APPENDIX 9: ASSESSMENT OF CERAMIC ARTEFACTS

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1. Introduction

1.1 Nine ceramic artefacts were recovered from ARC 330 98 and six were recovered from ARC WNB 98. All are in a fragmentary state.

1.2 The ceramic artefacts were recovered by means of hand excavation.

1.3 The loom weights and other ceramic artefacts from ARC 330 98 may assist the following landscape event aim:

- To determine the spatial organisation of the landscape, and changes through time
- To recover dating evidence from the features located to enable a chronology for the division of the landscape to be established

1.4 The loom weights from ARC WNB 98 may assist with the following fieldwork event aim:

- To determine the function of these areas and changes through time

2. Methodology

2.1 The ceramic artefacts were accessioned in accordance with the Museum of London system.

2.2 The records have been entered onto the Oracle relational database and transferred to the RLE Datasets.

2.3 No sampling of these finds was undertaken.

3. Quantification

3.1 The ceramic registered finds are quantified below:

Table 44: Assessment of Ceramic Artefacts from ARC 330 98

Context	Special Number	Count	Period	Comments
1419	94	1	MIA/LIA	Top corner of a triangular loom weight with rounded corners and one perforation remaining
108	99	1	MIA/LIA	Part of the surface of a triangular loom weight with the remains of one perforation
108	101	1	BA?	Possibly part of a cylindrical loom weight
108	98	1	MIA/LIA	Part of a triangular loom weight

Context	Special Number	Count	Period	Comments
108	97	6	BA/IA	Small fragments; possible loom weight
108	96	1	BA?	Part of a cylindrical loom weight
108	95	1	PR	A fragment of fired clay with a curving outer surface
108	100	2	PR	Small fragments with one smoothed outer surface
108	102	1	PR	Fired clay object with smoothed surfaces

Table 45: Assessment of Ceramic Artefacts from ARC WNB 98

Context	Special Number	Count	Period	Comments (Description)
413	133	5	MIA/LIA	Five joining fragments from a triangular loom weight with rounded corners and the remains of at least one perforation
413	136	1	MIA/LIA	One small fragment from the rounded corner of a triangular loom-weight
565	9	1	BA?	Part of a cylindrical loom weight with a central hole
565	134	2	MIA/LIA	A small fragment, probably from a triangular loom weight
586	135	1	MIA/LIA	Part of a triangular loom weight
586	137	1	MIA/LIA	Part of a triangular loom weight

4. Provenance

4.1 A fragment of loom weight from ARC 330 98 was recovered from context [1419], the fill of a furnace/work hollow. It dates to the mid- to late Iron Age (3rd to 1st centuries BC). The remaining eight ceramic artefacts came from [102], Group 65, 3101, the fill of ditch [91].

4.2 The loom weight fragments from ARC WNB 98 were recovered from three contexts: [413] (sub-group 357) the upper fill of a pit, [565] (sub-group 305) the main fill of a pit, and [586] (sub-group 179) a ditch or gully. Context [565] produced one fragment of a possibly Bronze Age cylindrical loom weight and part of a mid- to late Iron Age triangular loom weight. This pit also contained disarticulated human bone and may have been associated with some form of ritual. The Bronze Age loom weight would, therefore, appear to be redeposited.

4.3 All of the loom weight fragments and the other ceramic artefacts are in a reasonable condition.

5. Conservation

5.1 The loom weight fragments <133> [413] from ARC WNB 98 should be re-adhered for illustration purposes.

5.2 No conservation work is required on the remaining loom weights as they appear to be stable and are packed appropriately for archive.

5.3 All the ceramic accessions should be retained.

6. Comparative material

6.1 The mid- to late Iron Age loom weights from ARC 330 98 and ARC WNB 98 in Zone 3 are all of the same form, triangular with rounded corners and three or more perforations. This is the most common type found in the Iron Age (Poole 1984, 406) and they were probably used either on looms or in some other largely in-door function such as weaving.

6.2 This assemblage should be compared to other Bronze Age and Iron Age material recovered from surrounding sites. It is of interest to note the presence of other Iron Age objects (a La Tène brooch and two bone implements) from ARC 330 98 (Zone 3).

7. Potential for further work

7.1 The ceramic loom weights can assist the following landscape zone aim:

- *Farming communities (2000-100 BC)*

7.2 The loom weights supply further evidence for human settlement in the area in the prehistoric period. The earliest fragments are probably Bronze Age, but all of these occur with later material. The remaining loom weights all appear to be triangular with rounded corners and three or more perforations. They belong to the most commonly found type of Iron Age loom weights (Poole 1984, 406). They indicate the presence of a settlement in the vicinity, as these weights are thought to have been used either for looms or for some other in-door based activity, such as weaving (ibid, 406).

7.3 The loom weights from ARC 330 98 can assist the following fieldwork event aims:

- *To determine the spatial organisation of the landscape, and changes through time*

7.4 The presence of the loom weight fragments is indicative of a mid- to late Iron Age settlement in the vicinity, as well as possible Bronze Age activity. It is interesting to note that more fragments of the same type of triangular and cylindrical loom weights were recovered from ARC WNB 98, also in Zone 3.

- *To recover dating evidence from the features located to enable a chronology for the division of the landscape to be established*

7.5 The triangular loom weight fragments are of a type that was common during the mid- to late Iron Age and may, therefore, be of use for dating purposes. It adds to the Iron Age pottery and other Iron Age artefacts found elsewhere in Zone 3. The cylindrical fragments may come from Bronze Age loom weights but will require further work on their identification.

7.6 The ceramic loom weights from ARC WNB 98 can assist the following fieldwork event aim:

- *To determine the function of these areas and changes through time*

7.7 The ceramic loom weights are further evidence of human activity and settlement at or near the site in the Bronze Age and Iron Age. The presence of these weights, whether intended for looms, weaving or some other function, indicate that a settled community existed in the vicinity.

7.8 It is recommended that the following further work is undertaken:

- A number of different fabrics were identified by eye during the assessment; it is recommended that these are fully identified and described. The study of the fabrics may aid the identification of the source of these ceramic objects. Comparison should be made with the fabrics of the pottery from the same period to identify any similarities.
- Short report on the loom weights and their contexts, and a discussion on the uses to which they may have been put. The latter will include a consideration of the scale of this activity, if it is possible to indicate.
- Comparison with other nearby sites in the region and other assemblages of a similar nature may aid the identification and sourcing of the fabrics. Cylindrical loomweights were also found in Area 330 Zone 5.
- Conservation of loom weight
- It is recommended that eight of the loom weights be illustrated.

8. Bibliography

Poole, C, 1984 'Clay weights' in B. Cunliffe, et al *Danebury: an Iron Age hillfort in Hampshire; volume 2; the excavations, 1969-78: the finds* Council for British Archaeology Research Report 52, 401-6