

1.1 Assessment of Pottery

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Introduction

1.1.1 In total, 235 sherds of pottery were recovered during the fieldwork events itemised in **Table 1**. All pottery was recovered from hand-excavation.

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.

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 6**.

1.1.6 Recognisable Early Neolithic material (28 sherds) came from the fill of ditch/elongated pit **127**; these include three externally thickened or rolled rims from open vessels, all typical Early Neolithic forms. These sherds are generally in silty or sandy fabrics with relatively fine, well sorted flint, with well finished surfaces. Seventeen other sherds in similar fabrics (topsoil, three throws **28** and **35**, ditch **54**) could belong to the same tradition, but in the absence of diagnostic forms are less confidently attributed.

1.1.7 The Middle Neolithic is represented by 42 sherds, identified with varying degrees of confidence. Twelve body sherds from one context (pit **357705**), in coarse, flint-tempered fabrics, include a decorated rim and body sherds diagnostic of the Peterborough Ware ceramic tradition. At least three vessels are represented, in two different Peterborough Ware sub-styles: two Mortlake Ware vessels with expanded rims, twisted cord impressed decoration over the rim and one with finger impressions around the neck; and a smaller, pointed rim decorated with fingernail impressions. The latter is more characteristic of either the Ebbsfleet or Fengate sub-styles.

1.1.8 Identifiable sherds from other contexts include one rim, possibly of Ebbsfleet style (pit **133**) and five decorated sherds (colluvium, ditch **54**, pit **133**, burnt-out tree stump **49** and tree-throw **160**). These sherds are all in coarse, poorly sorted, flint-tempered fabrics, and 23 other plain body sherds in similar fabrics (colluvium, burnt-out tree stump **49**, tree-throws **21**, **35** and **160**, ditches **54** and **104**, ditch/pit **127**, pit **133**, artefact scatter **144**) could also belong to the Peterborough Ware tradition. In the absence of diagnostic rim or decorated sherds, however, these cannot be attributed with any degree of certainty. One sherd from ditch/pit **127** in a fine sandy fabric, although not chronologically distinctive, would not be out of place within a Neolithic assemblage. A further 24 sherds in less distinctive flint-tempered fabrics have, at this stage, been dated merely as Neolithic/Bronze Age (unstratified, topsoil, subsoil, colluvium, ditch **355703**, ditch **54**, ?hearth **238**, artefact scatters **137** and **144**).

- 1.1.9 There are six sherds in grog-tempered fabrics (tree-throw **21**, ditches **54** and **104**), including one with impressed (?cross-hatched) decoration. Grog-tempered wares are common in Early to Middle Bronze Age ceramic traditions across southern England; these sherds are not particularly diagnostic although the decorated sherd (ditch **104**) could derive from either a Food Vessel or Middle Bronze Age urn.
- 1.1.10 Sherds which have been dated more confidently to the Middle Bronze Age consist of a significant group (76 sherds) from a single context (ditch **357703**). Six of the sherds are in coarse flint-tempered fabrics, and the remaining 70 in finer fabrics with well sorted flint inclusions. Such fabrics, both fine and coarse, are commonly found within the Deverel-Rimbury ceramic tradition of the Middle Bronze Age, the coarse fabrics deriving from bucket or barrel urns and the finer fabrics from globular urns. In this instance the finer flint-tempered sherds represent at least two globular urns: the upper part of a vessel of rounded form with simple, slightly in-turned rim and decorated with a band of impressed and shallow tooled decoration around the neck; and a second vessel of uncertain form with small perforated lugs.
- 1.1.11 A further 15 sherds, all small and abraded, and all in coarse flint-tempered fabrics (ditch **357703**; pit **363208**, tree-throw **21**, ditch **54**) are less diagnostic and are here dated broadly to the Middle/Late Bronze Age. While it is possible that at least some of these sherds could be attributed to either early Neolithic or Late Neolithic ceramic traditions, a later date is equally possible given the lack of diagnostic material. This also applies to the 24 sherds dated broadly as Neolithic/Bronze Age (see above).
- 1.1.12 Three plain body sherds, all in moderately coarse sandy fabrics have been tentatively dated to the Iron Age (subsoil, pits **357705** and **363208**), although none are sufficiently diagnostic for closer dating within this period.
- 1.1.13 Six sandy sherds, five from unstratified topsoil or subsoil contexts, and one from ditch **11**, are medieval in date, as is one sherd in a coarse shelly fabric, also from ditch **11** (probable date range 12th/13th century).
- 1.1.14 Seventeen sherds are all of post-medieval date, comprising glazed redwares, tinglazed earthenware and modern industrial wares. These derived mainly from unstratified and topsoil contexts, but two sherds were intrusive within artefact scatter **137**.

Provenance

- 1.1.15 Apart from a very few sherds from topsoil or unstratified contexts, all the pottery derived from stratified contexts, including cut features, three throws and colluvial deposits (see **Table 6**). In particular, the occurrence of much of the Neolithic pottery in stratified contexts is noteworthy.

Conservation

- 1.1.16 Overall condition is fair to poor, with most sherds small and heavily abraded; diagnostic sherds are scarce. There are no conflicts between further analysis and long term storage.

Comparative material

- 1.1.17 Neolithic pottery of any type is extremely rare in Kent, although find spots of Early Neolithic vessels (almost always isolated finds) are more common in the eastern part of the county (Dunning 1966). There are few notable groups of Peterborough ware in the county, beyond the well-known collection of Ebbsfleet ware from Northfleet (Burchell and Piggott 1939). Within the CTRL project, another small

group of Early Neolithic pottery has been recovered from Saltwood Tunnel (ARC SFB99), and a small group of Middle Neolithic Peterborough ware from Little Stock Farm (ARC LSF99).

- 1.1.18 Early and Middle Bronze Age pottery is also uncommon, particularly the fineware element (Globular urns) of the Deverel-Rimbury ceramic tradition, as seen here in ditch **357703**.
- 1.1.19 Other pottery types of various dates (later prehistoric onwards) are not particularly distinctive, but almost certainly represent locally produced wares which fall within the known range for Kent (e.g. Macpherson-Grant 1991).

Potential for further work

- 1.1.20 Detailed analysis and publication is recommended for the Neolithic and Middle Bronze Age groups, as this will add to the overall regional type series for Kent. Moreover, such analysis will make a significant contribution to the CTRL Research Objectives for *Early Agriculturalists* (4500 – 2000 BC) and the *Bronze Age and earlier use of the site* Fieldwork Event Aim.
- 1.1.21 Analysis will involve full fabric and form analysis, following nationally recommended guidelines for the recording of prehistoric pottery (PCRG 1997). Fabric types will be correlated with the CAT regional fabric type series. A selection of diagnostic sherds will be illustrated.
- 1.1.22 The small quantity of other prehistoric pottery (Middle/Late Bronze Age and later) does not warrant detailed analysis or publication, but to fulfill the requirements of a minimum archive would be quantified by CAT fabric type, with notes made of any diagnostic sherds.
- 1.1.23 No further work is recommended for the post-medieval pottery.

Bibliography

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

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Table 6: Pottery quantification

| Trench | Feature | Context | Count | Weight (g) | Fabric (Ware group) | Period | Comments |
|--------|-------------------------|---------|-------|------------|---------------------|----------|---|
| 3575TT | Topsoil | 357501 | 1 | 18 | Redware | PM | |
| 3575TT | Subsoil | 357502 | 1 | 5 | Sandy | ?LIA | |
| 3577TT | Topsoil | 357701 | 1 | 12 | Sandy | ?ENE | |
| 3577TT | Ditch 357703 | 357704 | 70 | 505 | Flint-tempered | MBA | Globular Urn; includes rim and dec. body sherds |
| 3577TT | Ditch 357703 | 357704 | 6 | 37 | Flint-tempered | MBA | |
| 3577TT | Pit 357705 | 357706 | 12 | 72 | Flint-tempered | MNE | Peterborough Ware; minimum 3 vessels |
| 3577TT | Pit 357705 | 357706 | 1 | 7 | Sandy | ?LIA | |
| 3577TT | Ditch 357703 | 357708 | 1 | 1 | Flint-tempered | NE or BA | |
| | Ditch 357703 | 357708 | 1 | 3 | Flint-tempered | MBA/LBA | |
| 3579TT | Topsoil | 357901 | 1 | 1 | Industrial | PM | |
| 3579TT | Subsoil | 357902 | 1 | 1 | Flint-tempered | NE or BA | |
| 3581TT | Topsoil | 358101 | 1 | 60 | Redware | PM | |
| 3632TT | Pit 363208 | 363207 | 2 | 1 | Flint-tempered | MBA/LBA | |
| 3632TT | Pit 363208 | 363207 | 1 | 2 | Sandy | ?IA | |
| | Topsoil | - | 2 | 30 | Flint-tempered | NE or BA | |
| | Colluvium | - | 1 | 6 | tin glaze | PM | |
| | Colluvium | - | 2 | 2 | Sandy | MD | |
| | Unstratified | 1 | 5 | 87 | Redware | PM | |
| | Unstratified | 1 | 6 | 37 | Industrial | PM | |
| | Unstratified | 1 | 1 | 7 | Whiteware | MD | Glazed |
| | Unstratified | 1 | 2 | 18 | Sandy | MD | |
| | Unstratified | 1 | 2 | 10 | Flint-tempered | NE or BA | |
| | Ditch 11 | 10 | 1 | 2 | Sandy | MD | |
| | Ditch 11 | 10 | 1 | 9 | Shelly | MD | |
| | Tree-throw 21 | 22 | 2 | 10 | Flint-tempered | ?MNE | |
| | Tree-throw 21 | 22 | 1 | 4 | Grog-tempered | ?MBA | ?MBA urn |
| | Tree-throw 21 | 22 | 9 | 18 | Flint-tempered | ?MBA | ?Deverel-Rimbury |
| | Tree-throw 28 | 29 | 2 | 6 | Flint-tempered | ?ENE | |
| | Tree-throw 35 | 36 | 2 | 8 | Flint-tempered | ?ENE | |
| | Tree-throw 35 | 37 | 1 | 8 | Flint-tempered | MNE | |
| | Burnt-out tree stump 49 | 50 | 2 | 19 | Flint-tempered | MNE | Peterborough Ware; 1 decorated sherd |
| | Ditch 54 | 56 | 12 | 28 | Flint-tempered | ?ENE | |
| | Ditch 54 | 56 | 5 | 11 | Flint-tempered | MNE | Peterborough Ware; 1 decorated body sherd |
| | Ditch 54 | 56 | 3 | 9 | Flint-tempered | ?MBA | ?Deverel-Rimbury |
| | Ditch 54 | 70 | 3 | 11 | Grog-tempered | EBA/MBA | |
| | Ditch 54 | 70 | 6 | 39 | Flint-tempered | NE or BA | Probably Deverel-Rimbury |
| | Ditch 54 | 242 | 3 | 12 | Flint-tempered | NE or BA | |
| | Colluvium | 95 | 1 | 8 | Flint-tempered | MNE | Peterborough Ware; decorated |
| | Colluvium | 113 | 1 | 4 | Flint-tempered | NE or BA | |
| | Ditch/pit 127 | 128 | 17 | 70 | Flint-tempered | ENE | Open forms (three rims) |

Contd.

Table 6: Pottery quantification (contd.)

| Trench | Feature | Context | Count | Weight (g) | Fabric (Ware group) | Period | Comments |
|---------------|----------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------|--|
| | Ditch/pit 127 | 129 | 11 | 61 | Flint-tempered | ?ENE | |
| | Ditch/pit 127 | 129 | 1 | 5 | Flint-tempered | ?MNE | |
| | Ditch/pit 127 | 132 | 1 | 2 | Sandy | NE | |
| | Pit 133 | 134 | 1 | 8 | Flint-tempered | MNE | Peterborough Ware (Ebbsfleet); rim sherd |
| | Pit 133 | 135 | 2 | 14 | Flint-tempered | MNE | Peterborough Ware; 1 decorated body sherd |
| | Ditch 104 | 145 | 1 | 4 | Flint-tempered | ?MNE | |
| | Ditch 104 | 153 | 2 | 18 | Grog-tempered | EBA/MBA | Decorated body sherd; Food Vessel/MBA urn? |
| | Tree-throw 160 | 159 | 5 | 16 | Flint-tempered | MNE | Peterborough Ware; 1 decorated body sherd |
| | ?Hearth 238 | 239 | 1 | 9 | Flint-tempered | NE or BA | |
| | Artefact scatter 137 | 132701 | 1 | 1 | Industrial | PM | |
| | Artefact scatter 137 | 221501 | 1 | 4 | Redware | PM | |
| | Artefact scatter 137 | 222601 | 1 | 2 | Flint-tempered | NE or BA | |
| | Artefact scatter 137 | 302901 | 1 | 4 | Flint-tempered | NE or BA | |
| | Artefact scatter 144 | 297001 | 4 | 8 | Flint-tempered | ?MNE | |
| | Artefact scatter 144 | 317001 | 2 | 10 | Flint-tempered | NE or BA | |
| | Artefact scatter 144 | 374951 | 1 | 4 | Flint-tempered | MNE | |
| | Artefact scatter 144 | 384943 | 3 | 1 | Flint-tempered | NE or BA | |
| | Artefact scatter 144 | ON50 | 1 | 8 | Flint-tempered | ?MNE | |
| | Artefact scatter 144 | ON57 | 1 | 6 | Flint-tempered | ?MNE | |
| | Artefact scatter 144 | ON77 | 1 | 3 | Flint-tempered | ?MNE | |
| | TOTAL | | 235 | 1386 | | | |