Channel Tunnel Rail Link<br>London and Continental Railways<br>Oxford Wessex Archaeology Joint Venture

# The later prehistoric pottery from Little Stock Farm, Mersham, Kent (ARC LSF99) 

by Elizabeth Bryan

## 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 ..... 4
2 FABRICS .....  4
2.1 Calcareous Group ..... 4
2.2 Flint-tempered Group .....  4
2.3 Flint and Grog-tempered Group .....  5
2.4 Flint-tempered with Iron Oxides Group .....  5
2.5 Grog-tempered Group .....  5
2.6 Grog-tempered with Iron Oxides Group .....  6
2.7 Iron Oxides Group .....  6
2.8 Quartz Sand Group .....  6
2.9 Quartz Sand with Iron Oxides Group .....  7
2.10 Shell-gritted Group ..... 8
2.11 Organic-tempered/Briquetage Group .....  8
3 DISCUSSION OF FABRIC TYPES .....  9
4 GEOLOGY AND PETROLOGY ..... 10
5 VESSEL FORMS ..... 11
5.1 Jars ..... 13
5.2 Bowls. ..... 13
5.3 Form Descriptions ..... 13
5.4 Discussion of Vessel Forms ..... 14
6 SURFACE TREATMENT AND DECORATIONS ..... 19
7 VESSEL SIZE AND USE ..... 22
8 DISCUSSION ..... 23
9 CATALOGUE OF ILLUSTRATED SHERDS AND VESSELS ..... 25
10 REFERENCES ..... 27
LIST OF TABLES
Table 1: Quantification of fabrics by count, weight and percentage ..... 8
Table 2: Occurrence of fabrics by Ceramic Phase ..... 10
Table 3: Correlation of vessel forms and fabric by number of records ..... 12
Table 4: Correlation of forms with fabrics and earliest/latest dates ..... 15
Table 5: Evidence of vessel use by form type ..... 22

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Percentages of fabric groups for all ceramic phases
Figure 2: Percentage of surface treatment by type amongst sherds displaying surface treatment
Figure 3: Percentages of decoration types
Figure 4: Frequency of measurable rim diameters
Figure 5: Little Stock Farm - Later prehistoric pottery, 1-18
Figure 6: Little Stock Farm - Later prehistoric pottery, 19-52

## 1 INTRODUCTION

A total of 2456 sherds of Late Bronze Age to Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from fieldwork and excavation. The pottery weighs 17376 g and has a mean sherd weight of 7.1 g . It derives largely from stratified feature fills and appears to span at least two distinct ceramic phases. Two groups come from grave pits and are likely to represent deliberately placed grave goods. Overall, condition is fair to poor; many sherds are small and rather abraded. The assemblage was analysed and recorded using guidelines published by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1997), as detailed in the CTRL scheme-wide pottery methodology.

## 2 FABRICS

Ten fabric groups were defined and quantified (Table 1, Fig. 1). Within these are 39 distinct fabric types, described below. All flint present is angular, calcined and crushed temper unless otherwise described.

### 2.1 Calcareous Group

C1. A soft, slightly soapy, fine fabric containing moderate to common (15-20\%) well-sorted calcareous inclusions (probably chalk) $\leq 1 \mathrm{~mm}$ in size. The clay matrix contains moderate ( $10 \%$ ) silt sized quartz grains and rare ( $1 \%$ ) sub-rounded quartz grains $\leq 0.5 \mathrm{~mm}$ in size.

C 2 . A fine fabric, harder fired than C 1 , containing moderate to common ( $10-15 \%$ ) moderately-sorted calcareous inclusions (probably chalk) $\leq 1 \mathrm{~mm}$ in size, in a clay matrix containing $10 \%$ silt sized quartz, rare ( $<5 \%$ ) quartz grains $\leq 0.5 \mathrm{~mm}$, rare ( $1-2 \%$ ) red iron oxides and rare (1-2\%) flint detritus.

### 2.2 Flint-tempered Group

F1. A fine fabric containing moderate ( $10-15 \%$ ) well-sorted fine flint 'dust' $\leq 1 \mathrm{~mm}$, in a sandy clay matrix containing moderate ( $15 \%$ ) well-sorted quartz grains $<0.25 \mathrm{~mm}$ in size and sparse ( $5 \%$ ) calcareous inclusions $\leq 1 \mathrm{~mm}$ in size, which are probably naturally occurring detritus.

## F2. Not used.

F3. An intermediate fabric containing sparse to moderate (5-10\%) poorly-sorted angular flint sparse to moderate ( $5-10 \%$ ) poorly-sorted angular flint $\leq 2 \mathrm{~mm}$, sparse ( $(<5 \%$ ) flint 'dust' $\leq 1$ mm and rare $(1-3 \%)$ pieces of flint detritus in a clay matrix with common to very common ( $20-30 \%$ ) rounded glauconite, and well-sorted, sub-rounded quartz grains $\leq 1 \mathrm{~mm}$. Note: this fabric should be coded QF in future because of the significant quantity of glauconite and quartz sand occurring naturally in the clay matrix.

F4. An intermediate fabric containing moderate ( $10-15 \%$ ) poorly-sorted flint $\leq 2 \mathrm{~mm}$, in a clay matrix with common ( $20 \%$ ) silt-sized quartz, sparse to moderate ( $5-10 \%$ ) sub-rounded quartz $<0.3 \mathrm{~mm}$, and calcareous detritus.

F5. Not used.

F6. A fine fabric containing moderate (10-15\%) poorly-sorted flint $<6 \mathrm{~mm}$, and sparse ( $3-7 \%$ ) flint 'dust' in a micaceous clay matrix containing moderate ( $10 \%$ ) well-sorted quartz $<0.3$ mm , and rare irregularly shaped voids which may have contained calcareous matter.

F7. A fine fabric containing moderate (10-15\%) moderately-sorted sub-angular calcined flint $<1 \mathrm{~mm}$ in size, and occasionally larger pieces $<3 \mathrm{~mm}$ in size, plus sparse ( $5 \%$ ) flint 'dust', in a clay matrix containing common (15-25\%) very well-sorted silt-sized quartz, with some larger sub-rounded grains $<0.3 \mathrm{~mm}$.

F99. Indeterminate general flint tempered fabric assigned to very small sherds

### 2.3 Flint and Grog-tempered Group

FG1. A coarse fabric containing moderate ( $10 \%$ ) poorly-sorted flint, $<5 \mathrm{~mm}$, and moderate ( $15 \%$ ) poorly-sorted sub-angular to angular pale brown grog, $<5 \mathrm{~mm}$, in a clay matrix with rare ( $1-3 \%$ ) red rounded iron oxides.

FG2. A fine to intermediate fabric containing moderate (10-15\%) poorly-sorted angular flint, $<3 \mathrm{~mm}$, and moderate ( $15 \%$ ) poorly-sorted angular grog, $<2 \mathrm{~mm}$, in a clay matrix with common to very common (25-30\%) very fine to silt sized quartz $<0.2 \mathrm{~mm}$, and some rare (1$2 \%$ ) iron oxides. Petrological examination has shown the grog fragments contain 5-10\% less quartz than the clay matrix.

FG3. A fine fabric containing (moderate) $10 \%$ very well sorted flint, the majority of which is 'dust', though there are some pieces $<1 \mathrm{~mm}$ in size, and moderate ( $10 \%$ ) sub-angular pale brown grog, $<2 \mathrm{~mm}$, in a clay matrix with very common ( $30 \%$ ) well-sorted sub-angular quartz and rare ( $1 \%$ ) iron oxides.

### 2.4 Flint-tempered with Iron Oxides Group

FI1. A fine/intermediate fabric containing moderate to common (10-20\%), moderate to wellsorted flint, $2-5 \mathrm{~mm}$, and some flint 'dust', and moderate to common ( $10-20 \%$ ) poorly to moderately sorted black and/or red iron, $0.3-2 \mathrm{~mm}$, in a clay matrix with moderate to common (10-15\%) well-sorted quartz, $<0.3 \mathrm{~mm}$.

FI2. A coarse fabric containing common (25\%) poorly-sorted flint, $<3 \mathrm{~mm}$, and sparse to moderate $(5-10 \%)$ poorly-sorted rounded iron oxides, $<2 \mathrm{~mm}$, in a clay matrix containing rare to moderate (5-10\%) fine quartz sand.

### 2.5 Grog-tempered Group

G1. A fine-intermediate fabric containing moderate to common (15-25\%) angular, moderately-sorted pale orange or black, angular grog, $<1 \mathrm{~mm}$, and rare ( $1 \%$ ) pieces of iron oxides and flint in a clay matrix with rare (1\%) quartz.. Petrological examination revealed that the grog itself has a significantly sandy clay matrix and some of the darker pieces of grog are tempered with paler grog.

G2. A fine fabric containing sparse to moderate ( $5-10 \%$ ) sub-rounded grog, $<1 \mathrm{~mm}$, in a clay matrix containing moderate ( $10-15 \%$ ) well-sorted, rounded quartz, $\leq 0.3 \mathrm{~mm}$.

G3. A very soapy, soft fabric with a hackly, un-layered fracture. Contains moderate to common ( $15-20 \%$ ) moderately-sorted angular grog, $<0.5 \mathrm{~mm}$, and rare ( $1 \%$ ) flint in a clay matrix with common ( $30 \%$ ) fine sand $<0.2 \mathrm{~mm}$.

G4. Not used.

G5. An intermediate fabric containing moderate (10-15\%) moderately-sorted sub-angular grog, most pieces $<0.3 \mathrm{~mm}$, with some up to 1 mm , in a clay matrix with moderate ( $10 \%$ ) well-sorted, rounded quartz, $<0.3 \mathrm{~mm}$.

G6. A distinctive fabric with a dense, hackly fracture, containing moderate to common (10$20 \%$ ) moderately-sorted angular grog, $<1 \mathrm{~mm}$, and rare to sparse ( $1-5 \%$ ) iron oxides. No quartz is visible in the clay matrix.

G7. A fine to intermediate fabric containing moderate ( $10 \%$ ) well-sorted, angular grog, $<1$ mm , and rare ( $1 \%$ ) calcareous detritus, $<2 \mathrm{~mm}$, in a clay matrix with very fine, silt-sized quartz.

G8. Not used.
G9. A hard fired fabric containing common to abundant (20-40\%) poorly-sorted pale angular grog, $\leq 1 \mathrm{~mm}$, in a dense, slightly micaceous, clay matrix with rare (1\%) iron, and/or organic voids, and/or calcareous inclusions. Petrological examination has revealed that some pieces of grog are themselves tempered with grog.

G10. Not used.
G11. A hard fired fabric containing common (20-25\%) poorly-sorted sub-angular to angular grog, $<0.3 \mathrm{~mm}$, and rare to sparse ( $1-5 \%$ ) flint, $0.2-3 \mathrm{~mm}$, in a clay matrix with moderate $(10 \%)$ silt-sized quartz and rare ( $1-3 \%$ ) iron.

G99. Indeterminate general grog tempered fabric assigned to very small sherds

### 2.6 Grog-tempered with Iron Oxides Group

GI1. A coarse fabric containing moderate to common (10-15\%) poorly-sorted grog, $<2 \mathrm{~mm}$, and common $(20 \%)$ poorly sorted red iron oxides, in hackly clay matrix with sparse to moderate ( $5-10 \%$ ) well-sorted quartz, $<0.5 \mathrm{~mm}$.

GI2. A fine to intermediate fabric containing common (20\%), moderately sorted rounded red iron oxides, $\leq 2 \mathrm{~mm}$, and moderate to common (10-15\%) moderately-sorted grog in a clay matrix containing common ( $20 \%$ ) silt-sized quartz and rare ( $1 \%$ ) flint.

GI3. A fine fabric containing moderate to common (10-15\%) moderately-sorted grog, common ( $20 \%$ ) poorly sorted red iron oxides and sparse to moderate ( $7-10 \%$ ) flint 'dust' in a clay matrix containing common (20\%) silt-sized quartz grains and rare to sparse (1-5\%) quartz grains, $<0.3 \mathrm{~mm}$.

### 2.7 Iron Oxides Group

I1. A coarse fabric containing common (20\%) moderately-sorted red and black iron oxides in a clay matrix containing common ( $20 \%$ ) silt sized quartz.

I2. Intermediate fabric containing common ( $20 \%$ ) rounded red and black iron oxides, generally $\leq 1 \mathrm{~mm}$, with some up to $<2 \mathrm{~mm}$, in a clay matrix with common (20-25\%) silt-sized quartz.

### 2.8 Quartz Sand Group

Q1. An intermediate fabric containing common to abundant (25-40\%) well-sorted black glassy rounded glauconite, $<0.5 \mathrm{~mm}$, common ( $20 \%$ ) well-sorted sub-angular to angular
quartz, $<0.3 \mathrm{~mm}$, with some up to 0.5 mm , and rare to sparse ( $1-5 \%$ ) flint, $<1 \mathrm{~mm}$, in the clay matrix.

Q2. An intermediate fabric with abundant (40\%) well-sorted black glassy rounded glauconite, $<0.5 \mathrm{~mm}$, rare ( $1-3 \%$ ) silt-sized quartz and sparse ( $5-7 \%$ ) poorly-sorted flint visible macroscopically, but petrological examination revealed that the clay matrix contains very common to abundant ( $30-40 \%$ ) well-sorted sub-angular to angular quartz.

Q3. A fine to intermediate fabric containing common ( $20 \%$ ), well-sorted rounded quartz, most grains $<0.5 \mathrm{~mm}$, some $<1 \mathrm{~mm}$, and common ( $20 \%$ ) silt-sized quartz in the clay matrix.

Q4. A fine fabric containing common ( $20-25 \%$ ) quartz grains, $<0.5 \mathrm{~mm}$, in the clay matrix. Petrological examination reveals this fabric also contains rare ( $1 \%$ ) glauconite, iron oxides and flint.

Q5. A fine fabrics containing common to very common (20-30\%) well sorted quartz, $<0.3$ mm , and sparse ( $5-7 \%$ ) flint $<2 \mathrm{~mm}$, rare ( $1-3 \%$ ) flint 'dust' and rare ( $1-3 \%$ ) iron oxides.

Q6. A very sandy fabric with 'granular' appearance and feel, characterised by very common ( $30 \%$ ) well sorted quartz, $<0.3 \mathrm{~mm}$ and rare ( $1 \%$ ) possible grog. Petrological examination revealed that the grog contains smaller and less dense quartz than the main clay matrix.

Q7. An intermediate fabric with common to very common (25-30\%) black, rounded glauconite, and moderate ( $10 \%$ ) sub-rounded to sub-angular quartz grains $<1.5 \mathrm{~mm}$, sparse ( $5 \%$ ) flint, $<2 \mathrm{~mm}$, and rare ( $1-3 \%$ ) red iron oxides.

Q8. A soft, sandy fabric with sparse (5\%) linear voids in a clay matrix containing common (25-30\%), well-sorted quartz, $<0.3 \mathrm{~mm}$.

### 2.9 Quartz Sand with Iron Oxides Group

QI1. A fine to intermediate fabric containing common (20\%) well-sorted quartz, $<0.3 \mathrm{~mm}$, and moderate ( $10 \%$ ) red and black rounded iron oxides, rare ( $1-3 \%$ ) calcareous inclusions and/or rare ( $1 \%$ ) flint in the clay matrix.

QI2. A sandy, granular fabric containing moderate ( $10 \%$ ) red iron oxides, $<1 \mathrm{~mm}$, in a clay matrix containing moderate to common ( $15-20 \%$ ) moderately-sorted rounded quartz grains, $<0.5 \mathrm{~mm}$. May contain rare ( $1 \%$ ) flint.

QI3. A soapy fabric with a layered and hackly fracture containing moderate (10-15\%) poorlysorted iron oxides or iron-rich argillaceous inclusions, $<3 \mathrm{~mm}$, in a clay matrix with slit-sized quartz. Note: this fabric should be coded I , or otherwise, after petrological examination.

QI4. An intermediate fabric containing moderate to common (10-20\%) sub-rounded iron oxides, $<1 \mathrm{~mm}$, and rare to sparse ( $1-3 \%$ ) quartz and rare to sparse ( $1-5 \%$ ) flint or calcareous inclusions. Note: this fabric should be coded I, rather than QI.

QI5. A fine to intermediate, hard-fired fabric containing moderate to common (15-20\%) poorly-sorted red and black sub-rounded iron oxides, $<1.5 \mathrm{~mm}$, in a clay matrix with common (20\%) well-sorted quartz, $<0.25 \mathrm{~mm}$, though some measure $<0.5 \mathrm{~mm}$, and rare ( $1-2 \%$ ) flint or calcareous inclusions.

QI6. A fine to intermediate fabric containing moderate (10\%) poorly-sorted red and/or black sub-rounded to rounded iron oxides, $<0.8 \mathrm{~mm}$, moderate ( $10 \%$ ) well-sorted flint, $<3 \mathrm{~mm}$, and
sparse (5\%) flint 'dust' in a clay matrix with common (20\%) silt-sized quartz. Note: this fabric should be coded FI rather than QI.

### 2.10 Shell-gritted Group

S1. A hard-fired fabric containing moderate (10-15\%) poorly-sorted platy shell, $<3 \mathrm{~mm}$, in a clay matrix with common ( $25-30 \%$ ) well-sorted quartz, $<0.25 \mathrm{~mm}$. It was not possible to determine through petrological analysis whether the shell was from a fossil or fresh source.

### 2.11 Organic-tempered/Briquetage Group

V1. Not used.

V2. An intermediate fabric with moderate ( $10 \%$ ) linear voids, $\leq 4 \mathrm{~mm}$, sparse to moderate (7$10 \%$ ) flint, $\leq 5 \mathrm{~mm}$, in a clay matrix with sparse ( $3-5 \%$ ) rounded quartz grains, $<0.5 \mathrm{~mm}$. Sherds have been roughly wiped and have a pinkish tinge.

Table 1: Quantification of fabrics by count, weight and percentage

| Fabric | No. sherds | \% sherds | Weight (g) | \% weight |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| C1 | 3 | 0.1 | 12 | 0.1 |
| C2 | 7 | 0.3 | 20 | 0.1 |
| F1 | 24 | 1 | 112 | 0.7 |
| F3 | 220 | 9 | 1559 | 9.1 |
| F4 | 95 | 4 | 521 | 3.0 |
| F6 | 251 | 10 | 3178 | 18.5 |
| F7 | 127 | 5 | 400 | 2.3 |
| F99 | 2 | 0.1 | 1 | 0 |
| FG1 | 6 | 0.2 | 81 | 0.5 |
| FG2 | 46 | 1.8 | 397 | 2.3 |
| FG3 | 4 | 0.2 | 37 | 0.2 |
| FI1 | 281 | 11.5 | 1672 | 9.7 |
| FI2 | 11 | 0.5 | 121 | 0.7 |
| G1 | 128 | 5.2 | 1049 | 6.1 |
| G11 | 30 | 1.2 | 131 | 0.8 |
| G2 | 23 | 1 | 158 | 0.1 |
| G3 | 7 | 0.3 | 69 | 0.4 |
| G5 | 249 | 10 | 1833 | 10.7 |
| G6 | 23 | 1 | 141 | 0.8 |
| G7 | 9 | 0.4 | 29 | 0.2 |
| G9 | 105 | 4.3 | 836 | 4.9 |
| G99 | 2 | 0.1 | 7 | 0 |
| GI1 | 6 | 0.2 | 55 | 0.3 |
| GI2 | 98 | 4 | 657 | 3.8 |
| GI3 | 4 | 0.2 | 25 | 0.1 |
| I1 | 50 | 2 | 275 | 1.6 |
| I2 | 3 | 0.04 | 43 | 0.3 |
| Q1 | 59 | 2.4 | 229 | 1.3 |
| Q2 | 20 | 0.8 | 101 | 0.6 |
| Q3 | 12 | 0.5 | 66 | 0.4 |
| Q4 | 23 | 1 | 231 | 1.3 |
| Q5 | 7 | 0.3 | 15 | 0.1 |
| Q6 | 6 | 0.2 | 98 | 0.6 |


| Fabric | No. sherds | \% sherds | Weight (g) | \% weight |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Q7 | 10 | 0.4 | 58 | 0.3 |
| Q8 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Q99 | 48 | 2 | 40 | 0.2 |
| QI1 | 39 | 1.6 | 167 | 1.0 |
| QI2 | 18 | 0.7 | 149 | 0.9 |
| Q13 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| QI4 | 255 | 10.4 | 1655 | 9.6 |
| QI5 | 45 | 1.8 | 301 | 1.8 |
| QI6 | 91 | 3.7 | 582 | 3.4 |
| S1 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| V2 | 6 | 0.2 | 53 | 0.3 |

Figure 1: Percentages of fabric groups for all ceramic phases


## 3 DISCUSSION OF FABRIC TYPES

The Little Stock Farm later prehistoric pottery is characterised by a high number of fabric types. This is largely a chronological phenomenon: the ceramic evidence suggests extended periods of occupation for possibly 700 years, from the late Bronze Age/earliest transitional Iron Age to the late Iron Age. Unusually for a site of this date range, truly 'coarse' fabrics are rare - FG1, FI2 and GI1 are the only examples. On the whole clay preparation is good and inclusions are often at least moderately sorted.

Ceramically, the occupation period can be divided into two clear phases, one early and one late. There is also a less well defined 'middle' phase consisting of elements that could be comfortable in either the early or late phase, but for the time being have been left until it can
be established with more certainty that the Middle Iron Age exists at Little Stock Farm. It is notoriously difficult to recognise the Middle Iron Age in east Kentish ceramic assemblages (Bryan 2002, 58). At Little Stock Farm a large part of this question may be answered by establishing when grog tempering begins.

It has been possible to assign twenty-five fabric types to these phases, although some span two or even all three phases on the basis of the association of fabric types with diagnostic rim types (Table 2). Such fabrics are likely to represent popular local choices of materials for potting indicating that there was no need to change fabrics as forms and functions changed. The remaining fourteen types remain un-phased as they are unassociated with vessel forms. However, they account for less than $5 \%$ of the entire assemblage and as such are simply considered to be 'Iron Age'.

Table 2: Occurrence of fabrics by Ceramic Phase

| Ceramic Phase | Fabrics |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1. Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age or earliest Iron Age | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{F} 3, \mathrm{~F} 4, \mathrm{~F}^{* *}, \mathrm{~F} 7, \mathrm{FI} 1^{* * *}, \mathrm{Q} 1, \mathrm{Q} 8, \mathrm{QI} 1^{* * *}, \\ & \mathrm{Q} 14^{* * *}, \mathrm{QI} 6 \end{aligned}$ |
| 2. Middle Iron Age? | C2**, F6**, FI2, QI1 ${ }^{* * *, ~ \mathrm{QI} 4 * * *, ~ \mathrm{FI}}$ *** |
| 3. Late middle Iron Age/late Iron Age | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{C} 2 * *, \mathrm{~F} 1, \mathrm{FG} 2, \mathrm{FI} 1^{* * *}, \mathrm{G} 1, \mathrm{G} 2, \mathrm{G} 3, \mathrm{G} 5, \mathrm{G} 6, \mathrm{G} 9, \\ & \mathrm{GI} 2, \mathrm{I} 1, \mathrm{Q} 2, \mathrm{Q} 4, \mathrm{QI} 1^{* * *}, \mathrm{Q} 2, \mathrm{QI} 4^{* * *}, \mathrm{QI} 5 \end{aligned}$ |

** fabric occurs in two ceramic phases; *** fabric occurs in all ceramic phases

It is likely that the organic tempered fabric V 2 was a briquetage fabric, used for making containers to evaporate seawater for salt production. Such fabrics have traditionally been used to make vessels produced for such tasks (Morris 2001). The six sherds of V2, all from feature 2304 (vessel hole), were associated with ten late Bronze Age/early Iron Age or earliest Iron Age vessels and it seems reasonable to suggest that these sherds are also of the same date. Evidence for early Iron Age saltworking in the Folkestone region is virtually unrecorded in the Kent Sites and Monuments Record.

## 4 GEOLOGY AND PETROLOGY

Little Stock Farm lies in an area rich and diverse in geological deposits (Geological Survey Sheet of Great Britain no. 288). The site itself sits on the Hythe Beds, composed of ragstone and hassock, both sources of glauconite and calcareous inclusions (Smart et al. 1966, 51). Nearby are sources of Atherfield Clay, the Sandgate Beds and Folkestone Beds, all of which sit on upper greensand and provide clay with limestone, sand in clay with flints and Weald Clay (ibid., 66, 80, 85). River gravels containing flint, siltstone and ironstone are nearby. The fine sandy matrix shared by many fabrics could have been obtained from the Folkestone or Sandgate Beds. Toward the limit of the 7 km travelling range defined by Arnold (1985) from
ethnographic evidence for procurement of potting clays and tempers, and recommended by Morris (1994a; 1994b) for the study of later prehistoric pottery assemblages, are deposits containing clay with limestone, and gault (Smart et al. 1966, 45-97). Local resources could easily have provided all the necessary materials for pottery production at Little Stock Farm and it is reasonable to suppose that the majority of pottery was made locally, if not on site.

Several of the Little Stock Farm fabrics contain small amounts of calcareous detritus, which can be explained by the proximity of limestone sources (Hythe and Folkestone Beds). Although this material does not occur in sufficient quantity to be classed as tempering, clay dug from these areas may well have contained a small amount of calcareous matter. The clay for glauconitic fabrics Q1 and Q2 must have been obtained locally, and close to the source rock given the density of glauconite present ( $30-40 \%$ ). The glauconite is very visible to the naked eye and as such must represent a very deliberate fabric choice.

Many sherds, in a wide variety of fabrics, contain varying amounts of red iron oxides. Once again, in most cases this is less than $5 \%$ and thus cannot be considered deliberately added temper, but is probably naturally occurring. The Sandgate and Folkestone Beds are a source of ferruginous inclusions (Smart et al. 1966, 80, 85), and may have been exploited more particularly for the production of vessels in iron-rich fabrics FI1, FI2, GI1, GI2, I1, and QI1-QI5.

Petrological examination of ten Little Stock Farm fabrics was undertaken. In particular, attention was paid to the grog-tempered fabrics, in order to define the character of the grog itself. In some cases (G1 and G9) the crushed pottery added to the sherds had come from vessels which themselves had been grog-tempered. This indicates that three generations of vessels had been used and then re-used, probably spanning many years overall. In addition, the unusual sandy fabric Q6 was found to contain grog that was tempered with grog and quartz. No grog had been visible in the hand specimen and it is unclear whether a very small amount had been deliberately added, or accidentally included by cross contamination during manufacture.

## 5 VESSEL FORMS

The majority of the pottery from Little Stock Farm found its way into the archaeological record as domestic rubbish, having been transferred from middens into ditches and pits. However, there are four complete profiles and many more near complete profiles from the vessel hole deposits $(2102,2304)$ and grave pit $(2037)$ that have enabled a reliable form series to be compiled. Diagnostic rim sherds were numbered and assigned to a vessel class, by comparison with known vessel forms from other regional, and where appropriate, nonregional assemblages of a similar date.

Little Stock Farm vessel types can be divided into two basic categories, jars and bowls. Form and fabric correlations are given in Table 3. LSF99LPP Table 4 lists forms, fabrics and earliest/latest dates. All vessels are handmade, except R18, but R16 may be wheel-finished. In particular, there is no macroscopically visible evidence which indicates that the single example of the unusual vessel type R13 was wheel-thrown.

Table 3: Correlation of vessel forms and fabric by number of records


### 5.1 Jars

### 5.1.1 R1, R2, R3, R6, R10, R11, R12, R13, R14, R16, R17, R18, R20, R21, R22, R23, R25, R26, R27

There were 64 records for vessels in this category. The most commonly occurring were saucepan form R27 (11 records), jar R10 (9 records), convex-profile jar R2 (8 records) and globular form R20 (8 records).

### 5.2 Bowls

### 5.2.1 R3, R5, R8, R15, R24, R28, R29

With only nine records, bowls are an uncommon form at Little Stock Farm. Only types R4 and R5 were represented by more than one vessel.

In addition, there are three forms that fall into an uncertain jar/bowl category, because their heights are the same as, or only slightly greater than, their diameters. These vessels are R7, R9 and R19.

R7, R8, R10, R19, R22, R23 and R24 are late Bronze Age/early Iron Age forms found in vessel holes 2102 and 2304. Form R12 is early/middle Iron Age in date elsewhere along the route of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (eg at White Horse Stone), and all the others are middle or middle/late Iron Age forms.

### 5.3 Form Descriptions

R1. Thickened, rounded, everted rim on high-shouldered vessel (Fig. 6, No. 52).
R2 Flat-topped rim on convex-profile or slightly rounded vessel; many examples are characterised by bulbous appearance of the rim (Fig. 5, Nos 2, 6, Fig. 6, Nos 47, 49)

R3 Slightly inturning incipient bead rim on high-shouldered jar (Fig. 6, No. 31)
R4 Incurving rim, flat-topped hemispherical bowl, or lid (Fig. 6, No. 32)
R5 Slightly everted or outflaring rim on probable bowl (Fig. 6, No. 33)
R6 Convex-profile vessel (jar or bowl) with rounded and flat-topped rim; probably a protosaucepan pot type vessel (Fig. 5, No. 17)

R7 Rounded, slightly flaring, concave-profile rim on carinated or shouldered jar (Fig. 5, Nos 8, 10, Fig. 6, No. 23)

R8 Long-necked, carinated bowl (Fig. 5, Nos 9 and 11)
R9 Upright pointed rim on necked vessel (Fig. 6, No. 34)
R10 Flat-topped upright and expanded rim on possible swan-neck, medium to large diameter jar (see also R17) (Fig. 5, No. 4)

R11 Thick, rounded upright rim on high shouldered jar (Fig. 6, No. 29)
R12 Rounded rim on long in-sloping necked shouldered jar (Fig. 6, No. 30)
R13 Pointed, everted rim on round-shouldered, tall, narrow beaker-like vessel (Fig. 5, No. 1)
R14 Bevel-edged bead rim on shouldered bowl (Fig. 5, No. 5)
R15 Outflaring 'lip' type rim on possible cordoned bowl (Fig. 5, No. 3)
R16 Outflaring rim on necked jar; possibly wheel finished (Fig. 6, No. 22)
R17 Possible swan-neck jar (Fig. 6, No. 35)
R18 Cordoned bowl/jar with outflaring rim and round shoulder; wheel thrown (Fig. 6, Nos 20-21)

R19 Rounded upright rim from small, shouldered jar/bowl (Fig. 5, No. 7)
R20 Round-bodied, globular bowl with short, upright, slightly thickened rim (Fig. 5, No. 15, Fig. 6, Nos 36 and 37)

R21 Inward-sloping or upright rim on necked jar (Fig. 5, No. 18)
R22 Upright rounded rim from cup or small hemispherical bowl (Fig. 6, No. 39)
R23 Round-shouldered jar with upright, rounded rim (Fig. 5, No. 12)
R24 Rounded rim on tri-partite, carinated bowl (Fig. 5, No. 13)
R25 Round-bodied or barrel-shaped jar with upright, beaded rim (Fig. 6, Nos 19 and 46)
R26 Inward sloping rim with internal bevel on slack profile jar (variation of R2; not illustrated)

R27 Saucepan pot (Fig. 6, Nos 25, 27, 44 and 45)
R28 Upright pointed rim from bowl or beaker (Fig. 6, No. 26)
R29 Pulled, beaded rim on high-shouldered, probable jar (Fig. 6, No. 48)
Bases
B1 Simple flat base (Fig. 5, No. 4, Fig. 6, No. 41)
B2 Flat-bottomed base with outflaring vessel wall and slight projection at base angle (Fig. 6, No. 42)

B3 Solid, pedestal base (Fig. 6, No. 43)

### 5.4 Discussion of Vessel Forms

There are several parallels for the Little Stock Farm pottery in the immediate region. Monkton Court Farm (Perkins et al. 1994) has many vessels that compare well to the earliest Iron Age
phase at Little Stock Farm and Highstead (Thanet) has a sequence from the late Bronze Age to early Roman periods, within which many parallels can be found (Macpherson-Grant 1991, 42). In addition, similar forms occur on sites at an inter-regional level and equally importantly, considering our knowledge of cross-channel contact in later prehistory (O'Connor 1980), on the Continent. One of the major problems with Little Stock Farm is determining the existence, or not, of a classic 'middle Iron Age' as has been recognised in other parts of the country with well defined ceramic sequences, such as Wessex. The ubiquitous saucepan style pots found so widely across much of central southern Britain are also present at Little Stock Farm. Other examples have been found at Bigberry Hillfort (Thompson 1983, fig. 10, vessel 37), but it is unclear at what date the form first appears and it cannot be assumed that its appearance fits the same chronological pattern as elsewhere. The point must be made that east Kentish prehistoric pottery suffers from a very low level of publication. Many sizeable assemblages remain unpublished, including the majority of Mill Hill, Deal (Champion 1980, 233; Stebbing 1934), Minnis Bay, Birchington (Worsfold 1943), and to a large extent, Highstead (Macpherson-Grant forthcoming).

Table 4: Correlation of forms with fabrics and earliest/latest dates

| Form type | Fabrics in which form occurs | Earliest Date | Latest Date |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| R1 | G3, FI1, C2, QI4 | LIA | LIA |
| R2 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { I1, QI1, QI4, FI1, G5, } \\ & \text { FG2, G2, G9 } \end{aligned}$ | MIA | LIA |
| R3 | G5 | LIA | LIA |
| R4 | FI2 | E/MIA | MIA |
| R5 | F4 | EIA | EIA |
| R6 | C2, F4, G1 | MIA | M/LIA |
| R7 | F3, F6, QI6 | LBA/EIA | EIA |
| R8 | F7, QI4 | LBA/EIA | EIA |
| R9 | G5, QI4 | LIA | LIA |
| R10 | Q1, QI4, QI1, FI1, F4 | EIA | E/MIA |
| R11 | G9 | LIA | LIA |
| R12 | QI4 | EIA | E/MIA |
| R13 | G5 | LIA | LIA |
| R14 | G5 | LIA | LIA |
| R15 | G5 | LIA | LIA |
| R16 | G3, GI2 | LIA | LIA |
| R17 | FI1 | LBA/EIA | LBA/EIA |
| R18 | G1, G6 | LIA | LIA |
| R19 | QI4 | LBA/EIA | LBA/EIA |
| R20 | G1, F11, F1, FG2 | M/LIA | LIA |
| R21 | G2, GI1 | LIA | LIA |
| R22 | Q8 | LBA/EIA | EIA |
| R23 | F3 | EIA | EIA |
| R24 | QI4 | EIA | EIA |
| R25 | G3, GI2 | LIA | LIA |
| R26 | G3, G5, Q15 | M/LIA | LIA |
| R27 | G1, QI2, QI4, F6 | M/LIA | LIA |
| R28 | GI2 | LIA | LIA |
| R29 | Q2 | M/LIA | LIA |

(LBA/EIA, late Bronze/early Iron Age; EIA, early Iron Age; MIA, middle Iron Age, M/LIA, middle/late Iron Age; LIA, late Iron Age)

### 5.4.1 Ceramic Phase 1 (Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age or earliest Iron Age)

The earliest phase of the first millennium BC ceramic repertoire is similar to Barrett's classic post Deverel Rimbury decorated phase of Class II jars and Class IV bowls (1980, 302). Forms are characterised by quite sharp shoulders and long, curving necks with outflaring rims, on jars and bowls alike. This earliest phase at Little Stock Farm is well paralleled by the assemblage from Monkton Court Farm, characterised by fine wares with flaring or upright everted rims (Perkins et al. 1994, 255-256), and which has been dated to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age transition (ibid., 252). Jar form R7, with a slightly carinated shoulder, long neck and slightly everted rim, is well represented in this phase, and often carries tooled or incised decoration, or surface treatment. This form appears in quite a fine range of fabrics and it is clear that care and attention went into the production of these vessels. Two of the examples from Little Stock Farm were found in vessel hole feature 2304 (Fig. 5, Nos 8 and 10), and the third example was found in the immediately adjacent vessel hole 2102 (Fig. 6, No. 23). R7 is similar to vessels found at A2 site 8 (Macpherson-Grant 1980, 162, fig. 20, vessel 141 (500-350 BC), Highstead (early-middle Iron Age phases) (ibid. 1991, 42), Gravesend (Barclay 1994, 390, vessel 10, fig. 10 (late Bronze Age/early Iron Age)) and Fréthun, les Reitz, (Blancquaert and Bostyn 1998, 119, fig. 12, vessel 52-1, early La Tene). The bowl version of this shape, R8, is more strongly shouldered, or carinated, and two examples (Fig. 5, Nos 9 and 11) were also recovered from vessel hole 2304 and in association with the only example of a tripartite bowl type, R24 (Fig. 5, No. 13) and a slightly simpler form of shouldered jar, R23, which is undecorated (Fig. 00, No. 12). Other sherds were recovered from this feature but the vessel forms are much less diagnostic (Fig. 5, Nos 7 and 14).

The large shouldered jar from vessel hole 2102 was decorated with finger-tip impressions around the shoulder angle (Fig. 6, No. 23), a very common late Bronze/early Iron Age motif found on shouldered jars in Britain. The tripartite bowl form R24 has a 'raised' or tooled cordon and is not dissimilar to vessel no. 60 from Lofts Farm, Essex (Brown 1988, 267, fig. 16), or vessels 8 and 9 from Mill Hill, Deal (Champion 1980, 236). One of the carinated bowls from vessel hole 2304 (Fig. 5, No. 9) is undecorated but highly burnished on both surfaces and is very similar to a bowl from A2 Site 1 (MacphersonGrant 1980, 138, fig. 4, vessel 6), while the other has both an applied cordon with slashed lines or finger-nail slashes diagonally along it and pairs of finger-tip impressions below the cordon.
[E. Morris notes: Therefore, these two vessel holes, features 2102 and 2304, contained typical examples of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery in terms of both form and decoration and can be assigned to the decorated phase of the late Bronze Age
(Barrett 1980), which can also be described as the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age or earliest Iron Age. According to Barrett's classification, feature 2102 contained a Class I jar, while 2304 has fragments from two Class I jars, one Class II jar, one Class III bowl and three Class IV bowls. If these neighbouring features are taken together, there are equal numbers of jars and bowls between them and the symmetry of general types can be appreciated. The presence of equal numbers of bowls and jars, however, may be the result of the unusual nature of the deposits themselves if they can be considered as special deposits or purposeful deposition, rather than simply everyday 'rubbish' (Hill 1995). This is the most likely interpretation as these two features, inhumation burial feature 2031 (NZA-19915; 770-400 cal BC) and pit 2441 (NZA 19916; 800-510 cal BC) which contained a fragment of human skull in association with 26 small sherds of pottery, all date to this period. It appears that Little Stock Farm was a very special place during the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age decorated ceramic phase, a place of ritual and deposition rather than a typical settlement.]

### 5.4.2 Ceramic Phase 2 (middle/late Iron Age, or middle Iron Age)

After this distinct 'early' ceramic phase at Little Stock Farm, the sequence becomes less clear until the appearance much later of wheel-finished, high-shouldered, late Iron Age jar forms and associated types. Between these two periods, forms occur which could be accommodated in either the early or late period, or be left as a distinct phase on their own. It is possible that there are two sub-phases of ceramic phase 2, early/middle Iron Age phase 2 a and late/middle Iron Age phase 2 b . At this stage it is important to simply point out these possibilities for future study.

Two vessels, type R2 (Fig. 6, No. 49) and type R12 (Fig. 6, No. 30) were found together in context 2025, feature 2026. R12 is an early/middle Iron Age shouldered jar which in this case has a distinctive zone of applied clay rustication below the shoulder zone, while the R2 vessel is a barrel-shaped jar/bowl. R12 is paralleled by vessel no. 44, Site 1, A2 excavations (Macpherson-Grant 1980,144, fig. 7), but is also very similar to some Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age transitional forms from Monkton Court Farm (Perkins et al. 1994, 255-274), strengthening the argument for R12 to be placed earlier. 'Barrel' shaped form R2 is paralleled by vessel no. 27 from Site 1 of the A2 excavations (Macpherson-Grant 1980, 142, fig. 6). Interestingly, at Site 1 as well as at Little Stock Farm, it is unclear when the form first appears, suggesting that it was either contemporary with earlier material or that it was very long lived. Such an argument could be made for the form at Little Stock Farm, as it occurs with both early and late forms. There are no sherds of late Iron Age grog-tempered fabric vessels in this feature; only fabrics F1, F6, FG3, FI1, I1, Q1, Q3 and QI4 were found. However, finer fabric FG3 could be a late Iron

Age fabric type but as only four body sherds were recovered from two different features, three of them from feature 2026, and these are from the same vessel with no other distinguishing characteristics, this cannot be substantiated. The other sherd is burnished on both surfaces. Feature 2026 may therefore contain middle Iron Age pottery.

Other jar forms such as R21 and R26 with high shoulders appear in association with proto-saucepan type R6, round-bodied or globular bowl R20 and saucepan pot R27. Further consideration must be given to the 'saucepan pot horizon' in Kent before these forms can be more reliably dated. Regional parallels for R21 and R26, with their short, upright rims, are scarce although there are two forms similar to R26 from the A2 excavations (Site 1) (Macpherson-Grant 1980, 142, fig. 6, vessels 28 and 30), and some pre-Belgic vessels from Barham Downs (ibid. 1991, 45). On the whole, R21 and R26 are similar to Danebury class JC2 (ceramic phases 5-6) (Brown 1984, 272-277, fig. 6.37-6.42) and should probably be placed later in the Little Stock Farm sequence. As far as the saucepan style forms go, Kentish parallels are rare, examples coming from Bigberry (Thompson 1983, 262, vessel 37, fig. 10), and a 'bowl' from site 1 of the A2 excavations which appears to have a very straight-sided profile (Macpherson-Grant 1980, 142, vessel 22, fig. 6). A corpus of material from published sites in north-east France (Hurtrelle et al. 1990) provides many good parallels for the shouldered jar forms.

Slip-painted, unique vessel R13 appears very similar to vessel 10-19 from Fréthun, les Reitz (Blancquaert and Bostyn 1998, 118, fig. 11), a classic early La Tène form, and it may well be that the Little Stock Farm vessel is a copy of an import from the Continent.

Hemispherical bowl form R4 may be a lid (Fig. 6, No. 32); there is only one sizeable sherd representing this form at Little Stock Farm and it occurs with a grogtempered possible saucepan pot which suggests that it is most likely to be of late-middle Iron Age date, or later, here in Kent.

### 5.4.3 Ceramic Phase 3 (late Iron Age)

The late phase at Little Stock Farm is well represented by a variety of forms, largely represented by round-shouldered jars with everted rims. Cordoned bowl/jar R18 parallels Danebury forms JE1 (ceramic phase 8) (Brown 1984, 286-287, fig. 6.52-6.53) and more locally, vessels 57, 61 and 64 from Ebbsfleet, Thanet (Perkins 1992b, 298, fig. 11). The more globular form R25 finds parallels at Danebury in form JC2.3 (ceramic phase 5-7) (Brown 1984, 276-277, fig. 6.41-6.42), but also in Kent with the pre-Belgic material from Barham Downs (Macpherson-Grant 1991, 45). A key group of pottery representing this phase was deposited in ditch 2415 (Fig. 6, Nos 19-22), but other examples of R25 were also recovered (Fig. 6, No. 46). It is tempting to suggest that vessels Fig. 6, Nos 19 and 46
may have been made by the same potter; they were made from the same fabric and have similar lower vessel surface treatment.
[E. Morris notes: It was very challenging for this assemblage to be the first analysed amongst the Channel Tunnel Rail Link later prehistoric sites. Therefore, the uncertainties expressed in this report can now, a year and 20 assemblages later, be reduced. For example, there are six sherds/vessels from ditch cut 2002 illustrated below from amongst a total of 58 sherds recovered, but these were dispersed throughout the 'others' section at the end of the catalogue (Fig. 6, Nos 29, 39-42 and 51). With hindsight, it is obvious that this is actually a key group of pottery, and that the feature was dominated by grog-tempered fabrics G3, G5 and G9, and includes a rolled rim storage jar (R11; Fig. 6, No. 29), a distinctively decorated body sherd (Fig. 6, No. 40), a decorated lower vessel/base sherd (Fig. 6, No. 41) and an unusual decorated rim sherd from a cup or very small bowl which may have been redeposited (Fig. 6, No. 39). This is likely to be one of the best groups of late Iron Age or ceramic phase 3 pottery from Little Stock Farm, and probably dates to end of the first century $\mathrm{BC} /$ beginning of the first century AD .

In addition, there are two features which demonstrate the similarities and differences between ceramic phases 2 and 3 . Gully 2010 contained 72 sherds, including 12 which were grog-tempered and two vessels with diagnostic forms, R3 (fabric G5) and R2 (fabric I1) respectively (Fig. 6, Nos 31 and 50). Many of the numerous body sherds recovered were redeposited examples of fabrics F4 and F6, probably of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date. Gully 2010 is, therefore, likely to date to the late Iron Age period or ceramic phase 3. Feature 2026 also has an R2 barrel-shaped jar (fabric FI2; Fig. 6, No. 49) but this time in association with a shouldered jar displaying rustication (fabric QI4; Fig. 6, No. 30) and no sherds of grog-tempered fabric types amongst a total of 32 recovered. Therefore, 2026 is likely to date to the middle Iron Age period or ceramic phase 2.]

## 6 SURFACE TREATMENT AND DECORATIONS

A total of $33 \%$ of sherds from Little Stock Farm displayed some form of surface treatment. Typical techniques are burnishing, burnishing with smoothing or wiping, and, occasionally, rustication. Rustication occurs in one of two forms: 'roughening up' of the vessel surface, and application of 'blobs' of extra clay to the vessel surface (in other parts of Kent this can be in association with added crushed flint (Bryan 2002, 36) but there is no evidence for this at Little Stock Farm). Types of surface treatment as a percentage can be seen in Fig. 2. MacphersonGrant $(1991,43)$ highlights the possible significance of rustication as a surface treatment peculiar to east Kent and the Continent in the early-middle Iron Age. Though little has been published regarding this phenomenon, information currently available (for example from the
early Iron Age site at Dumpton Gap, Thanet (Bryan 2002, 36)), suggests that this form of surface treatment is not very well represented amongst surface treatment techniques. Only $1.5 \%$ of the Little Stock Farm assemblage displays rustication, but in light of the above, at the present time its significance remains questionable.

The most common form of surface treatment at Little Stock Farm is burnishing. This usually occurs as the only type of treatment, or in conjunction with wiping or smoothing. Depending on the level of finish required, burnishing can be an extremely labour intensive activity, and some vessels, particularly the late R18 forms, display very fine levels of finish. Burnishing remains steadily popular at Little Stock Farm over all periods, as would be expected of an Iron Age site - the technological benefits of burnishing vessels continued unsurpassed for many hundreds of years and it remained the preferential treatment to ensure that vessel walls were impermeable.

Only $5.5 \%$ of sherds from Little Stock Farm had any form of decoration. As such the assemblage must be considered largely undecorated. However, despite the low incidence of decorated sherds, and although this may be a largely chronological phenomenon, techniques show considerable variety. The early phase material falls into Barrett's decorated phase of the later Bronze Age (Barrett 1980, 302). The applied cordon on R7 jar/bowl in feature 2304 is mirrored by vessel 55 from Site 5, A2 excavations (Macpherson-Grant 1980, 148, fig. 10). The combed and painted decoration on vessel form R14 is well paralleled on a vessel from Avion le Republique (Hurtrelle et al. 1989, 116, fig. 17). It is also found on a vessel from South Cliff (Hurd 1909, 313). There is a reasonable incidence of finger-tipped decoration, described by Macpherson-Grant as 'regionally standard' for the period (1992, 258). Relative amounts of types of decoration can been seen as percentages in Fig. 3.

There is a strong argument for suggesting that vessel embellishment at Little Stock Farm generally took place through surface treatments rather than decorative techniques. The high incidence of burnishing, and the exceptional quality of it shown on some vessels, suggest that the technique was specifically employed to satisfy an aesthetic requirement that went beyond the functional and utilitarian.

Figure 2: Percentage of surface treatment by type amongst sherds displaying surface treatment


BU, burnishing; SM, smoothing; AC, applied clay (rustication); RG, roughening (rustication);WP, wiping
Figure 3: Percentages of decoration types


TO- tooling, $S R$ - scratching, $C B$ - combed, $P A$ - painted, $I C$ - incised, $S B$ - stabbed, $C D$ - cordon, $F N$ - finger-nail impressions, FT- finger-tip impressions, SC- scored, RI- rilled, IM- impressed

## 7 VESSEL SIZE AND USE

There are 104 records for rim sherds from Little Stock Farm, of which 38 were measurable. Fig. 4 shows the range of rim diameters. This pattern, which peaks at the 12 cm diameter, is found at many Iron Age sites and can be considered a 'standard' pattern for a domestic repertoire of this period (Woodward 1997, 32), with the expected rise of a few vessels at the larger end of the scale. The vessel with a diameter of 34 cm is the finger-tip-impressed shouldered jar/bowl from vessel hole 2102. It is tempting to suggest that such a vessel was used in a communal eating context (Blitz 1993, 85).

The incidence of usewear at Little Stock Farm is very low (Table 5). The most common form was abrasion (AB) that occurred on 34 sherds. This type of usewear was often found on the inside neck or base area of vessels and is presumably the result of stirring during cooking. Evidence for cooking in the form of sooting, however, was very low, appearing on only one sherd, although burnt residues were encountered on the inside surface of 13 sherds. The low levels of usewear are probably due to poor preservation and high levels of abrasion, and are in keeping with levels of usewear found at comparable sites in Kent.

Table 5: Evidence of vessel use by form type

| Form type | Abrasion | Internal burnt residue | External sooting | Total |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Angled sherd | 1 |  |  | 1 |
| Flat base | 1 |  |  | 1 |
| Unidentified base | 3 |  |  | 3 |
| Decorated | 1 |  |  | 3 |
| Plain body sherd | 22 | 2 |  | 31 |
| R10 | 1 | 1 |  | 3 |
| R16 | 1 |  |  | 1 |
| R18 | 1 |  |  | 1 |
| R2 | 1 | 1 |  | 1 |
| R27 | 2 |  |  | 1 |
| R99 | 34 |  |  | 2 |
| Total |  |  | 1 | 48 |

Figure 4: Frequency of measurable rim diameters


## 8 DISCUSSION

The pottery from the western area of the site numbered very few sherds, and no diagnostic form types. On the basis of fabrics it is broadly dateable to the early Iron Age.

The single feature that produced the largest amount of pottery at Little Stock Farm was vessel hole feature 2304 , which contained 455 sherds. This feature lay immediately next to vessel hole feature 2102. The pottery within both these features clearly dates to the late Bronze Age/earliest transitional Iron Age and represents the earliest period of first millennium BC occupation on the site. Both features have characteristics that are strongly suggestive of placed deposits. The sherds within them represent in many cases almost complete vessels that are likely to have been broken at the time of, or shortly after, deposition. The deliberate placement of briquetage sherds in feature 2304 adds an interesting aspect to this feature, and to the significance of salt use at Little Stock Farm and in the region. The vessel holes lie between two linear features running north-south, east of the roundhouse enclosure, in the eastern part of the site. These features (hereafter referred to as the droveway) can be broadly dated to the mid-late Iron Age. The interpretation of this area of the site as a possible droveway may explain why little pottery was recovered there. It is certain that the vessel holes pre-date it by several centuries.

To the east of the droveway lies an area of enclosures. The large enclosure ditch, Sub Group 5005 , contained saucepan pots and later forms, and sherds in grog-tempered fabrics.

Associated features within this enclosed area contained proto-saucepan and saucepan pots, and a large number of grog-tempered sherds. The presence of the proto-saucepan pots and round-bodied form R2 suggests that the earliest later prehistoric phase began on this part of the site sometime in the late Middle Iron Age.

The roundhouse enclosure to the south-east of the site produced pottery representing at least eleven vessels. The main occupation phase of this area can be securely dated to the Late Iron Age. However, three R10 vessels were recovered. Over the whole site, form R10 is found in seven out of nine cases in late contexts, but also occurs twice in features containing pottery dated to the early or middle Iron Age. Both these features are associated with the roundhouse enclosure - feature 2505 (posthole) and feature 2342 (post pit). The associated sherds in feature 2342 are difficult to date, but feature 2505 contained several sherds of 'classic' early-middle Iron Age flint-tempered vessels. Feature 2505 is a post-hole in the centre of the enclosure, along with post-hole 5037 which contained two small sherds in a flint-tempered early-middle Iron Age fabric. It is unclear whether 2505 and 5037 were associated with the building of the roundhouse, or whether they pre-dated it. Pit 2124 contained an R5 possible proto-beaded rim form, and no grog-tempered pottery, suggesting a middle Iron Age date. Forms and fabrics can reasonably securely date the other features within the enclosure to the late phase, and probably reach back to the end of the middle Iron Age. On the whole the range of form types is suggestive of normal domestic occupation.

Grave pits 2037 and 2031 lay to the north of the roundhouse enclosure, droveway, and the area to the east of this. They were some distance away from these occupied areas, a factor that may be related to their function as places in which parts of human bodies were deposited, along with large quantities of pottery. Such deposits are not unusual on Iron Age sites in Britain. The material from pit 2037 clearly belongs to the late phase, and can be considered contemporary with the main occupation of the roundhouse. Four of the six illustrated vessels form this grave are grog-tempered, but not the unusual R13 beaker-like jar (Fig. 5, No. 1), which was in a quartz-gritted fabric. It may be that the combed and painted vessel, which may be a British copy of an imported vessel from the Continent, was an heirloom and only used at special occasions such as during burial rites. It is possible that feature 2031 was earlier in date, though the only identifiable form present is R10, in a long-lived fabric making it difficult to date, although it is associated with four sherds of grog-tempered pottery, which suggests that feature 2031 was broadly contemporary with 2037.
[E. Morris notes: Grave pit 2037 also contained a large bowl with the capacity of approximately 9 litres (Fig. 5, No. 5), which may have held suitable drink for funeral attendees to consume during the burial ritual or to assist the dead into the next world.

Reconsideration of the sherds in the fill of grave pit 2031 suggests that, based on the near absence of rim sherds from distinguishable pots, these fragments may not have been
deliberately selected for deposition but rather represent general occupation debris present prior to the deposition of the human remains. If the fragments of human bone constitute a similar proportion of the body as do these potsherds of their vessels, this feature could be distinctive for this fragmentation and deposition process. ]

## 9 CATALOGUE OF ILLUSTRATED SHERDS AND VESSELS

(PRN, Pottery Record Number in database)

## Figure 5

Grave Pit 2037

1. Beaker; R13; fabric Q4; 3-toothed combed vertical bands in groups of four with redpainted slip between combed bands in each group and between pair of horizontal 3-toothed combed bands with incised lines, possibly from toothed comb, around neck; burnished on interior and exterior surfaces; PRNs 1201-1204, context 2032.
2. Barrel-shaped jar; R2; fabric G5; burnished around the rim; PRN 1208, context 2032.
3. Necked jar; R15; fabric G5; PRN 1209, context 2032.
4. Flat rim, necked jar; R10; fabric QI1; burnished around the rim; PRN 1223, context 2032.
5. Shouldered bowl with beaded rim; R14; fabric G5; smoothed on exterior; PRNs 1205-7, context 2032.
6. Barrel-shaped jar; R2; fabric G1; PRN 1228, context 2032.

## Vessel Hole 2304

7. Upright rim, necked jar; R19; fabric QI4; PRN 2053, context 2303.
8. Shouldered jar; R7; fabric QI6; tooled, incised and stabbed decoration in band above shoulder; burnished on exterior; PRNs 2020-2030, context 2303.
9. Carinated, upright long-necked bowl; R8; fabric QI4; burnished on interior and exterior; PRNs 2024-7, context 2303.
10. Carinated jar; R7; fabric F3; finger-wiping on exterior; PRN 2028, context 2303.
11. Bipartite, carinated, long-necked bowl; R8; fabric F7; pairs of impressed dimples in row above carination and applied or raised cordon with slashed, diagonal lines above dimples; burnished on interior and exterior; PRNs 2030-3, context 2303 (associated flat base; B1; not illustrated).
12. Shouldered jar; R23; fabric F3; burnished on exterior; PRN 2035, context 2303.
13. Tripartite bowl; R24; fabric QI4; parallel incised lines creating cordon at neck; PRNs 2038-41, context 2303.
14. Flat rim jar; R10; fabric Q1; PRN 2046, context 2303.

## Posthole 2405

15. Globular bowl; R20; fabric G5; burnished on exterior and interior; PRN 1460, context 2406.
16. Jar; R99; fabric FI1; PRN 1461, context 2406.
17. Ovoid bowl; R6; fabric G1; burnished on exterior and interior; PRN 1464, context 2406.
18. Upright rim, necked jar; R21; fabric GI1; PRN 1466, context 2406.

Figure 6
Ditch 2415
19. Beaded rim, round-bodied jar; R25; fabric GI2; scratched surface treatment around girth; burnished on upper exterior; PRN 1628, context 2418.
20. Cordoned bowl; R18; fabric G1; wheelthrown; tooled parallel lines at neck creating cordon; burnished on exterior and interior; PRN 1640, context 2418.
21. Cordoned bowl; R18; fabric G6; wheelthrown; tooled parallel lines at neck creating cordon; burnished on exterior and rim interior; PRN 1643, context 2418.
22. Necked jar; R16; fabric GI2; burnished on exterior and top of rim; PRN 1646, context 2418.

Vessel Hole 2102
23. Shouldered jar; R7; fabric F6; finger-tip impressions on shoulder; PRNs 2001-4, context 2102.

Others
24. Flat base jar; B1; fabric Q6; scratched surface treatment around girth zone; PRNs 1742-3, context 2514 , ditch 2515.
25. Saucepan pot; R27; fabric QI2; burnished on interior and exterior; PRN 1624, context 2320, ditch 2323.
26. Thin-walled, open vessel; R28; fabric GI2; burnished on exterior; PRN 1606, context 2320, ditch 2323.
27. Saucepan pot; R27; fabric G1; burnished on interior and exterior; PRN 1061, context 2012, pit 2013.
28. Globular bowl with upright rim; R20; fabric QI1; burnished on interior and exterior; PRN 1820, context 2656, artefact sample sub-group 5007.
29. Rolled rim from large storage jar; R11; fabric G9; PRN 1145, context 2001, ditch 2002.
30. Shouldered jar; R12; fabric QI4; burnished on upper vessel exterior and applied clay rustication on lower vessel exterior; PRN 1161, context 2025, ditch 2026.
31. High-shouldered, bead rim bowl; R3; fabric G5; burnished on interior and exterior; PRN 1034, context 2009, gully 2010.
32. Hemispherical bowl or lid; R4; fabric FI2; PRN 1053, context 2011, pit 2013.
33. Probable bowl; R5; fabric C2; PRN 1097, context 2019, ditch 2020.
34. Jar; R9; fabric G5; burnished on exterior; PRN 1102, context 2019, ditch 2020.
35. Possible swan-neck jar; R17; fabric FI1; PRN 1109, context 2019, ditch 2020.
36. Round-bodied bowl; R20; fabric FI1; smoothed on interior and exterior; PRN 1108, context 2019, ditch 2020.
37. Round-bodied bowl; R20; fabric FI1; burnished on interior and exterior; PRN 1106, context 2019, ditch 2020.
38. Decorated body sherd, jar; fabric G9; combed decoration on exterior wall; PRN 1293, context 2204 , ditch 2209.
39. Cup or small bowl; R22; fabric Q8; stabbed impressions below rim edge in possible curved arc motif; PRN 1155, context 2001, ditch 2002.
40. Decorated body sherd, jar; fabric G9; scratched on lower exterior below applied cordon at girth with finger-nail/tip impressions on cordon; PRN 1141, context 2001, ditch 2002.
41. Flat base; B1; fabric G9; incised, broadly-spaced, vertical lines above base angle; PRN 1131, context 2001, ditch 2002.
42. Flat base with slight projection; B2; fabric G5; PRN 1137, context 2001, ditch 2002.
43. Solid, pedestal base; B3; fabric FI1; burnished on exterior; PRN 1599, context 2019.
44. Saucepan pot; R27; fabric QI4; PRN 1734-6, context 2204, feature 2209.
45. Saucepan pot; R27; fabric QI4; burnished on exterior and top of rim; PRN 1290; context 2204, feature 2209.
46. Barrel-shaped jar; R25; fabric GI2; scratched on exterior; PRN 1700, context 2514, feature 2515 .
47. Jar; R2; fabric QI1; PRN 1063, context 2012, feature 2013.
48. High-shouldered jar; R29; fabric Q2; burnished on exterior and top of rim; PRN 1268, context 2121, feature 2120.
49. Convex-profile jar; R2; fabric FI2; burnished on top of rim; PRN 1165, context 2025, feature 2026.
50. Convex-profile jar; R2; fabric I1; PRN 1018, context 2009, feature 2010.
51. Jar R10; fabric Q1; burnished on exterior; PRN 1128, context 2001, ditch 2002.
52. Everted rim bowl; R1; fabric G3; burnished on interior and exterior; PRN 1006, context 2004, feature 2006.

## 10 REFERENCES

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

Arnold, D, 1985 Ceramic Theory and Cultural Process, Cambridge
Barclay, A, 1994 Prehistoric pottery, in Mudd, A, The excavation of a later Bronze Age Site at Coldharbour Road, Gravesend, Archaeol Cantiana 114, 363-410

Barrett, J, 1980 The Pottery of the later Bronze Age in Lowland England, Proc Prehist Soc 46, 297-320

Blancquaert, G, and Bostyn, F, 1998 L’âge du fer à Coquelles et Fréthun (Pas-de-Calais) (Fouilles du Transmanche 1986-1988), Revue du Nord: Archaéologie de la Picardie et du Nord de la France 80, 109-138

Blitz, J H, 1993 Big pots for big shots - feasting and storage in a Mississippian community, American Antiquity 58, 80-96

Brown, L 1984 The Iron Age pottery, in Cunliffe, B, Danebury: an Iron Age Hillfort in Hampshire. Volume 2 The excavations, 1969-1978: the finds, CBA Res Rep 52, London, 231331

Brown, N, 1988 A late Bronze Age enclosure at Loft's Farm, Essex, Proc Prehist Soc 54, 249-302

Bryan, E V, 2002 Iron Age pottery from Dumpton Gap, Broadstairs, Unpublished MA dissertation, University of Southampton

Champion, T C, 1980 Settlement and environment in later Bronze Age Kent, in The British Later Bronze Age (eds J Barrett and R Bradley), BAR British Series 83(i), 223-246

Ecclestone, J, 1995 Early Iron Age settlement at Southend: excavations at Fox Hall Farm 1993, Essex Archaeol and Hist 26, 24-39

Hill, J D, 1995 Ritual and rubbish in the Iron Age of Wessex, BAR British Series 242, Oxford.
Hurd, H, 1909 Late-Celtic discoveries at Broadstairs, Archaeol Cantiana 30, 309-313
Hurtrelle, J, Moncy, E, Roger, F, Rossignol, P, and Villes, A, 1989 Les débuts du second âge du fer dans le Nord de la France, Les Dossiers de GAUHERIA no. 1

Macpherson-Grant, N, 1980 rchaeological work along the A2, Archaeol Cantiana 96, 133183

Macpherson-Grant, N, 1991 A Re-appraisal of prehistoric pottery from Canterbury, Canterbury's Archaeology 15 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ Annual Report of the Canterbury Archaeol Trust 1990/1991, Canterbury, 38-47

Macpherson-Grant, N, 1992 A Review of late Bronze Age pottery from East Kent, Canterbury's Archaeology 1991-1992, 16 th Annual Report of the Canterbury Archaeol Trust, Canterbury, 55-66

Mepham, L, 2001 Assessment of pottery, in URS, 2001 Little Stock Farm, Mersham, Kent (ARC LSF99): Detailed archaeological works assessment report, unpubl. report prepared by WA for Union Railways (South) Limited, in ADS 2006

Morris, E L, 1994a Production and distribution of pottery and salt in Iron Age Britain: a review, Proc Prehist Soc 60, 371-93

Morris, E L, 1994b The organisation of pottery production and distribution in Iron Age Wessex, in The Iron Age in Wessex: recent work (eds A P Fitzpatrick and E L Morris), Association Française d'Etude de l'Age du Fer/Trust for Wessex Archaeol, Salisbury, 26-9

Morris, E L, 2001 Fabrics, in A Millennium of Saltmaking: Prehistoric and Romano-British Salt Production in the Fenland (eds T Lane and E L Morris), Sleaford, 34-41

O'Connor, B, 1980 Cross-Channel Relations in the Later Bronze Age Parts 1 \& 2, BAR International Series 91, Oxford

Perkins, D R J, 1992 Archaeological Evaluations at Ebbsfleet in the Isle of Thanet, Archaeol Cantiana 112, 269-307

Perkins, D R J, Macpherson-Grant, N, and Healey, E, 1994 Monkton Court Farm Evaluation 1992, Archaeol Cantiana 114, 237-316

Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, 1997 The study of later prehistoric pottery: General policies and guidelines for analysis and publication, Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group Occasional Papers nos $1 \& 2$, Oxford (revised ed.)

Smart, J G O, Bisson, G, and Worssam, B C, 1966 Geology of the Country around Canterbury and Folkestone, London

Stebbing, W P D, 1943 An Early Iron Age Site at Deal, Archaeol Cantiana 46, 207-209
Thompson, F H, 1983 Excavations at Bigberry, near Canterbury, 1978-80, Antiqs J 63, 237278

Woodward, A, 1997 Size and style: an alternative study of some Iron Age pottery in southern England, in Reconstructing Iron Age Societies (eds A Gwilt and C Haselgrove), Oxford, 2635

Worsfold, F H, 1943 A Report on the Late Bronze Age Site excavated at Minnis Bay, Birchington, Kent, 1938-1940, Proc Prehist Soc 9, 28-47

