1.1 Assessment of the Prehistoric Pottery

by Alistair Barclay

Introduction

1.1.1 A single body sherd of possible middle Bronze Age date was recovered during the excavation. The sherd was collected by hand. The sherd is in a worn condition and could therefore be residual.

Methodology

1.1.2 The sherd was weighed and dated by fabric analysis with reference to published assemblages.

Quantification

1.1.3 The sherd's fabric contains coarse calcined flint which is most likely to be of middle Bronze Age (Deverel-Rimbury) date, although similar fabrics can occur in the Neolithic and late Bronze Age (Table 1).

Provenance

1.1.4 The single prehistoric sherd was from the primary fill, context 59, of ditch 60. It could, however, be residual.

Conservation

1.1.5 The sherd has no specific needs for long term storage. As the only datable sherd from the ditch it should be retained.

Comparative material

1.1.6 This type of fabric is common on sites of middle Bronze Age date in Kent and across much of south-east England. However, similar fabrics do sometimes occur on Neolithic sites and it is not impossible that the sherd is of an earlier date.

Potential for further work

1.1.7 The single sherd is of value only as dating evidence for middle Bronze Age activity. Comparison with more securely dated fabrics from elsewhere should help to confirm the date as middle Bronze Age. There is no potential for any further work.

Table 1: Quantification of prehistoric pottery

Context	Count	Weight (g)	Period	Comments
59	1	6	middle Bronze Age?	Body sherd with coarse calcined flint temper

1.2 Assessment of the Late Iron Age and Roman Pottery

by Malcolm Lyne

Introduction

1.2.1 Small amounts of late Iron Age to early Roman pottery were recovered during excavation on the site. Excavation of the various ditches containing this material

was restricted to sampling by sections, although the cremations were excavated in their entirety. The prime aims of the study of this material were to date the occupation of the site and to obtain information about local burial practices from the cremation vessels.

Methodology

1.2.2 All of the pottery assemblages were subjected to general sherd count and weighing. None of them were considered suitable for more detailed quantification because of the small size of the assemblages and the subsequent lack of good, diagnostic profiles. The burial vessels are, however, dealt with in some detail below.

Fabrics were classified with the aid of a x8 lens with built-in metric scale for determining the sizes, nature, form and frequency of inclusions. Finer fabrics were further examined using a x30 magnification pocket microscope with built-in artificial illumination source.

Fabrics were classified using the Canterbury Archaeological Trust's codings (Macpherson-Grant et al. 1995) where applicable.

Quantification

1.2.3 The excavation yielded 517 sherds (3439 g) of pottery from 22 contexts, of which 414 sherds (2488 g) are from the five cremation vessels (Table 2). Table 3 gives the breakdown of the pottery other than the cremation vessels by period.

1.2.4 The site lies in an area of east Kent dominated by 'Belgic' grog-tempered wares throughout the late Iron Age and well into the second century. This creates problems in dating when dealing with small assemblages where only bodysherds from grog-tempered vessels are present. Some of the assemblages from this site are of that type (7, 32, 35, 41 and 51) and are difficult to date with any precision. They could be entirely late Iron Age in date or post-Conquest. Most of the pottery from features other than cremations is very broken up.

Provenance

1.2.5 None of the occupation assemblages from the site could be regarded as a good group: they are all very small, deficient in diagnostic sherds and for the most part of limited value in the dating of features. Some of the very small ditch groups could even be entirely residual.

1.2.6 The cremation vessels are of considerably greater value for further study but have in some cases suffered from plough truncation.

1.2.7 All of the cremation pots belong to the period *c* AD 43-100: cremation 39 was accompanied by just a single basal sherd from a beaker in Upchurch ware (fabric R16) and cremation 43 had a truncated flagon in Patchgrove ware (fabric R68). Cremation 45 was accompanied the fragmentary remains of a closed form in black 'Belgic' fabric B3, cremation 46 by a truncated Hoo flagon and an Upchurch ware platter and cremation 48 by rim sherds from a jar in fabric B2.1.

Conservation

1.2.8 The pots from cremations 43, 45 and 46 require sticking but otherwise there is no need for further conservation. All of the sherds should be retained.

Comparative material

1.2.9 The domination of the pottery assemblages by grog-tempered wares is typical of late Iron Age and early Roman east Kent but the very fragmentary nature and small

quantities of the occupational material make the citing of parallels unproductive. The truncated nature of all but one of the cremation pots has also made the search for parallels difficult. The most important comparisons will be with material found in numerous excavations in the immediate vicinity, to aid interpretation of this group of sites.

Potential for further work

1.2.10 The ability of the pottery from this site to contribute to the CTRL project aims is limited. The only way in which the material contributes at all significantly is in the ritual aspects, where further study of the cremation pots may reveal something about local early Roman burial practices. The Canterbury kilns flagon with traces of bitumen or resin sealant in the neck, from context 61, is of interest as evidence of local trade out of Canterbury, perhaps in a commodity such as wine. The assemblage can therefore provide additional data for the wider CTRL Landscape Zone Priorities covering rural economy and trade, and burial practice and ritual.

Table 2: Summary of late Iron Age and Roman pottery

Context	Count	Weight (g)	Period	Comments
5	1	19	LIA-AD 70	B2.1 jar
7	10	121	LIA-AD 70+	B2 combed jars
29	36	240	AD 43-70+	B2 R15 jars
32	2	31	LIA-AD 70+	B2 jars
35	6	40	LIA-AD 70+	B2 jars
37	3	21	LIA-AD 70+	B2.1 jars
39	1	7	*c* AD 50-250	R16
41	3	5	LIA-AD 70+	B2 jar
43	114	1100	AD 43-100	B2.1 flagon, Pollard type 33
44	100	491	AD 43-100	same vessel as in 43
45	26	62	LIA-AD 70	B3 jar
48	20	340	LIA-AD 70	B2.1 jar
49	102	85	early 2nd century	R43, DR27, R17 flagon
50	51	403	AD 70-130	R16 platter
51	6	36	LIA-AD 70	B2.1 jars
56	13	159	AD 70-150	R5 bowl, B2 jars, R16 closed
57	3	65	AD 70-150	B2 jars, R5 lid
58	5	37	AD 70-150	Br jar, R42
61	14	173	AD 70-200	R74.3 flagon with bitumen sealant in neck
63	1	4	LIA-AD 70+	B2 jar

Table 3: Main groups of pottery by phase (excluding cremation vessels)

Phase	Main Locations	Spot date	no. of contexts	Count	Weight (g)
2	Ditches 2, 34, 36	Late Iron Age - *c* AD 70	6	30	254
3	Ditch 62	*c* AD 70 - 200	5	71	674
u/s	Topsoil, post-medieval ditch 6, unstratified	-	3	4	63
Total			*14*	*105*	*991*