

## **APPENDIX 1: ASSESSMENT OF PREHISTORIC POTTERY**

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### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The prehistoric pottery assemblage recovered from Zone 5 was mainly from the excavation area ARC CGC 98. The pottery was hand collected from a series of pits and ditch features concentrated around Cobham Golf Course. The pottery is predominately middle and late Bronze Age in date, although some has been recorded as indeterminate later Bronze Age and more general indeterminate later prehistoric. All of the pottery of this date is flint-tempered and differentiation has been based on wall thickness and inclusion size in the absence of diagnostic featured sherds. Clearly different from this material, are a group of sherds with a grog-tempered/clay pellet fabric, which may derive from an early Bronze Age Collared Urn or similar vessel type.
- 1.2 The recovery and study of this material was intended to assist the following fieldwork event aims:
- To determine the morphology and function of the settlement, including any adjacent enclosures and trackways
  - To recover Bronze Age pottery assemblages, supported by radio-carbon dates, for assessment and analysis
- 1.3 Some 19<sup>th</sup> century sherds were recovered from ARC BG 98; otherwise no post-Roman pottery was recovered for Zone 5.

### **2. Methodology**

- 2.1 All of the sherds recovered were recorded using standard MoLSS recording methods. The material is recorded on a context-by-context basis using fabric, form and decoration as unique identifiers. The prehistoric sherds were recorded using the Canterbury Archaeological Trust regional fabric. The material was quantified by count and weight and aspects of condition were also noted.

### **3. Quantifications**

- 3.1 A total of 835 sherds of prehistoric date were recovered. The assemblage had a total weight of 9986g.

### **4. Provenance**

- 4.1 From the fill of the ring ditch [223] an assemblage of 26 sherds was recovered which group into two slightly different fabrics, probably representing two different vessels. The fabrics are soft and virtually inclusion-less with the exception of grog or clay pellet inclusions. Most of the sherds are abraded and the soft nature of the fabric has resulted in poor survival. However a number of more diagnostic sherds are present including sherds with cord decoration and possibly part of a collar and a possible rim sherd. Clearly the condition of the

material means identification is tentative but the characteristics of the fabric and the more diagnostic sherds suggest the material dates to the early Bronze Age, probably derived from a Collared Urn or similar vessel.

- 4.2 The assemblage from [223] is the largest group of sherds recovered from the ring ditch. Other pottery from ring ditch fill contexts consisted of further sherds in soft fabrics with clay pellets ([242], [227]) and flint-tempered sherds that could not be closely dated ([221], [227]). These sherds may be contemporary with or later than the group from [223]. The possible Collared Urn may have been originally deposited to accompany a burial or hold cremated remains, although no remains of human bone were recovered. The extensive ploughing of the site has completely destroyed any barrow (if one was present) and may also have disturbed the vessels from their primary place of deposition. Collared Urns have been commonly recovered from barrows in Kent from sites such as Ringwoud and Otford (Champion 1982, 32-5).
- 4.3 The middle Bronze Age material is characterised by coarsely flint-tempered fabrics and thick walled, heavy sherds. Featured sherds for this period were recovered from sections along the main east-west ditch [114] and [194]. These included rims and decorated body sherds typical of Deverel-Rimbury urns, including from [194] an applied horseshoe cordon, decorated with fingertip impressions and perforated at the terminal. Where present the rim sherds are all simple rounded profiles.
- 4.4 The middle Bronze Age sherds are large in size and frequently conjoining sherds occur suggesting little re-deposition has occurred. An assemblage of comparable date and character was recovered during the evaluation from sections of the same ditch feature (1914TT).
- 4.5 A number of contexts contained plain body sherds that have been recorded as indeterminate later Bronze Age. This was used where the wall thickness and/or fabric were deemed insufficient indicators to classify the sherds further.
- 4.6 The late Bronze Age pottery is best represented by five 'plain ware' assemblages recovered from pits located to the south of the large east-west ditch: [122], [136], [142], [160], [162]. Other sherds have been assigned to this period on the basis of finer flint-tempered fabrics and thinner wall thickness, but these are frequently undiagnostic body sherds.
- 4.7 The 'plain ware' assemblages include slack-profile fine ware bowls, coarse ware jars with flint-gritted bases (both [122]), slack-shouldered coarse ware jars with fingertip decoration on the rim [136] and various upright, flat-rimmed jars and weakly carinated vessels. The largest assemblage is pit fill [136], which contains a number of vessels including both fine ware bowls and coarse ware jars. One jar has a thick carbonised residue of the surfaces suggesting use as a cooking pot. There are a number of large joining sherds from this vessel, which probably indicates it derives from contemporary settlement in the nearby vicinity. The forms present in this assemblage are typical of the late Bronze Age.
- 4.8 A similar range of material was recovered from the evaluation phase (ARC CGC 97) with both middle Bronze Age and a small quantity of late Bronze Age pottery present. During an earlier evaluation on Cobham Golf Course (not connected with CTRL mitigation works) in 1995 by Pre-Construct Archaeology, further late Bronze Age material was recovered (Barclay 1997).

### *Post-Roman*

- 4.9 Some 19<sup>th</sup> century wares were recovered from ARC BG 98. Three sherds from a stoneware beer bottle (probably from a brewery in the Old Kent Road, London), and a fragment from the base of a moulded object, probably a jardiniere, in a white fabric with brown glaze. Also recovered was a sherd of Doulton pottery, from Lambeth.

## **5. Conservation**

- 5.1 The pottery has no conservation requirements and there are no implications posed by future work for the long-term storage of the assemblage.

## **6. Comparative material**

- 6.1 Several Collared Urns have been recovered from barrows in Kent and they are one of the most common classes of pottery associated with features of this type. The poor condition of the sherds recovered from [223] leaves in little scope for stylistic comparison with other Kentish examples.
- 6.2 There are only a small number of comparable middle Bronze Age assemblages from this area of Kent, although assemblages from further east (Rochester to Thanet) should also be considered in relation to this material. A small assemblage was recovered from a site at Hayes Common, which included sherds from Deverel-Rimbury type vessels (Philp 1973).
- 6.3 The late Bronze Age assemblage contains elements typical of 'plain ware' assemblages from throughout south-east England. However assemblages of this period from the immediate vicinity appear to be scarce. This assemblage would benefit from consideration in relation to published groups from east Kent such as the group from Kingston Downs (Site 5: Archaeological work along the A2; Macpherson-Grant 1980).

## **7. Potential for further work**

- 7.1 The association of these pottery assemblages with a combination of ritual (the early Bronze Age barrow) and settlement activity is important, particularly for the middle Bronze Age pottery, which is commonly retrieved from burial contexts. The nature and condition of the pottery suggests nearby settlement and these groups clearly have potential for further study, particularly as comparable material from this area of Kent is limited.
- 7.2 The pottery has the potential to contribute to the following fieldwork event aims and Landscape Zone aims:
- *To determine the morphology and function of the settlement, including any adjacent enclosures and trackways*
  - *To recover Bronze Age pottery assemblages for assessment and analysis*
- 7.3 As stated above (7.1) clearly important mid Bronze Age and late Bronze Age assemblages have been recovered which have the potential to contribute to the

study of ceramics of these periods from the region. The pottery will provide dating for the features, possible contemporaneity of pottery vessels and, combined with the stratigraphic remains, provides direct evidence for settlement.

7.4 In order to address the research aims and fulfil the potential of this assemblage the following tasks are recommended:

- Define middle Bronze Age fabrics in relation to published groups
- Define late Bronze Age fabrics in relation to published groups
- Comparative study of other material from region
- Illustration of key vessels
- Discussion text for late Bronze Age pit groups
- Publication text for assemblage

7.5 The 19<sup>th</sup> century material from ARC BG 98 is not worthy of further work, and only confirms the 19<sup>th</sup> century nature of the gatehouse.

## 8. Bibliography

Champion, T C, 1982, 'The Bronze Age in Kent', in P Leach (ed) *Archaeology in Kent to AD 1500*, CBA Res Rep 48, 31-39

Macpherson-Grant, N, 1980 'Archaeological work along the A2: 1966-1974', *Arch Cant* xcvi, 133-83

Philp, B, 1973 *Excavations in West Kent 1960-1970*

URL, 1997, Cobham Golf Course, an Archaeological evaluation; Barclay, A, 1997 middle and late Bronze Age pottery: prepared by OAU

Table 1: Assessment of Pottery, quantifications and attributes: ARC CGC 98

CONTEXT	COUNT	WEIGHT	PERIOD	COMMENTS
223	26	107	EBA	CP 7E; Early Bronze Age: possible frags of Collared Urn or similar vessel type.
100	18	336	LBA	FLIN 2; Mid/late or Late Bronze Age
118	29	88	LBA	FLIN; Later Bronze Age
122	20	171	LBA	FLIN 2 FLIN 2U FLIN 4 FLIN; Late Bronze Age: plain ware assemblage
132	16	75	LBA	FLIN; Late Bronze Age
134	2	26	LBA	FLIN; Late Bronze Age
136	256	4366	LBA	FLIN 2 FTD FLIN 2 STAB FLIN 2C FLIN 2U FLIN 4 FLIN; Late Bronze Age: plain ware assemblage
142	58	418	LBA	FLIN 2 FLIN 2U FLIN; Late Bronze Age: plain ware assemblage
146	6	37	LBA	FLIN; Late Bronze Age
160	103	1308	LBA	FLIN 2 FLIN 2C FLIN; Late Bronze Age: plain ware assemblage
162	5	87	LBA	FLIN 2; Late Bronze Age: plain ware vessel3
164	31	111	LBA	FLIN; Late Bronze Age: misc body sherds
172	7	63	LBA	FLIN; Late Bronze Age
186	2	27	LBA	FLIN; Late Bronze Age
198	4	26	LBA	FLIN; Later Bronze Age: probably late Bronze Age
221	4	70	LBA	FLIN 2; Late Bronze Age?
225	7	30	LBA	FLIN 2HO FLIN; Late Bronze Age
235	52	443	LBA	FLIN 2 RUST FLIN; Late Bronze Age
114	3	56	MBA	FLIN 7DR; Mid Bronze Age: Deverel-Rimbury type urn
162	1	32	MBA	FLIN; Middle Bronze Age: single residual sherd
190	64	1049	MBA	FLIN 7DR; Middle Bronze Age: Deverel-Rimbury type urns
196	26	394	MBA	FLIN 7DRC APD; Middle Bronze Age: Deverel-Rimbury type urn
148	18	187	LPR	FLIN; Later Bronze Age: mid/late or late Bronze Age.
152	9	76	LPR	FLIN SHEL; Later prehistoric: flint-temp LBA/IA; ?shell-temp IA
164	29	113	LPR	FLIN; Later prehistoric: some possible residual MBA sherds
176	6	66	LPR	FLIN; Later Bronze Age: mid/late Bronze Age
178	4	70	LPR	FLIN; Late Bronze Age
194	2	20	LPR	FLIN; Later Bronze Age: mid/late Bronze Age
221	6	25	LPR	FLIN; Indeterminate later prehistoric
227	3	3	LPR	CP FLIN; Indeterminate later prehistoric
233	2	6	LPR	FLIN ORGAN; Indeterminate later prehistoric
240	13	92	LPR	FLIN; Late Bronze Age
242	3	8	LPR	CP; Indeterminate earlier prehistoric

See Key after Table 8 for form and fabric codes.

Table 2: Assessment of Pottery from ARC CGC 98, additional detail

Context	Count	Weight	Fabric	Description	Early Date	Late Date	Comments
100	18	336	FLIN	2 , -	-1000	-700	COARSE FLINT; PLAIN JAR BODY SHERDS; 1 VESSEL; LBA COARSE WARE JAR.
114	3	56	FLIN	7DR , -	-1750	-1150	PLAIN ROUNDED RIM SHDS; V LARGE DIAM; WALL 15MM; D-R URN
118	29	88	FLIN	- , -	-1000	-700	COARSE & FINE FLINT BODY SHDS; SOME WITH SMOOTHED INTERIORS; ALL SMALL BS.
122		10	FLIN	- , -	-1000	-700	MISC FINE WARES BS
122	15	131	FLIN	2 , -	-1000	-700	COARSEWARE JAR INC. BASE SHDS WITH FLINT-GRITTED UNDERSIDE, PLUS MISC BS.
122	2	8	FLIN	2U , -	-1000	-700	PLAIN UPRIGHT RIM SHDS; FLAT, FOLDED OVER RIM.
122	2	22	FLIN	4 , -	-1000	-700	SLACK-PROFIED BOWL; SIMPLE TAPERING RIM. FINE FLINT, SMOOTHED SURFACES, THIN WALLED. LBA.
132	16	75	FLIN	- , -	-1000	-700	INC. BASE SHERDS OF COARSE WARE JAR; COARSE FLINT.
134	2	26	FLIN	- , -	-1000	-700	FINE, DENSE THIN WALLED BS; POSS LBA
136	178	2804	FLIN	- , -	-1000	-700	MISC BODY SHDS & BASES WITH FLINT-GRITTED UNDERSIDE. MAINLY FROM COARSE WARE JARS.
136	2	116	FLIN	2 , FTD	-1000	-700	SLACK-SHOULDERED LBA FORM; FTD ON INTERNAL EDGE OF RIM.
136	4	32	FLIN	2 , STAB	-1000	-700	FOLDED OVER FLAT RIM WITH POSSIBLE STABBED DEC UNDER RIM.
136	5	109	FLIN	2C , -	-1000	-700	MAINLY SHOULDER SHDS; NO RIM. V ABRADED
136	25	1007	FLIN	2U , -	-1000	-700	THICK CARBONISED RESIDUE INT & ETX; SLACK SHOULDER LBA FORM
136	42	298	FLIN	4 , -	-1000	-700	FINE WARE BOWL WITH LOW SHOULDER. FINE FLINT; JOINING SHERDS
142	49	335	FLIN	- , -	-1000	-700	MISC FLINT BODY SHDS & BASE EDGES NOTHING DIAGNOSTIC.

Context	Count	Weight	Fabric	Description	Early Date	Late Date	COMMENTS
142	7	79	FLIN	2 , -	-1000	-700	SHOULDERED JARS WITH PLAIN SLIGHTLY EVERTED RIMS, NO DEC.
142	2	4	FLIN	2U , -	-1000	-700	FLAT, FOLDED OVER RIM
146	6	37	FLIN	- , -	-1000	-700	COARSE FLINT BS
148	18	187	FLIN	- , -	-1150	-700	SOME SHDS V. COARSE FLINT COULD BE MBA DEV-RIM; OTHERWISE MISC BODY SHDS. M/LBA
152	7	67	FLIN	- , -	-1000	-400	BA/IA?
152	2	9	SHEL	- , -	-1000	-400	VOIDS; QUITE SOAPY. IA?
160	57	457	FLIN	- , -	-1000	-700	MISC BODY SHDS & 3 BASES FRAGS. (1 FLINT-GRITTED). SMALL SHDS
160	36	540	FLIN	2 , -	-1000	-700	LARGE PLAIN JAR WITH INTACT BASE. ALL ONE VESSEL.
160	10	311	FLIN	2C , -	-1000	-700	LBA JAR FORM; LARGE JOINING SHDS, GOOD PROFILE.
162	5	87	FLIN	2 , -	-1000	-700	?JAR SMMOTHED/LIGHTLY BURNISHED EXTERIOR. FINE FLIN;, 1 VESSEL.
162	1	32	FLIN	- , -	-1000	-700	COARSE FLINT, V ABR. ?MBA
164	31	111	FLIN	- , -	-1000	-700	MISC. COARSEWARE BS. 1 PROB. BASE FRAG.
164	29	113	FLIN	- , -	-1000	-700	ONE SHERD WITH APPLIED CORDON SIMILAR TO URN IN [161]. ONE SHERD WITH APPLIED BOSS/KNOB.
172	7	63	FLIN	- , -	-1000	-700	BODY SHDS ONLY NOTHING DIAGNOSTIC. PROB LBA ON FABRIC
176	6	66	FLIN	- , -	-1150	-700	BODY SHERDS ONLY; PROB M/LBA
178	4	70	FLIN	- , -	-1000	-700	BODY SHERDS ONLY; PROB. LBA COARSE WARE JAR
186	2	27	FLIN	- , -	-1000	-700	COMBING ON BS
190	64	1049	FLIN	7DR , -	-1750	-1150	THICK WALLED; COARSE FLINT. ONE BS WITH SLIGHT CORDON. DEVEREL-RIMBURY URNS.
194	2	20	FLIN	- , -	-1150	-700	FLINT QUITE COARSE; M/LBA
196	26	394	FLIN	7DRC , APD	-1750	-1150	RIM & BODY SHDS OF D-R URN WITH APPLIED HORSEHOE CORDON (DECORATED WITH FTD) & PERF.

Context	Count	Weight	Fabric	Description	Early Date	Late Date	COMMENTS
198	4	26	FLIN	- , -	-1150	-700	FINE TO COARSE FLINT WITH IRON OXIDES. M/LBA PROB LBA.
221	4	70	FLIN	2 , -	-1000	-700	JOINING BASE SHDS; V DISTINCTIVE DENSE FINE FLINT FABRIC; ?GRITTED UNDERSIDE.
221	6	25	FLIN	- , -	-1000	-700	V SOFT FABRIC, SPARSE FLINT WITH VOIDS FROM ORGANICS.?DATE
223	26	107	CP	7E , -	-2000	-1600	FABRICS GROUP INTO TWO WHICH REPRESENT DIFFERENT VESSELS. SOFT, INCLUSIONLESS.
225	6	24	FLIN	- , -	-1000	-700	MISC BODY SHDS.
225	1	6	FLIN	2HO , -	-1000	-700	HOOK-RIMMED VESSEL
227	1	1	CP	- , -	0	0	? VESSEL ?FIRED CLAY
227	2	2	FLIN	- , -	0	0	SMALL FRAGS
233	1	5	FLIN	- , -	0	0	BS
233	1	1	ORGAN	- , -	0	0	BS
235	37	321	FLIN	- , -	-1000	-700	MISC BODY SHDS.
235	15	122	FLIN	2 , RUST	-1000	-700	QUITE ROUND SHOULDERED, NECKED JAR WITH TAPERING RIM; UNDULATING RUSTIFICATION ON BODY.
240	13	92	FLIN	- , -	-1000	-700	COARSE, FLINT; BODY SHDS ONLY. MAINLY FROM ONE VESSEL.
242	3	8	CP	- , -	0	0	SOFT INCLUSIONLESS FABRIC; NO FLINT. EARLIER BA? BS ONLY.

Key to decoration and fabric codes:

2	MISCELLANEOUS OR OTHERWISE UNIDENTIFIABLE JAR
2C	CARINATED JAR
2HO	PLAIN HOOKED RIM JAR
2U	SIMPLE/UPRIGHT RIMMED JAR
4	BOWL
7DR	DEVEREL-RIMBURY URN
7DRC	DEVEREL-RIMBURY BUCKET URN
7E	COLLARED URN
APD	APPLIED DECORATION
CP	COOKING POT
FLIN	FLINT TEMPERED
FTD	FINGERTIP DECORATION
ORGAN	ORGANIC TEMPER
RUST	RUSTICATED DECORATION
SHEL	SHELL TEMPERED
STAB	STABBED DECORATION