

**Channel Tunnel Rail Link
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**The late prehistoric pottery from Pepper Hill,
Northfleet, Kent (ARC PHL97)**

by Grace Perpetua Jones and Elaine Morris

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	ARC NBR 98	3
1.1	Comments.....	3
1.2	Conclusions and Recommendations	5
2	ARC PHL 97	5
2.1	Comments.....	5
2.2	Conclusions and Recommendations	5

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Quantification of late prehistoric pottery from ARC NBR98	3
Table 2: Quantification of late prehistoric pottery from ARC PHL97	5

1 ARC NBR 98

Table 1: Quantification of late prehistoric pottery from ARC NBR98

Context	Count	Weight (g)	Early date	Late Date	Comments
97	9	74	ETIA	EIA	No dateable sherds but not out of place in an EIA ceramic phase
1116	17	54	ETIA	EIA	Possibly the same vessel as cxt 1686 and 2177
1253					Fired clay and burnt bone
1686	28	87	ETIA	EIA	Possibly the same vessel as cxt 1116 and 2177
1693	3	9	ETIA	EIA	Similar to fabric in cxts 1686, 1116 and 2177
1941	13	27	LBA	EIA	Undiagnostic sherds
2177	10	22	ETIA	EIA	Possibly the same vessel as cxt 1116 and 1686

1.1 Comments

1.1.1 Context 1686

Context 1686 produced 28 sherds of later prehistoric pottery, weighing a total of 87 g. The material represented two vessels.

One sherd (1g) of a fine sandy ware was present, with a sparse amount of fine flint in the fabric. It is an unoxidised, undiagnostic body sherd.

The remaining sherds all appear to originate from a single vessel. The fabric contained a moderate quantity of fine to intermediate-sized flint and a sparse to moderate amount of shell, which has now leached out of the fabric leaving only irregularly-shaped vesicles. The vessel is characterised by oxidised surfaces and an unoxidised core. The form is that of a shouldered jar with a flat-topped rim on a short, upright neck. It is similar to form R1 at Tollgate (ARC 330 98, zone 4), which has been given an ‘early date’ of the earliest Iron Age (ETIA) and ‘late’ date of the early Iron Age (EIA).

1.1.2 Context 1116

Context 1116 produced 17 sherds of later prehistoric pottery, weighing 54 g. The sherds displayed very similar fabric, form and firing characteristics to the pottery from context 1686, and as such may originate from the same vessel.

One intermediate to coarse ware sherd was also recovered, weighing 17 g. It may have formed part of the central base of a vessel. The fabric consisted of poorly sorted flints in a sandy clay matrix.

1.1.3 Context 2177

Context 2177 contained ten sherds, weighing 22 g, which again were very similar in terms of fabric and firing to the pottery recovered from contexts 1686 and 1116, and as such may be from the same vessel.

1.1.4 Context 1693

This context contained three sherds, weighing 9 g. The pottery is similar to the sherds recovered from contexts 1686, 1116 and 2177 but originates from a different vessel. The fabric contains flint fragments and shell vesicles, and also seems to have an organic component. The similarity in both fabric and vessel wall thickness (11 mm) suggest the material is probably from the same ceramic phase as contexts 1686, 1116 and 2177.

1.1.5 Context 97

The later prehistoric pottery recovered from context 97 represented a maximum of four vessels. Six sherds (including fresh breaks), weighing 60 g, shared a silty clay matrix with a sparse amount of fine flint inclusions and a sparse amount of burnt out organic matter. The sherds were from the body of the vessel and as such were not diagnostic, but would not be out of place in the early Iron Age.

One sherd, weighing 5 g, was completely oxidised. The fabric contained a moderate amount of flint and a moderate to common amount of organic inclusions. The sherd was highly abraded, and the fabric was not dissimilar to the briquetage fabrics from Tollgate.

One further sherd, weighing 5 g, was also very silty, with a sparse amount of fine to medium flint and a moderate amount of organic inclusions. It is similar to the VF1 fabric seen at Tollgate, where it had been used for salt container material.

Finally there was a single swan-necked rim sherd from this context, weighing 4 g. The fabric was again very silty, and contained flint and organic inclusions. The vessel was thin walled.

1.1.6 Context 1523

One possible sherd of pottery, weighing 1 g, was recovered from sample 349. It was too small for an assessment of date.

1.1.7 Context 1253

No pottery was identified in this context, only fired clay and cremated / burnt bone.

1.1.8 Context 1941

This context contained 13 sherds (27 g) of pottery (mostly tiny fragments) that represent at least three different vessels. Nine sherds, weighing 16 g, came from an unoxidised vessel with a sandy clay matrix. The fabric was moderately to commonly vesicular with rare fine to moderate sized flint fragments. The sherds may originate from the central area of a vessel base.

One sherd (4 g) contained a moderate to common amount of well-processed flint fragments in a sandy clay matrix, indicating an intermediate to fine ware. The remaining three sherds (5 g) contained a sparse to moderate quantity of flint and indicate a coarse ware fabric.

1.2 Conclusions and Recommendations

Contexts 1116, 1686 and 2177 contained sherds that were extremely similar in fabric, form, firing and vessel wall thickness. Although found in different contexts it is possible the sherds originate from a single vessel. The form is a shouldered jar with flat-topped rim and upright neck, and a parallel may be drawn with the plain examples of the R1 from Tollgate (ARC 330 98, zone 4). The earliest date of this form at Tollgate is the earliest Iron Age (ETIA), the latest date is the early Iron Age (EIA). The pottery from contexts 1693 and 97 were fairly similar to that from contexts 1116, 1686 and 2177 and would not be out of place in the same ceramic phase. Two sherds from context 97 had a very silty clay matrix with organic inclusions, creating a similar fabric to a number of briquetage vessels recovered from Tollgate. Context 1941 was undiagnostic but could be accommodated within the late Bronze Age to early Iron Age period. The sherd from context 1523 was also undiagnostic. No further work is necessary on the pottery from these contexts.

Context 1253 contained fired clay and burnt / cremated bone. It is suggested that this material is presented to the appropriate specialists for analysis.

2 ARC PHL 97

Table 2: Quantification of late prehistoric pottery from ARC PHL97

Context	Count	Weight (g)	Early date	Late Date	Comments
834					Fired clay
883					Fired clay
947	1	1	EPR	EPR	Probably LNEBA
990	1	2	PREH	PREH	Abraded
1003	1	3	RO	RO	CBM?

2.1 Comments

Contexts 883 and 834 contained fired clay.

Context 947 contained one sherd (1 g) of early prehistoric pottery (probably late Neolithic / early Bronze Age).

Context 1003 contained one fully oxidised fragment (3 g) of probable ceramic building material.

Context 990 contained one sherd (2 g) of highly abraded flint-tempered pottery of indeterminate prehistoric phase.

2.2 Conclusions and Recommendations

The material from contexts 834 and 883 should be passed to the fired clay specialist for inclusion in the fired clay database. The single sherd from context 947 should be assessed by an early prehistoric pottery specialist. The prehistoric sherd from 990 is abraded and residual,

no further work is required. The fragment of possible ceramic building material from context 1003 does not have any potential to add to the site information.