

XI.

NEOLITHIC POTTERY FROM KNAPPERS FARM, NEAR GLASGOW. BY REAY R. MACKAY, F.S.A.Scot.

The bowl and the flint artefact (Nos. 1 and 2 in the detailed description below) were found in a grave near Knappers Farm, Clydebank, Dunbartonshire, in September 1937. There seems to have been a small, roughly circular grave with irregular boulder-built sides. When found, the bowl contained carbonaceous earth with traces of calcined bones. Although in a fractured condition, it was for the most part complete after it had been assembled.

Some other sherds, probably representing three vessels, were also found between 1937 and 1938 (Nos. 3 to 6 below). They were not definitely associated with any structures and need not necessarily represent sepulchral ware; of these, 3 and 4 were found in the prehistoric surface level. In addition, a fairly large amount of Bronze Age pottery was found but not one sherd of beaker ware, nor any evidence of a later inhabitation of the site.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE FINDS.

Contents of the Grave.

(1) Bowl: Form A (fig. 1, 1, and Pl. XLV, 1). It is undecorated, of hard burnished black ware, with large grits and a "roll-over"-type rim. There is a single secondary perforation under the rim, which appears to have been the only one made. An apparently single secondary perforation occurs, for example, in a vessel from Sir Lindsay Scott's excavation of the chambered cairn of Clettraval.¹ In form No. 1 is somewhat similar to one from Bicker's Houses.²

(2) Flint Blade (fig. 2). This object is a knife which falls within the plano-convex group described by Dr J. G. D. Clark,³ and most commonly

¹ *P.S.A.S.*, vol. lxix. p. 504, fig. 19.

² Callander, *P.S.A.S.*, vol. lxiii. p. 49, figs. 21 and 39, No. 5.

³ *Ant. Journ.*, vol. xii. p. 158. I am particularly indebted to Professor Piggott for this information.

known from Early Bronze Age food-vessel contexts. Similar knives have, however, been found in association with Neolithic pottery in West Scottish chambered tombs (*e.g.* at Torlin¹ in Arran) and, although there is later

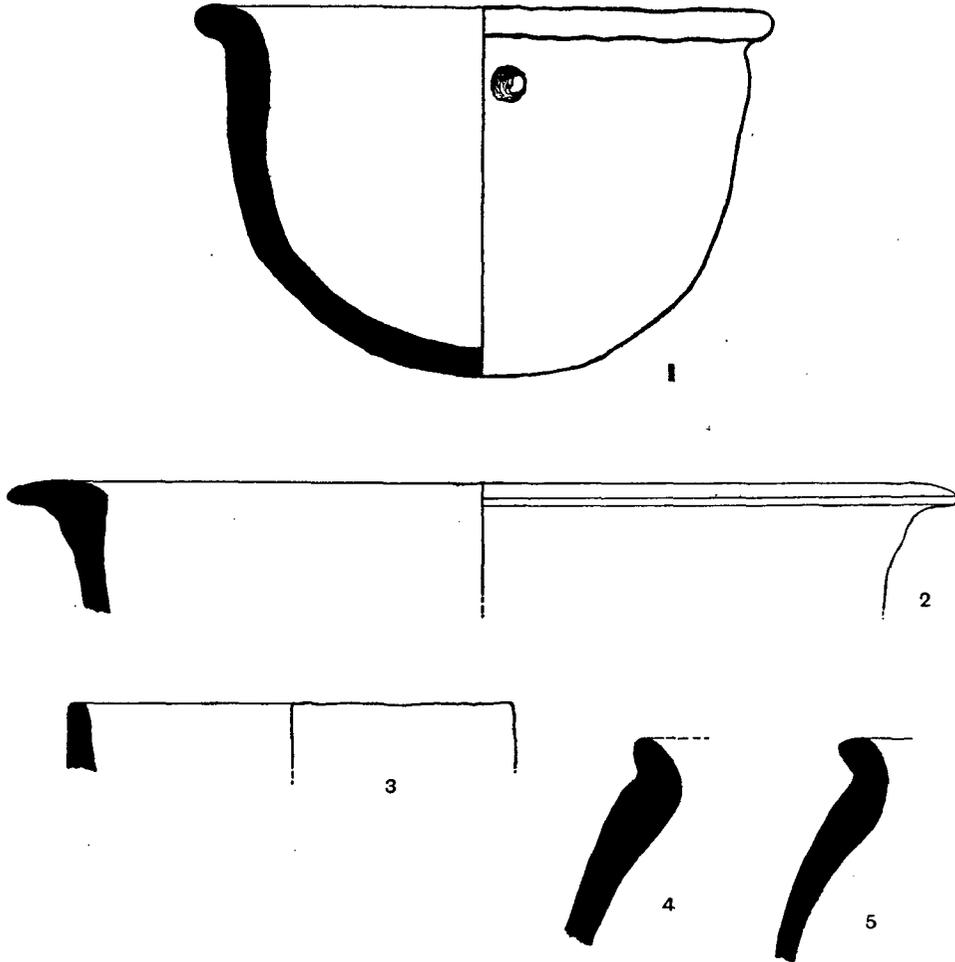


Fig. 1. Scale $\frac{1}{2}$.

Bronze Age material from Knappers, there seems no reason to doubt its direct association with the bowl above. The knife belongs to a type of Dr Clark's having a "straight chisel-like extremity." The corticed primary flake has had three large flakes trimmed from the upper surface before its removal from the core, and has been extensively trimmed along one edge

¹ Bryce, *P.S.A.S.*, vol. xxxvi. p. 84. Also *cf.* apparent associations at Midhowe (*P.S.A.S.*, vol. lxxviii. p. 335, fig. 15) and Blackhammer (*P.S.A.S.*, vol. lxxi. p. 304, fig. 7) in Orkney.

and at the non-bulbar end. There is a break at the butt end, and although not worked, the slightly concave edge produced seems to show signs of use as a hollow scraper.

Miscellaneous Sherds (not from the Grave).

(3) Fragment of vessel with flat projecting rim (fig. 1, 2) of a hard reddish-brown paste with fine grits; it has radial flutings which are confined

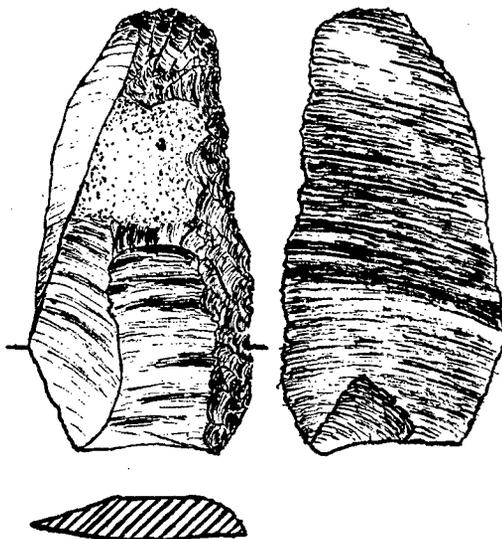


Fig. 2 (†).

to the top of the rim. The maximum external diameter has been about $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The fluted top of the rim and inside of the wall have a slightly polished surface. Close parallels to this are not very common in Scotland. Two examples come from Glecknabae and one from Giant's Graves.¹ These rims may belong to vessels of Form E, as in the Glecknabae specimen.²

(4) Fragment of what seems to have been a small open cup with plain rim (fig. 1, 3) of fairly soft light brown paste with small grits of crushed micaceous granite. The external diameter at the rim has been about 5 inches.

(5) Two sherds (fig. 1, 4 and 5) which, along with 11 wall and base fragments, are of light brown or greyish-coloured paste with medium grits. They probably represent one vessel. No. 4 seems to have an abnormal thickening of the rim, and the correct vertical position of the cross-section

¹ Callander, *P.S.A.S.*, vol. lxxiii., figs. 39, No. 4; 22; 39, No. 6; 23; and 39, No. 7.

² *Ibid.*, figs. 22 and 39, No. 6.

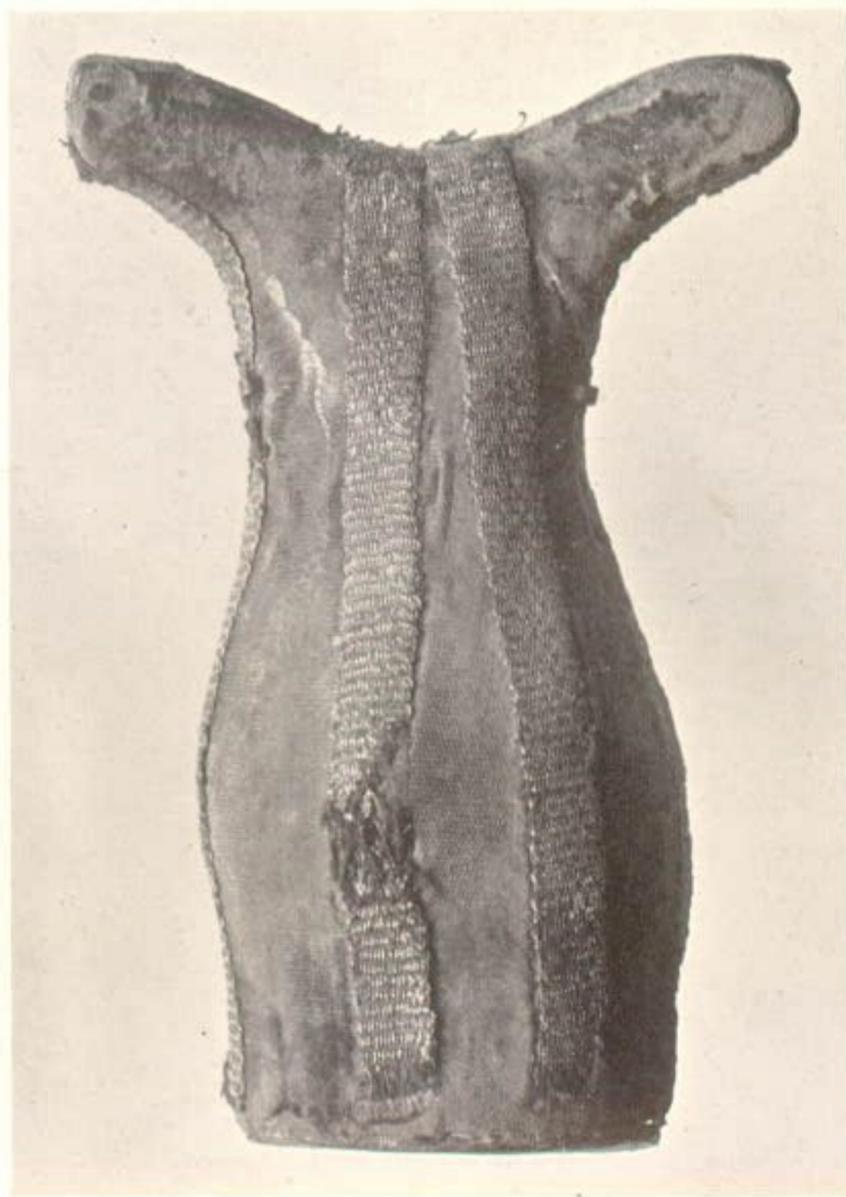


1. Neolithic Bowl from Knappers Farm, Glasgow. ($\frac{6}{10}$.)

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2. Gold Coronation Ampulla, 1633.



3. Case for Ampulla. ($\frac{7}{10}$.)

is unknown. In No. 5 the cross-section illustrated is probably in the right position, and if this is the case it may represent a globular pot.

Scottish examples of this type come from Clettraval,¹ and were recognised as a distinct class by Professor Piggott at Maiden Castle.²

All the pottery is of Class A (Windmill Hill or "Western" Neolithic ware), but owing to the lack of stratigraphical evidence, not only from this site but from the whole of Scotland, it is not yet possible to make any subdivision. At the time of discovery the absence of beaker ware was noted, and an examination of the Neolithic pottery has now shown that Class B (Peterborough ware) is evidently absent also.

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