

# Archaeological Reports

## FOOD VESSELS FROM DERBYSHIRE

By T. G. MANBY

SINCE the publication of a corpus of Early Bronze Age food vessels found in the Peak District<sup>1</sup> the writer has located some further vessels in distant museums and old literature. The four vessels are from sites in the carboniferous limestone area of Derbyshire that has produced the vast majority of previous food vessels; all are of "Yorkshire type".

### *Tissington* (Fig. 7)

Preserved in the Municipal Museum, Warrington, is an almost complete vessel described as from "Tessington (*sic*), Derbyshire", Museum Accession no. 13'39. No further find details are recorded for this vessel, only that it had been presented by the late Lady F. Daresbury of Old Walton Hall, Warrington. This vessel belongs to type ra(ii)<sup>2</sup> and is  $5\frac{7}{8}$  in. high,  $6\frac{3}{4}$  in. diameter rim and  $3\frac{1}{8}$  in. diameter base. The fabric is a hard, smooth buff ware. Originally there were four unperforated lugs in the shoulder groove, but only one remains. The decoration is very elaborate, covering the whole of the exterior and the rim bevel; cord impressions, zones of incised herring-bone pattern and rows of triangular "chip" impressions have been employed. On the base is a cross formed of two pairs of parallel cord impressions.

### *Peak Forest, Gautries Hill* (Fig. 7)

Preserved amongst the Pennington Collection in the Museum and Art Gallery, Bolton, Lancs., are seven sherds of a food vessel and one urn fragment from Gautries Hill. Pennington records that a barrow was excavated in 1876; flint flakes, an arrowhead and "some bits of an urn" were recovered.<sup>3</sup> The food vessel sherds belong to a vessel of type ra(ii) with a rim diameter of  $6\frac{3}{8}$  in. The fabric is a medium hard ware with a reddish-brown exterior and a dark grey core. A single unperforated lug remains in the shoulder groove, and the exterior and the rim bevel are decorated with simple cord lines.

### *Hartington, Thirkel Low*

During the excavation of Thirkel Low by the Salts at the end of last century,

<sup>1</sup> Manby, "Food Vessels of the Peak District", *D.A.J.*. LXXVII (1957), 1-29.

<sup>2</sup> Manby, 4, fig. 1.

<sup>3</sup> Pennington, *Barrows and Bone-caves of Derbyshire*, 1877, 26-8.

sherds of a food vessel were found with a decayed skeleton 3 ft. from the north-western margin of the mound. Also accompanying the burial was a jet disc bead and a horse-shoe scraper of chert.<sup>4</sup> The present location of these finds is unknown, but the sherds were illustrated and belong to a vessel of type 2(i) decorated with cord line impressions. On the exterior there was a single horizontal line on the rim, three rows of double verticle chevrons on the neck, and in the groove were short diagonal lines with a second zone below the shoulder to form a herring-bone. No details of the fabric are available.

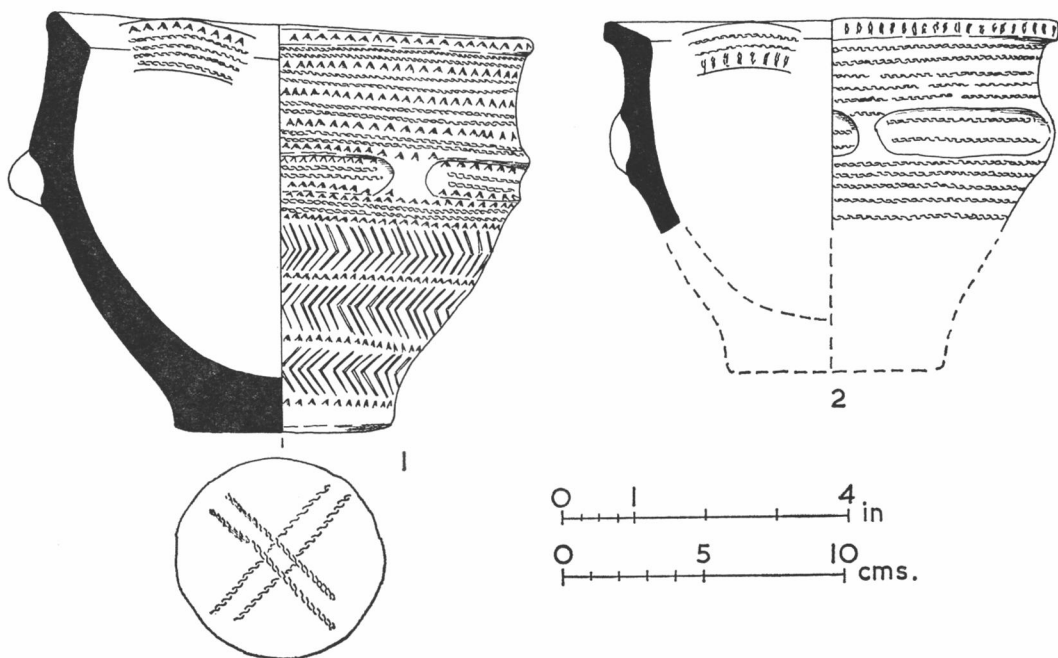


FIG. 7. Food vessels from (1) Tissington and (2) Gautries Hill, Peak Forest.

*Buxton, Grin Low (SK 053717)*

During the excavation of this barrow by the Salts at the end of last century a complete food vessel was found with burial D, a contracted skeleton in a partially stone-built grave enclosure, south of the barrow centre.<sup>5</sup> The present location of this vessel is unknown; many details are lacking, but from the illustration it appears to be an atypical vessel, probably type 3(iv). No dimensions are given, but the decoration covers the whole of the exterior. Two cords of differing thickness were employed, the upper portion of the vessel having vertical lines between horizontal lines and the lower portion herring-bone and lozenge patterns.

<sup>4</sup> Turner, *Ancient Remains near Buxton*, 1899, III, plate XXV, fig. 2.

<sup>5</sup> Turner, 88, plate XIX.

The addition of these four vessels does not alter the ratio of the various types of food vessels in the Peak District.<sup>6</sup> The type 2 vessels are still the most numerous, and the Thirkel Low vessel increases the early type 2(i) total to five.

The decoration of the Tissington vessel presents two points of interest. Food vessels of the "Yorkshire" type rarely have their bases decorated. The only other Derbyshire vessel with such a feature is from Elk Low<sup>7</sup>; this has a cross motif but with elaborate panel decoration about it. Decorated bases are unknown amongst the food vessels of southern England and Wales. In Yorkshire there are four examples with base decoration all of a simple character. A vessel from Quernhow, Ainderby, has two concentric rings of dots on its base<sup>8</sup>; and a vessel from Kirby Misperton has short diagonal strokes around the edge of the base.<sup>9</sup> On the other two vessels the simple cross motif is used; on a vessel from Newton-on-Rawcliffe the cross is made up of three lines of dots for one stroke and two lines for the other.<sup>10</sup> On a vessel from Driffild the cross is formed by two double lines of dots.<sup>11</sup> A vessel from Alwinton, Northumberland, has the cross on its base formed by two incised lines with lines of dots on each side.<sup>12</sup> The five vessels mentioned above all belong to type 1a like the Tissington vessel.

Decorated bases are more common amongst the food vessels of Scotland and Ireland. Usually it is the cross motif that is employed,<sup>13</sup> but a reserved cross could also be made by hatching the corners,<sup>14</sup> a scheme employed on the bases of two beakers from Yorkshire.<sup>15</sup> This latter method lead to a degeneration of the motif to a star pattern.<sup>16</sup>

The second decorative feature of the Tissington vessel that is noteworthy is the use of the triangular "chip" impression, a feature found on no other Peak District food vessels. The pattern is made by pressing a triangular-sectioned stamp into the potclay with the apex pushed furthest in. These stamps were also used to produce a raised zig-zag in false-relief by two lines of alternating upright and inverted imprints.<sup>17</sup> These "chip" impressions were only employed on eleven food vessels found in Yorkshire,<sup>18</sup> also on vessels from Northumberland<sup>19</sup> and Wales.<sup>20</sup> In Scotland and Ireland "chip"

<sup>6</sup> Manby, 8-9, 11.

<sup>7</sup> Manby, 18, fig. 5, A19.

<sup>8</sup> Waterman, *Ant. J.*, XXXI (1951), 19, fig. 7.2.

<sup>9</sup> Unpublished: Yorkshire Museum, 1189.47.

<sup>10</sup> Bateman, *Ten Years' Diggings*, 1861, 212; Abercromby, *Bronze Age Pottery*, I, 1912, no. 141; Sheffield Museum, J93-797.

<sup>11</sup> Abercromby, no. 161.

<sup>12</sup> Greenwell, *British Barrows*, 1877, 423-4, fig. 71; Abercromby, no. 145.

<sup>13</sup> Abercromby, nos. 233a, 237, 241a, 245a, 291a.

<sup>14</sup> Abercromby, no. 310a.

<sup>15</sup> Long-necked beaker from Goodmanham, Greenwell, fig. 90; handled beaker from Aldro, Mortimer, *Forty Years' Researches*, 1905, fig. 102.

<sup>16</sup> Abercromby, nos. 285a, 296a, 302a, 358a.

<sup>17</sup> Abercromby, no. 135.

<sup>18</sup> Kitson Clark, *Arch. J.*, XCIV (1937), 53-4. "Chip" impressions on food vessels from Aldro C59, Barningham, Cawthorn, Cropton, Ampleforth, Fimber, Folkton, Garrowby, Goodmanham, Lythe and Peasholme.

<sup>19</sup> Abercromby, nos. 180, 227.

<sup>20</sup> Savory, *Bull. Board of Celtic Studies*, XVII (1957), 196-233, B13, D6, E6.

impressions, especially to produce false-relief patterns, were extensively employed on food vessels of both bowl and vase form.<sup>21</sup>

#### *Acknowledgements*

The writer wishes to record his thanks to Mr. J. S. Rimmer, Director of Warrington Museum, and Mr. C. V. Smith, Director of Bolton Museum, for study facilities and permission to publish.

<sup>21</sup> Abercromby, nos. 223-413; Clark, *P.P.S.*, I (1935), 83-92, fig. 10; Young, *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, LXXXV (1950-1), 38-50.

## A DISCOIDAL POLISHED FLINT KNIFE FROM WHITWELL

By M. J. DOLBY

IN October 1964, during potato-picking operations, a discoidal polished flint knife of triangular form (Clark's type 2)<sup>1</sup> was found on the surface of field 5356 in Whitwell parish (SK 53547765) by Mr A. Webster of Whitwell (Fig. 8).

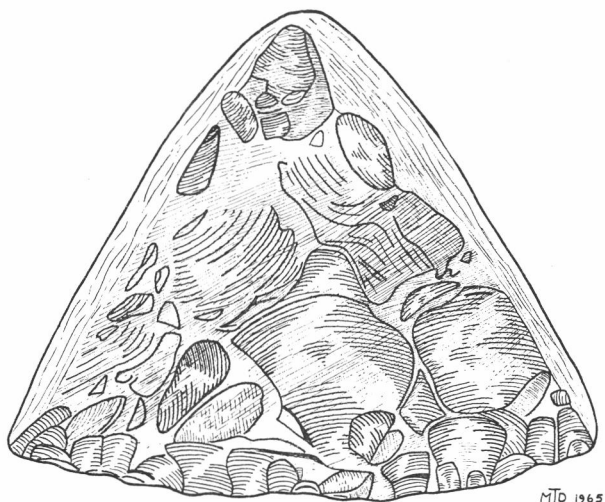


FIG. 8. Discoidal polished flint knife from Whitwell (1/1).

<sup>1</sup> J. G. D. Clark, "Discoidal Polished Flint Knives — Their Typology and Distribution", *P.P.S.E.A.*, VI (1928-9), 40-54.