Readme:
CTRL Section 1 Post-excavation specialist research archive;
Ceramics; Earlier prehistoric pottery
Methodology (Extract from the Schemewide Ceramics Report)

Recording of this material followed the nationally-accepted standards set out by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (hereafter PCRG; PCRG 1995; 1997). These cover approaches to recording the basic ceramic attributes defined in the post-excavation specification. In addition, any evidence for characteristics (such as soot, lime-scale or abrasion) which shed light on vessel use was noted and sherd thickness was recorded. This last aspect has been shown to be of considerable value in characterising prehistoric assemblages, to the extent that in combination with other attributes it can assist in assessment of the date of groups which may contain few other diagnostic characteristics.

Sherds were assigned to fabric either on macroscopically observed criteria or using a binocular microscope at up to x20 magnification. Site or site-group specific fabric series were established. These reflect the almost universally local nature of early prehistoric pottery production. The pottery was characterised by fabric, form, surface treatment, decoration and colour. The sherds were divided into fabric types and groups by principal inclusion type. Density of inclusions was measured using standard charts (Fitzpatrick 1984; cf Matthew *et al*. 1991).

The assemblages were quantified using sherd count and weight by fabric/record per context. Rim diameter and percentage of rim present (to the nearest whole percentage) were recorded, where rim sherds were sufficiently large.

Table 2.1 delineates the radiocarbon date ranges currently associated with Neolithic and Early Bronze Age wares. Where it was not possible to provide a ware code, due to lack of diagnostic criteria, a date range has instead been provided. Figures 2.6-2.9 show a selection of illustrated vessels recovered from sites along the route; these are representative of the range of wares identified.
Only the more diagnostic featured sherds are listed in the catalogues. The results were entered into Excel tables which form part of the site archive.