

**Channel Tunnel Rail Link
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**The early prehistoric pottery from Sandway Road,
Lenham, Kent (ARC SWR99)**

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1 INTRODUCTION

A total of 139 Neolithic sherds (505 g) were recovered from sites at Sandway Road (see tables 1 to 7), of which 55% (by sherd count) was early Neolithic, 38% middle Neolithic, 1% early Bronze Age and 5%. A total of nine vessels were identified and ten sherds illustrated. The sherds were generally in worn condition; the mean sherd weight per context ranged from 1 to 34 g, of which the majority was under 7 g.

Table 1: Chronological breakdown of assemblage

Abbreviations: EN; early Neolithic, MN; middle Neolithic, LN; late Neolithic, GW/C, Clacton style Grooved Ware; LNEBA; late Neolithic-early Bronze Age, EBA, early Bronze Age;

Date of pottery (Ware)	Total Sherd Count	Total Weight (g)	% of Sherd Count
EN (PB)	76	251	54
EN or MN	1	4	1
MN (PW)	53	218	38
LN (GW)	1	17	1
LN or EBA (BKR)	2	8	1
IND	5	5	4
Total	138	503	

Table 2: Quantification of Neolithic and early Bronze Age pottery from ARC SWR 99

Feature	Context	Sherd count	Sherd weight (g)	Ware	Number of vessels	Illustrated vessels
Unstratified	1	2	10	EN		
Treethrow 21	22	11	27	PW	0	0
Treethrow 28	29	1	5	EN	0	0
Treethrow 35	37	3	6	EN	0	0
Treethrow 35	37	1	6	MN		
Tree stump 49	49	2	18	PW/F	0	0
Tree stump 49	50	1	7	PW	0	0
Ditch 55	56	27	39	EN	0	0
Burnt tree stump 57	57	1	6	PW	0	0
Ditch 69	70	6	30	EN	0	0
Ditch 69	70	1	7	PW	0	0
Ditch 69	70	2	8	LNEBA	0	0
Ditch 78	77	1	2	EN	0	0
Colluvium	95	1	7	MN	0	0
Colluvium	113	1	1	EN	0	0
Ditch 127	128	16	66	EN	2	P6 & P7
Ditch 127	129	10	62	EN	1	P5
Ditch 127	132	1	4	EN/PW	0	0
Pit 133	134	1	8	PW/EW	1	P1
Pit 133	135	2	14	MN	0	P9
Gully 146	145	1	2	EM/PW	0	0
Gully 146	153	1	17	GW/DW	1	P8
Treethrow 160	159	5	10	PW	0	0
Ditch 54	242	3	11	EN	0	0
Totals		101	373			6

Table 3: Quantification of Neolithic and early Bronze Age pottery from ARC 420 73+504 99

Feature	Context	Sherd count	Sherd weight (g)	Ware	Number vessels	of illustrated vessels
	80	1	7	PW	0	0

Table 4: Quantification of Neolithic and early Bronze Age pottery from ARC SWR 98

Feature	Context	Sherd count	Sherd weight (g)	Ware	Number vessels	of illustrated vessels
357705	357706	10	65	PW/EW & PW/MW	3	P2-4
357705	357706	1	2	EIA?	0	0
	357902	1	1	EN	0	0
	22601	1	2	IND	0	0
144	297001	4	6	PW	0	0
	302901	1	2	EN	0	0
144	317001	2	9	PW	0	0
Topsoil	357701	1	12	EN	1	
	375951	2	12	PW	0	0
	384943	3	1	IND	0	0
Total		26	112		4	4

Table 5: Quantification of Neolithic and early Bronze Age pottery from ARC 420 99 73+500

Feature	Context	Sherd count	Sherd weight (g)	Ware	Number vessels	of illustrated vessels
	44	6	2	PW	0	0
	75	1	5	PW	0	0
	63	3	4	EN	0	0
Total		10	11		0	0

Table 6: Quantification of Neolithic and early Bronze Age pottery from ARC 420 99 73+600

Feature	Context	Sherd count	Sherd weight (g)	Ware	Number vessels	of illustrated vessels
	43	1	2	IND	0	0

2 FABRICS

A total of 14 fabrics were present; certain variations of sand and flint were common to both early and middle Neolithic sherds with much of the flint being heavily calcined. Of the early Neolithic material, 55% of sherds are of fabric AF2 (including P7), 32% are of F1 and 4% of fabric AF3 (including P5-6). Amongst the middle Neolithic sherds, 38% are of fabric F2 (including P1-4), 23% are of fabric AF4 (including P9) and 10% are of fabric AF2. The Grooved Ware sherd was, predictably, not flint-tempered but manufactured from apparently untempered clay. Thin sectioning analysis may reveal grog temper or argillaceous rock fragments (Whitbread 1986).

The site sits on Cretaceous Lower Greensand Folkestone Sand Beds (white and yellow sands), with Gault Clay to the north and both Sandgate and Hythe Beds (both glauconitic) to the south. The mixture of glauconitic and quartzitic sand in the fabrics below follows,

therefore, the local availability of different types of sand. The flint is likely to have been acquired from the Downs and added, as so much of it is so badly calcined, before firing.

Table 7: Summary description of early prehistoric pottery fabrics

Fabric Name	Period	Fabric description
F1	E/MN	Sparse, heavily calcined flint (2%) up to 0.5 mm. Quartz sand 5%.
AF1	EN & MN	15% flint, 0.5-1 mm. Quartz sand 10-20%.
FA2	EN & MN	15% flint up to 2 mm. Quartz sand up to 10%.
F2	EN & MN	Fine, closed clay containing 15% flint up to 2 mm.
AF2	EN & MN	Common flint (20%), calcined or uncalcined, up to 4 mm. 10% sand
AF4	MN	Common calcined flint (20%) up to 6 mm, sometimes very ill-sorted. 10% sand, ill-sorted with rounded quartz sand and smaller rounded Glauconite.
DA	MN?	20% voids, leached shell. 10% glauconitic and quartzitic sand with mica.
F4	EN & MN	Ill-sorted flint, 0.5-5/6 mm, heavily calcined. Rare quartzitic and glauconitic sand. Soft fine clay.
F1	EN & MN	Flint 25-30%, up to 1 mm.
AF3	EN	Fine sand 50%. Flint lightly calcined, white and opaque, up to 4 mm, irregularly dispersed..
AFG1	EBA	Rare argillaceous inclusions (possibly argillaceous rock fragments), less than 1%, 1.5 mm. No sand. Rare flint (less than 1%) up to 2 mm.
A1	EN-MN	Closed, relatively clean clay, containing 5% poorly sorted quartz sand up to 2 mm
NAT	GW/DW	Argillaceous laminated clay containing no sand. Some small voids (3%), up to 2 mm.

3 FORMS/TYPES

Within the assemblage, early Neolithic (possibly carinated bowl), both Ebbsfleet (possibly early) and Mortlake style Peterborough Ware and Durrington Walls style Grooved Ware was identified. A total of eight rims were noted. The early Neolithic rims were either pointed or rolled over, and therefore possibly from neutral and open vessels. The fabric and firing of the pottery from pit 133 suggests that the vessels may be in early Ebbsfleet style, whilst the material from context 357706 (including Mortlake style sherds) may be slightly later. The horizontal decoration on the Grooved Ware suggests a Durrington Wall style vessel.

4 GENERAL DISCUSSION

This assemblage consisted of a range of relatively abraded material. The pottery appears, predominantly, to be earlier Neolithic (early Neolithic and possibly Ebbsfleet style Peterborough Ware). Most of the tree throw holes (possibly indicating clearance of landscape) and the pits contained middle Neolithic pottery, although this was too abraded for further comment on form to be possible, whilst ditches contained most of the early Neolithic sherds.

5 CATALOGUE OF ILLUSTRATED VESSELS

Figure 1

P1. Ebbsfleet style Peterborough Ware, 1 sherd (8 g). Context 135, Pit 133. Fabric: F2. Form: pointed, inverted rim. Firing: ext; G, core; G, int; G. Decoration: ext; impressed whipped cord maggots arranged in a herringbone pattern. Th: 5 mm.

P2. Ebbsfleet style Peterborough Ware, 1 sherd (32 g). Context 357706, Feature: 357705. Fabric: F2. Form: pointed rim, slightly inverted, thickened externally and internally. Firing: ext; YBR, core; YBR, int; YBR. Surface Treatment: ext; SM, Bu, int; SM, BU. Decoration: twisted cord herringbone on the rim top, below the rim and internally. Finger pits at the beginning of the cavetto zone. Rim Diam: 300 mm. Th: 7.5 mm.

P3. Mortlake style Peterborough Ware, 1 sherd (8 g). Context 357706, Feature: 357705. Fabric: F2. Form: simple angular, inverted collar sherd. Firing: ext; G, core; G, int; G. ST: ext; SM, int; SM. Decoration: twisted cord maggots, herringbone. Th: 7.5 mm. In order to clearly illustrate the decoration, each face is shown separately and flattened. This avoids the problems with foreshortening encountered by a true representation of what is seen at eye level. The section shows the true size of the sherd.

P4. Mortlake style Peterborough Ware, 1 sherd (12 g). Context 357706, Feature: 357705. Fabric: F2. Form: thickened plain rim with flattened profile. Firing: ext; G, core; G, int; G. ST: ext; SM, int; SM. Decoration: rows of fingernails on the rim with finger dimples below. Th: 9 mm.

P5. Early Neolithic rim, 1 sherd. (13 g). Context 129, feature 127. Fabric: AF3. Form: simple, pointed. ST: ext; SM, int; SM. Firing: ext; G, core; G, int; G. Th: 5 mm.

P6. Early Neolithic rim, 1 sherd (11 g). Context 128, feature 127. Fabric: AF3. Form: rolled over. ST: ext; SM, int; SM. Firing: ext; G, core; G, int; G. Rim Diameter: 470-500 mm. Th: 5.5 mm.

P7. Early Neolithic rim, 1 sherd (34 g). Context 128, feature 127. Fabric: AF2. Form: rolled over. ST: ext; SM, int; SM. Firing: ext; G, core; G, int; G. Decoration: faded fluting; int; faded fluting. Rim Diameter: 470-500 mm. Th: 8 mm.

P8. One Durrington Walls style Grooved Ware sherd, 1 sherd (17 g). Context 153, feature 146. Fabric: NAT3. ST: ext; SM, int; SM. Firing: ext; RBR, core; RBR, int; RBR. Th: 8 mm.

P9. 1 Peterborough Ware body sherd (11 g), possibly Ebbsfleet style. Context 135, feature 133. Fabric: F2. Firing: ext; G, core; G, int; G. Dec: ext; impressed twisted cord maggots. Th: 7 mm. Possibly part of same vessel as P1. some charred residue was noted on the inside face.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Whitbread, I, 1986 The characterisation of argillaceous inclusions in ceramic thin sections, *Archaeometry* **28**, 79-88