

1.1 Assessment of Pottery

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Introduction

- 1.1.1 In total, 156 sherds of pottery were recovered during the fieldwork events itemised in **Table 1**. All pottery was recovered from hand-excavation, including 61 sherds retrieved from dry-sieving deposits from Harrietsham Mesolithic evaluation through 4mm mesh sieves.
- 1.1.2 In terms of addressing fieldwork event aims, the recovery and assessment of pottery is primarily to establish the economic basis of agricultural communities by placing such evidence in a secure chronological framework.

Methodology

- 1.1.3 For this assessment, the pottery has been quantified on a context by context basis by broad fabric group (e.g. sandy, flint-tempered), with spot dates and the presence of diagnostic material recorded. At the time of assessment the Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) fabric series was not available for consultation. However, it is known that the fabric groups identified from Holm Hill are broadly compatible with the CAT series.

Quantifications

- 1.1.4 The small pottery assemblage includes material of early prehistoric, later prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval date.
- 1.1.5 Pottery quantification by ware group for those fieldwork events conducted by Wessex Archaeology are provided in **Table 5**.
- 1.1.6 The earliest pottery recovered comprises 13 grog-tempered sherds from a single context, identified on the basis of fabric and decoration as a late Beaker form. Twelve flint-tempered sherds have been identified as of Middle/Late Bronze Age date on the basis of fabric type; in the absence of diagnostic material only a broad dating has been attempted at this stage. Eleven sherds in non-distinctive sandy or sparsely flint-gritted fabrics are likely to date within the 1st millennium BC (Iron Age). Seven grog-tempered sherds are attributed to the Late Iron Age or early Roman period; whether pre- or post-Conquest is uncertain.
- 1.1.7 Of the remaining sherds, 10 are dated as Romano-British; these consist entirely of coarsewares. On the basis of fabric and manufacture this small group is unlikely to date later than the 2nd century AD. Six sandy and 18 shelly sherds are medieval (12th/13th century). The post-medieval pottery (14 sherds) includes red earthenwares and one modern industrial ware.

Provenance

- 1.1.8 Approximately half of the assemblage was found unstratified or from topsoil contexts; the remainder came from features of various types (see **Table 5**).
- 1.1.9 Overall condition is fair to poor, with most sherds small and heavily abraded; diagnostic sherds are scarce.

Conservation

- 1.1.10 There are no conflicts between further analysis and long term storage.

Comparative material

- 1.1.11 Early Bronze Age pottery is not common in Kent, and will add to the overall regional type series. Other pottery types of various dates are not particularly distinctive, but almost certainly represent locally produced wares that fall within the known range for Kent (eg. Macpherson-Grant 1991; Pollard 1988).

Potential for further work

- 1.1.12 The small group of Early Bronze Age pottery is interesting, and warrants further analysis and publication, since pottery of this date is not common in Kent. Detailed analysis and publication of this group, involving full fabric and form analysis, following nationally recommended guidelines for the recording of prehistoric pottery (PCRG 1997) is recommended. Fabric types would be correlated with the CAT regional fabric type series.
- 1.1.13 Apart from this group, the small pottery assemblage is useful as an indicator of activity in the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age/Romano-British period, but is otherwise of limited significance, and there is little potential for further analysis.
- 1.1.14 The prehistoric pottery *in toto* will add to the overall regional type series for Kent and may contribute to an overview of prehistoric pottery in the county. The small quantity of other pottery (later prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval) does not warrant detailed analysis or publication, but to fulfil the requirements of a minimum archive will be quantified by CAT fabric type, with notes made of any diagnostic sherds. No further work is recommended for the post-medieval pottery.

Bibliography

Macpherson-Grant, N, 1991, 'A reappraisal of prehistoric pottery from Canterbury', *Canterbury's Archaeology 1990-1991*, Canterbury Archaeological Trust, 38-48

PCRG 1997, *The Study of Later prehistoric Pottery: General Policies and Guidelines for Analysis and Publication*, Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group Occasional Papers 1/2 (revised reprint)

Pollard, R J, 1988, *The Roman Pottery of Kent*, Kent Archaeological Society

Table 5: Pottery quantification

Trench	Feature	Context	Count	Weight	Ware group	Spot date	Comments
	Tree throw 1004	1003	1	2	Sandy	IA	Burnt/overfired
	Ditch 4010	1017	1	6	flint-tempered	EIA	Shouldered form; early 1st mill BC
	Topsoil	1021	2	1	flint-tempered	?LBA	Tiny, abraded sherds
	Ditch 4008	1057	2	8	Sandy	?IA	Coarse, prominent Fe oxides
	Topsoil	2007	3	84	Sandy	Medieval	Late C12/C13
	Topsoil	2007	2	4	Sandy	?RB	Or could be medieval
	Ditch 4001	2028	13	34	grog-tempered	EBA/MBA	?late Beaker; 1 rim + finger impressed body
	Ditch 4007	2076	2	2	Sandy	?IA	Tiny, abraded sherds
	Ditch 4003	2082	1	2	Sandy	?LIA/ERB	Glauconitic; could be Saxon/early med?
	Ditch 4004	2118	1	4	Sandy	IA	
3524TT	Gully 352405	352406	1	1	Sandy	RB	Oxidised; late C1/C2 AD?
3528TT	Pit 352806	352805	1	14	Sandy	RB	Oxidised; flagon handle
3528TT	Gully 352810	352809	3	15	grog-tempered	LIA/ERB	
3528TT	Gully 352810	352809	2	10	Sandy	RB	Inc. Upchurch type; late C1/C2 AD
3528TT	Gully 352812	352811	2	171	grog-tempered	LIA	C1 BC; 'Belgic' type
3528TT	Gully 352812	352811	1	1	Sandy	RB	C2 AD
3592TT	Colluvium	359202	5	39	flint-tempered	?MBA	All 1 vessel (?Deverel-Rimbury)
3603TT	Subsoil	360302	1	16	flint-tempered	?EIA	Early 1st mill BC
3603TT	Ditch 360303	360304	2	5	flint-tempered	?LBA	Small, abraded sherds
3605TT	Ditch 360507	360508	1	23	Sandy	LIA	Or could be Late Saxon/early med?
3612TT	Subsoil	361202	2	5	Sandy	RB	WT greywares; late C1/C2 AD
3633TT	Subsoil	363302	2	18	flint-tempered	?EIA	Early 1st mill BC
3633TT	Ditch 363303	363304	2	1	flint-tempered	?LBA	Tiny, abraded sherds
3634TT	Ditch 363406 (=4007)	363407	2	9	grog-tempered	LIA	1 rim
	Unstratified	unstrat	1	2	flint-tempered	?LBA	Tiny, abraded sherd
	Unstratified	unstrat	18	41	Shelly	early med	Leached
	Unstratified	unstrat	1	3	Sandy	RB	
	Unstratified	unstrat	3	18	Sandy	Medieval	1 rim - bowl?
	Unstratified	unstrat	2	7	Sandy	?LIA/ERB	Glauconitic; could be Saxon/early med?
	Unstratified	unstrat	13	220	Redwares	post-med	
	Unstratified	unstrat	1	47	Industrial	post-med	
		TOTAL	94	813			