Ebbsfleet style rim sherds, both in fabric GR4, respectively from primary placed deposits in pits 6076 and 6100, may belong to the same vessel (Fig. POT1, 8).

Early Bronze Age

A total of 36 sherds (95g) has been identified as Early Bronze Age, of which most can be attributed to Beaker vessels. These sherds all fall into one fabric group based on dominant inclusion type: grog-tempered (group GR). Within this group, a total of three separate fabric types was defined (GR1, GR2 and GR3).

A minimum of four Beaker vessels were identified from diagnostic sherds. The sherds are too small to indicate Beaker type, although the fabric and equal zoned style decoration suggest that these are possibly Western/Middle Rhine Beakers (Clarke 1970, 84).

Three of the Beakers were recovered from pit 1083 on Site 2 (Fig. POT1, 14, 15), and sherds from at least one other came from pit 6153 on Site 5 (Fig. POT1, 16-18), the latter sherds being particularly fine with filled zones. The red colouring of the sherds suggest that

these are early Beakers, produced by a fast firing (R. Cleal, pers comm.). There are parallels from other local sites, for example Berwick St. John (Clarke 1970, 297; 133 - W/MR 1075) and Winterslow Hut (*ibid.*, 297; 134 – W/MR 1204). The two vessels from pit 6153 were associated with Romano-British pottery and are therefore residual, but they may indicate a disturbed burial in the area, possibly from a flat grave (R. Cleal, pers. comm.).

The remaining sherds cannot be assigned a form and are dated to the Early Bronze Age by fabric alone. These were recovered from Site 3 from pits 3031, 3197 and from posthole 3225 and tree-throw 3095.

Middle Bronze Age

A small amount of material is of Middle Bronze Age date, and comprises sherds in four fabrics falling into two broad fabric groups: flint-tempered (fabrics FL7 and FL3) and calcareous (fabrics C3 and C4). Sherds derived from a cremation burial on Site 2, from settlement-related contexts on Site 3, and from a few miscellaneous features on Sites 5 and 6.

A large proportion of the assemblage comprises moderately coarse sherds in the flint-tempered fabrics, deriving from bucket-shaped and barrel urns with finger-impressed shoulders, rims and cordons. On Site 3, sherds probably deriving from a single vessel, a barrel urn with internally expanded rim and finger-impressed shoulder (Fig. POT2, 20), were recovered from two separate contexts within roundhouse 3240 (post-pipe 3054 and ‘votive deposit’ 3135). A very similar barrel urn, with finger-impressed rim and shoulder, came from an isolated urned cremation burial on Site 2 (Fig. POT2, 19). Other coarseware urns, with impressed rims, shoulders or cordons, came from pit/posthole 3091 (Fig. POT2, 21) and pit 3147 (Fig. POT2, 22). Pit 3147 also contained one sherd from a well finished vessel with tooled decoration, representing a globular urn (Fig. POT2, 23), the only example of this vessel form in the assemblage. Sherds from other contexts are less diagnostic and have been dated largely on the basis of fabric type.

Parallels for these vessels can be found within the Middle Bronze Age assemblages from Salisbury Plain (eg. Annable and Simpson 1964, 125-8) and the Marlborough Downs, in particular from Bishop Cannings Down (Tomalin 1992, figs. 62-66), although there is little evidence here of the Kimmeridgian barrel urns common on the latter site – just five body sherds in fabric C4 (from Site 5) could derive from such a vessel.

Late Bronze Age

The Late Bronze Age assemblage falls into three broad fabric groups based on dominant inclusion type: flint-tempered (group F), calcareous-tempered (group C) and organic (group V). Within these groups, a total of seven separate fabrics types was defined (F1, F2, F4, SH2, SH3, VE1).

There is little diagnostic material present. Three coarseware, straight-sided vessels came from, respectively, ditch 3030 (Fig. POT2, 27), pit 8080 (Fig. POT2, 25) and posthole 3177, and one fineware vessel with everted rim (Fig. POT2, 26) from pit 8158. There are no decorated sherds. Fabrics and forms are both typical of the later Bronze Age plainware ceramic traditions of the region (11th to 8th centuries BC).

In terms of site distribution, Late Bronze Age pottery derived from features on Sites 3, 5 and 6, the largest group (81 sherds, although probably representing only two vessels) coming from pit 8158. Evidence is insufficient to confirm or otherwise the contemporaneity of features between the three sites within the overall date range.

Middle/Late Iron Age

A small amount of material, all in quartz-tempered fabrics (QU1, QU2, QU3, QU6, QU7), has been identified as Middle to Late Iron Age. Most of this material came from Site 5, with small quantities from Sites 2, 3 and 6. The five rim sherds present are all from rounded jar/bowl forms with beaded rims (Fig. POT2, 28, 29), some of which are burnished; the most complete example came from pit 6157.

Romano-British

The Romano-British pottery has not been analysed in any great detail. Quantification has been by broad ware group (eg. coarse greywares) or by known type (eg. Black Burnished Ware). Most of this material came from Site 1, with smaller quantities from other sites.

Coarse greywares dominate the assemblage, and are likely to derive from several different sources, potentially including the New Forest and Alice Holt, although glauconitic greywares observed here are more likely to derive from greensand areas such as North Wiltshire. One known type is present – Black Burnished Ware (BB1) from the Poole Harbour area of Dorset. There is also a small quantity of grog-tempered wares, and one sherd of whiteware (late 1st/early 2nd century AD flagon from ditch 42).

Finewares are limited to two sherds of imported samian, and a small quantity of colour coated wares and mortaria from the New Forest, Oxfordshire and Verulamium region kilns. The single example of a Verulamium region mortarium (from ditch 42) has a stamp of Albinus (AD60-90). These wares, together with the identifiable coarseware vessel forms (everted rim jars, flanged and dropped flange bowls), indicate a date range spanning the Romano-British period, although there may be some chronological variation between the various areas. Pottery from Sites 1 and 2 covers the whole Romano-British period from later 1st to 4th century AD, while Site 5 produced only early Roman (later 1st/2nd century AD) and Site 3 only later Roman material (3rd/4th century AD).

Medieval

A small quantity of medieval pottery (78 sherds) was recovered, mainly from ditches on Site 5, with a few sherds from Site 3. Sherds are almost exclusively in locally made Laverstock-type fabrics, including both coarse- and finewares.

Laverstock-type wares have a relatively long currency; the coarse variants comparable to E422a were present in 11th and 12th century levels at Old Sarum (Musty and Rahtz 1964), and continued in use into the 13th century in the new city, with a gradual tendency towards the finer variants. Vessel forms here indicate that there is a potential 12th century component to the assemblage in the form of glazed sherds, some with combed decoration, which probably derive from tripod pitchers. There is also one ‘West Country’ or inturned dish, a 12th/13th century form, and one jar rim. The presence of fineware sherds, however, presumably representing glazed jugs in the Laverstock tradition, extend the date range well into the 13th century and possibly beyond.

List of illustrated sherds

Figure POT1

Middle Neolithic

1. Ebbsfleet style rim sherd; fabric FL5. PRN (Pottery record Number) 320, context 3002, pit 3000 (primary fill).
2. Ebbsfleet style rim sherd; fabric FL6. PRN 321, context 3200, pit 3197;
3. Decorated body sherd; fabric QU5. PRN 322, context 3200, pit 3197.
4. Ebbsfleet style rim sherd; fabric FL6. PRN 319, context 6057, pit 6056 (placed deposit in backfill).
5. Mortlake style rim sherd; fabric FL6. PRN 323, context 6063, pit 6061 (backfill).
6. Mortlake style rim; fabric FL5. PRN 318, context 6063, pit 6061 (backfill).
7. Decorated body sherd; fabric FL6. PRN 324, context 6063, pit 6061 (backfill).
8. Ebbsfleet style rim; fabric GR4. PRN 326, context 6083, pit 6076 (primary placed deposit).
9. Mortlake style rim; fabric FL6. PRN 328, context 6083, pit 6076 (primary placed deposit).
10. Decorated body sherd; fabric FL6. PRN 327, context 6094; pit 6093 (primary placed deposit).
11. Mortlake style rim; fabric FL5. PRNs 313/00, contexts 6099/6101, pits 6093 (backfill) and 6100 (primary placed deposit).
12. Mortlake style profile; fabric FL5. PRNs 313-4, context 6123, pit 6056 **check context info**
13. Ebbsfleet style rim; fabric FL6. PRNs 242/313, contexts 6097/6101, pits 6093 (placed deposit in backfill) and 6100 (primary placed deposit)

Beaker

14. Beaker rim sherd; fabric GR3. PRN 338, context 1085, pit 1083.
15. Beaker rim sherd; fabric GR3. PRN 338, context 1085; pit 1083.
16. Beaker rim sherd; comb-impressed decoration; fabric GR3. PRN 329, context 6154, pit 6153.
17. Decorated Beaker body sherd; fabric GR3. PRN 317, context 6154, pit 6153.
18. Decorated Beaker body sherd; fabric GR3. PRN 316, context 6154, pit 6153.

Figure POT2

Middle Bronze Age

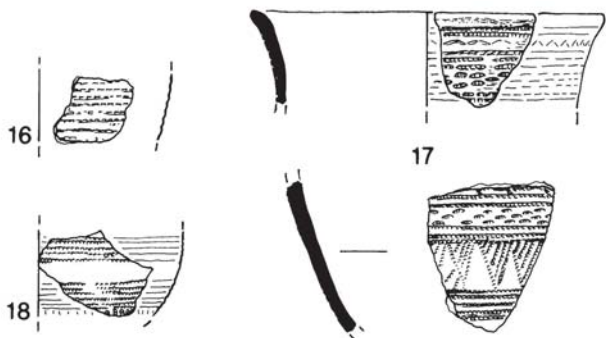
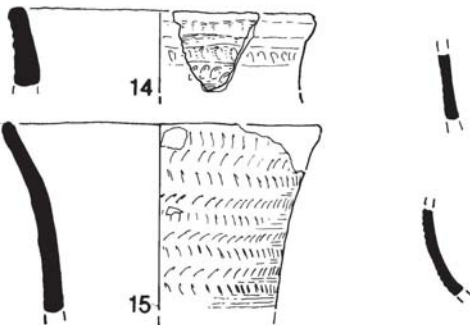
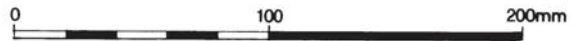
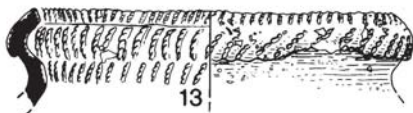
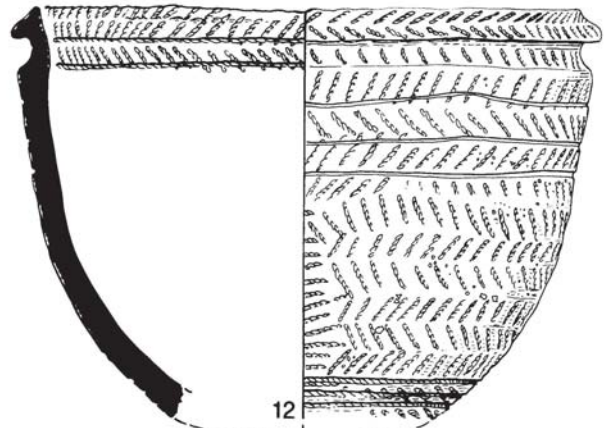
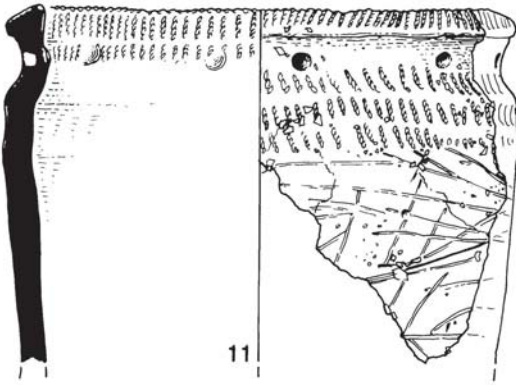
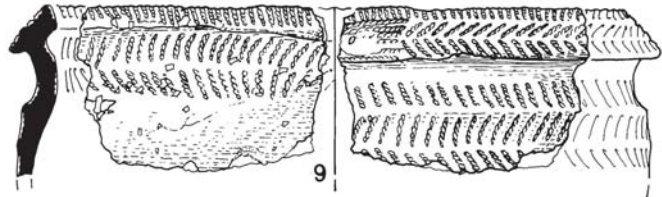
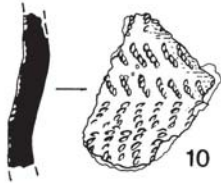
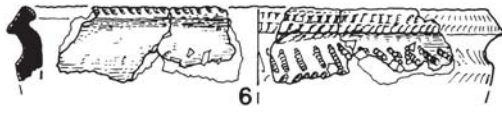
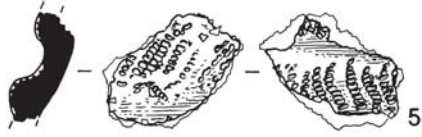
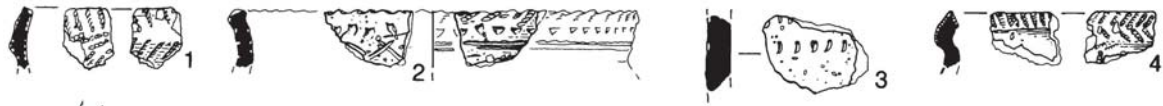
19. Rim sherd from barrel urn; finger impressed decoration; fabric FL3. PRNs 333-4, context 2128; cremation burial 2129.
20. Rim sherd from barrel urn; finger impressed decoration; fabric FL7. PRNs 331-2, context 3053, post-pipe 3054.
21. Decorated body sherd; applied, finger impressed cordons; fabric FL7. PRN 335, context 3114, posthole 3091.
22. Rim sherd from barrel urn; finger impressed decoration; fabric FL3. PRN 341, context 3174, pit 3147.
23. Decorated body sherd from globular urn; fabric FL7. PRN 342, context 3174, pit 3147.
24. Rim sherd; fabric FL3. PRN 110, context 8048, pit 8047.

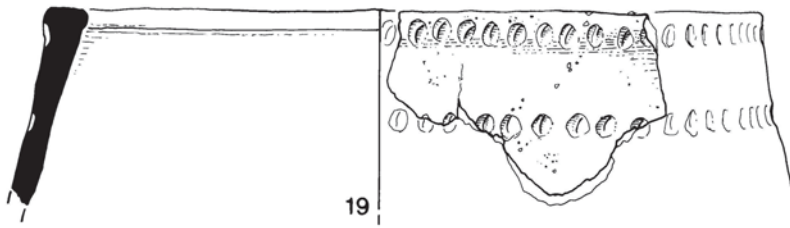
Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age

25. Rim sherd; fabric FL2. PRN 340, context 8083, pit 8080.
26. Rim sherd; fabric SH3. PRN 339, context 8159, pit 8158.
27. Rim sherd; fabric SH3. PRN 128, context 3044, ditch 3030.

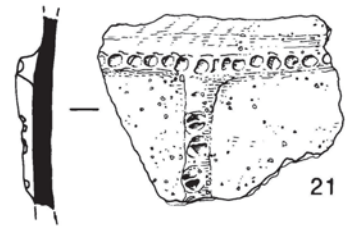
Middle/Late Iron Age

28. Convex jar/bowl; burnished; fabric QU6. PRN 162, context 1070, ditch 1069.
29. Convex jar/bowl; burnished; fabric QU3. PRNs 243-4, context 6158, pit 6157.

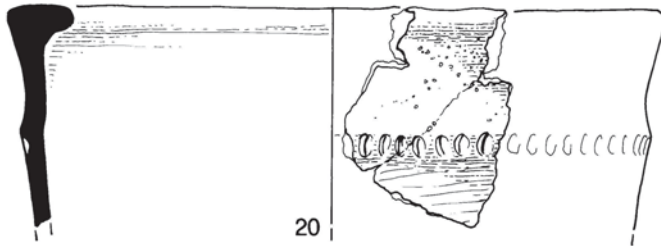




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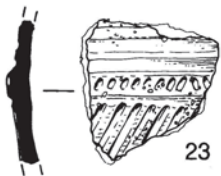
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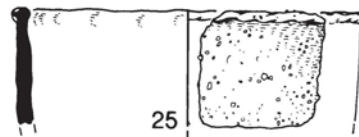
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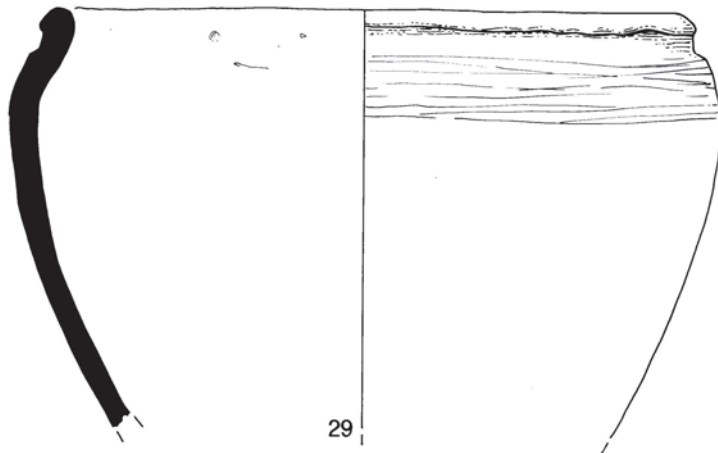
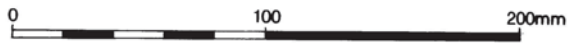
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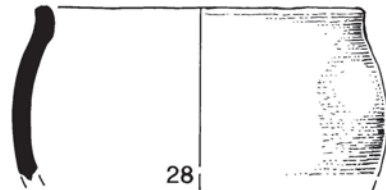
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Appendix 1: Pottery Fabrics

MIDDLE NEOLITHIC: PETERBOROUGH WARE

- FL5 Peterborough Ware, coarse, sub-angular calcined flint <5mm, moderate to frequent mica; moderate finer calcined flint and patinated flint <1mm (detritus in clay)
- FL6 Peterborough Ware, frequent fine quartz <0.5mm; moderate calcined flint <3mm; sparse organic 2mm long
- FL7 Peterborough Ware, moderate to frequent coarse calcined flint <5mm ;moderate to rare iron oxides, sub-rounded <3mm; frequent sub-rounded quartz <1mm
- GR4 Peterborough Ware, grog-tempered (detail not recorded)
- QU4 Peterborough Ware sandy fabric (detail not recorded)
- QU5 Peterborough Ware sandy fabric with flint (detail not recorded)

BEAKER

- GR1 Frequent, sub-rounded grog <1mm; rare, sub-angular patinated flint <1mm; rare, sub-angular iron oxides <1mm
- GR2 Frequent sub-rounded grog <2mm; sparse patinated flint <2mm; sparse iron oxides <1mm, sub-rounded
- GR3 Beaker. Moderate, sub-rounded grog <1mm; sparse, sub-rounded quartz <1mm; sparse patinated flint, sub-angular <1mm (detritus in clay)

MIDDLE BRONZE AGE

- FL7 Middle Bronze Age. Frequent fine calcined flint <2mm; frequent quartz, sub rounded <0.05mm
- FL3 Middle/Late Bronze Age. Frequent fine, calcined flint <2mm; rare fossil shell, sub-angular <2mm
- LI 1 Middle/Late Bronze Age. Moderate limestone, sub-angular <3mm, fine sandy matrix
- SH1 Middle/Late Bronze Age. Moderate, coarse fossil shell, sub-angular <10mm; frequent, sub-rounded, iron oxides <0.05mm

LATE BRONZE AGE

- FL1 Sparse-moderate, calcined flint, sub-angular <0.05mm; sparse iron oxides, sub-rounded <1mm; sparse linear voids <1mm long
- FL2 Moderate to frequent coarse calcined flint, sub-angular <5mm; sparse mica; frequent finer calcined flint <1mm; frequent quartz, sub-rounded <1mm
- FL4 Moderate to sparse calcined flint, sub-angular <1mm; sparse, sub-angular chalk <1mm; mica; moderate iron oxides, sub-rounded <0.5mm; frequent, sub-rounded quartz <1mm; sparse linear voids 5mm
Calcined flint; organic
- VE1 Moderate organic voids <5mm long; mica; moderate iron oxides, sub-rounded <1mm
- SH2 Frequent fossil shell, sub-angular <4mm; frequent iron oxides, sub-rounded <1mm; rare calcined, sub-angular, flint <5mm
- SH3 Frequent Fossil shell, sub-angular <2mm; mica; rare, sub-rounded quartz <1mm and iron oxides. Well finished – Fineware

MIDDLE/LATE IRON AGE

- QU1 Frequent, sub-rounded fine quartz <0.05mm; sparse calcined flint, sub-angular <1mm; mica; sparse, organic voids <5mm long
- QU2 Frequent quartz, sub-rounded <1mm; moderate, sub-rounded, iron oxides <1mm
- QU3 Frequent, fine, sub-rounded, quartz <0.05mm moderate, sub-rounded iron oxides <0.05mm
- QU6 Frequent fine, sub-rounded quartz <0.5mm; moderate organic voids <2mm long; rare patinated flint, sub-angular <5mm
- QU7 Frequent quartz, sub-rounded <0.5mm; moderate, sub-angular, calcined flint <2mm; rare iron oxides, sub-rounded <1mm

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