

1.1 Assessment of Prehistoric Pottery

by Alistair Barclay

Introduction

- 1.1.1 Prehistoric pottery was recovered from three contexts during strip, map and sample works at Chapel Mill.
- 1.1.2 The material was hand retrieved on site.
- 1.1.3 The pottery was recovered in accordance with the Fieldwork Event Aims for the site, which are set out in section 2 of the main report, above. The main purpose of recovering the pottery was to provide dating evidence for the features identified on the site.

Methodology

- 1.1.4 The assemblage was quantified by count and weight, and dates were assigned through the identification of diagnostic form and by fabric analysis. In the absence of diagnostic material, and an established fabric series, dates are tentatively assigned through fabric analysis in accordance with the general trends observable in material of this period. Fabrics containing fine to medium calcined and non-calcined flint are more likely to be of late Bronze Age date, although similar fabrics can occur in the Neolithic and the middle Bronze Age.

Quantification

- 1.1.5 Five sherds of late Bronze Age pottery (34 g) were found in three subsoil contexts (Table 1). Their fabrics contain a fine flint temper which is probably of late Bronze Age date. The only featured sherds were the flat base fragments from context 201 that appear to be from a small vessel.

Provenance

- 1.1.6 All the sherds were from subsoil layers; they were generally worn and abraded and are probably all residual.

Conservation

- 1.1.7 The sherds will not require further conservation, although since they provide evidence for activity in the area of the site in the late Bronze Age, they should be retained.

Comparative material

- 1.1.8 Similar fabrics with fine flint temper can be found on late Bronze Age sites in Kent and elsewhere in south-east England. A comparison can be made with the much larger assemblage from the White Horse Stone excavation.

Potential for further work

- 1.1.9 This type of fabric is common on sites of late 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 sherds are of an earlier date. Further work on this and similar pottery elsewhere may clarify its chronology. Since the sherds are probably residual, they have limited potential for further study beyond the clarification of their dating. In terms of the original Fieldwork Aims of the project, the sherds provide evidence for late Bronze Age or Neolithic activity in the

area of the site, but the only potentially datable feature remains the isolated pit found during the evaluation.

Table 1: Summary of prehistoric pottery

Context	Count	Weight (g)	Period	Comments
201	1	8	Later Bronze Age	flat base of small vessel, abraded
217	3	16	Later Bronze Age	abraded
223	1	10	Later Bronze Age	abraded
<i>Total</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>34</i>		

1.2 Assessment of Late Iron Age and Roman Pottery

by Malcolm Lyne

Introduction

- 1.2.1 Late Iron Age and Roman pottery was recovered from eight stratified contexts during strip, map and sample excavations at Chapel Mill.
- 1.2.2 The material was hand recovered on site.
- 1.2.3 The pottery was recovered in accordance with the Fieldwork Event Aims for the site, which are set out in section 2 of the main report, above. The main purpose of retrieving the pottery was to provide dating evidence for the excavated features.

Methodology

- 1.2.4 All of the pottery assemblages were subjected to general sherd count, weighing and spot dating. None of them were considered suitable for more detailed quantification because of the small size of the assemblages and because very few rim or other diagnostic sherds were present.
- 1.2.5 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.
- 1.2.6 Fabrics were classified using the Canterbury Archaeological Trust's codings (Macpherson-Grant *et al.* 1995) where applicable.

Quantification and Provenance

- 1.2.7 The site produced just 34 sherds (274g) of late Iron Age and Roman pottery. All but three sherds can be attributed to the late Iron Age (Table 2). One of the three Roman sherds came from the upper fill of ditch 247 and looks very like a product of the *c* AD 270-370 dated Wickham Barn kilns recently excavated near the junction of the Sussex Greensand Way and London to Lewes Roman road, north-west of Lewes.
- 1.2.8 Only one of the two cremation pits on the site (205) yielded any pottery: one large combed 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware sherd and a pellet of possibly middle or late Iron Age fabric with calcined flint filler. Much of the Iron Age pottery (14 sherds, 125g) comes from the fills of ditch 225=235 and includes seven small but fresh sherds from a bead-rim beaker in glauconitic B9.1 fabric, datable to *c* AD 1-50.
- 1.2.9 Evidence for a continuation of occupation on the site from the late Iron Age into the early Roman period comes from the subsoil layer at the north-east end of the site, where an otherwise small 15 sherd late Iron Age assemblage also includes two beaker fragments in grey Upchurch fabric R16.

Conservation

- 1.2.10 As the most important dating evidence for the site, all of the pottery should be retained. No further conservation is required.

Potential for Further Work and Comparative Material

- 1.2.11 The amounts of pottery are insufficient for anything other than dating purposes but the probable Wickham Barn sherd, coupled with those from Thurnham Villa, has considerable implications for our understanding of the patterns of Roman pottery supply across and around the edge of the Weald.

Bibliography

Macpherson-Grant, N., Savage, A., Cotter, J., Davey, M., Riddler, I., 1995 *Canterbury ceramics 2, The processing and study of excavated pottery*

Table 2: Summary of late Iron Age and Roman Pottery

Context	Count	Weight (g)	Period	Comments
203	1	80	50 BC - AD 70+	combed B2 jar
214	2	11	LIA - AD 70+	
229	4	95	LIA - AD 50	
230	3	6	LIA	B9.1
243	7	24	AD 1 - 50	B9.1 bead rim jar
245	1	3	3 rd century	Wickham Barn kiln fabric?
248	15	53	50 BC - AD 50+	B2.1 & B9.1
204	1	2	M-LIA	