

1.1 Assessment of Prehistoric Pottery

by Alistair Barclay

Introduction

- 1.1.1 A small assemblage of prehistoric pottery was hand-retrieved on site during excavation works at West of Blind Lane.
- 1.1.2 The material was recovered in accordance with the Landscape Zone Priorities and Fieldwork Event Aims for the project, which are set out in section 2 of the main report, above. The pottery was recovered in order to provide evidence for the dating of features, and for the economic basis of the site, and to provide evidence for the activity of early agriculturalists.

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. In the absence of diagnostic forms spot dates were based on fabric analysis. Later Bronze Age fabrics tend to contain calcined flint, early Iron Age fabrics can be either flint, shell or sand tempered or can contain a mixture of sand and flint. Mid to Late Iron Age fabrics can also be flint or sand tempered, while glauconitic sand is more typical of the Late Iron Age but can be found in fabrics of earlier date.

Quantification

- 1.1.4 Table 1.1 gives a breakdown of the total assemblage by context. Most of the pottery is of a broad middle Bronze Age -late Iron Age date based on forms and fabrics. It is suggested that some of this pottery is from the earlier part of this period based on the following criteria: the heavy use of coarse calcined flint-temper and the thickness of the wall sherds. However, the lack of featured sherds and the low number of sherds per feature makes dating very tentative.

Provenance

- 1.1.5 The main features of interest are the two prehistoric ditches 3006 and 3011 both of which produced small quantities of later Bronze Age pottery (contexts 2053, 2189 and 2221).
- 1.1.6 A single very worn sherd of indeterminate Late Bronze Age to Iron Age date came from the topsoil layer 1011. Probable residual sherds of Iron Age date were recovered from the wet area, context 2024, which also produced Roman sherds. Ditch 3005 (fill 2060) contained a single sherd of Middle to Late Bronze Age date but is considered to be post-medieval. A single very worn and indeterminate Iron Age sherd came from the Late Iron Age to Early Roman ditch 2177/2105 (fill 2105). Natural feature 2160 (context 2161) and disturbed natural 2131 both contained sherds of mixed date (see Table 1.1). Context 2248 refers to an unstratified find.

Conservation

- 1.1.7 The pottery is adequately bagged and boxed for long term storage and will require no further conservation. The unstratified and topsoil material could be discarded.

Comparative material

- 1.1.8 There is relatively little published material from this area of Kent. Similar fabrics occur at other sites within CTRL, such as Church Lane, Beechbrook Wood and Chapel Mill. Other published assemblages with comparable material are known from east Kent (Cunliffe 1974; Macpherson-Grant 1994) and there is a small group of mid-late Bronze Age material from north Kent (Barclay 1994).

Potential for further work

- 1.1.9 In isolation, this assemblage has no potential for further work to contribute to the CTRL Fieldwork Event Aims. However, as part of a broader study of prehistoric pottery on CTRL sites in east Kent, the assemblage could contribute to refining the prehistoric ceramic chronology for the region.

Bibliography

Barclay, A J, 1994 The Bronze Age Pottery, in 'The excavation of a Later Bronze Age site at Coldharbour Road, Northfleet' (A Mudd), *Arch. Cant.*, **114**, 363-410

Cunliffe, B, 1974 Iron Age Communities in Britain

Macpherson-Grant, N, 1994 'The Pottery', in D R J Perkins, N Macpherson-Grant and E Healey 'Monkton Court Evaluation, 1992', *Arch. Cant.*, **114**, 237-316

1.2 Assessment of Late Iron Age and Roman Pottery

by Malcolm Lyne

Introduction

- 1.2.1 Small amounts of late Iron Age and early Roman pottery were recovered through detailed excavation, and from strip map and sample works, at West of Blind Lane.
- 1.2.2 The majority of the material was hand-retrieved on site, with smaller quantities recovered from sieving.
- 1.2.3 The material was recovered in accordance with the Landscape Zone Priorities and Fieldwork Event Aims for the project, which are set out in section 2 of the main report, above. The pottery was recovered in order to provide evidence for the dating of features, for the function of the settlement, and for the economic basis of the site.

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 their small size. Fabrics were identified with the aid of a x8 magnification lens with built-in metric scale for determining the sizes, nature, form and frequency of inclusions. The various fabrics were classified using the Canterbury Archaeological Trust's codings (McPherson-Grant *et al.* 1995) where applicable.

Quantification

- 1.2.5 The excavated part of the site yielded 343 sherds (2724 g) of late Iron Age and early Roman pottery from 23 contexts. The sampled eastern part of the site produced a further 15 sherds (166 g) from the topsoil and subsoil (Table 1.2). Table 1.3 gives the breakdown of the pottery assemblages from excavated features by period.

- 1.2.6 Table 1.3 suggests a great increase in the amount of pottery in use after *c* AD 70 but the figures are grossly distorted by the presence of 123 sherds (1439 g) from an unusual grog-tempered double-handled flagon of late 1st century date in the upper fill of ditch 3008 and 86 sherds (718 g) of another such vessel, but in oxidised Canterbury fabric R9, from the same feature.
- 1.2.7 The 51 late Iron Age sherds consist almost entirely of 'Belgic' grog-tempered and grog-and-flint tempered fragments. There are no sherds in the glauconitic fabric B9.1.

Provenance

Late Iron Age

- 1.2.8 The pottery assemblages from the various late Iron Age ditches are all very small and completely lacking in rims and other diagnostic sherds. This makes it very difficult to be more precise about the dating of this phase and reduces the value of the material in relation to the CTRL research aims.

c AD 40-70

- 1.2.9 There is even less pottery from features of this phase and no rims are present: dating has been arrived at from the presence of jar fragments in the distinctive calcined flint and quartz sand tempered fabric MLIA2, dated AD 40-70. This material is of even less value in relation to the research aims.

c AD 70-200

- 1.2.10 The small amount of material attributed to this phase is largely made up of fragments of the two flagons from the fills of ditch 3008. These vessels are largely reconstructable but incomplete, and the two-handled grog-tempered example from context 2021 is sufficiently unusual as to warrant reporting. The other flagon lacks its upper portion and is not worth reporting in detail but does at least tell us that such vessels were being supplied to the site (loaded with produce?) from the Canterbury kilns during the late 1st and 2nd centuries. The rest of the sherds from features of this phase are abraded body fragments and not closely datable. Some may well be residual.

Conservation

- 1.2.11 The two-handled flagon from context 2021 could be reconstructed but otherwise there is no need for further conservation. All of the material should be retained pending final decisions about the scope of further research for the CTRL project.

Comparative Material

- 1.2.12 The pottery from this site has much in common with that from the nearby Boys Hall Balancing Pond and, like it, is for the most part very scrappy and lacking in rims and other diagnostic sherds. The near complete grog-tempered double-handled flagon is not closely paralleled in Thompson's corpus (1982) or in any of the other publications relating to Kent sites examined by this author. It was, however, probably inspired by imported Gallo-Belgic whiteware lagenae (Green 1995, fig 293-94).

Potential for Further Work

- 1.2.13 The late Iron Age and earlier Roman pottery contributes little to the aims of the CTRL project other than as dating evidence, and in throwing a little light on pottery supply to the site. The same can be said about much of the later Roman material.

However, the grog-tempered lagena is of some interest and a more thorough search for parallels would contribute useful information for the wider study of trade and the effect of the Roman administration at Landscape Zone level.

Bibliography

Green, M. J. 1995, Early Gaulish and Rhenish imports: summary of imported wares, in Elder, J. (ed.), *Excavations in the Marlowe Car Park and surrounding areas*, The Archaeology of Canterbury 5, 664-667

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

Thompson, I., 1982, Grog-tempered 'Belgic' pottery of south-eastern England, BAR Brit. Ser. 108

1.3 Assessment of Medieval Pottery

by Paul Blinkhorn

Introduction

- 1.3.1 A small assemblage of medieval pottery was recovered during excavation and strip, map and sample works at West of Blind Lane.
- 1.3.2 The majority of the pottery was hand retrieved, with smaller quantities being recovered by sieving of samples.
- 1.3.3 The material was recovered in accordance with the Landscape Zone Priorities and Fieldwork Event Aims for the project, which are set out in section 2 of the main report, above. The pottery was recovered in order to provide evidence for the dating of features, for the function of the settlement, and for the economic basis of the site.

Methodology

- 1.3.4 The sherds were counted and weighed by context. Minimum numbers of vessels were measured by rimsherd length. The sherds were 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:
 - M1, Tyler Hill sandy ware, 1225-1350. 3 sherds, 120 g.
 - M38A, N or W Kent Sandy ware, Maidstone kiln? 1175/1200-1400. 1 sherd, 42 g.
 - M38B, N or W Kent fine sandy ware, 1225/50 – 1400. 1 sherd, 1 g.
 - M40B, Ashford/Wealden sandy ware, ?1200/25 – 1400. 39 sherds, 236 g.

Quantification and Provenance

- 1.3.5 The medieval pottery assemblage comprised 44 sherds with a total weight of 399 g. Most of the medieval pottery was redeposited in topsoil and subsoil contexts. The range of ware types present indicates that there was activity at some time between the later 12th or early 13th-14th century. The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context is shown in Table 1.4.
- 1.3.6 The small size of most of the context-specific assemblages from this site makes it difficult to apply a refined chronology. The sherds from context 1006, the number given to a scatter of pottery which lay on the surface of the natural substrate, are all from a single vessel, although it is highly fragmented, and much of it is missing.

Not surprisingly given that most of the pottery comes from topsoil and subsoil contexts, most groups were abraded to a greater or lesser degree, suggesting considerable disturbance, with the glazed wares in particular appearing to have suffered. The only pottery associated with features were the two sherds in context 2029, the fill of a posthole, and the single sherd in context 2107, the upper fill of a ditch 2108.

- 1.3.7 The three sherds of Tyler Hill wares are all jug handles, two of which are highly decorated, a typical trait of the industry (J Cotter pers comm).
- 1.3.8 It would appear therefore, from the limited evidence, that the medieval activity began in the later 12th or early 13th century, and may have continued into the 14th century.

Conservation

- 1.3.9 The pottery requires no special conservation measures.

Comparative Material

- 1.3.10 All the wares are well-known in the area, though few assemblages have been published. Since the medieval pottery almost entirely derives from topsoil and subsoil contexts it does not constitute a coherent assemblage and there would be little point in making detailed comparisons with other assemblages.

Potential for Further Work

- 1.3.11 Beyond dating a very small number of features, this pottery can contribute little to the interpretation of the site, or to the CTRL research aims.

Acknowledgements

- 1.3.12 Grateful thanks go to John Cotter and Nigel McPherson-Grant of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust for their kind help in identifying and dating this material.

Bibliography

Cotter, J., forthcoming, The pottery, in K. Parfitt, B. Corke and J. Cotter, *Excavations at Townall Street, Dover, 1996*, Canterbury Archaeological Trust

Cotter, J., forthcoming b, The post-Roman pottery, in A. Hicks and M. Hicks (eds) *Excavations at St. Gregory's Priory, Canterbury*, Canterbury Archaeological Trust

Table 1.1: Prehistoric pottery

Context	Count	Weight (g)	Period	Comment
1011	1	9	LBA; IA?	F. Very worn could be redeposited
2024	5	37	IA; RO	F. Worn residual IA. Context has also produced early Roman
2053	1	6	MLBA?	F. Worn
2060	1	8	MLBA?	F. Very worn
2105	1	18	IA	ABF. Very worn
2131	3	18	MBA; IA	SG?, F. Very worn. Two SG tempered sherds, includes pos. simple rim, could be IA. The flint-tempered sherd could be MBA or earlier.
2160	19	108	MBA; LIA	G, F, AF. Mixed. One large sherd could be MBA. Other flint-tempered sherds could be EIA. Grog-tempered sherds more likely to be LIAER. One sherd has been refired.
2189	1	1	MLBA?	F. Very worn.
2221	1	10	MLBA	F. Very worn.
2248	1	30	IA?	AFP. Worn.
Total	34	245		

Codes: F=flint, A=sand, AB= black sand, G=grog, P=pellet, S=shell.

Table 1.2: Summary of late Iron Age and Roman pottery

Context	Count	Weight (g)	Period	Date range	Comments
1009	7	45	LIA; ER	LIA-AD 70	B2 bead rim
1010	11	93	ERO	AD 40-70	MLIA2
2008	2	8	LIA		B1
2015	16	93	ERO	c AD 40-70	MLIA2, B2.1, abraded
2021	123	1439	ERO	AD 43-100	B2.1, two handled flagon
2024	2	9	ERO		
2039	10	103	LIA; ERO	LIA-AD 70+	inc. MLIA2 jar sherds
2041	4	8	LIA; ERO	LIA-AD 70	B2.1
2046	2	2	ERO	AD 40-70	MLIA2
2062	3	16	LIA		B2.1 jar
2069	3	6	ERO	AD 40-70	B2.1 and MLIA2
2071	3	11	LIA		
2075	1	3	ERO	AD 40-70	MLIA2
2077	2	10	LIA		B3 jar
2091	1	3	LIA		B9.3
2092	3	16	ERO		B2 jar sherd, VF flagon
2097	95	770	RO	c AD 70-200	R9 flagon
2100	13	127	LIA; ERO	LIA-AD 70	B2.1 jar sherds
2113	14	61	ERO	AD 50-100	B2.1, B8
2118	1	1	LIA		B3, abraded
2123	2	7	LIA; ERO	LIA-AD 70+	B2 jar
2128	2	10	LIA		B2 jar
2131	4	23	LIA; ERO	M-LBA + LIA-AD 70	B2 jar sherds
2151	1	4	LIA		B3 jar
2160	20	106	LIA	M-LBA + LIA	B2.1, tiny chips
2162	14	59	ERO	AD 40-70	MLIA2
2166	2	3	LIA	LIA	
2168	6	47	ERO	cAD 40-70	MLIA2
2172	1	12	LIA; ERO	LIA-AD 70	B2 jar sherd

Context	Count	Weight (g)	Period	Date range	Comments
2181	2	41	LIA		B8 jar sherd

Table 1.3: Summary of main pottery assemblages by phase

Phase	Main locations	Period	No. of contexts	Sherd count	Weight (g)
2	ditches 2074, 2102, 2174, 2121, 3004*, 3007, 3002	LIA	10	51	252
3	ditches 3016, 2070, 3005*, 3015*	ERO	8	56	185
4	ditches 3008, 3009, 3015*	RO	5	236	2287
<i>Total</i>			23	343	2724

* possibly residual assemblages

Table 1.4: Summary of medieval pottery

Context	Number	Weight (g)	Date	Early date	Late date	Comments
1006	35	206	MD	1200	1400	fabric M40B
1009	2	22	MD	1200	1400	fabric M40B
1024	3	17	MD	1225	1350	fabrics M1 and M40B
2024	1	64	MD	1225	1350	fabric M1
2029	2	48	MD	1225	1350	fabrics M1 and M38B
2107	1	42	MD	1175	1400	fabric M38A
<i>Total</i>	44	399				