

Neolithic Pottery, Watermead Burnt Mound (Accession no. A57.1996)

Nicholas J. Cooper

Four joining sherds (Sf no. 16) weighing 25g were retrieved from the hearth feature in the burnt mound radiocarbon dated to 2860-2140 cal BC.

The sherds belong to body of a possibly straight-sided or at least jar-like vessel of about 12cm in diameter and are undecorated. The vessel is hand made but not obviously coil built and 8mm in thickness. The external surface is untreated whilst the internal surface is smoothed and has flaked off in places due to burial conditions (waterlogging?). The fabric colour is reduced throughout to a very dark grey with slightly lighter surfaces. The clay contains moderate amounts of very fine rounded quartz (<0.01mm) with moderate amounts of very fine white mica, both of which are likely to be naturally occurring in the clay rather than added. The fabric has not been recognised in the county before and lacking diagnostic decoration it is unlikely that it would have been recognised as Neolithic in the absence of the radiocarbon date.