

FURTHER DISCOVERIES AT BRACKMONT MILL, BRACKMONT FARM AND TENTSMUIR, FIFE

by I. H. LONGWORTH, F.S.A.SCOT., *in collaboration with*
R. D. M. CANDOW, F.S.A.SCOT., R. CRERAR and D. HENDERSON, F.S.A.SCOT.

DURING the years 1954 to 1962 two of the writers, R. D. M. Candow and R. Crerar, recorded a further series of Bronze Age burials in the Brackmont Mill sand-pit.¹ A description of these discoveries, together with material recovered over the years by Mr Daniel Henderson from the surface of an adjoining field on Brackmont Farm, form the first part of this paper. The second part is concerned with a group of Late Neolithic sherds from a pit excavated in the sand-pit in 1960, while the third section places on record pottery, probably in the main domestic, collected from the sand dunes in the Tentismuir region of Fife. The writers would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have generously given assistance and facilities for the work to be undertaken, and in particular to the late Mr L. Spence, F.S.A.SCOT., of Brackmont Mill, Mr W. Alston of Brackmont Farm, Mr A. Douglas of Southfield Farm, Mrs R. E. Purvis of Earlsall Castle, Mr G. Sim of Morton Farm and Mr R. Skinner of Bloomfield Cottage. We should also like to extend our thanks to Mr J. B. Pow for generously allowing us to publish material found by him.

I FURTHER BRONZE AGE BURIALS AND OTHER FINDS OF POTTERY FROM BRACKMONT MILL SAND-PIT AND BRACKMONT FARM

Brackmont Mill Sand-Pit

During 1954 four burials were recorded in the sand-pit.

Burial 1 lay at the western end of the pit, 6 ft. S. of the farm road between Brackmont Farm and Brackmont Mill at a point some 270 yds. from the latter (fig. 1, 1). An urn in an advanced state of disintegration lay inverted over the cremated remains of an adult lying directly on charred but undisturbed sand at a depth of some 32 in. below ground-level. Two or three inches higher in the ground and in contact with the side of the urn lay an accessory vessel also inverted but empty. It proved impossible to recover the exact shape of the urn save that it was of tripartite structure and could either have been of collared or cordoned form. The rim diameter was approximately 9 in. and the height 14 in.; as far as could be seen the vessel was undecorated. A considerable portion of the accessory vessel was, however, preserved, showing this to have been of tripartite form with a mouth diameter of about 5 in. and a height of 7 in. This too was undecorated.

Burial 2 lay 8 ft. W. of this burial group (fig. 1, 2), the cremated remains of an adult scattered over an area of some 4 sq. ft., at a depth of 14 inches.

Burial 3 (fig. 1, 3) consisted of a few cremated bones and wall sherds of an urn which had once contained them. The remains lay scattered at the bottom of the

¹ Previous discoveries have appeared in these Proceedings; vols. LXXI, pp. 252-78, LXXV, pp. 205-7, LXXVI, pp. 84-93 and LXXXIII, pp. 224-9.

sand-pit and had been dug out from a charred patch of sand 9 ft. E. of the first burial by one of the workmen using a mechanical excavator.

Burial 4 (fig. 1, 4) consisted of an urn which had been displaced by the mechanical excavator from a point 5 ft. E. of the third burial and had fallen 20 ft. into the sand-pit. It still held the cremated bones of a young female when found.

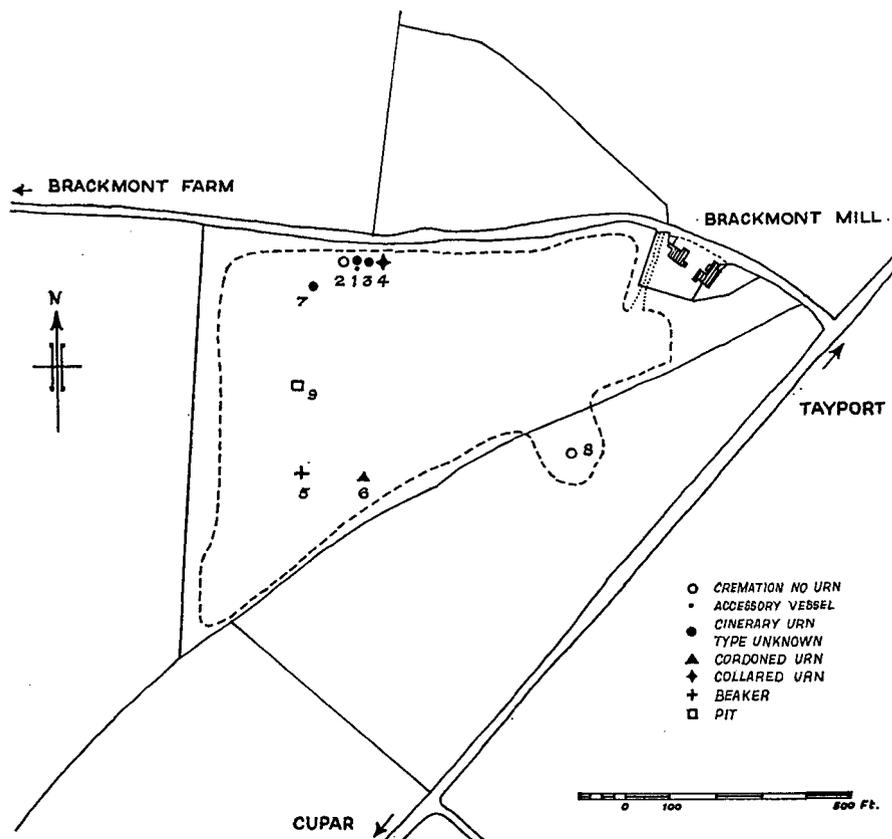


FIG. 1

In the following year, 1955, Mr L. Spence, F.S.A.SCOT., the owner of the sand-pit, discovered a Beaker standing upright in the sand with a small undecorated bowl inverted over it, forming a cover (fig. 1, 5). The Beaker was empty when found, and there were no positive indications that the vessels had ever been associated with a burial.

Burial 5. In 1956 the upper half of a Cordoned Urn was recovered 420 ft. due S. of the farm road between Brackmont Farm and Brackmont Mill and some 265 ft. from the latter (fig. 1, 6).¹ The lower part of the vessel had been destroyed by the bulldozer which brought the urn to light. The urn had lain inverted over the cremated bones of a young child.

¹ A note of this find has already appeared in the Abertay Historical Society News Letter for January 1957.

In 1958 Mr J. B. Pow recovered sherds from the base of another urn from the sand-pit (fig. 1, 7). An urn-less cremation was subsequently found in a southern extension of the pit in 1962 (fig. 1, 8).

Besides those already mentioned, two further urns have been recovered from the sand-pit during these years but regrettably the date of discovery, circumstance and position of these cannot now be established. The first consists of the upper part of a Cordoned Urn (fig. 2, 5), which contained a cremation, and the second, part of the body of an urn of uncertain form, also associated with a cremation (fig. 2, 6).

Collared Urn with Burial 4 (fig. 2, 1)¹

Diameter of mouth: 8.2 in.

Height: 11 in.

Diameter of base: 4 in.

Of a hard, coarse paste tempered with fairly large grits of micaceous schist, yellow-brown both faces with occasional red-brown patches. The collar and neck are decorated with roughly executed linear incised filled triangles. Diagonal incised lines extend below the shoulder on to the body of the vessel. The internal rim-bevel carries an incised zigzag line.

Cordoned Urn with Burial 5 (fig. 2, 2)

Diameter of mouth: 7.8 in.

Height: 4.7 in.

Of a fairly hard, coarse paste, tempered with micaceous grits. Exterior surface yellow-brown with dark-brown sooty patches; internal surface red-brown with darker patches. The core is dark grey. Decoration consists of a zone of twisted-cord filled triangles enclosed between single twisted-cord lines.

Corded Beaker and Bowl (fig. 2, 3 and 4)²

Beaker (EQ 720)

Diameter of mouth: 3.8 in.

Height: 3.8 in.

Diameter of base: 2.1 in.

Of a well-fired, fine, reddish-brown paste with dark grey core. The surface has been well smoothed, both internally and externally. Decoration consists of horizontal lines of fine twisted-cord impressions. The cord has been wrapped spirally round the upper part of the vessel, each wrapping covering approximately five times the circumference, but this treatment becomes less careful and more haphazard towards the base.

Bowl (EQ 721)

Diameter of mouth: 4.8 in.

Height: 2 in.

Diameter of base: 3.3 in.

Of similar paste with surfaces rather carelessly smoothed, in keeping with the general crudeness of the shape. Undecorated.

Cordoned Urn (EQ 736)

Diameter of mouth: 9.5 in.

Height: 8.9 in.

Diameter of base: Lost

¹ The collared Urn with burial 4 and the cordoned Urn with burial 5 have been deposited in Dundee City Museum. I am indebted to Mr James D. Boyd, F.S.A.S.COT., Director of that museum, for permission to publish these vessels, and to Mr Herbert Coutts, F.S.A.S.COT., for drawing them.

² The remaining vessels in this section have been deposited in the National Museum. The numbers appended in brackets are the registration numbers of that Museum.

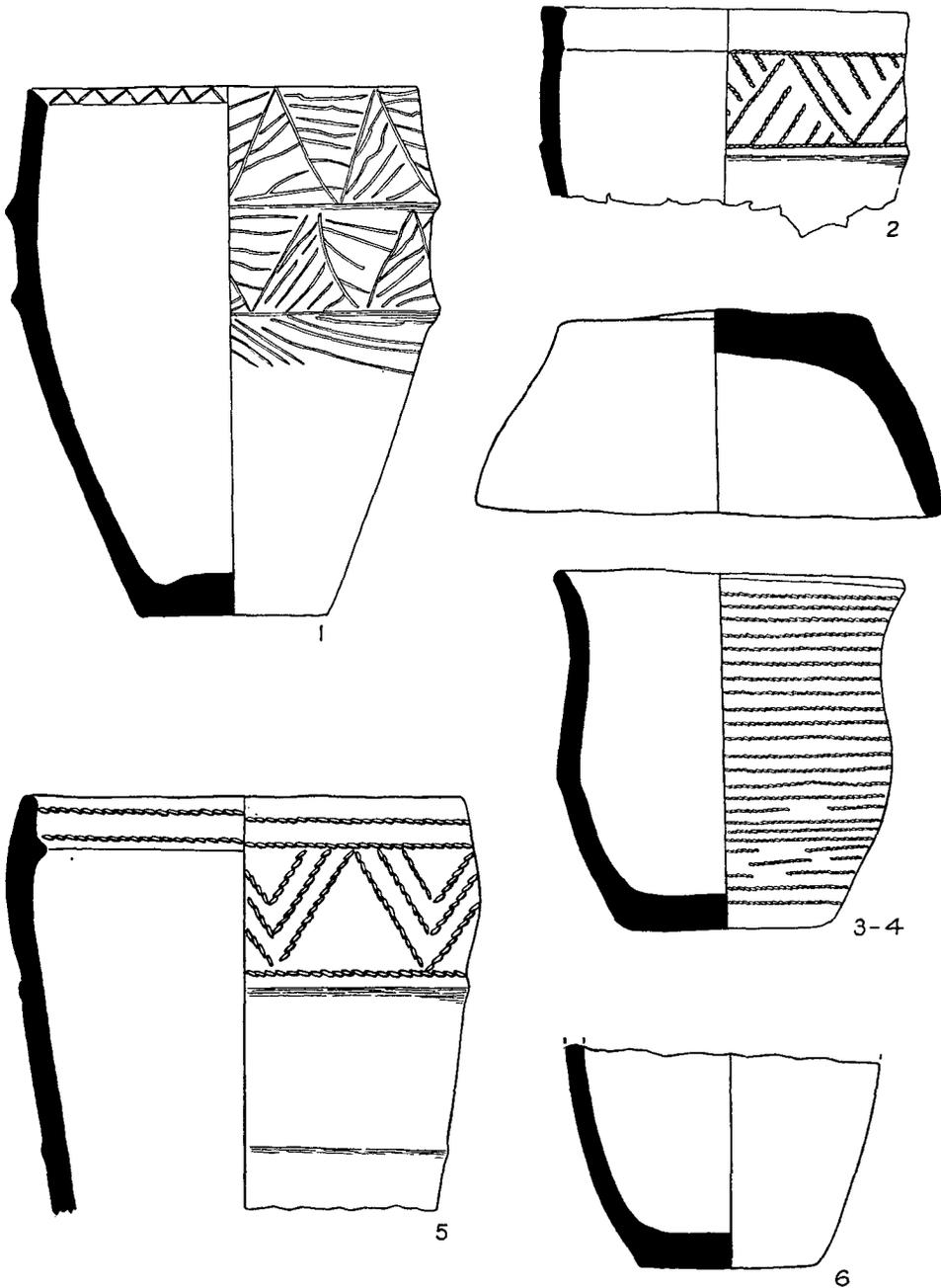


FIG. 2. Nos. 1, 2, 5, 6 scale $\frac{1}{4}$; Nos. 3, 4 scale $\frac{1}{2}$

Of a hard paste tempered with a large quantity of grit. Brown externally with some grey patches, and brown internally with a grey core. Surface smoothed. Decoration consists of a twisted-cord tripl chevron design between the rim and first cordon, enclosed by two twisted-cord lines above, and a single line below. The internal moulding carries a further two horizontal twisted-cord lines (fig. 2, 5).

Base of Urn (EQ 734)

Sherds from the lower body of an urn, possibly of collared form.

Quite well fired paste, tempered with some coarse grits. Brown externally with local grey discoloration; brown internally. Surface smoothed (fig. 2, 6).

The Cremations

The cremations from burials 1 and 2 were submitted to Dr Lawrence H. Wells, then of the Department of Anatomy in the University of Edinburgh, who reported as follows:

Burial 1 'Not many elements of the skeleton can be identified. Some portions of the bones of the cranial vault show that obliteration of the vault sutures was well advanced on the internal aspect but was not yet appreciable on the exterior. This state of affairs suggests an individual whose age was close on, or more probably somewhat above, thirty years.'

Burial 2 'The un-urned remains are not broken up to quite the same degree; it is possible to identify portions of the pelvis and of the bones of both limbs, as well as of skull and lower jaw. There is nothing to suggest that the fragments might represent more than one individual. The skull fragments indicate an age certainly not much less than, and possibly more than, thirty years.'

The cremation burial 5 was submitted to Dr J. D. B. MacDougall of the Department of Anatomy in the University of St Andrews, who reported as follows:

'The bones are so fragmented that a detailed reconstruction has proved impossible. They include fragments of vertebrae, clavicles, humerus, radius, mandible and teeth. Only one individual is represented. From the extremely small dimensions of the fragment of clavicle and from the obtuse angle of the left mandible it is apparent that the skeleton belongs to a child. The exact age is difficult to determine, but the size of the mandible and the presence of one milk molar tooth makes it likely that the child was not less than two years old, and probably not more than four or five. It is impossible to determine the sex in such a young child as bone differences are not obvious until much later.'

Brackmont Farm Surface Scatter

Outside the sand-pit to the N., Mr Daniel Henderson has collected a surface scatter on an adjoining field on Brackmont Farm containing fragments of Corded and Combed Beaker and cordoned vessels.¹ Though no specific burials have so far been located, the presence of small patches of cremated bone on the surface of the field indicate that the plough has clipped the tops of further burials in this area and no doubt it is in connection with these that the fragments of cordoned vessels should be considered.

¹ Mr Henderson has generously presented these sherds to the National Museum. The numbers appended in brackets are the registration numbers of that Museum.

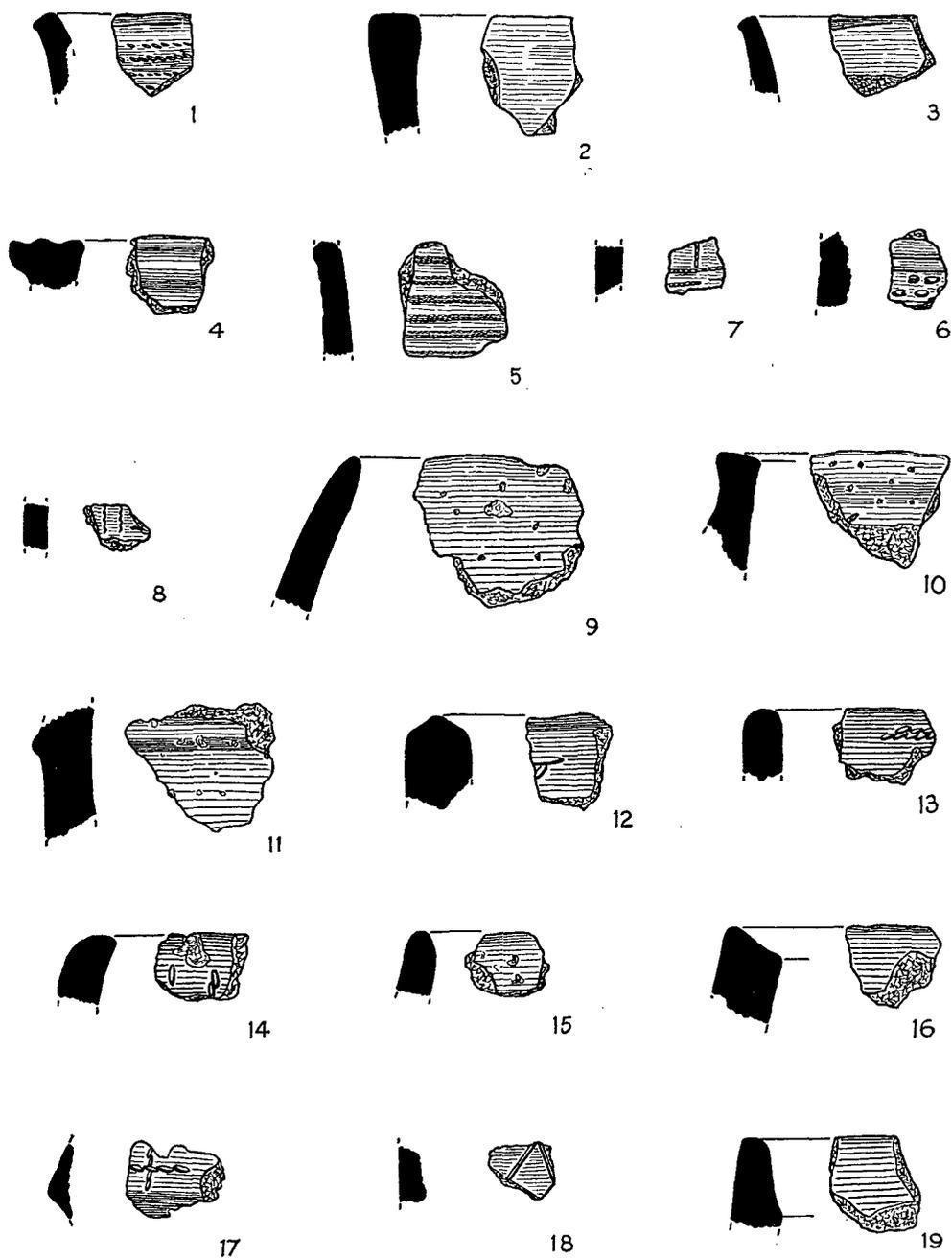
Beaker (fig. 3, 1-8)

1. Small rim sherd of corded beaker. Rim externally bevelled and slightly rolled over. Fine, hard reddish brown paste. Surface smoothed. Decorated externally with traces of four horizontal twisted-cord lines. (BN 343)
2. Rim sherd from undecorated bowl. Rim flattened. Hard compact red paste tempered with some coarse grit. Surface only roughly smoothed. (BN 340)
3. Small rim fragment. Rim externally bevelled and slightly rolled over. Fine, hard reddish brown sandy paste with dark grey core. Surface smoothed. No decoration. (BN 342)
4. Small rim fragment, decorated with two grooves along the internal bevel. Hard brown paste tempered with a little grit including quartz. (BN 341)
5. Wall sherd of compact sandy paste, reddish-brown on both faces with grey core. External surface decorated with horizontal pairs of twisted-cord lines. (BN 345)
6. Small wall-herd of a fairly hard paste tempered with fine grit. Internal surface lost, external surface brown. Decoration consists of a double row of bone impressions between horizontal incised lines. (BN 337)
7. Small wall-herd of hard compact sandy paste, brown both faces with grey core. Decoration consists of two horizontal lines with a single vertical line at right angles all made with a rectangular toothed comb stamp. (BN 346)
8. Small wall-herd of fairly hard paste tempered with grit. Brown both faces with dark grey core. Decorated with remains of impressed lines, possibly made with a shell. (BN 347)

Other Wares (fig. 3, 9-19)

9. Rim sherd of coarse paste tempered with a large quantity of angular grits. Light brown externally, dark brown to grey internally. Undecorated. (BN 329)
10. Rim sherd of hard coarse paste tempered with a large quantity of small grits. Light brown both faces with grey core. Undecorated. (BN 336)
11. Wall sherd of hard coarse paste tempered with a large quantity of angular grits. Brown externally, brown to grey internally, with dark grey core. Remains of a cordon. Undecorated. (BN 338)
12. Small rim fragment of a compact sandy paste. Reddish brown both faces with dark grey core. Remains perhaps of two impressed strokes on the external surface. (BN 334)
13. Small rim sherd of hard coarse brown paste tempered with grit. Remains of horizontal twisted-cord decoration but impressions blurred. (BN 337)
14. Small rim sherd of hard coarse paste tempered with grit. Light brown externally, brown internally with grey core. Remains probably of coarse twisted-cord impressions. (BN 331)
15. Small rim sherd of hard coarse light brown paste tempered with coarse grits. Undecorated. (BN 332)
16. Small rim of hard coarse paste tempered with coarse grits. Well formed internal bevel. Undecorated. (BN 333)
17. Small wall sherd being part of an applied cordon of coarse brown paste tempered with coarse grits, with traces of vertical and horizontal twisted-cord decoration. (BN 338)
18. Small wall sherd with internal surface lost. Brown externally with grey core. Surface smoothed. Remains of linear incised lattice pattern. (BN 337)
19. Rim sherd with remains of internal moulding, of hard compact paste tempered with grit, brown both faces, with grey core. Undecorated. (BN 330)

This scatter of sherds from the surface of the field on Brackmont Farm to the N. of the sand-pit contains several elements of interest. The collection includes a number of Beaker fragments in which the predominant element is Corded Beaker. Thirty-six sherds carry simple horizontal twisted-cord line decoration (e.g. fig. 3, 1), and though all the sherds are small a fair proportion would seem to belong to different vessels. In addition, two sherds carry horizontal paired twisted-cord lines (fig. 3, 5), five fragments have rectangular toothed comb stamp patterns (fig. 3, 7),

FIG. 3. Scale $\frac{1}{2}$

two carry incised lines (fig. 3, 6), and a single small sherd appears to have an impressed design made with the edge of a shell (fig. 3, 8). Two undecorated rim sherds, of which one is illustrated (fig. 3, 2) belong to an undecorated shallow bowl probably akin to the one recovered from the sand-pit (fig. 2, 4). Though the sample is relatively small, the variety is so marked that there seems little doubt that the material belongs to a domestic site whose occupation level has been extensively scraped by the plough.

The remaining fragments are of a coarser, 'later' fabric with the possible exception of the rim (fig. 3, 12) which might perhaps belong to some form of coarse Beaker ware. Two of these sherds (fig. 3, 11 and 17) are certainly from cordoned vessels and at least three others (9, 16 and 19) are probably so. The rim sherd (fig. 3, 10), on the other hand, appears to be from some form of Food Vessel. The sherd (fig. 3, 18), though minute, almost certainly comes from the neck of a Collared Urn since this design is well-known in that tradition and occurs on many of the Collared Urns in the cemetery below. It is not a design used on any of the Cordoned Urns. The presence of these urn fragments and the occurrence of well attested urnless cremations in this field¹ strongly suggest that there are more burials to be found in the area; whether they are scattered or form a more concentrated cemetery it is at present impossible to say.

II A PIT CONTAINING LATE NEOLITHIC POTTERY AT BRACKMONT MILL

In the late autumn of 1960 Messrs Candow and Crerar, making a routine search of the sand-pit, noted an area of dark sand some 4 ft. in diameter. At the time of the discovery the pit lay outside the limits of the sand-pit proper (fig. 1, 9) but in an area recently stripped of topsoil by a mechanical excavator. As the site was in imminent danger a rescue excavation was immediately undertaken.

The pit proved to have a maximum depth of 3 ft. 2 in.² and to contain a fairly even density of sherds intermingled with stones and dark sand including burnt material, together with nine fragments of flint. There were no traces of cremated bone in the filling, and nothing was recovered to indicate that the pit had ever been directly associated with a burial.

Fifty-one sherds³ were recovered from the pit, representing at least 20 vessels. Of these no fewer than 31 are rim sherds. No vessel is represented by more than 8 sherds and in no case has it been possible to reconstruct the complete profile of a pot. The wealth of rim sherds, however, permits a division of the material into classes based on the form of the surviving upper part of the vessels:

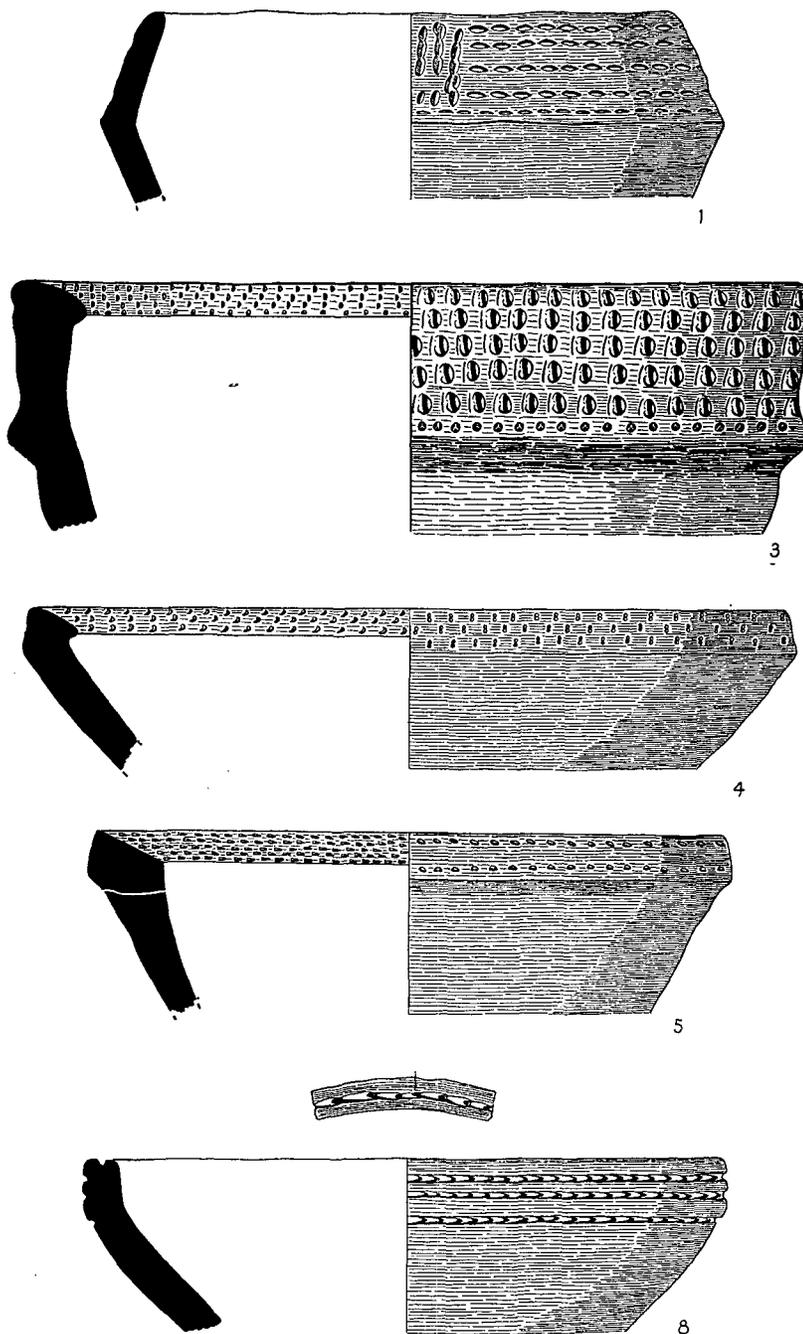
Biconical (fig. 4, 1)

1. Two sherds of a fairly hard, coarse paste tempered with coarse grits, light brown externally with some darker patches and more generally dark brown internally; surface smoothed. On the collar, finger-nail impressions have been used to form a hurdle pattern with a single horizontal line beneath. Diam. of mouth approx. 8 in. (EX 8)

¹ PSAS, LXXXII (1947-8), 229, no. V.

² In addition, the mechanical excavator is likely to have removed between 6 and 12 in. from the top of the pit.

³ Now in the National Museum, Edinburgh. Registration numbers appended.

FIG. 4. Scale $\frac{1}{3}$

Collared (fig. 5, 2)

2. Two sherds of a fairly hard, coarse paste tempered with a little fine grit, brown both faces; surface smoothed. The collar is decorated with horizontal stab-and-drag lines terminated below by a row of finger-tip impressions. The massive internal bevel carries a split herring-bone pattern made with the same implement, and this is carried over on to the top of the rim. (EX 9)

Cordoned (fig. 4, 3 and Pl. V)

3. Two sherds of a hard, coarse paste tempered with a considerable amount of coarse grit, brown on both faces but reddish brown on the rim. Above the cordon, decoration consists of finger pinched rustication terminated by a row of impressions, made with the end of a stick or bone, set on the upper part of the cordon. The internal rim bevel carries 4 rows of impressions again probably made with the end of a small bone. Diam. of mouth approx. 12.5 in. (EX 10)

*Conical Bowls with Externally Bevelled Rims**(a) With internally bevelled rims*

4. Two sherds of a fairly hard, coarse paste tempered with a considerable amount of coarse grits, brown externally, darker brown internally and with a dark grey core; surface smoothed. The external rim bevel carries three rows of bone impressions and there are a further three rows of similar but more blurred impressions on the internal bevel. Diam. of mouth approx. 12 in. (fig. 4, 4: EX 11)
5. Two sherds of a hard, fairly coarse paste, tempered with coarse grits, light brown both faces; surface smoothed. On the external rim bevel are two rows of impressions made by jabbing a stick or bone obliquely into the clay, and a further five rows of similar impressions occur on the internal bevel. Diam. of mouth approx. 10 in. (fig. 4, 5: EX 12)
6. Two sherds of a hard, coarse paste tempered with medium-sized grit, light brown both faces; surface smoothed. On the external surface roughly horizontal lines have been executed in stab-and-drag with a pointed instrument, and on the internal bevel one to two horizontal lines have been made with the same implement. (fig. 5, 6: EX 13)
7. One sherd of a fairly hard, coarse paste tempered with a considerable amount of coarse grit, light brown both faces, surface smoothed. The external rim bevel carries part of a roughly executed, concentric swag motif in stab-and-drag, made with a pointed instrument. Two diagonal strokes made with the same instrument occur on the body, and diagonal impressions made with the same instrument appear on the internal bevel. (fig. 5, 7: EX 14)

(b) With flattened rims

8. Six sherds of a hard, coarse paste, tempered with some coarse grits, brown both faces with some darker discolourations internally and grey core; surface smoothed. On the external rim bevel three horizontal lines in stab-and-drag have been made with a pointed instrument, and a single line in the same technique appears on top of the rim. Diam. of mouth approx. 10 in. (fig. 4, 8: EX 15)
9. One sherd of a hard, coarse paste tempered with some coarse grits, brown both faces with a dark grey core; surface smoothed. On top of the rim short horizontal strokes have been made with a pointed instrument. (fig. 5, 9: EX 16)
10. One sherd of a hard, coarse paste tempered with a considerable amount of coarse grits. Patchy, reddish brown both faces; surface smoothed. The top of the rim carries a single row of horizontal and two rows of diagonal finger-nail impressions, and a further two rows of similar nail impressions occur on the external bevel. (fig. 5, 10: EX 17)

Vessels with Upright Walls and Internally Bevelled Rims

11. One sherd of a hard, coarse paste tempered with a very little fine grit. Patchy brown both faces. Internal surface well smoothed. Externally a round-toothed comb has been dragged along the surface to give groups of horizontal and diagonal lines, and later the same comb has been impressed vertically to give short diagonal lines. On the double internal bevel the same comb

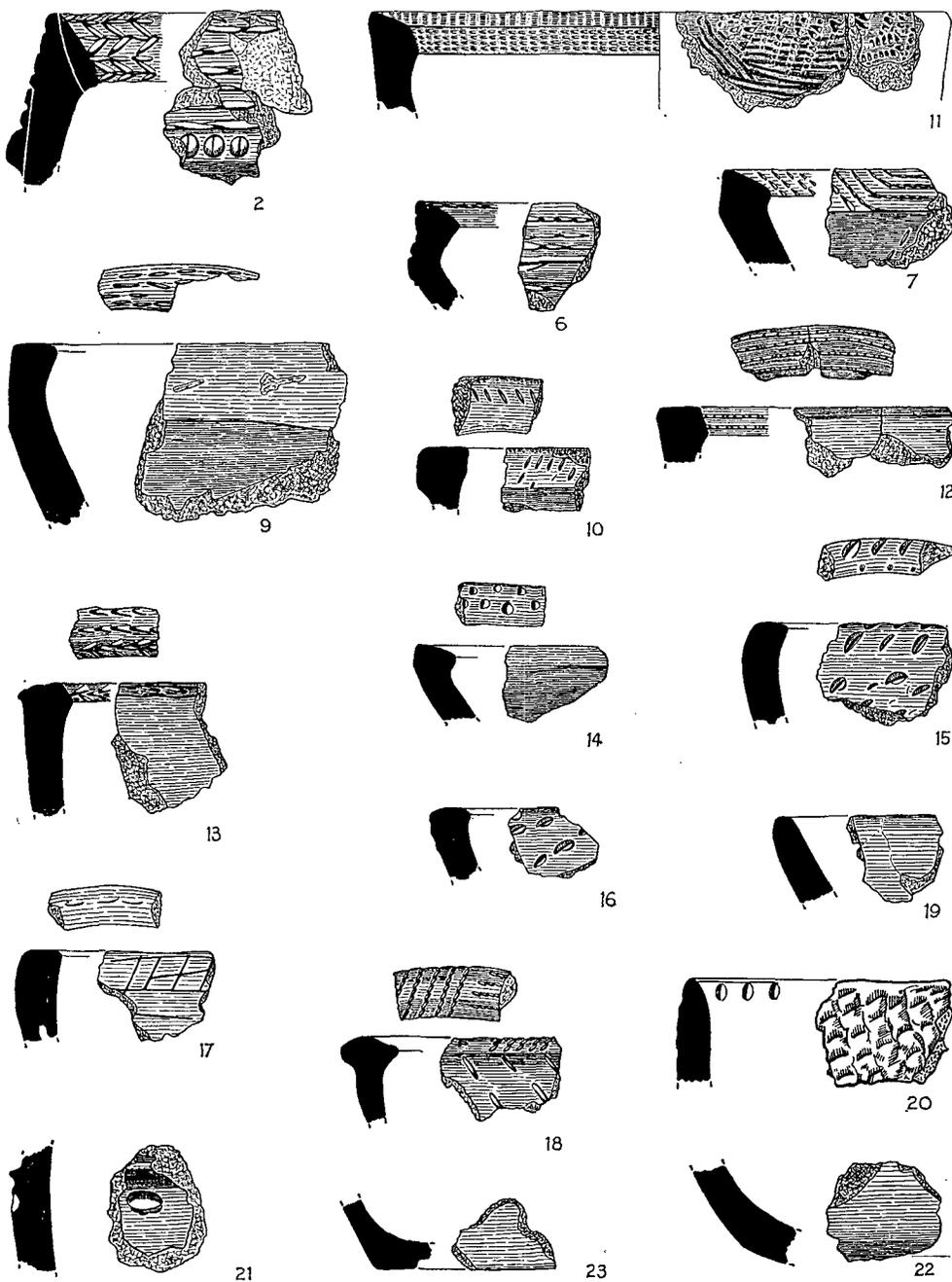


FIG. 5. Scale $\frac{1}{2}$

has been carefully applied in a stab-and-drag technique to give horizontal lines of diagonally impressed jabs. Diam. of mouth approx. 9.5 in. (fig. 5, 11 and Pl. V: EX 18)

12. Two sherds of a fairly hard coarse paste tempered with a few small grits, brown both faces; surface smoothed. The top of the rim and the internal bevel carry horizontal stab-and-drag lines made with a blunt instrument. (fig. 5, 12: EX 19)
13. One sherd of a hard, coarse paste tempered with a few coarse grits, light brown both faces; surface smoothed. The top of the rim carries two horizontal stab-and-drag lines made with a pointed instrument and the slight internal bevel carries a row of herring-bone impressions made with the same implement. (fig. 5, 13: EX 20)

Open Bowls

(a) With flattened or internally bevelled rims

14. One sherd of fairly hard, coarse paste tempered with medium grits, light brown both faces. The internal bevel of the rim carries two rows of impressions made with the end of a stick or bone. (fig. 5, 14: EX 21)
15. One sherd of fairly hard, coarse paste tempered with coarse grits, light brown both faces; surface smoothed. The external surface and top of the rim carry diagonal finger-nail impressions. (fig. 5, 15: EX 22)
16. One sherd of a hard, coarse paste tempered with medium grits, brown both faces; surface smoothed. The external wall surface carries diagonal finger-nail impressions. (fig. 5, 16: EX 23)
17. Four sherds of a fairly hard, coarse paste, tempered with coarse grits, brown both faces; surface smoothed. The external wall-surface carries a rough linear incised lattice pattern and the flattened rim a single row of finger-nail impressions. (fig. 5, 17: EX 24)

(b) With T-rim

18. One sherd of a fairly hard, coarse paste tempered with a considerable amount of medium grits light brown both faces. On top of the rim diagonal and horizontal twisted-cord lines form a rough hurdle pattern and the external wall carries two rows of diagonally impressed strokes. (fig. 5, 18: EX 25)

(c) With simple rims

19. Two sherds of a rather soft, coarse paste tempered with a little fine grit, brown both faces; surface roughly smoothed. Undecorated. (fig. 5, 19: EX 26)

Uncertain Forms

20. One sherd of a hard, fairly coarse paste tempered with fine to coarse grit, light brown both faces. The external wall-surface has been rusticated with finger-tip impressions so as to form raised lozenges. The internal edge of the rim carries a single incised line above a row of vertical finger-tip impressions. (fig. 5, 20 and Pl. V: EX 27)

Body Sherds

Fifteen body sherds were recovered from the pit which cannot be assigned with certainty to specific vessels but which are likely to belong to those already listed. Only one of these sherds (No. 21: EX 28) carries decoration, a single finger-tip impression. One sherd (No. 22: EX 29) comes from the base angle of a flat-based vessel and probably belongs to vessel 14, 15 or 18. Another sherd (No. 23: EX 30) suggests that a 'sag-based' element is also represented in the pit, probably from one of the vessels with upright walls (Nos. 11-13).

On grounds of fabric, form and decoration there can be little hesitation in assigning the pottery from the pit to a Late Neolithic date and, though the fabric of the vessels shows some variation, there is nothing here to suggest that the vessels do not belong to a single pottery-making group.¹ The range of form is clearly consider-

¹ With the possible exception of vessel 10, whose fabric approaches that of the laminated structure and surface texture of some Peterborough Ware.

able. The remaining portion of vessel 1 suggests a rather squat, biconical shape, and this type of vessel is again represented by the heavy-rimmed, open conical bowls. A deeper bowl is probably represented by the Cordoned vessel 3 and by vessels with upright walls 11-13, and a more simple, open bowl by vessels 14-19.

In decoration the assemblage is characterised by a marked preference for non-corded techniques. The table, fig. 6, helps to illustrate this point. Finger-nail and finger-tip impressions, stab-and-drag lines, simple impressed strokes and impressions made with the end of a stick or bone are the techniques that are clearly favoured, while only single examples of decoration by toothed comb, twisted cord and linear incision are present. The designs produced are correspondingly simple, comprising 'all-over' patterns, e.g. rustication on 3 or simple horizontal or diagonal lines on 6 and 8. The only complex motifs produced are hurdle pattern, in finger-nail impressions on 1, and again in twisted cord on the rim of 18; a roughly executed concentric swag motif on 7; a rough lattice pattern on 17 and herring-bone on the internal rim bevels of 2 and 13.

As a group the sherds have analogies with pottery from sand-dune sites like Glenluce, Wigtownshire, and Hedderwick, E. Lothian, but total similarity is lacking. The extensive collections from Glenluce show that the use of stab-and-drag¹ and bone- and stick-end impressions² is a recurrent feature, in the decorative range of this group, and that finger-pinching is not unknown,³ but in contrast to the Brackmont assemblage whipped cord and twisted cord also form a prominent feature of the decorative range.⁴ Again, in form, the deep, upright walled, bag-shaped vessel is recurrent at Glenluce⁵ but the more open conical bowl seems to be rare.⁶ Flattened rims are found, but there is little to compare with the series of externally bevelled rims in the Brackmont assemblage,⁷ and, conversely, the large series of everted rims at Glenluce is not represented at Brackmont. Among other minor elements held in common are the concentric swag motif,⁸ herring-bone,⁹ comb,¹⁰ linear incision¹¹ and T-rims.¹² While similarities are therefore at times close the differences between the two assemblages seem too great to be explained merely by viewing the Brackmont group as a restricted sample of the other. The Brackmont group seems to represent a related, but distinct, local variant.

This conclusion is supported by a comparison with the Hedderwick material. Here again stab-and-drag,¹³ and bird bone impressions¹⁴ are prominent. Deep bag-shaped vessels and flattened rims¹⁵ are well represented. Finger-nail impressions¹⁶ and

¹ Nat. Mus. Cat. No. BHA 151. The reader is directed to a recent study of the Glenluce material by Miss Isla McInnes (*PSAS*, xcvi (1963-4), 40-81) where further illustrations may be found of the decorative techniques cited below.

² *PSAS*, lxiii (1928-9), 92, fig. 55, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 8; lxvii (1932-3), 239, fig. 8, Nos. 8, 9; found especially in Miss McInnes' Class III Ware.

³ *PSAS*, lxiii, 86, fig. 51, No. 4.

⁴ *ibid.*, lxiii, 91, fig. 54, No. 3; lxvii, 239, fig. 8, Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 7.

⁵ *ibid.*, lxiii, 64, fig. 44, Nos. 1, 10; lxvii, 236, fig. 6, No. 1.

⁶ *ibid.*, lxvii, 236, fig. 6, No. 5.

⁷ Except for *PSAS*, xcvi, 73, fig. 154.

⁸ *ibid.*, lxvii, 239, fig. 8, No. 2.

⁹ Though at Glenluce this is usually in corded techniques, e.g. *ibid.*, xcvi, 69, fig. 122.

¹⁰ *PSAS*, lxvii, 237, fig. 7, No. 4.

¹¹ Nat. Mus. Cat. No. BHA 41.

¹² *ibid.*, lxiii, 64, fig. 44, No. 4; lxvii, 236, fig. 6, No. 3.

¹³ *ibid.*, lxiii, 86, fig. 51, No. 6.

¹⁴ *ibid.*, 91, fig. 54, No. 5, fig. 55, Nos. 4-7.

¹⁵ *ibid.*, 68, fig. 46, Nos. 14-16, fig. 47, No. 31.

¹⁶ Nat. Mus. Cat. Nos. BM 43, 54, 568.

Number of Vessel	Finger-pinched Rustication	Finger-nail and/or Finger-tip Impression	Stab-and- Drag	Impressed Strokes	Bone- or Stick-end Impressions	Linear Incision	Comb	Twisted Cord
1		×						
2		×	×	×				
3	×							
4					×			
5					×			
6			×					
7			×	×				
8			×					
9				×				
10		×						
11							×	
12			×					
13			×	×				
14					×			
15		×						
16		×						
17		×				×		
18				×				×
20	×	×						
Total	2	7	6	5	4	1	1	1

FIG. 6. Analysis of Decoration on Pottery from pit at Brackmont Mill.

the concentric swag motif¹ are found, but as at Glenluce vessels with deep externally bevelled rims and true collars are absent, and there are no obvious parallels to the shallow conical bowls of Brackmont. It is worth noting in this connection the vessel from Ford Castle, Northumberland² which not only possesses this general form but has an externally bevelled rim with concentric swag motif in twisted cord on its upper surface. As Piggott pointed out³ this together with a second vessel from the same locality⁴ is not altogether at home in the Peterborough tradition. In fabric they are atypical of that tradition but closely akin to the Brackmont group. With their relatively massive walls these vessels fall more readily into place as a southern extension of the Glenluce-Hedderwick-Brackmont tradition, while displaying certain traits, like the hollow neck, adopted perhaps from Peterborough bowl forms.

The significance of the Brackmont sherds lies, however, not so much in extending our knowledge of a well known, though still sparsely published, ceramic group, but in demonstrating the range of form in use in one region of eastern Scotland during the Late Neolithic. At least two of the vessels, 3 and 20, with their heavy finger-pinched and rusticated surfaces, disclose absorption of Beaker traditions, for this form of heavy rusticated decoration is typical of the coarse wares found on Beaker domestic sites⁵ and more especially, at least in England, those of Southern British Beaker groups. It is conceivable that sherd 20 might come from the mouth of a vessel of Beaker form, but the fabric suggests that it belongs with the rest of the group and vessel 3 shows clearly enough the transplantation of the technique on to a typical, thick-walled, vessel of Glenluce type. A similar adaptation is shown in England by pottery of the Fengate style of the Peterborough tradition, though in

¹ PSAS, LXIII, 87, fig. 52, No. 10.² *Arch. J.*, LXXXVIII, 157, fig. 23 and Pl. IVA.³ S. Piggott (1954), *Neolithic Cultures of the British Isles*, p. 130.⁴ *Arch. J.*, LXXXVIII, 129, fig. 18, No. 1.⁵ *Arch. News Letter*, Dec. 1961, Vol. 7 No. 5, 101 ff.

contrast these usually carry rustication confined to the body rather than the upper part of the vessel.¹ Other sherds from open bowls like 18 and 19 represent long-lived simple forms. The majority of sherds, however, carry features which are clearly progressive and look forward to the main pottery traditions of the full Early Bronze Age. Vessel 1 with its simple rim, practically straight collar form and use of finger-nail impressions to form linear decoration, is at once reminiscent of vessels of the Fengate style of Peterborough ware, but in form is not radically different from vessels within the Primary Series of the Collared Urn tradition.² Vessel 2 has a far more developed collar form and one remarkably similar to more advanced forms of Collared Urn, though both stab-and-drag and finger-tipping are techniques alien to that tradition. Vessels with heavy externally and internally bevelled rims are reminiscent of the typical heavy rims of some Yorkshire Food Vessels.³

The Brackmont sherds, then, with their wide diversity of form, are a useful reminder of how imperfect our knowledge is of the types of pottery which underlie the more dominant traditions of the full Early Bronze Age. It is not suggested here that the Brackmont vessels are in any sense directly ancestral to either the main Collared Urn tradition or to the Food Vessel series. They probably present no more than a sample of the variety of forms which must have existed locally in Scotland as elsewhere in the Late Neolithic, and a reason why related but increasingly distinct traditions should appear in the full Early Bronze Age. These sherds can, as it were, be taken as a mirror of the times in which the potential pottery styles of the future are partially reflected.

It has already been remarked that the pit contained a high ratio of rims to other sherds and that a relatively high proportion of these belong to demonstrably different vessels. It is important here to emphasise that almost without exception the sherds recovered from the pit show sharp breaks and little or no subsequent weathering. The evidence is against assuming that the contents of the pit merely represent the convenient disposal of unwanted rubbish. Debris of this nature is random and wall sherds are far more likely to outnumber rims than vice versa. Unless wall sherds were heavily represented in the top 6-12 inches of the pit removed by the mechanical excavator before examination, it is difficult to interpret the contents as other than a selected sample, for in the natural process of selection from broken pottery the rims and decorated pieces are most likely to attract, and in the group under discussion, in at least 19 of the 20 vessels these factors probably coincide. If this be accepted, then the most plausible hypothesis would be to suggest that the pit was deliberately filled with sherds whose significance lay in the function that they had last served. The likelihood is that this was associated with death, as containers of a funeral feast or offerings.

At West Kennet Professor Piggott⁴ was led to conclude that the Late Neolithic filling of the chambers was a single deliberate action and represented the debris of repeated offerings accumulated elsewhere over a period of years. In support he was able to cite the Scandinavian evidence for pots placed in the forecourt of

¹ e.g. S. Piggott (1962), *The West Kennet Long Barrow Excavations 1955-56*, p. 39, fig. 12, P 12, P 14-16.

² *PPS*, xxvii, 263 ff.

³ *DAJ*, lxxvii, p. 19 A 33, cf. fig. 4, No. 5; p. 13 A 25 cf. fig. 5, No. 12.

⁴ S. Piggott, *op. cit.*, 75-76.

chambered tombs and the remarkable site of Tustrup¹ where a hut for storing the pottery had been discovered. Though specific Late Neolithic burials have not so far been located in the Brackmont Sand-Pit the massive Bronze Age cemeteries may suggest continuity of practice in a place already hallowed by burial. The contents of this strange pit may be some slight indication of such earlier usage.

III POTTERY RECOVERED FROM THE SURFACE IN TENTSMUIR, FIFE

The region of Tentsmuir lies in the NE. corner of Fife defined to the N. by the Firth of Tay and to the S. by the River Eden. The area thus enclosed measures roughly six miles by three. Its sand dunes have for long been known as a source of prehistoric pottery and flint implements, though until recent years collection has been haphazard and little attempt has been made to record in any detail the actual locality of the finds made. The Rev. Robert Paul writing in these *Proceedings* in 1905² mentions that 'large quantities of fragments of coarse pottery are turned up over the whole district whenever the soil is disturbed', as well as Cinerary Urns and Beakers. A fine Corded Beaker had already been recovered and published in the nineteenth century,³ and further Bronze Age sherds were reported from Shanwell and Garpit Links in 1925.⁴ Beakers, specifically from domestic contexts, are listed by Dr Crichton Mitchell in her paper on Scottish Beaker pottery published in 1934.⁵ Sir Lindsay Scott includes the area in his review of trade routes and settlement patterns⁶ as yielding Beaker and other unspecified wares. More recently, in 1962, Atkinson⁷ added Rinyo-Clacton pottery to the types already recorded as present in the region. Even so Tentsmuir has failed to receive the attention it deserves and the material remains inadequately published and almost entirely unillustrated. In order to draw attention to the importance of the region as a prehistoric settlement area, a study of the sherds collected by three field workers, Mr R. D. M. Candow, Mr R. Crerar and Mr Daniel Henderson, has been undertaken. From these it is now possible to state with some assurance that Tentsmuir was settled, perhaps intermittently, and certainly by differing peoples, from Late Neolithic times through much of the ensuing Bronze Age. The majority of finds come from sand bunkers to the N. and S. of Wards Farm and on the Earlshall Estate, but other finds have also been made south of Morton Lochs and to the S. of Garpit. The relative positions of these exposures are shown in fig. 7.

THE POTTERY⁸

Grooved Ware

- 1, 1a. Two rim sherds of a fairly hard paste tempered with grit, grey to brown both faces, surface smoothed. The sherds carry a grooved opposed chevron pattern composed of bands of four grooved lines below a horizontal band of four grooved lines. A further two grooved lines decorate the rim.

From Bunker A. (fig. 8, 1 and 1a)

¹ *Kuml* (1955), 7.

² *PSAS*, xxxix (1904-5), 347.

³ *ibid.*, xvii (1882-3), 384; also illustrated by Anderson (1886) in *Scotland in Pagan Times (Bronze and Stone Ages)*, fig. 96; Abercromby (1912), *BAP*, 1, fig. 201 and listed by Crichton Mitchell, *PSAS*, lxxviii (1933-4), 183, No. 196.

⁴ *PSAS*, lx (1925-6), 13.

⁵ *ibid.*, lxxviii (1933-4), 183, Nos. 197-8.

⁶ *PPS*, xvii, App IV.

⁷ In *The Prehistoric Peoples of Scotland* (1962), ed. S. Piggott, 36 and fig. 4.

⁸ I am indebted to Mr Opie of the National Museum, Edinburgh, for making drawings of this pottery.

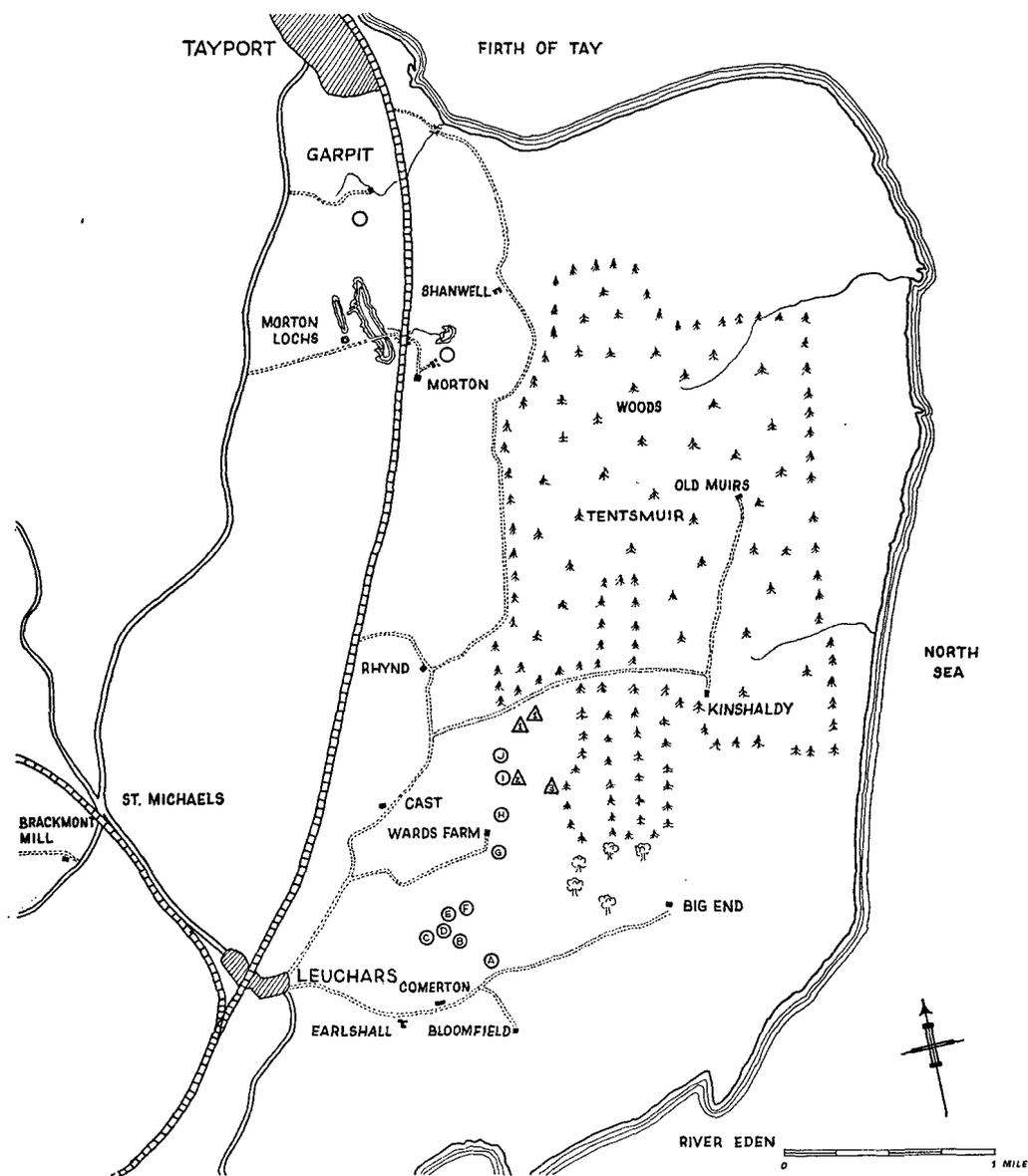


FIG. 7

2. Rim sherd of a fairly hard paste tempered with coarse grits, light brown both faces, surface smoothed, decorated with a single shallow round impression on the external surface and two grooved lines on the inside.
From Bunker B. (fig. 8, 2)
3. Wall sherd with single round impression externally, possibly from same vessel as 2.
From Bunker B. (fig. 8, 3)

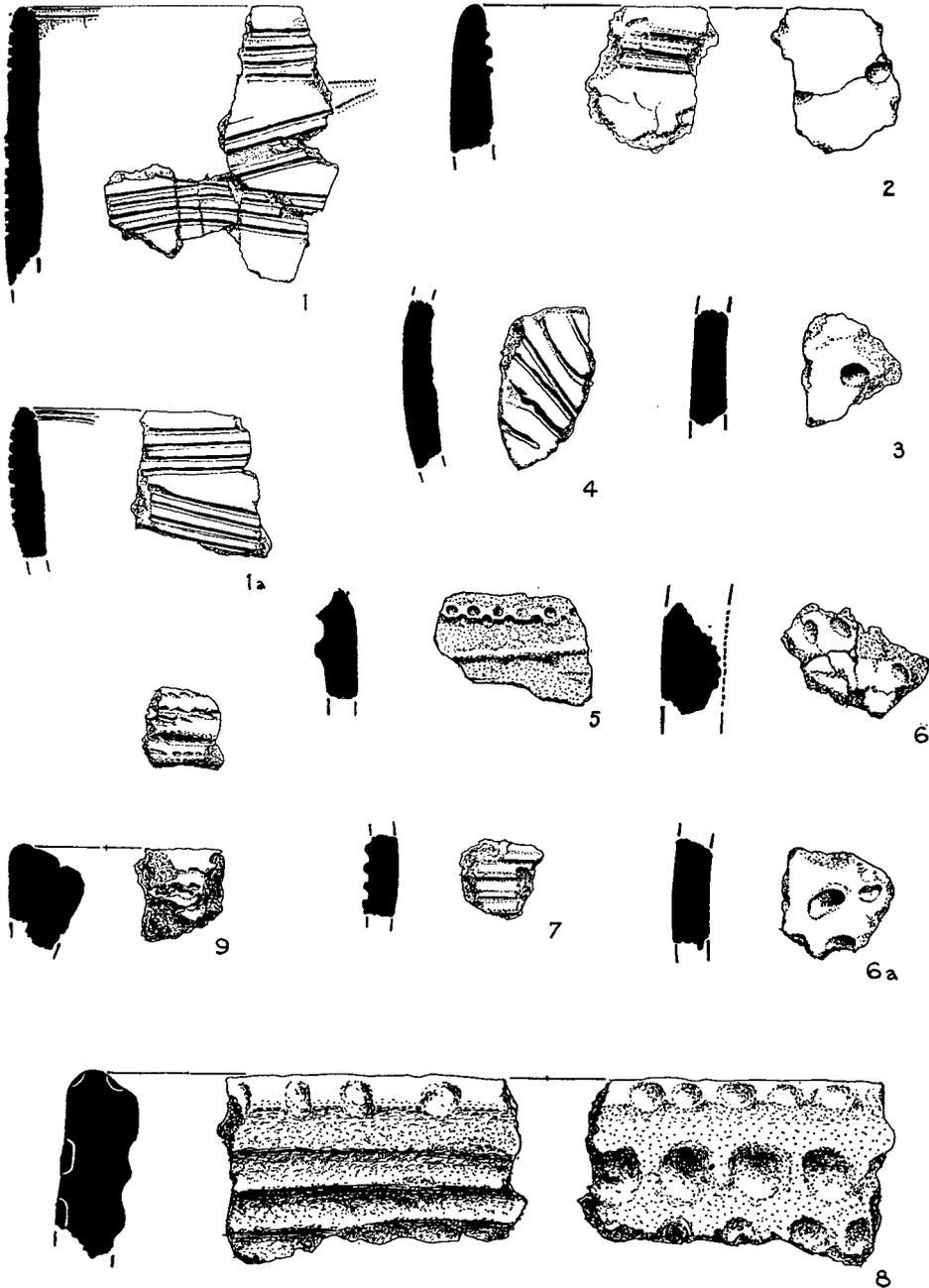


FIG. 8. Scale 1/2

4. Wall sherd of fairly hard compact paste, light brown externally, encrusted dark brown internally, decorated with linear and curvilinear grooves.
From Bunker E. (fig. 8, 4)
5. Wall sherd of hard paste tempered with a little grit, brown externally, internal surface lost. Decoration consists of a plain cordon converging with a second cordon decorated on its upper and lower margins with jabs giving a 'wavy' band effect.
From area 200 yds. N. of Wards Farm Δ . (fig. 8, 5: BN 304)
- 6, 6a. Two wall sherds of paste similar to 2 with similar jabbed decoration.
From area 200 yds. N. of Wards Farm Δ . (fig. 8, 6 and 6a: BN 309)
7. Small wall-herd of hard compact paste tempered with a little grit, brown both faces, decorated with horizontal grooves.
From area 200 yds. N. of Wards Farm Δ . (fig. 8, 7: BN 269)

Other Late Neolithic Pottery

8. Rim sherd of hard coarse paste tempered with coarse grits, brown both faces, decorated with rows of finger-tip impressions on the external surface and rim, with two finger-tip grooves on the internal surface.
From Bunker B. (fig. 8, 8)
9. Rim sherd of coarse paste tempered with large grits, greyish-brown externally, reddish brown internally, with grey core, decorated with remains of horizontal twisted cord decoration externally and again on the internal rim bevel.
From area 200 yds. N. of Wards Farm Δ . (fig. 8, 9: BN 265)

Beaker

(a) Corded

10. Rim sherd from flaring mouth of hard, fine paste, brown both faces, surface smoothed, decorated with horizontal twisted-cord lines externally.
From Bunker A. (fig. 9, 10)
11. Rim sherd of hard paste tempered with a little grit, reddish brown both faces with grey core, surface roughly smoothed. Remains of two twisted-cord lines on the external surface, and three on the internal.
From Bunker A. (fig. 9, 11)
12. Wall sherd of fine paste tempered with fine grit, brown externally, grey to brown internally, surface smoothed, decorated with horizontal twisted cord lines.
From Bunker A. (fig. 9, 12)
13. Small rim-herd of hard paste, light brown both faces with dark grey core, surface smoothed, decorated with two horizontal twisted-cord lines on the external surface and a single twisted-cord line on the internal rim bevel.
From Bunker D. (fig. 9, 13)

(b) Combed

14. Rim sherd with well-marked internal bevel of a fairly hard paste tempered with grit, light brown both faces. Decoration consists of thin alternate blank and decorated horizontal zones; the decorated zones formed by diagonal lines enclosed by single horizontal lines all made with a rectangular toothed comb stamp.
From Bunker A. (fig. 9, 14)
15. Wall sherd of a fairly hard paste tempered with a little grit, reddish brown externally, internal surface lost, decorated with a zone of lattice bordered by horizontal lines, all made with a rectangular-toothed comb stamp.
From Bunker A. (fig. 9, 15)
16. Wall sherd of hard paste tempered with grit, light brown both faces with grey core, decorated with rectangular-toothed comb herring-bone.
From Bunker A. (fig. 9, 16)

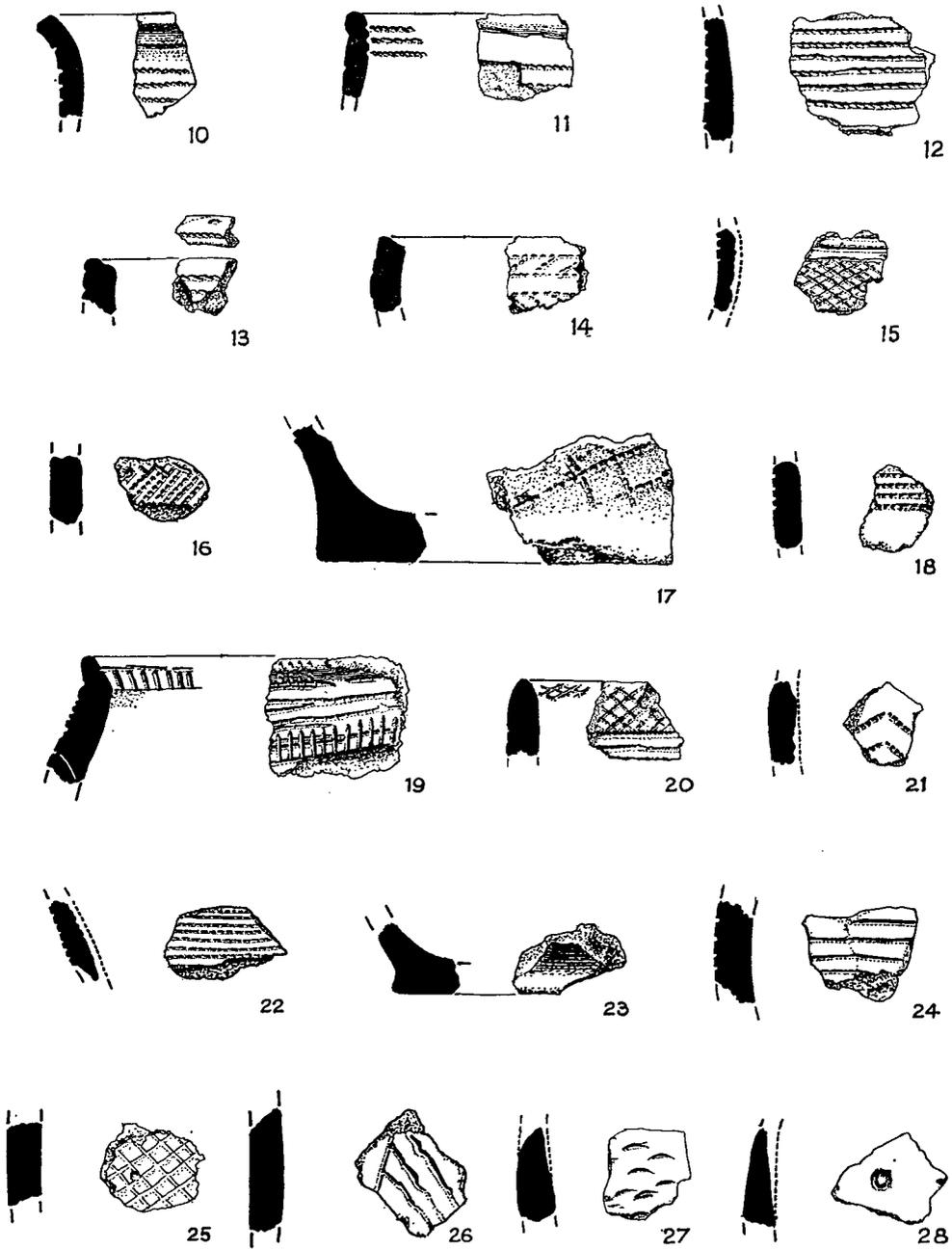


FIG. 9. Scale $\frac{1}{2}$

17. Fragment of base angle of hard, coarse paste tempered with fine grit, red both faces, with remains of a lattice decoration made with a coarse rectangular-toothed comb.
From Bunker A. (fig. 9, 17)
18. Small wall-herd of hard sandy paste tempered with fine grit, brown both faces, decorated with rectangular-toothed comb lines.
From Bunker C. (fig. 9, 18)
19. Rim sherd of hard compact paste tempered with coarse grit, light brown both faces, with grey core, surface smoothed. Decoration consists of a band of short vertical lines above horizontal lines, crossed an inch below the rim by a second row of short vertical lines, all in rectangular-toothed comb stamp. On the internal rim bevel a single horizontal comb line above a row of short vertical comb lines.
From Morton Farm. (fig. 9, 19)
20. Rim sherd of hard paste tempered with a little grit, light brown both faces with grey core, decorated with a band of lattice made with a fine toothed comb above two horizontal grooves. Just inside the lip is a lozenge design again in toothed comb impressions.
From no precise locality in Tentsmuir. (fig. 9, 20: BN 279)
21. Small wall-herd lacking internal surface, of hard paste tempered with grit, light brown externally, decorated with herring-bone pattern made with a coarse rectangular-toothed comb stamp.
From Earlsall Estate. (fig. 9, 21: BN 218)
22. Wall sherd lacking internal surface, of hard compact paste brown externally, decorated with horizontal lines made with a fine toothed comb.
From Earlsall Estate. (fig. 9, 22: BN 218)

(c) *Other*

23. Fragment of base angle with well-marked protruding foot, of hard, fine paste tempered with a little fine grit, brown both faces with grey core, surface smoothed. Undecorated.
From Bunker A. (fig. 9, 23)
24. Wall sherd of hard compact paste tempered with a little grit, brown both faces with grey core, decorated with horizontal incised lines.
From Bunker C. (fig. 9, 24)
25. Wall sherd of quite hard paste tempered with a large quantity of grit, light brown both faces, surface smoothed, decorated with well-executed linear incised lattice pattern.
From Garpit Farm. (fig. 9, 25)
26. Wall sherd of compact paste, reddish brown both faces, decorated with the remains of incised filled triangles.
From a sand bunker, about half a mile N. of Wards Farm Δ . (fig. 9, 26)
27. Small wall-herd heavily abraded on edges and internal surface, of hard fine paste tempered with grit, red externally, decorated with finger-nail impressions.
From no precise locality in Tentsmuir. (fig. 9, 27: BN 280)
28. Wall sherd of hard compact paste, brown externally, internal surface abraded, decorated with a single impression made with a hollow reed.
From the Earlsall Estate. (fig. 9, 28: BN 218)

Food Vessel

29. Rim sherd with expanded internal bevel of hard, compact paste tempered with a little grit, brown both faces with grey core, surface smoothed. Undecorated.
From Bunker A. (fig. 10, 29)
30. Rim sherd with expanded internal bevel of hard compact paste tempered with a little grit, brown both faces, surface smoothed. Undecorated.
From Bunker B. (fig. 10, 30)
31. Rim sherd with well-marked internal bevel of a hard compact paste tempered with a large quantity of fine grit, light brown both faces with dark grey core, surface smoothed. Decorated

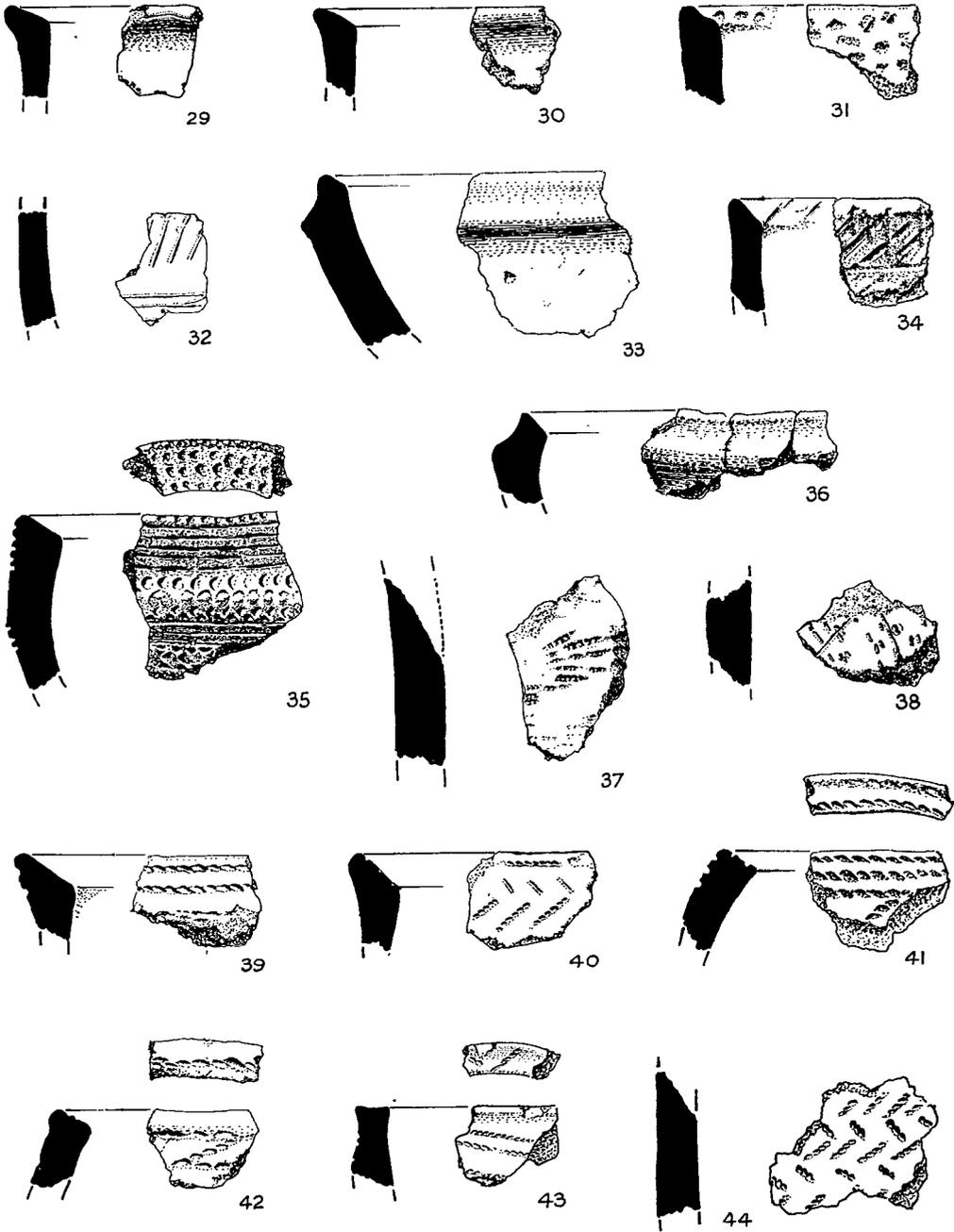
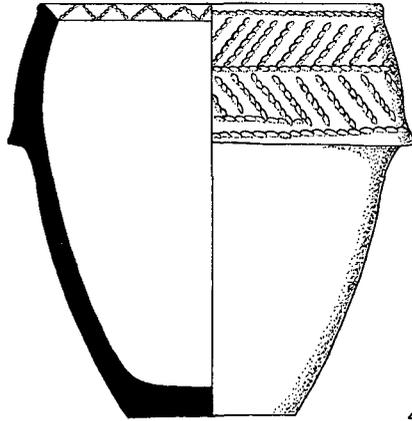


FIG. 10. Scale $\frac{1}{2}$

- externally with 'all over' impressions of a broken stick or bone and a row of deeper jabs on the internal rim bevel.
From Bunker B. (fig. 10, 31)
32. Wall sherd of hard compact paste tempered with fine grit including quartz, light brown both faces with grey core, surface smoothed, decorated with lightly incised horizontal and diagonal lines.
From Bunker B. (fig. 10, 32)
33. Undecorated rim sherd of hard paste, tempered with grit, light brown both faces with grey core, surface smoothed. The rim has a slight internal bevel and a squeezed-out moulding half an inch below the rim externally.
From Bunker F. (fig. 10, 33)
34. Rim sherd with internal bevel, of hard paste tempered with grit, light brown to grey both faces, decorated with roughly incised herring-bone separated from a further zone of decoration by a single horizontal line. On the internal rim bevel short diagonal incised strokes.
From Bunker I. (fig. 10, 34)
35. Rim sherd of fairly hard paste tempered with grit, brown both faces with grey core, surface smoothed. Decoration consists of alternate zones of horizontal incised lines and rows of bone impressions with a further four rows of bone impressions on the internal rim bevel.
From area 200 yds. N. of Wards Farm Δ . (fig. 10, 35: BN 306)
36. Undecorated rim sherd from vessel similar to 33.
From area 200 yds. N. of Wards Farm Δ . (fig. 10, 36: BN 266)
37. Wall sherd of hard, compact paste tempered with large coarse grits, brown externally, dark brown internally, surface smoothed. Decoration consists of impressions of short lengths of loosely wrapped whipped cord.
From area 200 yds. N. of Wards Farm Δ . (fig. 10, 37: BN 307)
38. Wall sherd of hard, compact paste tempered with grit, light brown externally, brown internally with grey core, decorated with an incised lozenge pattern filled with jabs.
From Earlsall Estate. (fig. 10, 38: BN 225)

Collared

39. Rim sherd with expanded internal bevel of quite hard paste tempered with some grit, dark brown externally, light brown internally, decorated with the remains of three twisted-cord lines immediately below the rim.
From Bunker J. (fig. 10, 39)
40. Rim sherd with expanded internal bevel of quite hard paste tempered with a little grit, light brown both faces with grey core, surface smoothed, decorated with a single twisted-cord line above herring-bone, and three horizontal twisted-cord lines on the internal rim bevel.
From Garpit Farm. (fig. 10, 40)
41. Rim sherd of fairly hard paste tempered with grit, brown both faces, surface smoothed, decorated with three twisted-cord lines and trace of diagonal twisted-cord line below, with two twisted-cord lines on top of the rim.
From area 200 yds. N. of Wards Farm Δ . (fig. 10, 41: BN 311)
42. Rim sherd of fairly hard paste tempered with grit, brown both faces, decorated with a single twisted-cord line above twisted-cord herring-bone, with a single twisted-cord line on top of the rim.
From area 200 yds. N. of Wards Farm Δ . (fig. 10, 42: BN 312)
43. Rim sherd of coarse paste tempered with grit, light brown both faces with grey core, surface smoothed, decorated with pairs of horizontal lines of opposed twisted-cord. On the rim traces of diagonal twisted-cord lines.
From area 200 yds. N. of Wards Farm Δ . (fig. 10, 43)
44. Wall sherd of coarse paste tempered with grit, light brown externally, brown internally, with dark grey core, surface smoothed, decorated with well-executed twisted-cord herring-bone.
From a sand bunker about half a mile N. of Wards Farm Δ . (fig. 10, 44)

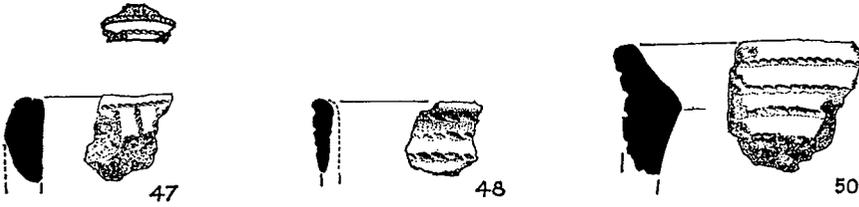


49



45

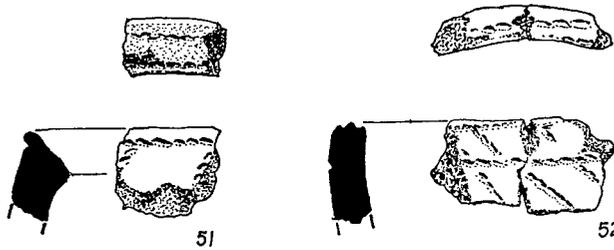
46



47

48

50



51

52

FIG. 11. Scale $\frac{1}{2}$

45. Wall sherd of coarse paste tempered with grit, reddish brown externally, brown internally, with dark grey core, surface smoothed, decorated with two horizontal twisted-cord lines above a diagonal twisted-cord line.
From area 200 yds. N. of Wards Farm Δ . (fig. 11, 45)
46. Fragment from base of collar of similar paste to 51, decorated with roughly executed twisted-cord herring-bone bordered by a single twisted-cord line beneath.
From area 200 yds. N. of Wards Farm Δ . (fig. 11, 46: BN 268)
47. Rim sherd of hard, compact paste tempered with grit, reddish brown both faces, surface smoothed, decorated with vertical fine twisted-cord lines beneath a single horizontal bordering line and a single twisted-cord line on top of the rim.
From site 200 yds. N. of Wards Farm Δ . (fig. 11, 47: BN 257)
48. Small fragment from outer face of collar of coarse paste tempered with grit, with remains of three horizontal twisted-cord lines.
From area 200 yds. N. of Wards Farm Δ . (fig. 11, 48: BN 316)
49. Collared vessel of coarse paste tempered with a large amount of grit, light brown both faces with dark grey core. Surface smoothed. Decoration: on the collar twisted-cord herring-bone split and enclosed by horizontal twisted-cord lines. On the rim twisted-cord zigzag.
From Earlshall Estate Δ . (fig. 11, 49: BN 219)
50. Rim sherd of similar paste to 39, decorated with remains of four twisted-cord lines.
From Earlshall Estate. (fig. 11, 50: BN 234)
51. Rim sherd with slightly expanded internal bevel, of hard paste tempered with coarse grits, brown externally, light brown internally, with grey core, decorated with one horizontal twisted-cord line beneath the rim and a further two on the internal bevel.
From Earlshall Estate. (fig. 11, 51: BN 236)
52. Rim sherd of hard rather sandy paste, tempered with grit, light brown externally, brown internally, decorated with diagonal twisted-cord lines crossed by a single horizontal line and with two horizontal lines on the rim.
From Earlshall Estate. (fig. 11, 52: BN 222)

Enlarged Food Vessel

53. Rim sherd of fairly hard paste tempered with grit, light brown externally, internal surface lost decorated on the external rim bevel and below with short whipped-cord 'maggots'.
From Bunker B. (fig. 12, 53)
- 54, 54a and 54b. Three wall sherds of similar paste, two of the sherds are decorated with deeply incised herring-bone, the third carries herring-bone made with whipped-cord 'maggots'.
From Bunker J. (fig. 12, 54, a and b: BN 310)
55. Wall sherd of similar paste, most of internal surface lost, decorated with whipped-cord herring-bone above the ridge and deeply incised herring-bone below.
From area 200 yds. N. of Wards Farm Δ . (fig. 12, 55: BN 310)
- 56, 56a. Rim and fragment of base of similar paste; rim decorated with whipped-cord 'maggots' on the external rim bevel and below, and again on the internal bevel; base shows remains of deeply incised herring-bone pattern.
From Earlshall Estate. (fig. 12, 56, a: BN 232-3)

Cordoned

57. Wall sherd with remains of cordon, of hard, coarse paste tempered with coarse grits, brown externally, internal surface lost, decorated with a single twisted-cord line above the cordon.
From Bunker E. (fig. 12, 57)
58. Rim sherd of hard paste tempered with a large quantity of grit, light brown to grey both faces, decorated with a twisted-cord split-herring-bone design enclosed between single twisted-cord lines. On the internal rim bevel a further two horizontal twisted-cord lines.
From Bunker J. (fig. 12, 58)

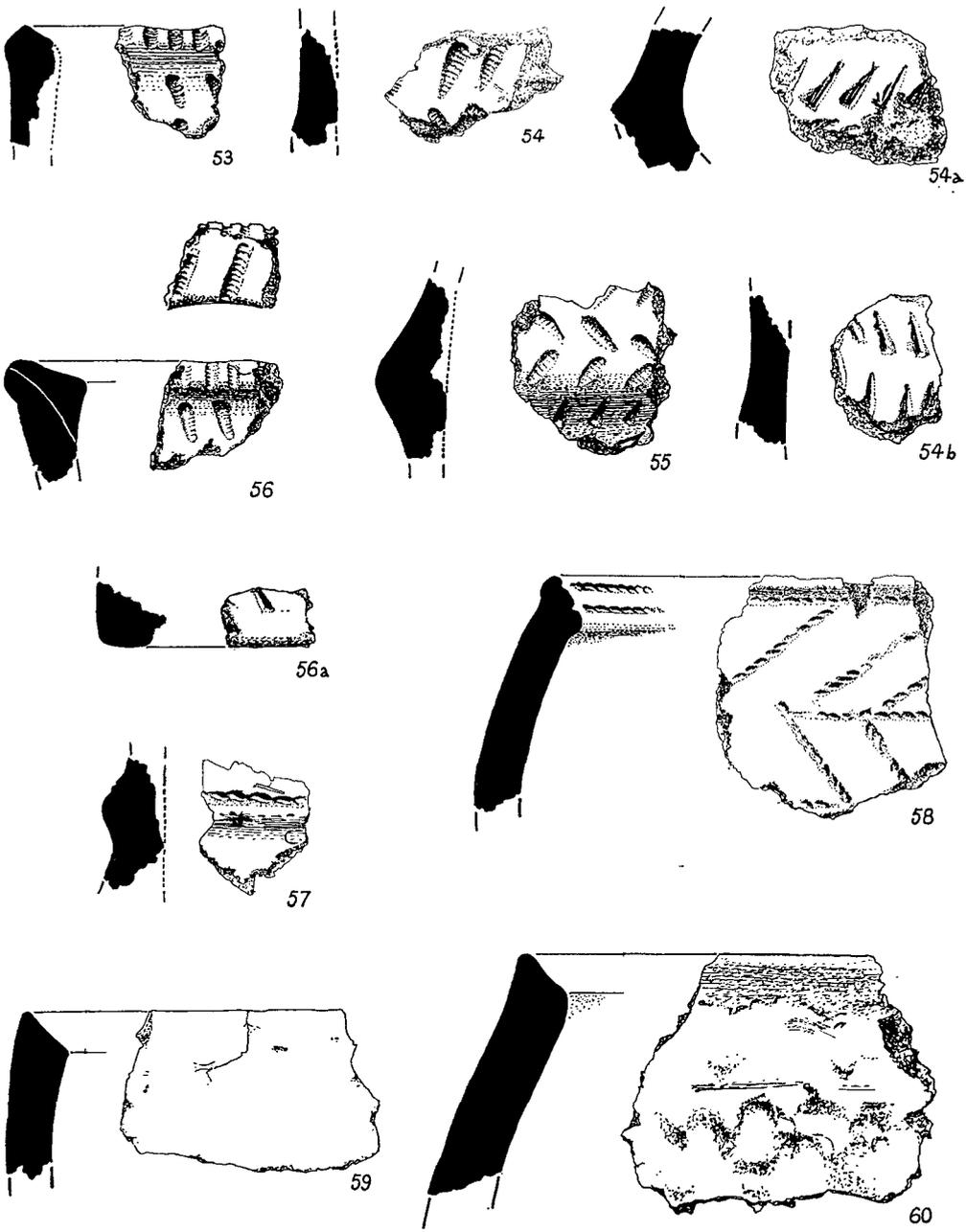


FIG. 12. Scale $\frac{1}{2}$

59. Undecorated rim with internal bevel of hard, compact paste tempered with a large quantity of grit, reddish brown both faces, surface smoothed.
From Bunker J. (fig. 12, 59)
60. Undecorated rim sherd with internal bevel of hard, coarse paste tempered with a large quantity of coarse grit, brown externally, light brown internally.
From area 200 yds. N. of Wards Farm Δ . (fig. 12, 60: BN 317)
- 61, 61a. Two wall sherds of a hard coarse paste tempered with coarse grits, light brown externally, greyish brown internally, surface roughly smoothed; each carries a finger tip groove, the smaller sherd having linear incised horizontal lines above, the larger a slightly raised cordon.
From Earlshall Estate. (fig. 13, 61, a: BN 220)
62. Wall sherd of similar paste with well-defined cordon and remains of coarse linear incised line above.
From Earlshall Estate. (fig. 13, 62: BN 221)

Biconical

63. Rim sherd of hard paste tempered with a large quantity of grit, light brown both faces with grey core, decorated with a linear incised lozenge design enclosed by single incised lines, with short diagonal incised lines on the internal rim bevel.
From Bunker J. (fig. 13, 63)

Coarse Ware

64. Undecorated rim sherd with simple pointed rim, of a fairly hard, very coarse paste tempered with large grits, grey to brown both faces.
From Bunker A. (fig. 13, 64)
65. Undecorated rim sherd with simple rounded rim and slight internal moulding, of hard, slightly sandy paste, tempered with large grits, brown externally, light brown internally, surface roughly smoothed.
From Bunker B. (fig. 13, 65)
66. Undecorated rim sherd with slight internal bevel, of hard, compact paste tempered with some grit, light brown to grey both faces.
From Bunker C. (fig. 13, 66)
67. Undecorated rim sherd with flattened top and hollow neck, of hard paste tempered with a large quantity of coarse grit, light grey to brown.
From Bunker C. (fig. 13, 67)
68. Undecorated rim sherd of hard paste tempered with coarse grits, light brown both faces with grey core. Finger-tip groove externally beneath the rim.
From Bunker E. (fig. 14, 68)
69. Undecorated rim sherd with pointed rim of hard paste tempered with a considerable amount of grit. Brown both faces with grey core.
From Bunker G. (fig. 14, 69)
70. Undecorated rim sherd of hard, very coarse paste tempered with large quantities of coarse grit, light brown externally, brown internally.
From Bunker H. (fig. 14, 70)
71. Undecorated rim of rounded form of hard, coarse paste tempered with coarse grit, brown both faces.
From Bunker I. (fig. 14, 71)
72. Undecorated rim with flattened top of hard, coarse paste tempered with coarse grits, light brown both faces with grey core.
From Bunker I. (fig. 14, 72)
73. Rim sherd from small cup of hard paste tempered with coarse grits, brown both faces with roughly applied twisted-cord line below the rim.
From Bunker I. (fig. 14, 73)
74. Sherd comprising lower part of a neck and shoulder of hard coarse paste tempered with a large quantity of coarse grit, patchy brown both faces. Undecorated.
From Bunker J. (fig. 14, 74)

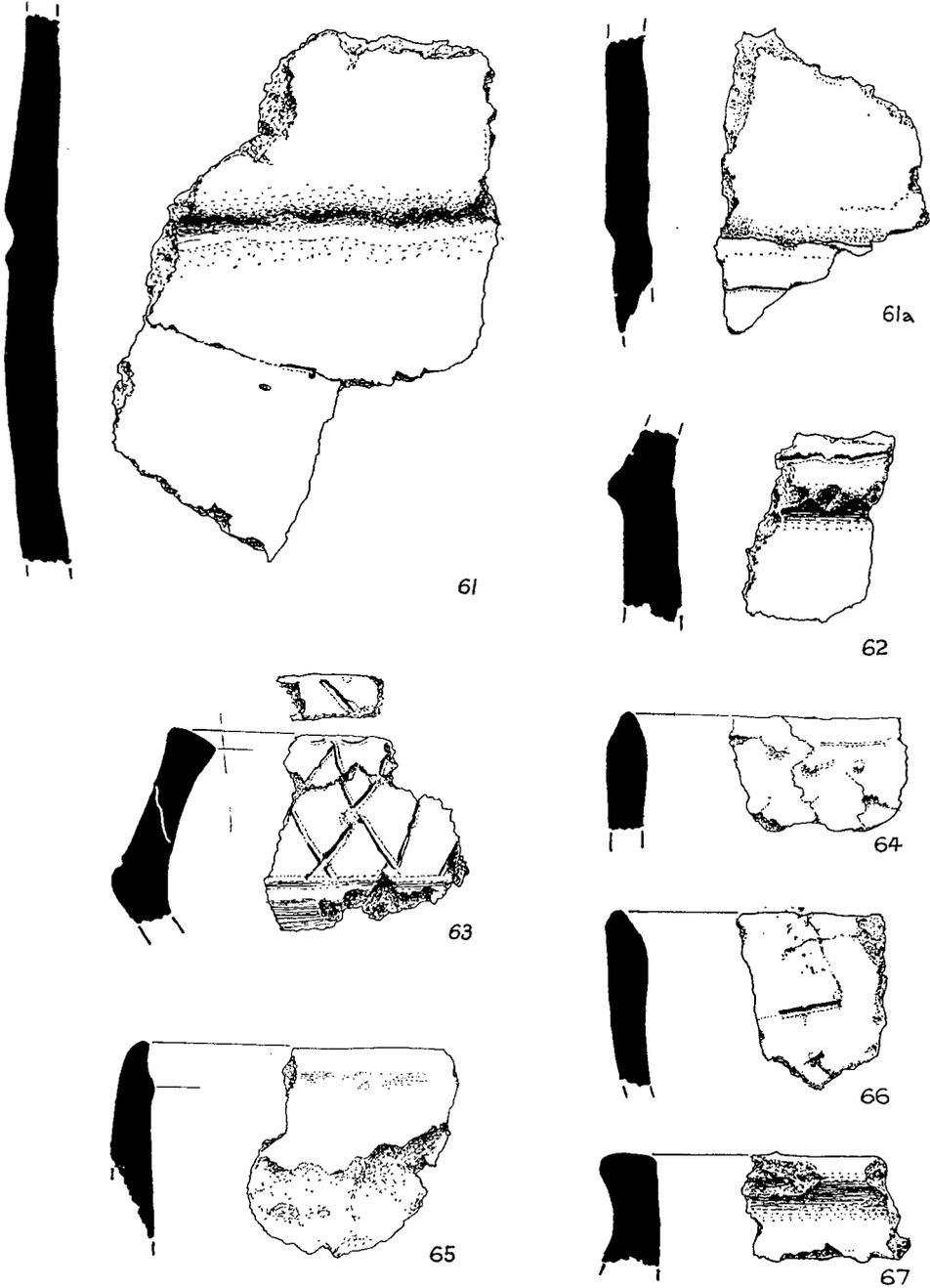


FIG. 13. Scale $\frac{1}{2}$

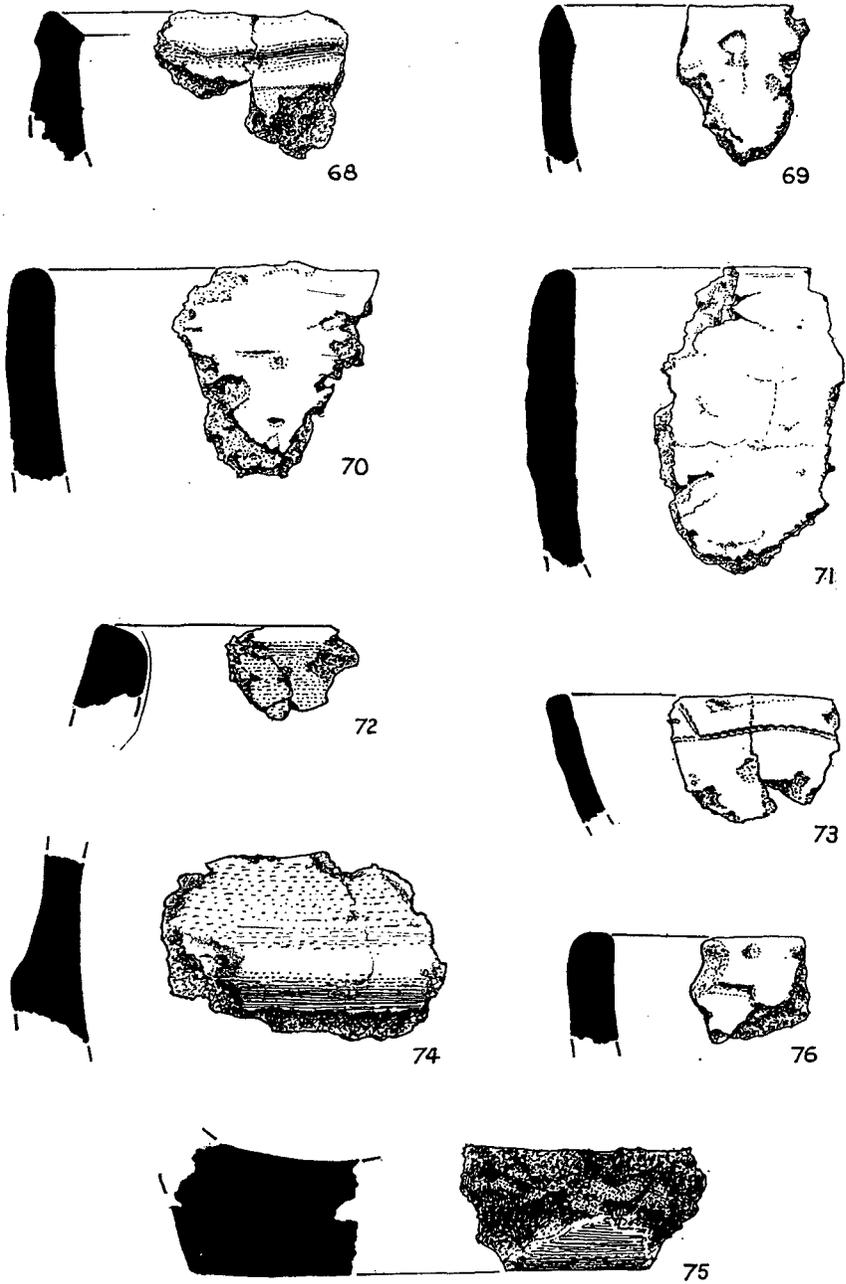


FIG. 14. Scale $\frac{1}{2}$

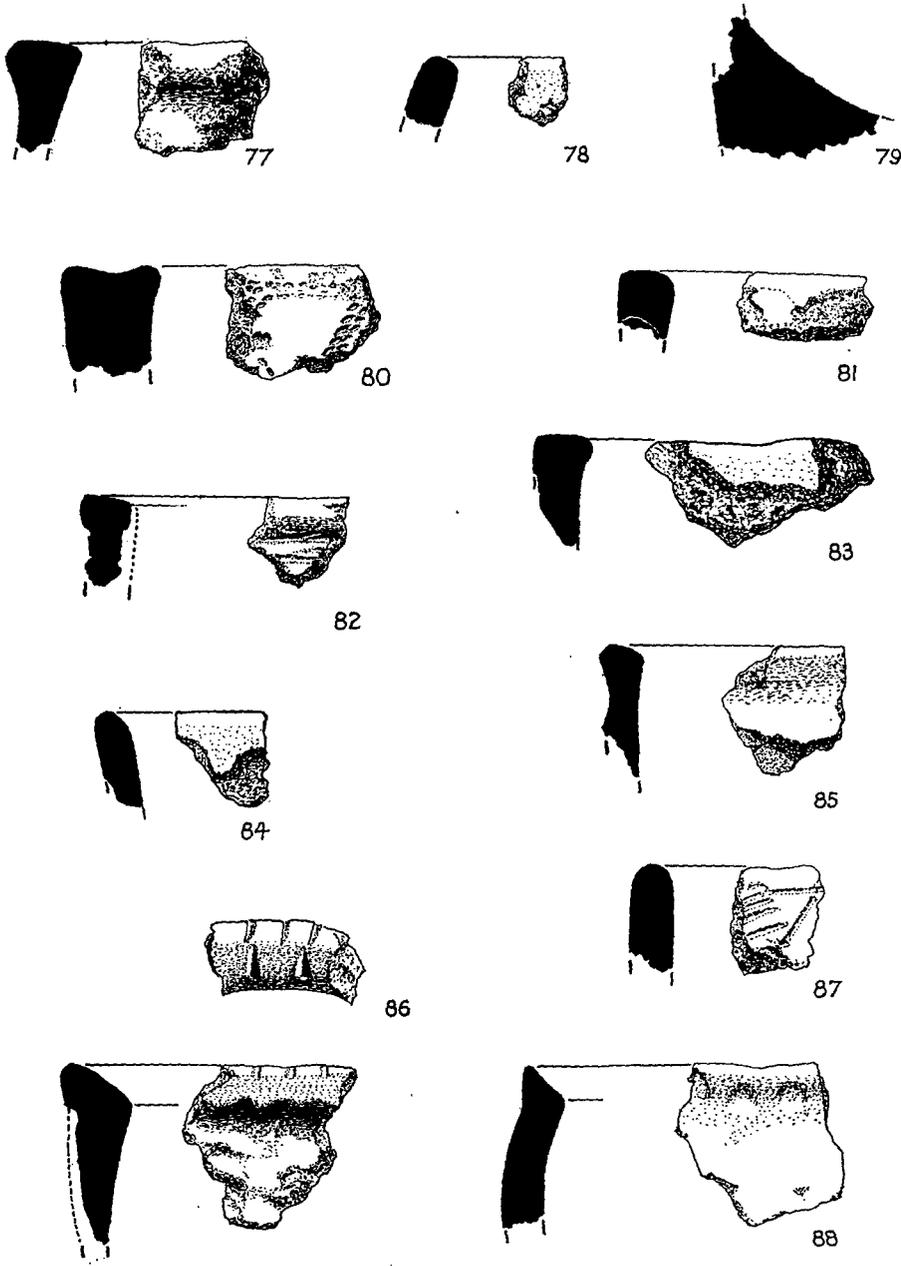


FIG. 15. Scale $\frac{1}{2}$

75. Fragment of base angle of a hard very coarse paste tempered with large quantities of coarse grit, light brown externally, light brown to grey internally with grey core. Probably from a Collared or Cordoned Urn.
From Bunker J. (fig. 14, 75)
76. Undecorated rim sherd with flattened top, of a hard sandy fabric with some grit tempering, brown both faces.
From Bunker J. (fig. 14, 76)
77. Undecorated rim sherd with flattened top and everted lip of hard coarse paste tempered with grit, light brown externally, discoloured internally.
From Garpit Farm. (fig. 15, 77)
78. Small undecorated rim sherd of hard, compact paste tempered with large grits, brown both faces.
From area 200 yds. N. of Wards Farm Δ . (fig. 15, 78: BN 320)
79. Fragment of base angle of a hard coarse paste tempered with large grit, light brown externally, grey to brown internally. Probably from a Collared or Cordoned Urn.
From area 200 yds. N. of Wards Farm Δ . (fig. 15, 79: BN 322)
80. Rim sherd of hard, coarse paste tempered with large grits, brown both faces. Faint traces of horizontal twisted-cord lines immediately beneath the rim with diagonal lines below.
From area 200 yds. N. of Wards Farm Δ . (fig. 15, 80: BN 259)
81. Undecorated rim sherd of hard, compact paste tempered with large grits, brown both faces with grey core.
From area 200 yds. N. of Wards Farm Δ . (fig. 15, 81: BN 267)
82. Rim sherd of hard paste tempered with coarse grits, brown externally, internal surface lost, decorated with coarse incised horizontal lines beneath the rim.
From area 200 yds. N. of Wards Farm Δ . (fig. 15, 82: BN 258)
83. Rim sherd of coarse paste tempered with a large amount of grit, grey to brown in colour. Undecorated.
From Wards Farm. (fig. 15, 83: BN 401)
84. Rim sherd of coarse paste tempered with grit, brown both faces with grey core. Undecorated.
From Wards Farm. (fig. 15, 84: BN 402)
85. Undecorated rim sherd of hard, compact paste tempered with large grits, brown both faces, with grey core.
From Earls Hall Estate. (fig. 15, 85: BN 226)
86. Rim sherd of hard, compact paste tempered with large grits brown internally, most of external surface lacking, decorated on the lip of the rim and internal bevel by single rows of deeply incised impressions made with the edge and corner of a flint flake.
From the Earls Hall Estate. (fig. 15, 86: BN 217)
87. Rim sherd of hard paste tempered with a large quantity of grit, brown both faces with dark grey core, decorated with a lightly grooved complex pattern (perhaps filled triangles) of horizontal and diagonal lines.
From the Earls Hall Estate. (fig. 15, 87: BN 235)

Covesea Ware

88. Rim sherd with internal bevel and everted lip, of hard sandy paste tempered with large grits, light brown externally, brown to dark grey internally, undecorated but slight finger-tip impressions below the everted lip.
From Bunker B. (fig. 15, 88)

DISCUSSION

The small number of sherds of Grooved Ware recovered from sand bunkers A, B and E and from exposures to the N. of Wards Farm would all fall readily into Rinyo I. The vessels represented by sherds 1 and 4 with their bands of grooved lines are

entirely typical and obvious parallels can be found for sherd 5 with its applied plain and jabbed cordons.¹ Though the concept of a unified Rinyo-Clacton culture is now receiving increasing criticism, it is worth noting that the placing of grooved lines on the inside wall beneath the rim is one of the positive features found alike on Grooved Ware in the N. of Scotland and in the S. of England.² Sherds 2, 3, 6 and 6a are all perhaps a little too small for one to be certain whether the external pits actually formed part of a complex grooved and pit-filled design, but the size of the pits would be a little large for this type of composition. Sherd 8 with its finger-tip decoration and use of internal finger-tip grooving might perhaps be included under the heading Grooved Ware, especially since it, too, came from bunker B, but the sherd is sufficiently odd in fabric and design to deserve separate mention. One small rim fragment, 9, can also be placed in the Late Neolithic on the strength of its close resemblance in fabric to the vessels from the Late Neolithic pit at Brackmont Mill described earlier in this paper.

The majority of Beaker sherds from the area come either from Corded Beakers, 10-13, or, in the case of comb-decorated sherds, probably from North British forms. A few late examples are also present including a comb-decorated rim sherd from Morton Farm which might almost as easily be classed as a Beaker-derived Food Vessel, 19. Techniques of decoration other than twisted cord and comb are rare but simple light (25) and coarse (24 and 26) incision, finger-nail (27), and reed impression (28) are present.

Sherds which can be positively identified as from Food Vessels are not numerous. Rims 29 and 30 are likely to come from simple bipartite forms with angled necks and everted rims.³ Another bipartite form with vertical neck above a simple trunco-conic body is probably represented by rims 31 and 34.⁴ Sherd 35 with its well-marked internal rim bevel and narrow zoned decoration incorporating rows of bone impressions shows obvious influence from the Irish Bowl series. A simple undecorated bowl element can also be noted in sherds 33 and 36.

Collared vessels are represented amongst the sherds and it is interesting to note here that practically all are cord-decorated. The emphasis on linear incision, so prevalent in the Brackmont Mill cemetery,⁵ is not reflected. Sufficient remains of only one vessel to enable a complete restoration to be attempted. This was found by Mr Daniel Henderson on the Earlshall Estate and is of particular interest as being one of the very few genuine bipartite Collared Vessels to be found in Scotland. In the rest of the British Isles these bipartite forms enjoy a distribution almost entirely confined to S. and E. England. As Peterborough Ware is rare N. of the Tweed it seems reasonable to suppose that the Collared Urns of Scotland, taken as a whole, imply a genuine migration of population from the south. The area which in par-

¹ cf. S. Piggott (1954), *Neolithic Cultures of the British Isles*, Pl. XII, 7.

² e.g. S. Piggott, *op. cit.*, fig. 57, 6, from Creething St Mary, Suffolk; I. F. Smith (1965), *Windmill Hill and Avebury*, fig. 35, P286 from Windmill Hill, Wilts; S. Hazzledine Warren *et al.* (1936), *PPS*, II, Pl. XL, 2, from Clacton, Essex.

³ cf. D.D.A. Simpson (1965), *Trans. Dumf. and Gall. N.H. & A.S.*, XLII, 43, fig. 2, 10; 44, fig. 3, 18.

⁴ *ibid.*, 50, fig. 9, 72.

⁵ cf. *PSAS*, LXXVI (1941-2), Pls. XXII-XXIII.

ticular has yielded comparable vessels is northern Yorkshire, and it is precisely in this region that the nearest and closest parallels for this bipartite vessel occur.¹

Enlarged Food Vessels, 53-56, are represented by a small number of relatively thick-walled sherds carrying whipped-cord or deeply incised herring-bone designs. Not surprisingly, in view of their strong representation to the W. at Brackmont Farm² and in the cemetery on Southfield Farm,³ sherds of Cordoned vessels are also present. Sherd 63, from a large biconical vessel, has been treated separately, for if this had occurred on a site in England it would no doubt have been hailed as a Wessex Biconical Urn or derivative.⁴ In Scotland the sherd would probably be included with the Cordoned Urn series, emphasising the difficulty at present felt over the definition of both.

Into the category of 'Coarse Wares' must at present fall a considerable proportion of the sherds recovered from Tentsmuir. These represent, in the vast majority of cases, plain wares, of which some, at least, may well be contemporary with the vessels already discussed. Sherds 75 and 79 may, indeed, on grounds of fabric be assigned to the bases of Collared or Cordoned vessels. Others may belong more definitely to a Late Bronze Age context.⁵ One sherd, 88, has been labelled 'Covesea Ware'⁶ and some sherds, like 77 and 83, have rim profiles which can certainly be matched amongst the 'flat rimmed ware' at Old Keig.⁷ On the whole, however, the sherds cannot easily be pigeon-holed and this seems reason enough for publication in the hope that someone will undertake a fresh, and one hopes rewarding, study of the Bronze Age coarse wares of Scotland.

The pottery collected and examined includes nothing which can be placed with any certainty earlier than the Late Neolithic, but it is clear that from that time onwards the light soils of Tentsmuir were attractive to many different groups of settlers. From the records kept by the collectors no locality yielded one type of pottery alone, though no great significance need be read into this. The intermittent exposure of an old ground surface over a number of years does not afford an opportunity to define the extent of individual sites with any precision, and no systematic excavation has so far been attempted.⁸ Though some of the sherds could result from disturbed burials, the majority of sherds are likely to represent settlement material. To what extent this settlement was continuous is a question not readily answered by mere study of a surface collection. The collection has, however, underlined the chronological depth and cultural complexity of this small, but important, corner of NE. Fife.

¹ R. H. Hayes, *The Chambered Cairn and adjacent monuments on Great Ayton Moor, North East Yorkshire* (1967), 26, P 2 and 29, P 4.

² *PSAS*, LXXXIII (1948-9), 227, fig. 3, 1 and 2.

³ Excavated by Mr R. D. M. Candow. To be published.

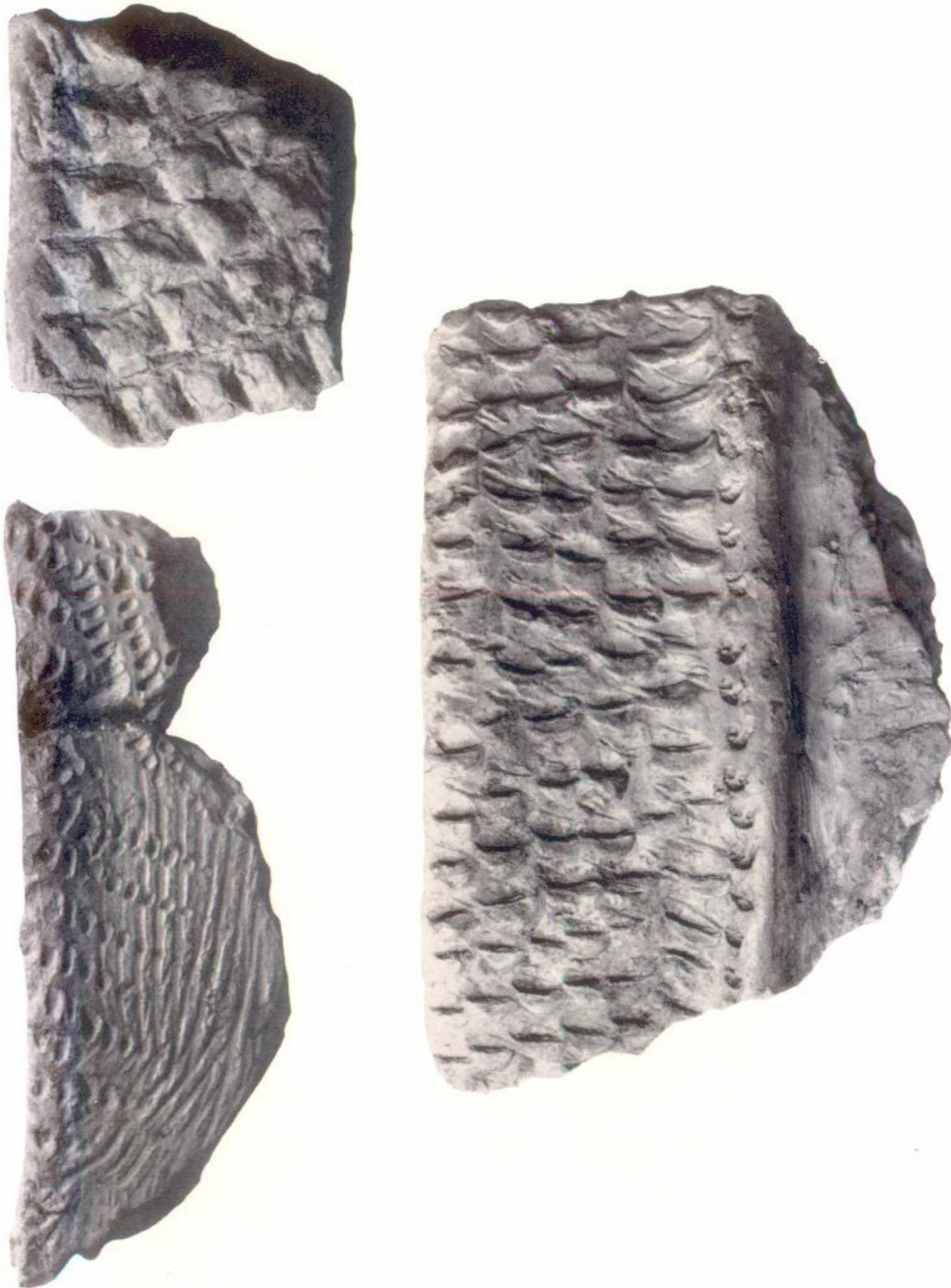
⁴ *Helinium* (1961) 1, 97 ff. J. B. Calkin aptly remarks on the puzzling distribution of Wessex Biconical Urns in *Arch. J.*, CXIX (1964), 47.

⁵ Dr Coles has published a swan's neck sunflower pin found on Tentsmuir which would date to the final phase of the Late Bronze Age in Scotland. *PSAS*, xcii (1958-9), 9, No. 7.

⁶ cf. profile with *PSAS*, LXV (1930-1), 190, fig. 11, 2.

⁷ cf. profiles with *PSAS*, LXVII (1932-3), 46, fig. 5, 5, 4 and 8 respectively.

⁸ Systematic excavation of a mesolithic site on Morton Farm has, however, already been undertaken by Mr R. D. M. Candow and published in *Aspects of Antiquity* (1966), Abertay Historical Society Publication No. 11, 43 ff.



Neolithic pottery from Brackmont Mill: *above left* No. 11, scale $\frac{1}{4}$; *above right* No. 20, scale $\frac{1}{4}$; *below* No. 3, scale approximately $\frac{1}{4}$