

**Channel Tunnel Rail Link
London and Continental Railways
Oxford Wessex Archaeology Joint Venture**

**The early prehistoric pottery from Tutt Hill,
Westwell, Kent (ARC 430 83+800-84+900 99)**

by Emily Edwards

CTRL Specialist Report Series

2006

©London and Continental Railways

All rights including translation, reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior written permission of London and Continental Railways.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	3
2	FABRICS.....	3
3	FORMS/TYPES.....	4
4	GENERAL DISCUSSION	4
5	CATALOGUE OF ILLUSTRATED VESSELS	5
6	BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	5

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Quantification and breakdown of the Neolithic pottery in chronological order of feature	3
Table 2: Fabric descriptions	4

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Tutt Hill - Early prehistoric, P1-4	
---	--

1 INTRODUCTION

A small assemblage of generally small and abraded sherds (27 sherds, 99 g) was recovered from pits, ring ditches and from colluvium (see Table 1). With the possible exception of the sherds from the pits, the majority of the pottery was redeposited. The assemblage includes small quantities of Plain Bowl, Peterborough ware and Beaker pottery.

Table 1: Quantification and breakdown of the Neolithic pottery in chronological order of feature

Feature	Context	Sherd count	Sherd weight (g)	Ware	Illustrated vessels
8103	8103	2	5	PB	
145	147	1	<1	PB/PW	
145	147	1	<1	PW/EW?	
145	147	1	2	PW/PW	
150	151	1	6	PW/EW?	
150	151	1	3	PW/EW?	
150	151	1	6	PW/EW?	
338	337	1	3	PW/EW	P2
338	337	6	20	PW/EW	
156	164	2	4	BKR	
156	168	1	4	BKR	
91	92	1	1	BKR	
90	86	1	1	BKR	P4
90	86	2	2	PB	
90	97	1	<1	PW	
90	97	1	<1	PW	
89	61	1	29	BKR	P3
89	65	1	7	PW	P1
89	85	1	2	BKR	
Totals		27	99		4

Abbreviations: PB plain bowl, PW Peterborough Ware, EW Ebbsfleet Ware, BKR Beaker

2 FABRICS

Three fabrics were identified (Table 2). A single flint-tempered fabric (F2) was used for both Plain Bowl and Peterborough Ware, whilst two grog-tempered fabrics (G1-2) were used to manufacture the Beaker pottery. The clay in all three fabrics was sand-free, and contained rare ferruginous pellets. Tutt Hill sits on the Lower Greensand Folkestone Beds near to their northern boundary with the Gault Clay (Geological Survey Sheet 289). The fabric clay matrix described above is consistent with the character of certain facies of the Gault Clay (BGS 1965). The flint used for temper could have been collected from the flint bearing Middle Chalk (within 7 km of the site).

Table 2: Fabric descriptions

F2	Poorly sorted, angular flint sized up to 1 - 4 mm, from 5-10 %.
G1	Poorly sorted and subrounded grog sized up to 1 mm, 10 %.
G2	Poorly sorted and subrounded grog sized up to 2 mm, 5 %.

3 FORMS/TYPES

A total of 27 sherds were recorded (see Table 1 above), including early Neolithic, middle Neolithic and early Bronze Age pottery. All the Plain Bowl sherds were plain body sherds, assigned to period by fabric.

Three Peterborough Ware rims were recorded. These comprised a small, externally convex Mortlake rim (Fig. 1, P1, context 65) decorated with horizontal bands of twisted cord, a plain, pointed and slightly incurved rim (Fig. 1, P2, context 337) and an expanded and slightly convex rim (too small to illustrate, context 147). One Ebbsfleet ware sherd was decorated with incised lines (context 151).

The early Bronze Age material included one base with a slight foot (Fig. 1, P3, context 61) and one fingernail decorated sherd (not illustrated, context 85) which both came from later ring ditch 89); one simple, squared Beaker rim (too small to illustrate, context 164) which came from the early Beaker ring ditch 156 and one comb decorated Beaker (Fig. 1, P4, context 86) sherd from Ring ditch 90.

4 GENERAL DISCUSSION

This small assemblage, although consisting of very broken and abraded fragments (Table 1), infers some level of activity throughout the earlier and later part of the Neolithic.

The three Plain Bowl sherds were residual, recovered from the colluvial layer (context 8103) and from context 86 of ring ditch 90. The strongest indication of possible middle Neolithic domestic activity came from the pits (pits 145 and 150, contexts 147 and 151) containing charcoal and Ebbsfleet Ware. Treethrow 338 (context 337) also contained Ebbsfleet Ware, including one rim (Fig. 1, P2, context 337) which may have been deliberately deposited.

The material from the ring ditches may have been largely residual, especially clear in the case of the Plain Bowl (see above) and Peterborough sherds (contexts 65 and 97). The radiocarbon dates from ring ditch 156 were early (Brady 2006); these dates accompanied the small, squared rim sherd (context 164) and two plain, grog tempered Beaker sherds (contexts 164 and 168). Ring ditch 81 (context 92) only contained one very small sherd of Beaker pottery. A total of five sherds were recovered from ring ditch 90, consisting of two Plain Bowl body sherds (context 86), two Peterborough Ware sherds (context 97) and one comb

decorated Beaker sherd (context 86). The later radiocarbon dates from ring ditch 89 (Brady 2006) accompany one Mortlake sherd (Fig. 1, P1, context 65), one fingernail decorated sherd (context 85) and one early Bronze Age base (Fig. 1, P3, context 61). It was noted that the three residual Peterborough Ware sherds mentioned with relation to the ring ditches were of an equal condition to those from the pits and the tree throw.

5 CATALOGUE OF ILLUSTRATED VESSELS

Figure 1

P1 Context 65. One Mortlake style Peterborough Ware rim sherd (7 g). Form: externally rounded and convex. Fabric: F2. Firing: ext; BL, core, BL, int; BL. ST: SM, int; SM. Th: 8 mm.

P2 Context 337. One small Ebbsfleet style Peterborough Ware rim sherd (3 g). Form: Plain, pointed and slightly incurved. Fabric: F2, Firing: ext; RBR, core, RBR, int; RBR. ST: SM, int; SM. Th: 7 mm.

P3 Context 61. One third of an early Bronze Age base (29 g), possibly from a Beaker vessel. Form: A slight pedestal and flaring vessel walls. Fabric: G2, Firing: ext; RBR, core, BL, int; BL. ST: SM, int; SM. Th: 8 mm.

P4 Context 86. One small sherd (1 g) from a comb decorated Beaker vessel. Fabric: G1, Firing: ext; RBR, core, BL, int; BL. ST: SM, int; SM. Th: 6 mm.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

ADS, 2006 CTRL digital archive, Archaeology Data Service,
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/projArch/ctrl>

Brady, K, 2006a The prehistoric landscape at Tutt Hill, Westwell, Kent, *CTRL integrated site report series*, in ADS 2006

Gallois, R W, 1965 *British Regional Geology - The Wealden District*, London