

1.1 Assessment of the Prehistoric Pottery

by Alistair Barclay

Introduction

- 1.1.1 A comparatively small but diverse assemblage of Neolithic to early Iron Age pottery was recovered during the targeted watching brief at Tutt Hill.
- 1.1.2 The bulk of the pottery was hand retrieved on site, from sections across the ring ditches and from cremations pits and enclosure boundary ditches. Smaller quantities of material were recovered during the sieving of environmental samples in the laboratory after the excavation. The retrieval of pottery was undertaken in accordance with the Fieldwork Event Aims for the site, which are set out in section 2 of the main report, above. The recovery of this material was undertaken primarily to establish the date and function of the features, in order to refine understanding of the various prehistoric activities represented.

Methodology

- 1.1.3 All of the material was examined. The assemblage was quantified by count and weight and a note was made of principal fabrics, forms and decoration. Spot dates were based on the presence of diagnostic forms and particular fabrics. Early and middle Neolithic pottery is principally tempered with ill-sorted fine to coarse angular flint. Late Neolithic-early Bronze Age pottery, mostly Beaker, tends to be thin-walled and grog tempered. Early-mid and late Bronze Age pottery tends to be tempered with either grog, flint or a mixture of the two. Biconical vessels generally have bipartite profiles, everted rims and tend to be grog tempered. Bucket Urns are characteristically thick-walled and tempered with dense, often coarse, calcined flint. Globular Urns tend to be thin-walled with finer flint but still often quite dense. Late Bronze Age pottery is often thinner-walled but can occur in similar fabrics. Forms tend to be simple jars of straight or ovoid form and shouldered bowls and jars of bipartite form. Early Iron Age fabrics can be either flint, shell or sand tempered or can contain a mixture of sand and flint.

Quantification

- 1.1.4 Table 1.1 gives a breakdown of the assemblage by context.
Neolithic, 4000-2750 cal BC
- 1.1.5 A small number of flint-tempered sherds are thought to be of early Neolithic date. There is also a small quantity of middle Neolithic Peterborough Ware, which includes two simple rims, a decorated shoulder and a decorated body sherd. One of the rims is plain, incurving and pointed and of a type that can be assigned to the Ebbsfleet sub-style (Burchell and Piggott 1939, fig. 8).
Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age, 2400-1750 cal BC
- 1.1.6 A small number of principally grog tempered thin-walled sherds can be described as Beaker, some of which have impressed comb decoration. A large base fragment could belong to a Beaker or to other styles of vessel such as an Urn or Food Vessel.

Early-Middle Bronze Age, ?1750-1150 cal BC

- 1.1.7 Early-Middle Bronze Age pottery is represented by Biconical Urn and Deverel-Rimbury type pottery. The latter consists of Bucket Urn forms and more rarely Globular Urn. All occur in flint or flint and grog tempered fabrics. Bucket Urn sherds were generally thick-walled with finger-tip impressed decoration on rims and cordons. The Biconical Urn could be earlier or contemporary with the Deverel-Rimbury pottery but as one style is thought to evolve out of the other it is not unusual to find so-called sub-biconical forms or later forms with Biconical Urn traits (Tomalin 1988). One near complete Bucket Urn also had multiple perforations below the rim and a 'potters' mark. Similar material to this urn occurred at Barrow 2, Bridge (Macpherson-Grant 1992, fig 3). Un-urned cremations from the Bridge site are associated with a bulked C14 date of 980 ± 60 bc (1246-1066 cal BC).

Late Bronze Age, 1150-700 cal BC

- 1.1.8 This material was mostly flint or flint and grog tempered and included plain and decorated jar and bowl fragments some of which are of hooked-rim form. Similar forms occur in northern and eastern Kent (Barclay 1994; Macpherson-Grant 1994).

Early Iron Age, 700-400 cal BC

- 1.1.9 This material includes part of a fineware bowl with linear decoration in a flint and glauconitic fabric and other coarser flint-tempered sherds.

Provenance

- 1.1.10 Early Neolithic sherds were recovered from ring ditch 90 (context 86) and subsoil layer 8103. Peterborough Ware was recovered from ring ditch 89 (context 65), ring ditch 90 (fill 97) a tree throw hole (fill 337), subsoil layer 8103 and pit 150 (fill 151). Other indeterminate Neolithic material of either mid or late date came from pit 145 (fill 147).
- 1.1.11 Definite and probable Beaker sherds were recovered from ring ditch 156 (fills 164 and 168), ring ditch 89 (fills 61 and 85) and ring ditch 81 (fill 92). This includes a base and comb decorated sherds. Early middle Bronze Age (Biconical urn) and middle Bronze Age (Deverel-Rimbury) came from cremation pits 46 (fills 47-50) and 301 (fills 298 and 300), pits 53 (fills 54-5), 217 (fill 219), 142 (fill 141), and 117 (fill 118) as well as ditch 153 (fill 152) and ring ditch 156 (fill 179) and the miscellaneous context 118.
- 1.1.12 Late Bronze Age pottery was recovered from pits 14 (fills 13, 15-6), 42 (fill 43), ring ditch 90 (fill 107), and ditch 190 (fill 200) and gully 11115 (fill 11114) in the evaluation.
- 1.1.13 Early Iron Age pottery was recovered from pit 5 (fills 7-10) and included part of a fineware bowl with linear decoration.
- 1.1.14 The remaining material was either of indeterminate prehistoric date (pit 37, fill 38) or occurred as residual material within a late Iron Age/early Roman cremation pit 70 (fill 72).

Conservation

- 1.1.15 The pottery is adequately bagged and boxed for long term storage and will require no further conservation. Consideration might be given to reconstructing the Bucket Urn from cremation pit 301, to aid analysis and illustration, and for public display.

Comparative Material

- 1.1.16 There is relatively little published material from this area of Kent and therefore much of the comparative material is likely to come from other CTRL sites (eg. White Horse Stone and Eythorne Street). Comparable Neolithic material is rare but includes the assemblage of early Neolithic and Beaker pottery from the Chestnuts (Alexander 1961), Peterborough Ware from the Ebbsfleet (Burchell and Piggott 1939) and from Baston Manor in West Kent (Philp 1973).
- 1.1.17 For the Bronze Age and early Iron Age material, similar forms and fabrics occur at the excavated settlement site at White Horse Stone and reference should be made to this assemblage. Other published assemblages with comparable material are known from east Kent (Cunliffe 1974; Macpherson-Grant 1994) and there is a small group of mid to late Bronze Age material from north Kent (Barclay 1994).

Potential for Further Work

- 1.1.18 The assemblage will provide the principal means to date many of the features on the site. However, where possible, high quality radiocarbon dates should be obtained to test the date provided by the pottery. The multi-period nature of the assemblage suggests that its study will make a contribution towards understanding the development of earlier prehistoric ceramics in north Kent.
- 1.1.19 The pottery was recovered from a range of contexts that include deposits of domestic and funerary character and will aid the overall interpretation of the site.
- 1.1.20 In terms of new research aims for the CTRL project, the assemblage has the potential to contribute to a refinement of ceramic chronology in the prehistoric period for Kent. The fragmentary cremation urn from pit 301 is an unusual vessel in terms of form, decoration and the 'potters mark' and would repay special attention in this context, including a search for parallels in the published literature.

Bibliography

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1.2 Assessment of the Middle-Late Iron Age and Roman Pottery

by Malcolm Lyne

Introduction, Quantification and Provenance

- 1.2.1 Just 85 sherds (612 g) of middle and late Iron Age-early Roman pottery from seven contexts (Table 1.2) were recovered by hand excavation and sieving during the watching brief. The pottery was recovered to provide dating evidence for archaeological features and deposits. Thirty-four of these sherds were found in Pit 33 and came from a single vessel, probably of middle Iron Age date, decorated with burnished spirals and dimples. Contexts associated with the possible furnace (336) produced a further 26 sherds of late Iron Age character, including two vessel rim fragments indicating that the pottery, if not the feature, can be more precisely dated to the period *c* 150 BC - AD 1.
- 1.2.2 Two further sherds from subsoil layer 330 (10 g) may conceivably be from a third-century jar rim in a variant of Native Coarse Ware, but the pieces are small and open to other interpretations. The 18 possible crucible fragments from Pit 35 (28 g) are of uncertain but probable late Iron Age date and together with the furnace (if this is late Iron Age in date) hint at some kind of industrial activity in the area. There is, however, uncertainty regarding the date of the other pottery from this pit, which may be either middle-late Iron Age or early Saxon in date.

Potential for Further Work

- 1.2.3 The quantity of pottery is insufficient for anything other than dating, although the presence of possible industrial activity is worthy of note. As dating evidence the pottery should be retained. It is suggested that the crucible fragments from pit 35 could be subject to specialist analysis, which might include testing for residues and metallurgical analysis of metal adhering to the clay. The problematic ceramic dating evidence for pit 35 (the pottery could be either Iron Age or Saxon) could be resolved by radiocarbon dating.

1.3 Assessment of the Post-Roman Pottery

by Paul Blinkhorn

Introduction

- 1.3.1 The assemblage of medieval pottery comprised 115 sherds with a total weight of 865 g, dating from the 13th-14th centuries but including also one 19th century sherd. All of the pottery was recovered by hand from a subsoil context. It was retrieved in order to provide chronological evidence of activity on the site.

Methodology

- 1.3.2 The pottery was examined visually and recorded using the codes and chronologies of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust Fabric series for the county of Kent (Cotter forthcoming a and b), with the following types noted:
- EM3A, E Kent shelly-sandy ware 1075/1100-1200/25. 3 sherds, 60 g.
 - M38B, N or W Kent fine sandy ware, 1225/50 – 1400. 94 sherds, 660 g.
 - M38C, N or W Kent hard fine sandy ware, 1325/50 - 1400. 1 sherd, 13 g.

- M40B, Ashford/Wealden sandy ware, 1200/25 - 1400. 14 sherds, 69 g.
- LPM7BJ, Bone china, transfer printed, 1770-1925+. 1 sherd, 1 g.

Quantification

- 1.3.3 The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context is shown in Table 1.1.
- 1.3.4 The medieval pottery comprised two small subgroups from contexts 30 and 32 which form parts of the same pottery scatter. The larger, 30, comprised the fragmentary remains of a number of similar vessels in fabric M38B, all of which appear to have horizontal wiping/turning marks on the upper body and/or perfunctory thumbled applied strip. The range of ware types present suggest that they are of 13th century date. The other group (32) is smaller, and appears later, possibly 14th century, assuming the small sherd of transfer-printed bone china is intrusive. However, some of the sherds in the group are quite abraded, and it is likely, given their subsoil context, that both groups of pottery have been redeposited. Sherds of post-medieval pottery and fragments of land drain were also found in the fill (105) of pit 106.
- 1.3.5 There is doubt concerning the dating of sherds from context 36 in pit 35 which may be late Iron Age or early Saxon in date (Table 1.2)

Comparative Material and Potential for Further Work

- 1.3.6 The difficulty of distinguishing certain middle-late Iron Age and Saxon wares in Pit 35 is a problem recognised on a number of CTRL sites, including White Horse Stone. Further research is required to resolve the difficulties. It is likely that Anglo-Saxon pottery is under-reported in published sources as, where identification is uncertain, such material is most likely to be assigned by default to the Iron Age.
- 1.3.7 All the identifiable medieval and later wares are well-known in the area, although little has been published. Although the pottery is not in its primary context, and is of little significance in terms of the interpretation of the site, it is nonetheless of some interest in terms of the ceramic chronology of the area. The assemblage should be retained for museum storage.

Acknowledgements

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Table 1.1: Summary of prehistoric pottery

Context	Count	Weight (g)	Period	Comments
7	940	2482	EIA	F, FAB. Bowl frag with linear dec
8	146	230	EIA	FAB. Bowl frag with linear dec
9	62	255	EIA	F, FAB. Bowl frags
10	40	166	EIA	F, FAB. Bowl frags
13	123	872	LBA	GF. Plain Ware jar and bowl frags
15	2	35	LBA	GF.
16	10	59	LBA	F,GF. FW jar with finger-tip on rim
38	1	4	INDPREH	?fabric
43	1	1	EMBA	FG?
47	310	769	EMBA	FG? Neck cordoned jar
48	1	1	EMBA	FG
49	16	28	EMBA	F. FT dec rim from Bucket Urn
50	12	26	EMBA	FG. Rim from jar
54	1	2	LBA	F.
55	11	29	EMBA	G, GF, F. FT impressed and perforated rim
61	1	30	LNEBA	G. Base from Beaker or Urn/Food Vessel
65	1	8	MN	F. Dec shoulder from Peterborough Ware bowl
72	3	6	LIAER	G,F. Mixed BA, LBA, LIAER all very worn (also counted in Table 2 below).
85	1	2	LNEBA	G. Dec Beaker sherd
86	3	5	LNEBA	G, GF. Comb dec Beaker sherd and residual EN sherd
92	1	2	LNEBA	G. Beaker?
97	2	3	MN	F. Peterborough Ware dec body sherd
107	1	5	LBA?	F.
118	2	3	MBA?	F.
141	8	50	MBA	F. BU sherds including one with a FT impressed cordon
147	3	5	MLN	F, FG.
151	5	15	MN	F. Pet'ware rim
152	5	111	MBA	F. Bucket Urn base sherds and a decorated sherd from a globular urn
164	3	5	LNEBA	G. Beaker?
168	1	5	LNEBA	G. Beaker?
179	2	8	MBA	F.
200	39	130	LBA	F, G. Rims from two hooked rimmed jars
219	8	22	MBA?	F, G. FT dec rim
298	54	153	MBA	FT cordon and frag from LW
300	178	2024	MBA	FG. Cremation urn. Bucket urn with FT impressions on rim and cordon. Perforations below rim and 'potter's' mark
337	7	25	MN	F. Plain rim possibly from an Ebbsfleet Ware bowl
8103	2	5	EN?	F.
11114	4	3	LBA?	F.
Total	2010	7584		

Fabrics= F flint, G grog, FAB flint and glauconitic sand. Decoration= FT finger-tip

Table 1.2: Summary of middle-late Iron Age and Roman pottery

Context	No. of sherds	Weight (g)	Period	Comments
100	1	10	LIA	abraded fabric B2, field marling?
34	34	354	MIA	
36	18	28	mid-late Iron Age/ early Saxon?	inc. LIA? crucible fragments
72	3	6	LIAER	Mixed BA, LBA, LIAER, all very worn
329	17	144	LIA	Fabrics B2 and B3
327	10	60	Early LIA	fabric B2
330	2	10	c 170-300?	fabric R1 variant rim, uncertain
Total	85	612		

Table 1.3: Summary of post-Roman pottery

Context	No. of sherds	Weight (g)	Period	Comments
30	106	720	1225/50 - 1400	Fabrics M38B and M40B
32	7	83	Med/19 th C?	Fabrics EM3A, M38C, M40B, LPM7BJ
105	2	62	Modern	PM and land drain
Total	115	865		