Excavation of a multi-period site in Weston Wood, Albury: the pottery

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with pottery catalogue by V M D Wilson

This paper examines the prehistoric pottery recovered from the excavation of a multi-period site in Weston Wood, Albury, between 1961 and 1965. Two areas, which are here referred to as areas 1 and 2, were investigated as a rescue excavation in advance of the destruction of the site by sand extraction.

The earliest ceramic evidence is represented by a small, but important, group of sherds of Peterborough Ware in the Mortlake style, some of which are decorated with twisted and plaited cord impressions, shallow incisions and finger-pinched impressions.

The main importance of the site, however, lies in the discovery of a series of pits, hearths and at least two hut structures in association with pottery, flint and copper artefacts of Late Bronze Age date. Two huts, defined by a ring of post-holes with a central post setting, a number of hearths and several pits were found on area 1 (fig 2). A pit, which lay on the periphery of a large flattened rectangular feature interpreted by the excavator as a working area, contained most of a large coarseware jar that held the remains of charred barley and emmer wheat which gave a radiocarbon date of 510±110 bc (Q-760). The pottery assemblage from this area includes coarseware jars, fineware bowls, and cups. About half of the identifiable vessels carry decoration either on their rims or shoulders. Two copper ingots and an awl were also recovered.

Area 2 (fig 4), some 30m south of area 1, provided a large number of pits and hearths and a few post-holes, but unfortunately no structures could be inferred. Prolonged activity is suggested by the superposition of several pits, and the stratigraphic sequence in, and evidence for recutting or cleaning out of, other pits. A large assemblage of pottery was recovered which includes a similar range of vessels to that found on area 1, but lacks, most notably, the tripartite bowl form and the range and frequency of decoration observed there. Indeed, very few vessels on area 2 carry any form of decoration. Biconical spindle-whorls and cylindrical loom weights are also represented.

The ceramic evidence strongly suggests a chronological division of the two areas. Area 2 is characterised by what Barrett (1980) has defined as 'plainware' assemblage, which finds its closest parallels at Green Lane, Farnham (Elsdon 1982), Aldermaston Wharf (Bradley et al *1980), Queen Mary's Hospital, Carshalton (Adkins & Needham 1985) and certain vessels at Runnymede Bridge (Longley 1980), probably indicating a date in the 10th or 9th centuries BC. A development of this assemblage is suggested by the pottery from area 1, which is characterised by the introduction of new forms, finer, sandy and organic tempered fabrics, and a markedly high incidence of decoration. Such an assemblage would appear to lie probably at the beginning of Barrett's (1980) so-called 'decorated' series and finds affinity with certain material from Runnymede Bridge, though not strictly a 'decorated' assemblage, Petters Sports Field (O'Connell 1986) and Knight's Farm (Bradley* et al *1980). By analogy a date probably in the 8th–7th centuries BC is suggested, which accords with the single radiocarbon date of 510±110 bc taken at two standard deviations.*

Apart from several ditches and two rectangular areas comprising parallel spade-dug furrows of unknown, but presumably recent, date, and part of a Late Iron Age bowl (section 7, microfiche 32–3), the site appears to have remained unoccupied since the Late Bronze Age.

1 Introduction

Excavations in Weston Wood, Albury, directed by Joan Harding from 1961–5, revealed structures, hearths and numerous pits associated with pottery, spindle-whorls, loom weights and a variety of other artefacts, representing a settlement of Late Bronze Age date. Despite the undoubted importance of the site – the first of its kind to be discovered in Surrey – and the significance to pottery studies of one of the largest assemblages of Late Bronze Age ceramics from the county, little apart from a short interim report (Harding 1964) and a number of accounts in the *SyAS Bulletin* (**9** (1965), **14** (1966) and **36** (1967)) has been published. Recent advances in our

understanding of LBA ceramics, resulting particularly from two seminal papers by Barrett (1975 and 1980), have redefined the ceramic and chronological framework of the period and necessitated the re-evaluation of a number of sites previously described as Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age. This renewed interest in the Late Bronze Age, coupled with the excavation of two sites of national importance at Runnymede Bridge and Petters Sports Field, Surrey, has rightly focused attention once more on Weston Wood. The opportunity has consequently been taken by the Excavations Committee of the Surrey Archaeological Society to examine and publish the ceramic evidence from the site prior to the publication of the excavation report. This paper has therefore attempted to provide as much detail as possible so that the ceramic evidence may be correlated with the eventual report on the excavations. The ceramic finds are housed in Guildford Museum together with a complete card index of the pottery.

2 The excavations

This section is not intended to provide a comprehensive report on the excavations: it is hoped that this will be supplied by Miss Harding at a later date. Unfortunately, very little can be said about the excavations because completed plans, sections and detailed contextual information were not made available to the writer. Consequently this section of the report has had to be based upon the published interim account of area 1 (Harding 1964) and original finds labels accompanying the pottery. These labels are particularly useful since they provide brief context descriptions, depths of features and, occasionally, feature interpretations.

The plan of area 2 (fig 4) was redrawn from an original site working drawing dated 1965 supplied by Guildford Museum, but is incomplete and represents only a portion of the excavated area.

The site (TQ 053 485) lies on a flattened area of a wooded hill slope overlooking the

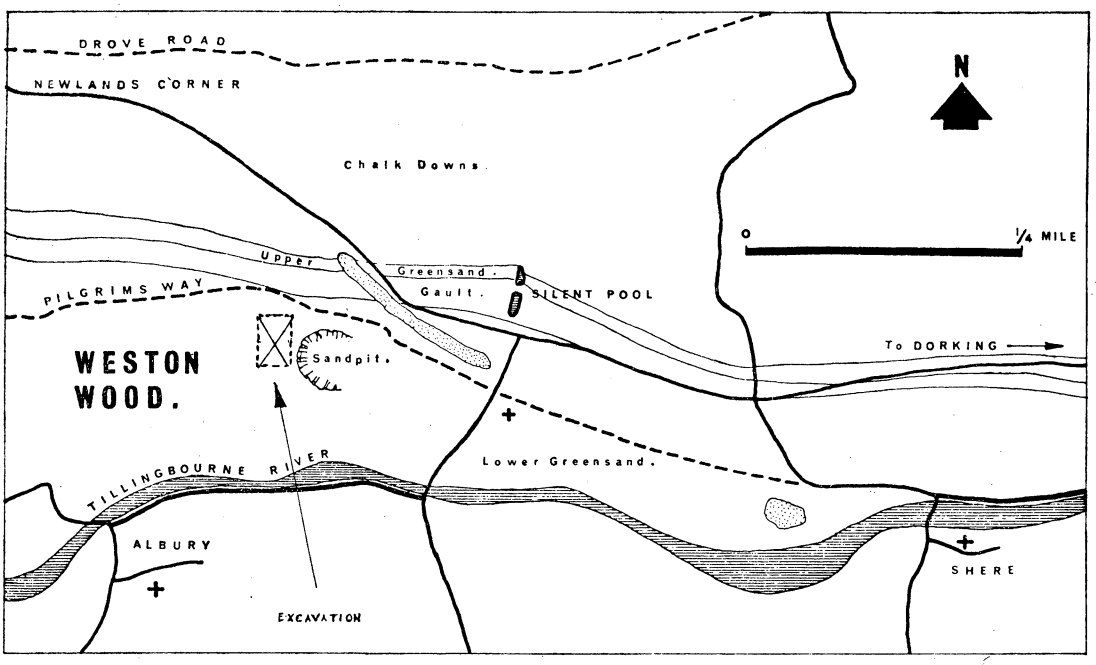


Fig 1. Weston Wood. Location map (reproduced from Miss J M Harding's Interim Report, in Vol 61 of Surrey Archaeological Society's *Collections*)

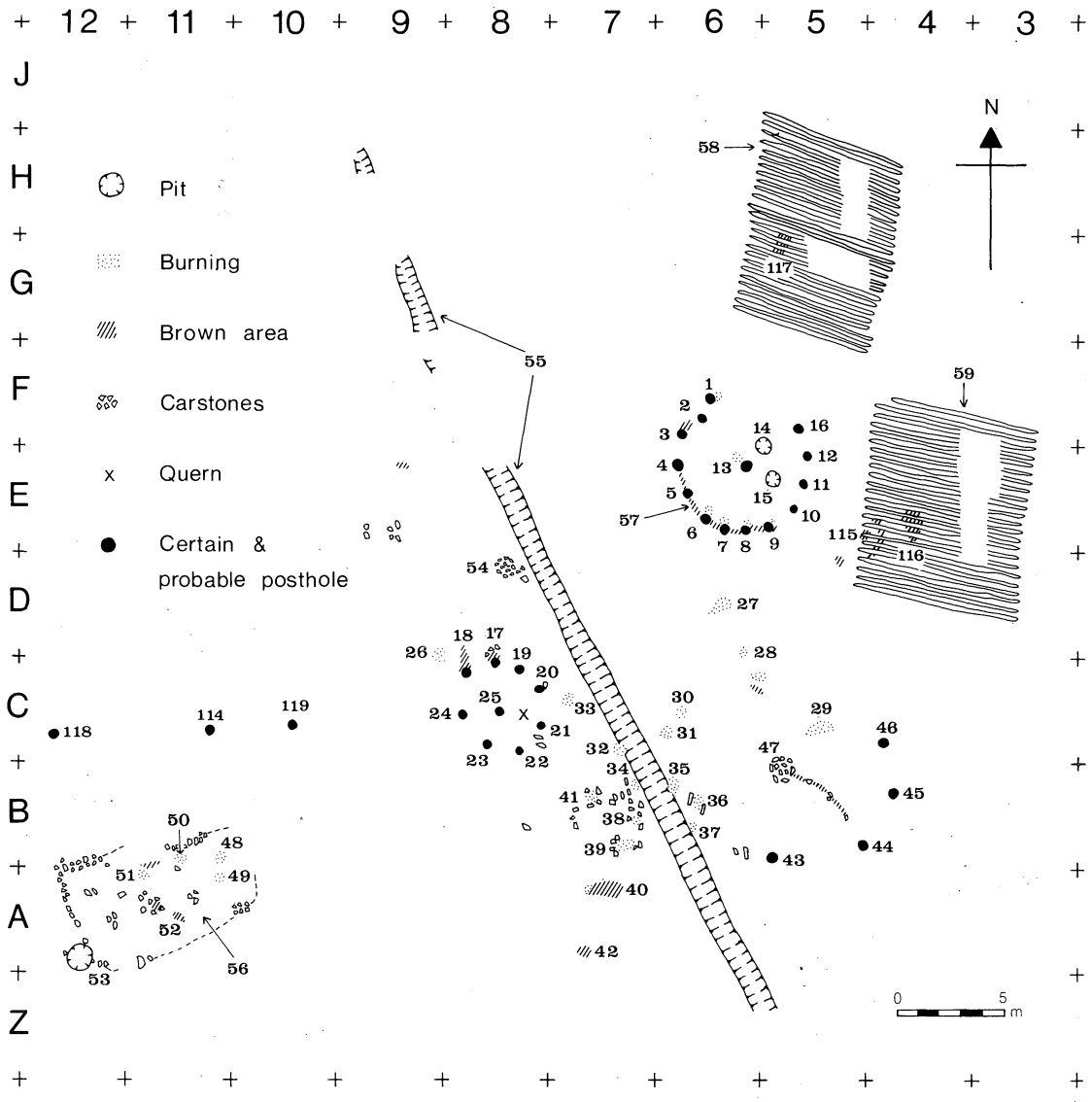


Fig 2. Weston Wood. Site plan of area 1 showing hut structures and associated features; taken from Harding 1964, fig 1

Tillingbourne River (fig 1). The underlying geology comprises Folkestone and Hythe Beds of the Lower Greensand, with more or less broken lenses of carstone or carstone pebbles (Dines & Edmunds 1929). To the north is a fairly narrow belt of Gault Clay and just beyond rises the chalk escarpment of the North Downs.

Extensive sand quarrying led to the discovery of the site, and the archaeological investigations that followed were of necessity in the nature of rescue operations. Two areas were examined, defined here as 1 and 2 (figs 2 and 4), and were dug using a 16ft (4.88m) grid, though the limits of the excavation have not been established by the author and have had to be inferred from the presence of pottery in grid units. The precise relationship of the two areas is also not known, though area 2 was 30m south of area 1. Finds were recorded by grid co-ordinates comprising a series of letters and numbers. Those for area 2 have an A prefix, eg AJ or AK, to distinguish them from those

of area 1. Features were given an additional letter suffix enclosed in a triangle. It would appear that certain concentrations of pottery, certainly not features, were similarly provided with a letter suffix. Since this system is somewhat cumbersome and confusing it has been replaced by a numeric sequence where each context/feature has a unique number; layers have been numbered sequentially: those from pits have their feature number followed by the layer notation. In certain instances, where expedient, the original grid co-ordinates have been quoted. A concordance list of the two systems appears in appendix 1 (Microfiche 2).

2.1 AREA 1

2.1.1 *Stratification*

The area had been previously mechanically stripped of humic forest soil (L1). Machining removed parts of a brown sandy soil containing prehistoric pottery (L2) and, in places, penetrated a Bronze Age occupation surface (L3) which occurred at about 0.55m below the top of L1. L3 was 0.15m thick and consisted of lumps of carstone, considerable amounts of broken pottery and burnt clay in a dark-brown, sandy matrix. Several hearths, pits and three structures were associated with L3, but the precise nature of the relationship cannot adequately be inferred from available documentation.

2.1.2 *Structures*

Evidence for structures derives from a series of post-holes and wall trenches suggesting three huts of round or oval form. The size and shape of these compares well with examples from Runnymede Bridge, Egham (Longley 1980, 7–11), Rams Hill, Berkshire (Bradley & Ellison 1975, 52–60), Petters Sports Field, Egham (O'Connell 1986, 15–18), and Black Patch, Sussex (Drewett 1982).

Structure 1. This is represented by the partial plan of a series of 11 truncated post-holes (F1–11) and two possible post-holes (F12 and 16) set 1.22m apart, linked by a shallow wall trench (F57). There was also a central post-hole (F13) which contained carstone pieces, presumably as packing material for the withdrawn post, and several sherds of a decorated jar (vessel 26, fig 15). Two pits (F14 and 15), 0.91m wide and 0.46m deep with basin-shaped profiles, were found inside the structure. Both pits had several pieces of carstone at the bottom. F14 was empty apart from a brown sandy fill, probably L2. Pit F15 and post-hole F13 were linked by conjoining sherds of vessel 26. A bronze awl, two spindle-whorls (fig 28) and a cup (vessel 43, fig 15) were also recovered from this structure. The estimated diameter of this hut is 6.1m.

Structure 2. This is the complete plan of an oval structure comprising 8 post-holes (F17–24) set about 1.22m apart, with a central internal post-hole (F25). All the post-holes had carstone pieces, presumably as packing for the post, in their fills. A quern, apparently *in situ*, was found inside the structure. This hut has an estimated diameter of 3.65m.

Structure 3. This is tentatively inferred from a series of post-holes (F43–46), a burnt area (F29) and a curious feature which is possibly a post-hole (F47).

A possible fence is suggested by an alignment of three probable post-holes (F114, 118 and 119). Immediately north of this feature was a concentration of pottery sherds which appears to end abruptly at the position of the proposed fence (fig 8).

2.1.3 *Pits and hearths*

Only three pits were recognised in this area. Pits F14 and F15 were associated with structure 1 and have been described above. The most interesting pit (F53) was on the western edge of a rectangular platform F56. F53, which was 1.22m wide and 0.46m deep (fig 3), was cut into one of the few pockets of clay on an otherwise well-drained hill slope, and had become waterlogged. At the bottom of the pit was a virtually complete coarseware jar (fig 13:1) within which were the carbonized remains of six-rowed hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp) and emmer wheat (*Triticum dicoccum*).

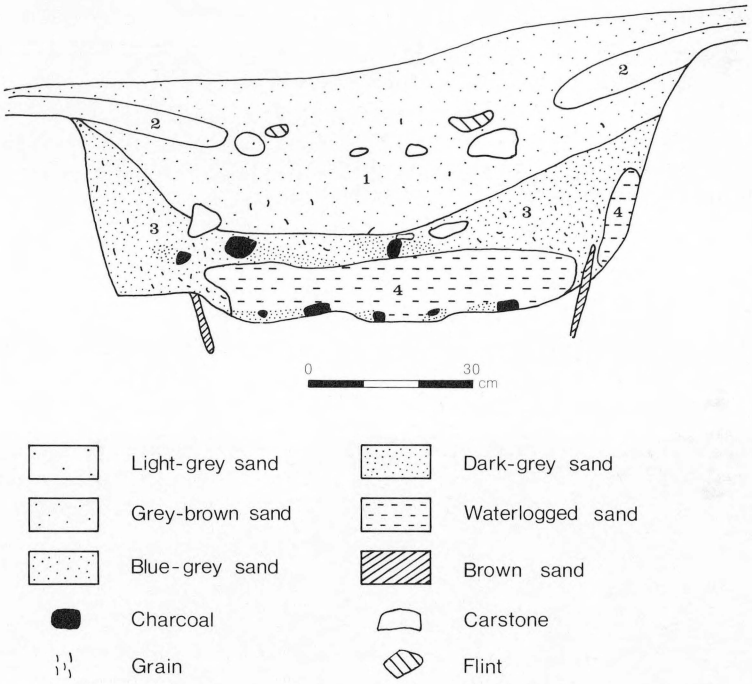


Fig 3. Weston Wood. Section across pit F53, area 1. Note the presence of grain

A sample of this grain gave a radiocarbon date of 510±110 bc (Q-760). Pieces of wood and some twisted flax or hemp fibre rope were also recovered.

A total of 20 probable hearths or burnt areas was identified. Two mains groups are suggested: the first by F27–41, and the second by F48–51. An isolated hearth (F26) occurs outside structure 2. These features are not specifically described in the interim report (Harding 1964), and do not appear as separate feature/contexts on the finds labels, and presumably therefore did not contain pottery.

2.1.4 *Rectangular platform*

A rectangular feature which had apparently been levelled into the hillside (F56) was identified as a working area (Harding 1964, 14). Lumps of carstone in rough alignment defined the north and west edges. Four hearths, F48–51, were associated as was pit F53. Pottery and apparently 'heavy duty' flint implements were found here.

2.1.5 *Garden plots*

To the north and east of structure 1 were V-shaped furrows of two rectangular plots (F58 and 59). Harding (1964, 13) argued that the furrows were cut by spade, were dug probably only once, and were of probable Bronze Age date because of their relationship and proximity to structure 1. However, the *caveat* was rightly aired that because of the destruction of stratigraphy by bulldozing there was no direct archaeological association of the plots with the structure. Some degree of time depth is indicated by F58 cutting a brown feature of uncertain type (F117) and similarly by F59 apparently cutting two similar features (F115 and 116). Neither F117 nor F115–116 yielded any pottery. The date of the furrows has not been satisfactorily established and it cannot be assumed that they are prehistoric (Hanworth 1978).

2.1.6 *Linear ditch*

The area was bisected by a shallow, 1.22m wide by 0.30m deep, linear depression (F55) originally interpreted as a trackway associated with the Bronze Age horizon. Close inspection of photographs of the area raises doubts as to its antiquity. It would appear that it cuts through the Bronze Age layer (L3) and was dug from the top of L2. The presence of 'forest soil' (Harding 1964, 13) is suggestive of late intrusive activity, and as such the feature should probably be regarded as a fairly recent ditch.

2.2 AREA 2

2.2.1 *Stratification*

The soil profile was similar to that in Area 1 with the exception of two additional horizons. A layer of forest soil, 0.30m thick (L1), overlay 0.15m of brown sandy earth (L2). An indurated surface, 0.12m thick, of carstone fragments, burnt flint and much Late Bronze Age pottery (L3), encoun-

Pl 1. Weston Wood. General view of area 2 showing features under excavation

tered at 0.46m below L1, was associated with a series of pits, hearths and several post-holes (pl 1). At about 0.31 to 0.38m below L3, and sealed by a horizon of apparently aeolian sand (L4), was a scatter of ironstone pieces associated with hearths and a possible structure of Mesolithic date (L5). A small assemblage of sherds of Neolithic Peterborough Ware was stratified below L3 apparently at the base of L4 or in L5, but the precise context of this material is not clear (eg: pl 2).

2.2.2 Pits

A total of 44 pits was recognised from a plan (fig 4) and finds context labels. Most appear to form a nucleated group round two hearth/furnaces; a second, smaller, group was also associated with a hearth, but is difficult to assess and interpret without detailed contextual information. Two sizes of pit are represented: large, generally oval examples around 1.20–1.50m wide (F73, 75, 76, 78, 80 and 81) and smaller, circular ones under 1m in diameter (F67, 71, 74, 79, 83, 85, 86, 88, 91, 98, 99 and 104–110). One pit, 0.75m deep (F72), is unusual in that it is markedly elliptical and has four

Pl 2. Weston Wood. Section across Bronze Age pit with a Mesolithic hearth below. Note probably aeolian sand below L3, which overlies the Mesolithic features

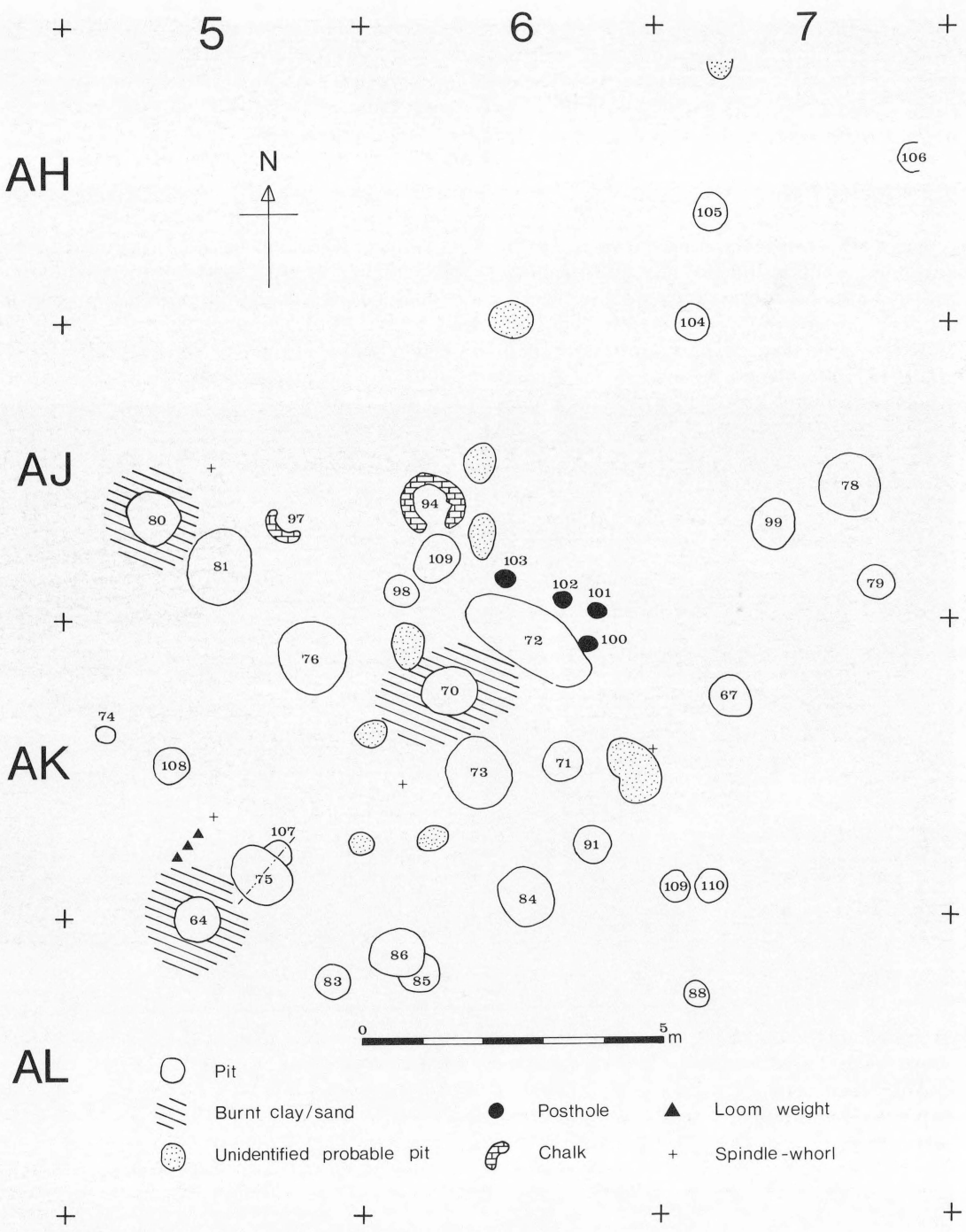
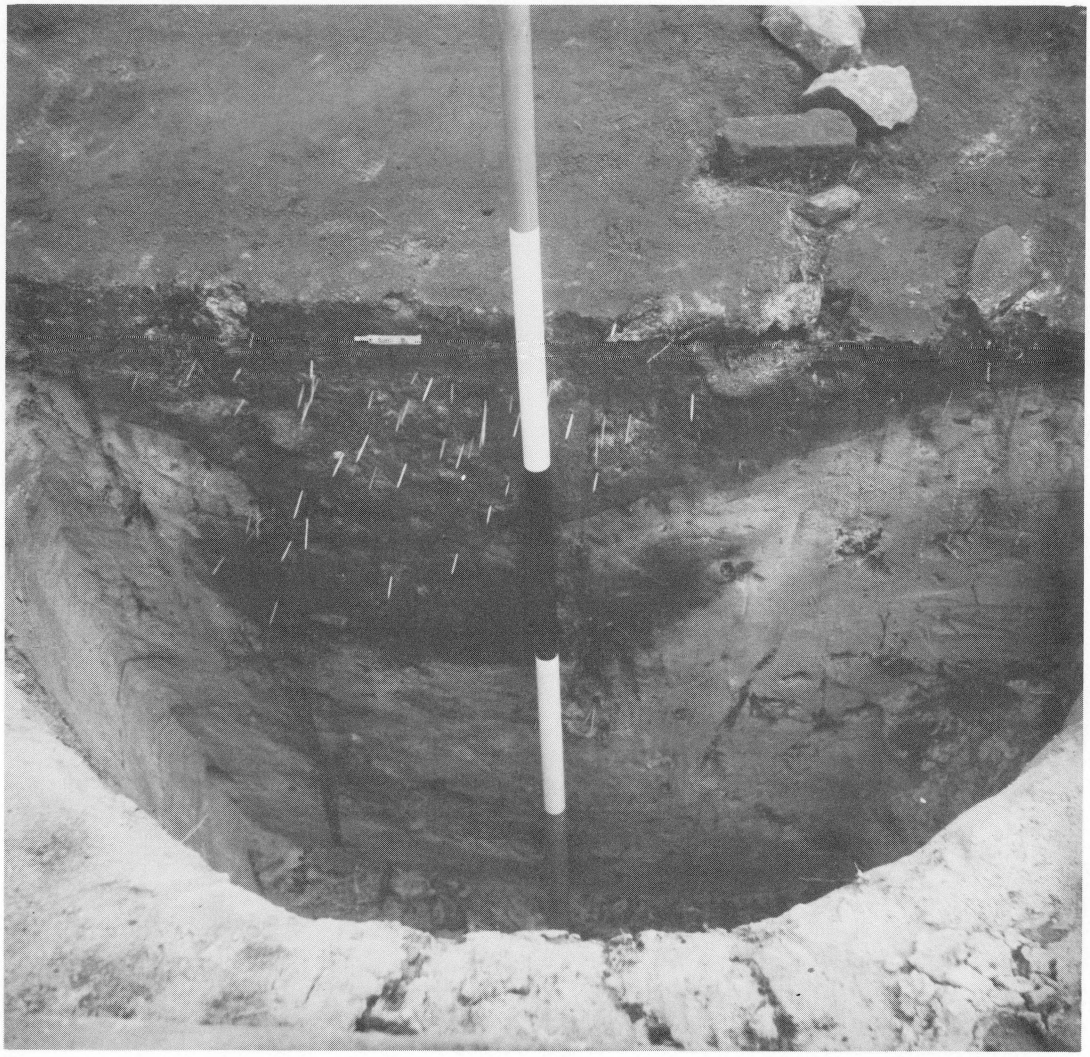


Fig 4. Weston Wood. Site plan of area 2: Later Bronze Age features



Pl 3. Weston Wood. Section across F73 depicting labels marking the position of finds

probable post-holes (F100–103) ranged on its north-eastern edge. Most of the pits were basin-shaped, fairly shallow – from 0.37 to 0.74m – and had relatively flat bottoms.

Although it is not clear how many pits were contemporary or for how long they were in use, time depth is clearly indicated by the superposition of F86 on F85 and F75 on F107 (fig 5). Most of the pits apparently contained undifferentiated dark-brown, sometimes burnt, sandy soil, possibly L3. Pits F61, 62, 73, 75 and 107 had clear stratification, though precise details are wanting (eg pl 3). A section across F75 and 107 (fig 5), which was drawn from a photographic slide, shows an interesting sequence.

F75 cuts a stratigraphically earlier pit (F107) which contained a series of yellow-brown sandy deposits (F107.8, 9 and 11) interbedded between layers of darker sandy lenses (F107.10 and 12). A photographic slide shows a number of colour-coded labels marking the position of pottery and flints, but since the pit does not appear to have been given a specific feature code at the time of excavation, it is probable that the finds became incorporated with those from F75. The stratigraphy in F75 shows that some time after the pit was dug a deposit of yellow sand (F75.7),

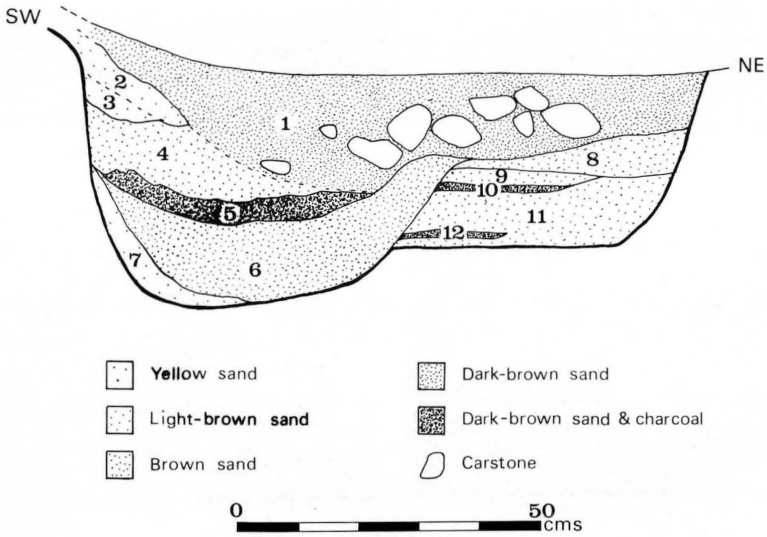


Fig 5. Weston Wood. Section through pits F75 and F107, area 2

presumably the result of the freshly-cut sides weathering, collected at the bottom of the pit. Brown sandy earth containing LBA sherds (F75.6) was then introduced. This layer was overlain by a darker brown, ashy deposit (F75.5) which was sealed by sterile yellow sand (F75.4, 3 and 2). The deposits above F75.4 and 5 were undifferentiated brown to dark-brown sands which contained most of the pottery, and probably represent rubbish disposal in the pit. It is also in these upper layers that large fragments of carstone and erosion deposits were formed, some of which might have been derived from hearths, eg F62 (fig 6, layer 3). This general sequence is also observed in

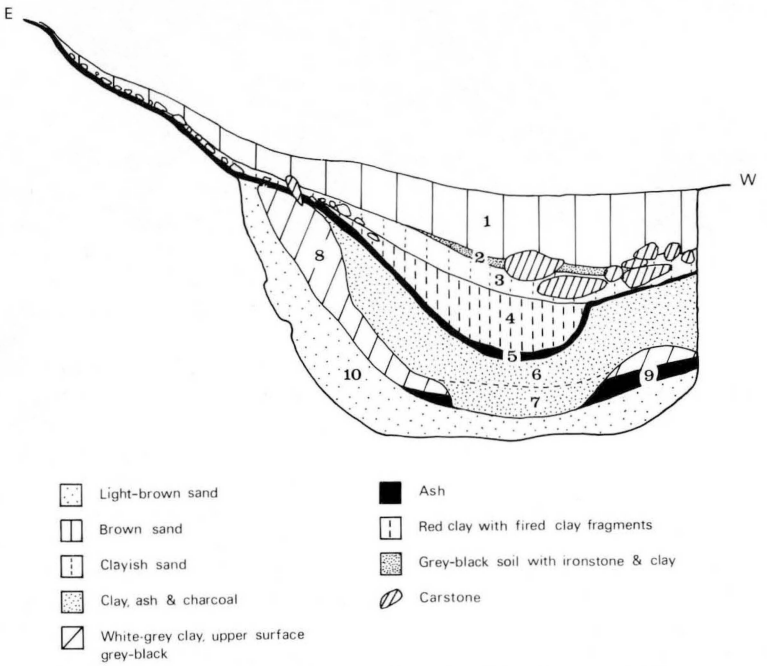


Fig 6. Weston Wood. Section across pit F62, area 2, drawn from a working sketch which has no scale. The width of the base of the pit is approximately 1m

F61 and 62 (not shown on plan, details not being available to the author at the time of writing), and probably represents at least two periods of activity, although the interval between need not have been very long. F62 has clear evidence of re-cutting or cleaning (fig 6; note that layers 8 and 9 have been cut through by layer 7).

2.2.3 *Hearths/furnaces*

Three possible furnaces were identified (F61, 64 and 70). Each comprised a pit, which generally contained much burnt clay, layers of ash and pottery, with a thick deposit of highly burnt clay and sand on L3 around the feature. It has been suggested (J Harding, pers comm) that the burnt clay fragments represent remnants of destroyed clay domes which covered the furnaces. Each furnace also had an associated pit (F62, 73 and 75), the purpose of which is uncertain though they could be ash-pits. In the absence of any metalworking debris associated with these features their function must remain equivocal. Equally the possibility of pottery kilns is reduced by the absence of identifiable wasters or other debris associated with pottery manufacture.

Several small burnt areas, possibly hearths, were also found (F63 and 65, recorded on find labels but not located on plans). These were apparently fairly shallow pits with carstone linings.

2.2.4 *Structures*

Four probable post-holes (F100, 101, 102 and 103) were found on the north-eastern edge of F72, a 0.75m deep pit. Although these posts do not appear to mark a building, it is possible that they represent a fence intended to mask F72 and ?furnace F70 from southerly winds.

2.2.5 *Anomalies*

Two small circular formations of chalk (F94 and 97) appear to be related to the Late Bronze Age activity but their purpose is not known. Very little pottery was recovered from either feature. Chalk is not natural to the area and must have been brought from the Downs or a combe deposit in the valley bottom.

3 Methods

The pottery was classified by fabric and form. All sherds were examined under a binocular microscope at ×20 magnification and grouped according to fabric. Five sherds from each fabric group were examined in thin-section under the petrological microscope at ×100 magnification to assess group variability and aid petrological characterisation. Textural parameters, such as temper size, shape, roundness, sorting and frequency form the basis of the fabric classification. Colour, although recorded, was not used as a definitive trait owing to wide variations even on a single sherd.

In order to avoid over-division of the fabrics, modal size of inclusions was used in preference to maximum size, since maximum size relates to particles which are not representative, often being only 5–7% of the total size distribution, and which probably become incorporated into the pottery more by accident than choice. Even so, it should be borne in mind that some of the taxonomic divisions made here may overestimate the variability in the fabrics.

Temper density, which appears to be a much underused trait in pottery analysis, is an extremely important technological pointer. Ethnographic analogy shows that potters perceive a fabric as the combination of a carefully judged amount of temper of a selected or preferred size, and an amount of 'raw' clay. Variations in the proportion of temper to clay will result in changes of texture, appearance, and probably thermal stability. It is therefore important to examine temper density to add precision and reality to the fabric classification. Density was estimated by use of visual comparison charts (Shvetsov 1955, 229–34), and by point-counting in thin-section (Russell forthcoming).

Fabric descriptions are after Peacock (1977). Sherd colour was described by the Munsell system and gives the predominant colour as well as extremes in shading.

Every sherd from a context or layer, once assigned to a fabric group, was quantified. Although both sherd counts and sherd weights were used, weight was found most useful and was used in most tables and analyses presented in this paper. Rims and bases were also quantified by estimated vessel equivalents (EVES) (Orton 1975; 1980).

4 Neolithic pottery

4.1 CONTEXT

A group of 41 sherds (325g) of Mortlake Ware was recovered from area 2 stratified 0.31–0.39m below the Bronze Age horizon (L3) in a series of contexts for which there is no additional information: AH7 M B, AH7 M A, AH7 M B, AH7 M C, AJ6 M, AJ6 M D, AJ7 M B and AJ7 M D. AJ6 M was an ash-pit which contained a rim (fig 7:1) and decorated shoulder (fig 7:2) from a bowl.

4.2 FABRIC

A single fabric was identified. This is fairly hard, rough, red-brown (5YR5/6–7.5YR5/6) with a usually slightly reduced core and a very irregular fracture. Fairly dense (25%), coarse (most around 7mm, up to 10mm), angular, ill-assorted, calcined and, more rarely, freshly crushed yellow-orange coloured flint protrudes from the surfaces of the sherds. A few sherds have traces of wiping with organic matter, but in general surfaces are fairly rough and unmodified. Vessel walls are thick ranging from 6 to 12mm.

Microscopic examination reveals common (25%) amounts of ill-assorted, coarse (most around 6–7mm, but occasionally to 10mm) flint with some sparse (2%), well-sorted, sub-rounded to rounded quartz sand, most of which is 0.3mm in diameter. The matrix is fairly dirty and is characterised by numerous swirling structures consisting of alternating bands of orange and brown-black clay. This feature is probably due to poor mixing and preparation of the clay. There is also some sparse (6%), sub-angular, well-sorted quartz silt, most of which is around 0.04mm in diameter. The matrix is strongly optically anisotropic.

4.2.1 *Origins*

The main point of interest petrologically is the occurrence of freshly crushed flint. These fragments are orange or yellow in colour and occasionally possess a thin coating of iron oxide. Their cortical surfaces, where preserved, are smooth and weathered. The presence of iron, and the indication of an environmental history in which the cortex of the flint was exposed to prolonged weathering and erosion, probably excludes a source on the Downs: such material is grey or black, generally unaffected by iron staining and has rough cortical material. Ferruginous gravel is a much more likely source. Fresh flint temper has been identified, by the writer, in Mortlake Ware from Downton, Wiltshire (Russell forthcoming) and in other probably Mortlake Ware from Wessex (E Morris, pers comm).

4.3 TYPOLOGY

Despite the large number of sherds, none could be reconstructed and most are small and fragmentary. Of these 14 are decorated (fig 7:1–14). A minimum of four vessels is represented. An everted rim with deeply impressed plaited cord decoration (fig 7:1) clearly comes from the same vessel as a shoulder which carries twisted cord, three rows of plaited cord and fairly regular fingertip impressions arranged in zones (fig 7:2). This vessel is coil-built as shown by the sherds having split horizontally along ring joints. The rim of another vessel has fairly deeply incised criss-

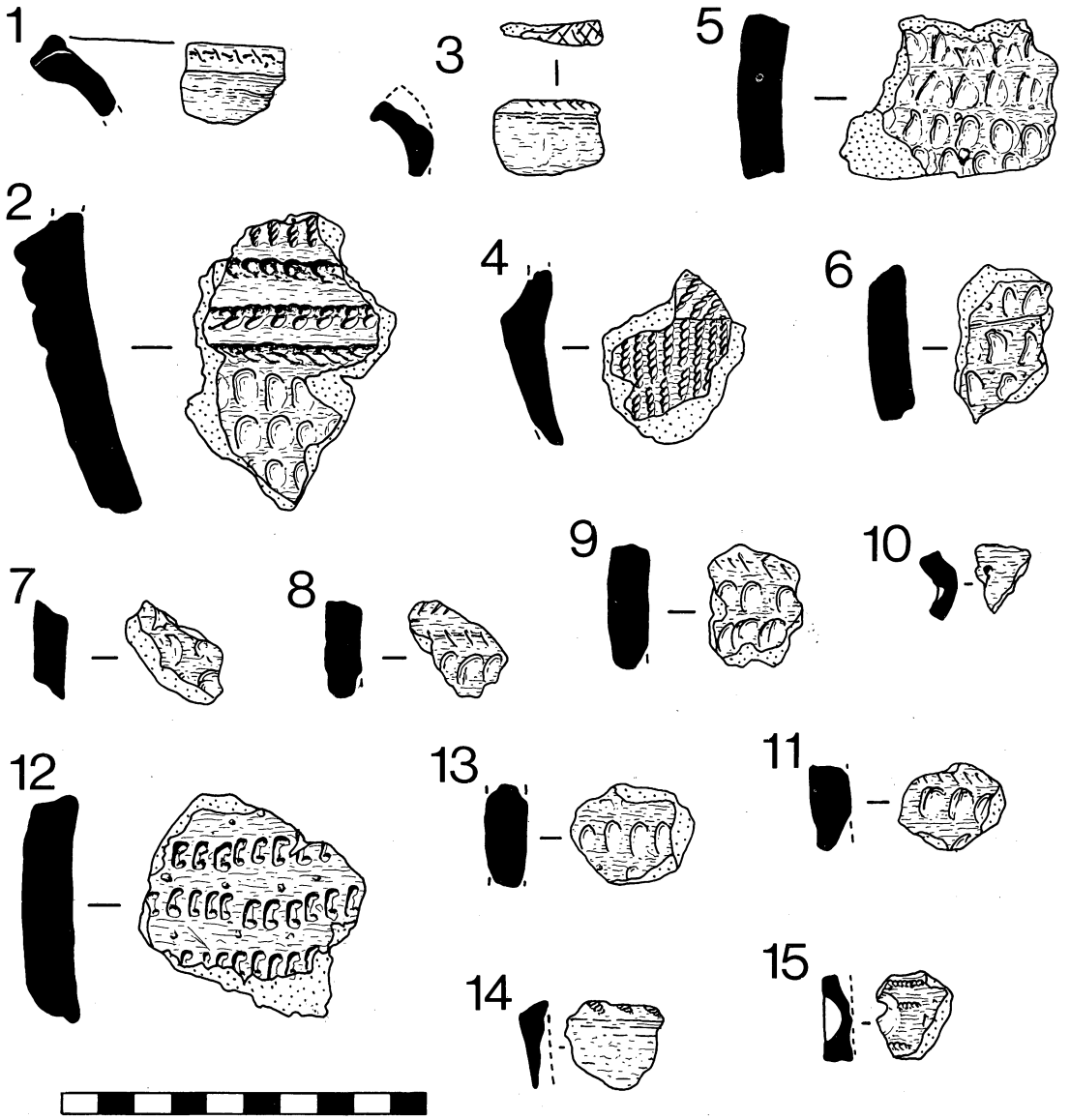


Fig 7. Weston Wood. Neolithic pottery, Mortlake Ware, 1–14, area 2

cross impressions, but only a small part of the decoration survives as the upper part of the rim has laminated away (fig 7:3). Finger-pinching, which is usually well executed and quite regularly arranged, occurs on several body sherds (fig 7:5, 6, 7, 13) and also in combination with rows of deep impressions probably made with a knife blade (fig 7:8, 9, 11). Vertical rows of twisted cord 'maggots' occur on a carinated shoulder (fig 7:4) and in conjunction with a deep fingertip impression (fig 7:10) which is probably from the cavetto neck of one of the vessels. One other sherd has distinctive, fairly deep impressions made with the cross-section of a bird or small mammal bone (fig 7:12).

Although the small size of the sherds militates against detailed typological discussion, the shoulders (fig 7:2, 4) and rims (fig 7:1, 3) suggest probably round-bottomed bowls with carinated

shoulders and cavetto necks. The form, fabric and decorative treatments are characteristic of the Mortlake style of the Peterborough tradition (Smith 1956; 1965).

4.4 DISCUSSION

Peterborough Ware is rather poorly represented in Surrey with its distribution markedly biased towards the Thames Valley. The only notable exception is the important series of Mortlake style bowls from the ditch fill of the Badshot Lea long barrow (Keiller & Piggott 1939).

The similarity between the pottery from Badshot Lea and Weston Wood is most striking. Several of the bowls at Badshot Lea (Keiller & Piggott 1939, fig 55) have twisted cord and finger-pinched decoration together with deep fingertip impressed pits on their necks. One other vessel (Keiller & Piggott 1939, fig 58) has vertical twisted cord ornamentation on its shoulder which is matched by sherd 4 from Weston Wood. Criss-cross incisions as seen on rim 3 at Weston Wood are also present at Badshot Lea (Keiller & Piggott 1939, fig 55). No close parallel has been found for the zoned corded and finger-pinched decoration on sherd 2.

The external relations of the Weston Wood assemblage are not easy to establish owing to the paucity of Peterborough Ware in neighbouring counties. With the exception of Badshot Lea long barrow the closest parallels for the Weston Wood assemblage appear to lie in Wiltshire at West

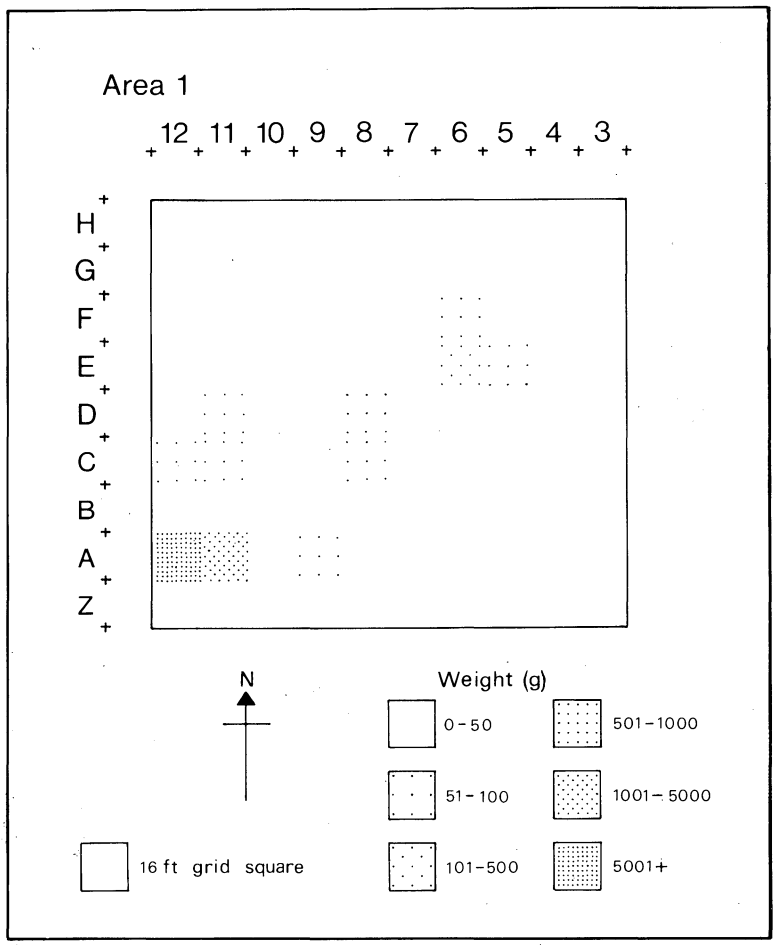


Fig 8. Weston Wood. Plan showing distribution of Bronze Age pottery on area 1

Kennet long barrow (Piggott 1962, fig 11: P9 and fig 12: P16), Windmill Hill (Smith 1965), and Downton (Rahtz & ApSimon 1963, figs 11 and 12).

5 Late Bronze Age pottery

5.1 CONTEXT

Most of the pottery (97.8 kg, 89.5% of the total) was found on area 2; only 11.5 kg (10.5%) came from area 1. The assemblages from each area were analysed separately.

47% of the pottery from area 1 came from pit F53. The remaining material could not be assigned to specific features and was treated as coming from the occupation layer (L3).

37% of the pottery from area 2 came from pits while the rest (63%) was from the occupation layer. The 44 pits identified all contained pottery, though only 24 (F62, 67, 68, 72–81, 83, 86–88, 90, 91, 93, 105, 111–113) had diagnostic pieces such as rims or bases. Three large hearth pits also contained pottery (F61, 64 and 70), but only F61 and F70 produced diagnostic material. Since no significant fabric or typological differences were observed between the pottery from features and occupation layer (L3), the pottery was treated as a single assemblage.

5.2 DISTRIBUTION

The distribution and density of sherds on areas 1 and 2 was calculated by summing the weights of sherds from each 16ft (4.88m) grid square (figs 8 and 9). It should be emphasised that a complete plan of area 2 was not available and that the boundaries of the grid have been inferred from the presence of pottery; they need not represent the true boundaries of the excavation. Letter and

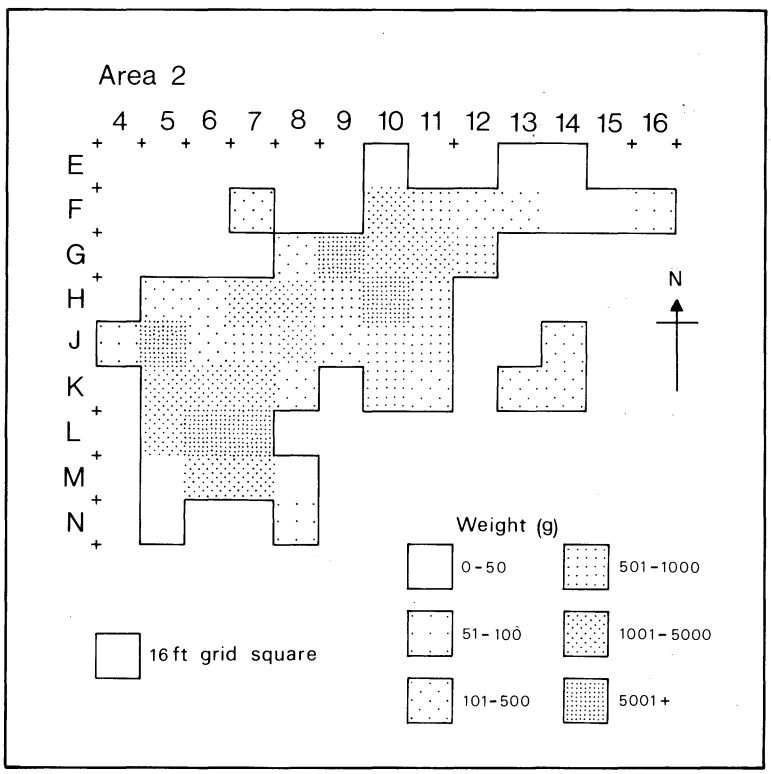


Fig 9. Weston Wood. Plan showing distribution of Bronze Age sherds on area 2

number co-ordinates used at the time of the excavation have been retained here to facilitate correlation with the eventual excavation report.

Sherds from area 1 (fig 8) centre on pit F53, hut 1 and hut 2, and north of the proposed post-hole alignment F114, 118 and 119. Sherds occur in both structures which contrasts with the evidence from several Later Bronze Age structures at Brean Down, Somerset, where they were apparently kept fairly clean (M Bell, pers comm).

Two main concentrations of sherds are indicated on area 2 (fig 9). The first is at grid co-ordinates AL6–7, close to pits F85/86 and F88 but in an area lacking many features. The second focus is at grid co-ordinates AH10 and AG9 in association with two large pits, F61 and 62, and two smaller pits, F60 and 63.

5.3 FABRICS

Fabric A

This is a hard, rough fabric with a hackly, usually monochrome fracture. Colour is variable, but tends towards brown (7.5YR 5/4) to dark grey-brown (5YR 3/1). Surfaces are typically rough, with coarse flint temper (around 3–4mm) often protruding, and show marked irregularities and vertical finger smearing.

Under the microscope there are abundant (30%), coarse (most around 3mm, but up to 5mm), ill-assorted lumps of calcined flint. The matrix, which is anisotropic, contains moderate amounts of fine (0.1mm), sub-rounded, ill-assorted quartz grains, some of which reach 0.2mm in diameter. There are also sparse iron-rich particles and a scatter of fine flecks of muscovite mica.

Fabric B

This is hard, fairly rough, brown to dark-brown (7.5YR 4/4) with a hackly, monochrome fracture, and is distinguished from Fabric A by its somewhat finer flint temper, most of which is around 2mm. Surfaces are quite rough, but most of the temper is masked by surface smearing.

In thin-section there are abundant (25–30%), coarse (most 2mm, but some to 3mm), fairly well-sorted, angular fragments of calcined flint. The matrix is optically anisotropic and contains moderate amounts of sub-angular to rounded, ill-assorted quartz grains, most of which are quite fine (0.1mm) but occasionally reach 0.6mm in diameter, the larger grains tending to be rounded. Sparse, fine (0.15mm) iron-rich pellets and a scatter of muscovite mica flecks are also present.

Fabric C

This fabric is soft, rough and vesicular with a distinctive grey (7.5YR 5/0) colour. The grey colour and vesicular, almost sponge-like, texture suggest that this fabric is chemically altered and decalcified. Although decalcified sherds are unusual on this site, their presence is perhaps explained by a number of clearly distorted, misshapen pieces which appear to be underfired and which may be wasters. The original fabric cannot be determined.

Fabric D

Fabric D is hard, fairly smooth and brown (7.5YR5/4) coloured. A number of medium (most around 1–2mm) flint grits are visible and break through the surface. Fractures are irregular and monochrome. Outer surfaces are frequently smooth or lightly burnished.

Microscopic examination reveals abundant (25–30%), well-sorted fragments of calcined flint, most 1.2mm across, but some to 2mm. An optically anisotropic matrix contains some sparse (2–3%), rounded to well-rounded, ill-assorted, fine (most 0.35mm, but up to 0.7mm in diameter) quartz grains; sparse, fine (0.1mm) iron ore and a sparse scatter of muscovite mica. Two grains of glauconitic sandstone, apparently detrital rather than temper, were also present in thin-section.

Fabric E

This fabric is superficially similar to Fabric B, but is distinguished by a typically slightly burnished outer surface. Despite fairly carefully burnished surfaces, some coarse (around 2–3mm) flint temper is visible. The body is red-brown (5YR4/3) and fractures are irregular and monochrome.

In thin-section there are abundant (30%) amounts of coarse (most around 2mm, but occasionally to 5mm), ill-assorted fragments of calcined flint. The matrix has a scatter of sparse, well-sorted, angular to sub-angular quartz grains, most of which are 0.1mm in diameter, and sparse, fine iron-rich inclusions and is optically anisotropic.

Fabric F

This is a fairly hard, fairly smooth, red-brown (5YR4/3) to brown (7.5YR5/4) coloured fabric with a hackly fracture which usually has a grey core. It is distinguished in the hand specimen by moderate amounts of distinctive red-brown (2.5YR4/6) iron-rich clay pellets which superficially look like, and could easily be misidentified as, grog. Fairly coarse (3–4mm) flint temper is also visible.

Under the microscope there is abundant (25–30%), coarse (most 2.5mm, but to 4mm), well-sorted calcined flint. The matrix contains some sparse, fine (to 0.25mm), ill-assorted, sub-rounded quartz grains, moderate (*c*10–15%), coarse (most 0.5mm, but to 3mm), rounded iron-rich pellets, and is anisotropic.

Fabric G

This ware is fairly hard, smooth, burnished and dark-brown (10YR3/2) with irregular, monochrome fractures.

A moderate amount of fine (under 0.5mm) flint temper is visible in fresh fractures but barely visible on surfaces which are well burnished.

Under the microscope there are moderate (15–20%) amounts of fine (most 0.1mm, but to 0.4mm), fairly well-sorted calcined flint. The matrix is anisotropic, fairly clean and contains some sparse, well-sorted, sub-rounded quartz sand, most of which is 0.25mm in diameter. Very sparse traces of organic matter were also detected.

Fabric H

Fabric H is superficially similar to Fabric G, but has less dense, slightly coarser flint temper. It is hard, smooth and burnished with grey-brown (5YR3/1) surfaces, orange (5YR5/6) margins and grey core. Fractures are irregular.

Microscopic examination reveals moderate (10%) amounts of fairly well-sorted calcined flint, most 1mm across but occasionally up to 2mm. The matrix has moderate, sub-angular, quite well-sorted quartz grains, most around 0.07mm in diameter but with some sparse (*c*2%) well-rounded grains to 0.3mm. There is also a little, fine iron ore in an otherwise clean, optically anistropic matrix.

Fabric I

This is a soft, soapy fabric with dark brown (10YR3/2), burnished surfaces. Very little flint temper is visible in the hand specimen, though some organic material is present.

In thin-section moderate (15%) amounts of sub-rounded, well-sorted, fine (0.1mm) quartz grains are visible. One large (2mm) angular lump of argillaceous material, possibly grog, was also identified. There were also some sparse (*c*5%) platy voids representing completely burnt out organic matter. The matrix is fairly clean, anisotropic and contains a sparse scatter of muscovite mica flecks.

Fabric J

This is a fairly soft, vesicular fabric with orange-brown (7.5YR5/4) surfaces, grey core and a hackly fracture. The ware is tempered with quartz sand and organic material.

Under the microscope the field of view is dominated by abundant (40–50%), well-sorted, sub-angular to sub-rounded quartz grains, most of which are fine (0.15mm) but some are up to 0.45mm in diameter. There are also moderate (20%), large platy voids representing completely burnt out vegetable matter. The matrix is clean and anisotropic with a sparse scatter of muscovite mica flecks and occasional, coarse (up to 1mm) sub-rounded clay pellets. Surfaces are occasionally wiped with organic material.

Fabric K

This ware is fairly hard, rough and yellow-brown (10YR5/4) coloured with an irregular, monochrome fracture. Fairly fine (up to 2mm) calcined flint and quartz sand together with tiny black particles of glauconite, which give a dusted appearance, are visible on the surfaces.

Under the microscope there is moderate (20–25%), well-sorted, coarse (2mm) calcined flint; moderate (10–15%) amounts of medium (most 0.4mm, but to 0.7mm), ill-assorted, sub-angular to well-rounded quartz grains, and moderate (20%) amounts of well-sorted, sub-rounded particles of glauconite, most around 0.25mm across but occasionally to 0.5mm. The matrix is anisotropic and contains moderate amounts of well-sorted, sub-angular to rounded quartz grains, most around 0.07mm, occasionally to 0.15mm, with a sparse scatter of flecks of muscovite mica. There are also some sparse, medium (0.5mm) clay pellets.

Fabric L

Fabric L is hard, fairly smooth with a sandy texture, and has red-brown (5YR5/3) coloured surfaces with a grey core. Fractures are irregular and monochrome. Surfaces are speckled with tiny particles of glauconite.

In thin-section there are moderate (25%), ill-assorted, sub-angular to rounded quartz grains, most of which are 0.12mm, but with some reaching 0.45mm. There is also a moderate (20–25%) amount of sub-rounded, well-sorted particles of glauconite, most around 0.25mm in diameter, and some sparse (5%), ill-assorted, coarse (most 2mm, to 4mm) calcined flint. The matrix is clean, anisotropic and contains occasional flecks of muscovite mica.

Fabric M

This is a hard, rough, sandy fabric which has brown (7.5YR5/4) surfaces and a monochrome, hackly fracture. Surfaces show moderate amounts of quartz sand and particles of glauconite.

Microscopic examination reveals moderate (20%) amounts of well-sorted, rounded to well-rounded quartz grains, most around 0.65mm, but sometimes to 2mm; abundant (25%), sub-rounded and well-sorted glauconite, most 0.2mm but to 0.35mm. There is also some moderate (10%), ill-assorted, coarse (most 2.5mm, to 4mm) calcined flint and some sparse (7%) oblong voids from burnt out organic material. An ansiotropic matrix contains moderate, well-sorted flint, most around 0.3mm and some sparse, sub-angular quartz grains, most of which are 0.1mm in diameter.

Fabric N

This is a distinctive hard, smooth, burnished fabric. Surface colour is uniformly dark grey-brown (7.5YR3/2), sometimes almost black. Fractures are irregular and usually monochrome. Very little of the tempering is visible owing to careful surface smoothing and burnishing.

Under the microscope the field of view is dominated by abundant (25%), well-sorted, sub-angular to sub-rounded quartz grains, most around 0.1mm but occasionally to 0.25mm, and abundant (25%) amounts of medium (most 0.25mm but up to 0.4mm), sub-rounded, well-sorted particles of glauconite. There is also some sparse (5%) well-sorted, coarse (most 1.5mm, to 4mm) calcined flint. The matrix is anisotropic with a scatter of muscovite mica flecks.

Fabric O

This fabric is one of the most highly burnished wares represented and is hard and very smooth. Surface colour is typically dark brown (7.5YR3/2), almost black but sometimes yellow-red (5YR4/6). Fractures are irregular

and monochrome. Very little tempering is visible on the surfaces.

In thin-section there is moderate (20%), coarse (most 1.5mm, to 2mm), ill-assorted calcined flint; moderate (20%) amounts of medium (most 0.2mm, to 0.4mm), sub-rounded, well-sorted particles of glauconite, and some sparse (5%), medium (most 0.3mm, to 0.7mm), ill-assorted, angular to sub-rounded grains of quartz. The matrix is anisotropic and contains moderate amounts of fine (0.07mm), sub-angular, well-sorted quartz silt and a scatter of muscovite mica flecks.

Fabric P

This is a hard, very smooth fabric with a sandy texture and appearance. Surfaces are dark brown (5YR3/1) with orange (5YR5/4) margins and a grey core. Surfaces show profuse amounts of quartz sand and some coarse (1mm) calcined flint.

Under the microscope there are abundant (30–40%) amounts of fine (0.1mm, occasionally to 0.8mm), ill-assorted, angular to rounded quartz grains with some sparse (5%), coarse (1mm), well-sorted calcined flint. The matrix is anisotropic with some sparse, fine (0.05mm) iron ore and occasional flecks of muscovite mica. There are also sparse voids, many about 1mm long, which represent burnt-out organic material.

Fabric Q

This fabric is fairly hard, smooth and burnished with dark brown (5YR3/1) surfaces and a fairly smooth, monochrome fracture. Very little temper is visible in surfaces.

Thin-section analysis shows moderate (25%) amounts of fine (most 0.1mm), ill-assorted, sub-angular to rounded quartz grains. The matrix is clean, anisotropic and contains a scatter of muscovite mica.

Fabric R

Fabric R is a hard, fairly smooth, dark brown (7.5YR4/4) ware, with an irregular fracture. Surfaces are slightly vesicular probably representing completely burnt-out organic temper.

Under the microscope there are moderate (20–25%), medium (most 0.4mm, to 0.7mm), ill-assorted, sub-rounded to rounded quartz grains, and moderate to sparse (7–15%), oblong, platy voids from organic material, probably vegetable matter, eg grass or chaff. The matrix is anisotropic and contains sparse amounts of medium (0.4mm), well-rounded iron-rich pellets and moderate amounts of fine (0.05mm) sub-rounded, quartz grains.

Fabric S

This is a hard, fairly rough, dark brown (10YR3/1) fabric with an irregular, monochrome fracture. The surfaces show abundant amounts of quartz sand.

Microscopic examination reveals abundant (40–50%), medium (most around 0.35mm, but occasionally to 1mm), fairly well-sorted, sub-rounded to rounded quartz grains. The matrix is clean and anisotropic.

Fabric T

This fairly hard, fairly smooth, vesicular red-grey (5YR4/2) coloured fabric is typified by numerous holes, many of which are up to 3mm long and probably represent completely burnt-out grass or vegetable temper.

Microscopic examination reveals moderate (25%) amounts of linear voids; moderate (15%), medium (0.4mm), sub-rounded iron-rich pellets and some sparse (1–2%), fine (most 0.1mm, occasionally to 0.25mm) angular to sub-angular, fairly well-sorted quartz silt. The matrix is clean and anisotropic.

Fabric U

This is a hard, rough, sandy fabric. Colour is variable, but tends to be red-brown (7.5YR5/4); fractures are irregular and monochrome. Surfaces show coarse (up to 6mm) calcined flint temper with fairly coarse quartz sand and particles of glauconite.

In thin-section there is abundant (30%), coarse (most 3mm, to 6mm) well-sorted calcined flint; moderate (20–25%), medium (0.3mm) sub-rounded, well-sorted glauconite particles and some sparse (5%), medium (0.5mm) ill-assorted, sub-angular to sub-rounded quartz grains. The matrix has moderate, sub-angular quartz silt, most of which is 0.05mm, and is anisotropic.

5.3.1 *Origins*

The fabrics resolve into five petrological groups: those with flint temper (Fabrics A–H), group 1; those with flint, quartz sand and glauconite (Fabrics K–O and U), group 2; those containing quartz sand and organic temper (Fabrics I, J and T), group 3; those with quartz sand and flint (Fabric P), group 4; and those with only quartz sand (Fabrics Q and S), group 5.

The flint temper common to groups 1, 2 and 4 is in all cases burnt and crushed. The most likely source for this is the chalk escarpment 0.1km to the north of the site, either as nodules from the chalk or Clay-with-flints. The clay matrix of groups 1, 2, 4 and 5 matches a thin-section sample of Gault clay collected close to the site, and strongly suggests use of this outcrop.

The presence of fine, sub-rounded, well-sorted grains of quartz sand in association with abundant grains of glauconite in group 2 immediately points to a source in the Lower Greensand, probably the Folkestone Beds. The sandy sub-soil of the site itself is of a closely similar mineralogi-

cal and textural composition to the sand seen in thin-section, and is probably the source material. The clay source for this group may be the same as the other groups.

The sand common to group 5 lacks the glauconite characteristic of group 2 and is clearly derived from another source. Many of the quartz grains are rounded indicating either aeolian or water deposited sand. The sand in this group is similar to that in groups 3 and 4 and may have a common origin.

Organic temper, represented by holes and voids from completely burnt out vegetable material, occurs in group 3. Although the precise nature of this material is difficult to establish, it is suggested that it was probably grass, straw or chaff. Traces of vegetable matter have been observed as impressions and wipings on the surfaces of several vessels. A seed impression of wheat (fig 25: 299) has also been identified.

5.3.2 *Fabric differences between areas*

Although all five fabric groups are represented on both areas of the site, there are significant differences in the proportions of each group, by weight, between areas.

Fabric group	Area (%)	
	1	2
1	90.6	80.2
2	3.4	19.3
3	4.0	0.1
4	1.2	0.2
5	0.8	0.2
	100.00	100.00

TABLE 1

Flint tempered fabrics, group 1, predominate on both areas and are roughly equally divided between the two. Group 2 is over five times more frequent on area 2 than on area 1, but groups 3, 4 and 5 are almost totally associated with area 1.

These differences are further highlighted by examining the relative frequencies of fabrics for each area, calculated on sherd weight for each area independently (fig 10A). Fig 10B expresses this information as a proportion of the relative frequencies for each fabric, and attempts to emphasise the relative importance of each fabric to each area. Fabrics J, Q, R and T are exclusive to, and fabrics C, F, G and P occur most frequently on, area 1. Only fabric O is totally associated with area 2, but others, such as fabrics K, L, M and N are more common there. The possible chronological implications of these observations are discussed in section 6.

5.4 FORMS

A total of 1125 diagnostic sherds, ie rims, bases, handles and decorated pieces, was recovered from areas 1 and 2. Of these 751 (66.7%) were rims representing 47.5 EVES. Only rims were used in the typological classification discussed below, since in only a few cases was it possible to attribute bases or body sherds to specific vessel types as defined by differences in rim shape. Most of the rims were small and fragmented, but around 70% of the total were classifiable.

To facilitate discussion of a fairly wide range of forms a type series was constructed (figs 11 and 12). Some of the vessel types, especially in the jar series, exhibit wide morphological variation which might have resulted in the over-division of certain forms: such variation, of course, may represent nothing more than the normal range of variability acceptable to the potter. The type

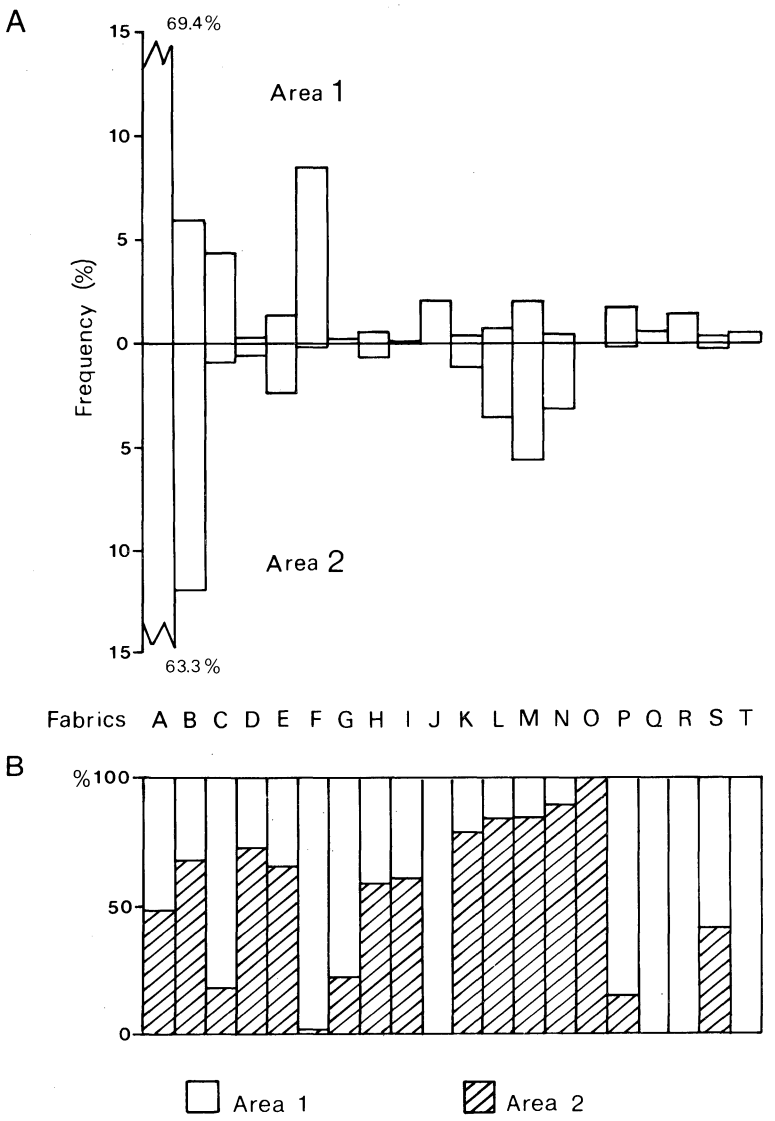


Fig 10. Weston Wood. Histogram displaying the relative frequencies of fabrics on areas 1 and 2

series is therefore best viewed as a summary of the observable typological variation, accepting that some types may be variations on a single theme, and that the impression of rigid boundaries between types is intended only as an aid to ordering the material for discussion rather than reflecting the absolute range of morphological permutations.

The type series incorporates the range of forms from both areas, though significant differences in the occurrence and relative frequency of certain forms exist between areas. Fig 26 shows the relative frequency of forms and decorative treatments found on both areas expressed as a proportion of the total EVES for the site. It should be emphasised that although the total classifiable rims was large, most (84.4%) came from area 2 and only 15.6% were from area 1. In view of this disparity the marked differences in the presence of certain forms and the specificity and occurrence of decoration between areas are all the more significant.

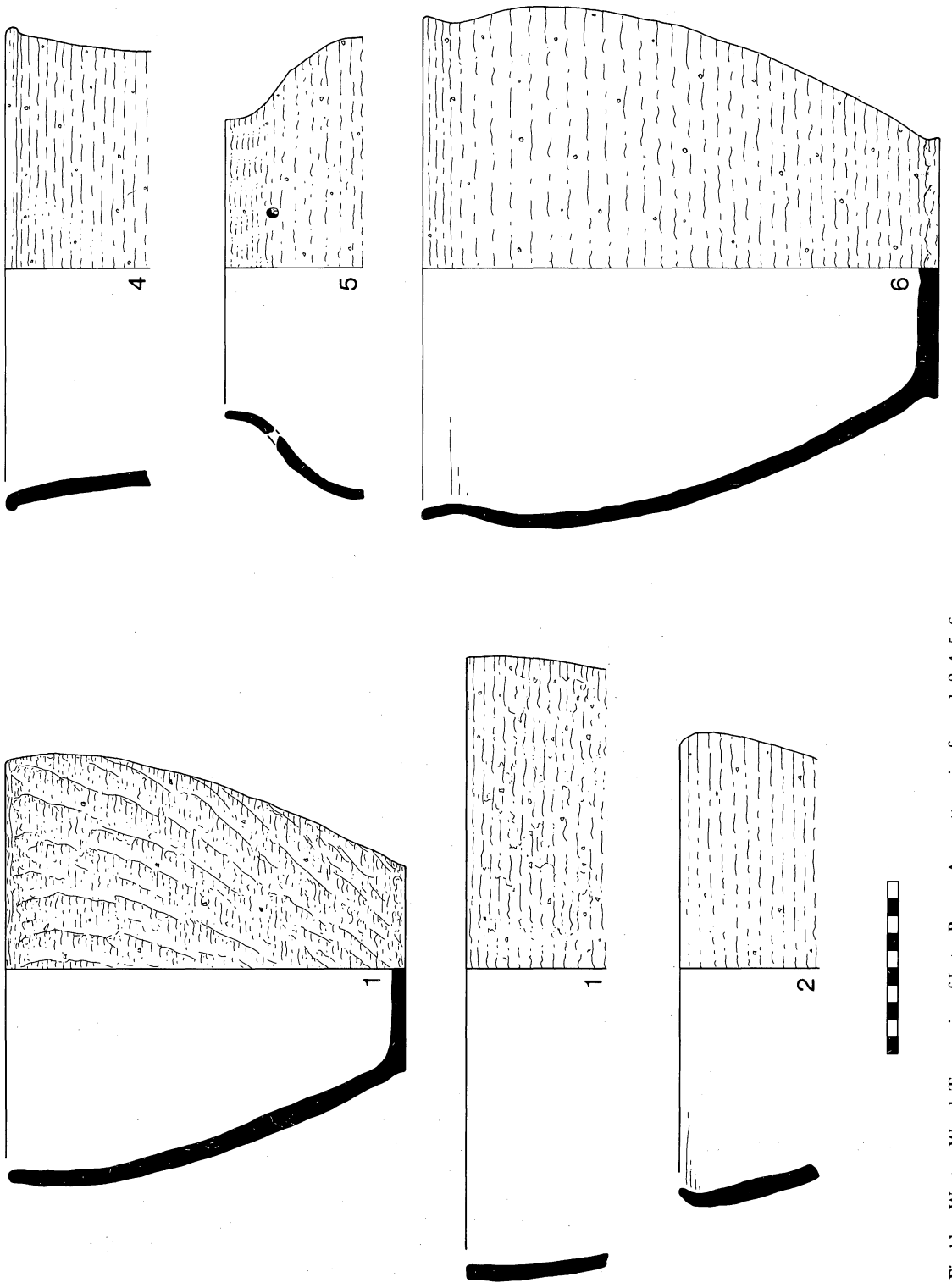


Fig 11. Weston Wood. Type series of Later Bronze Age pottery: jar forms 1, 2, 4, 5, 6

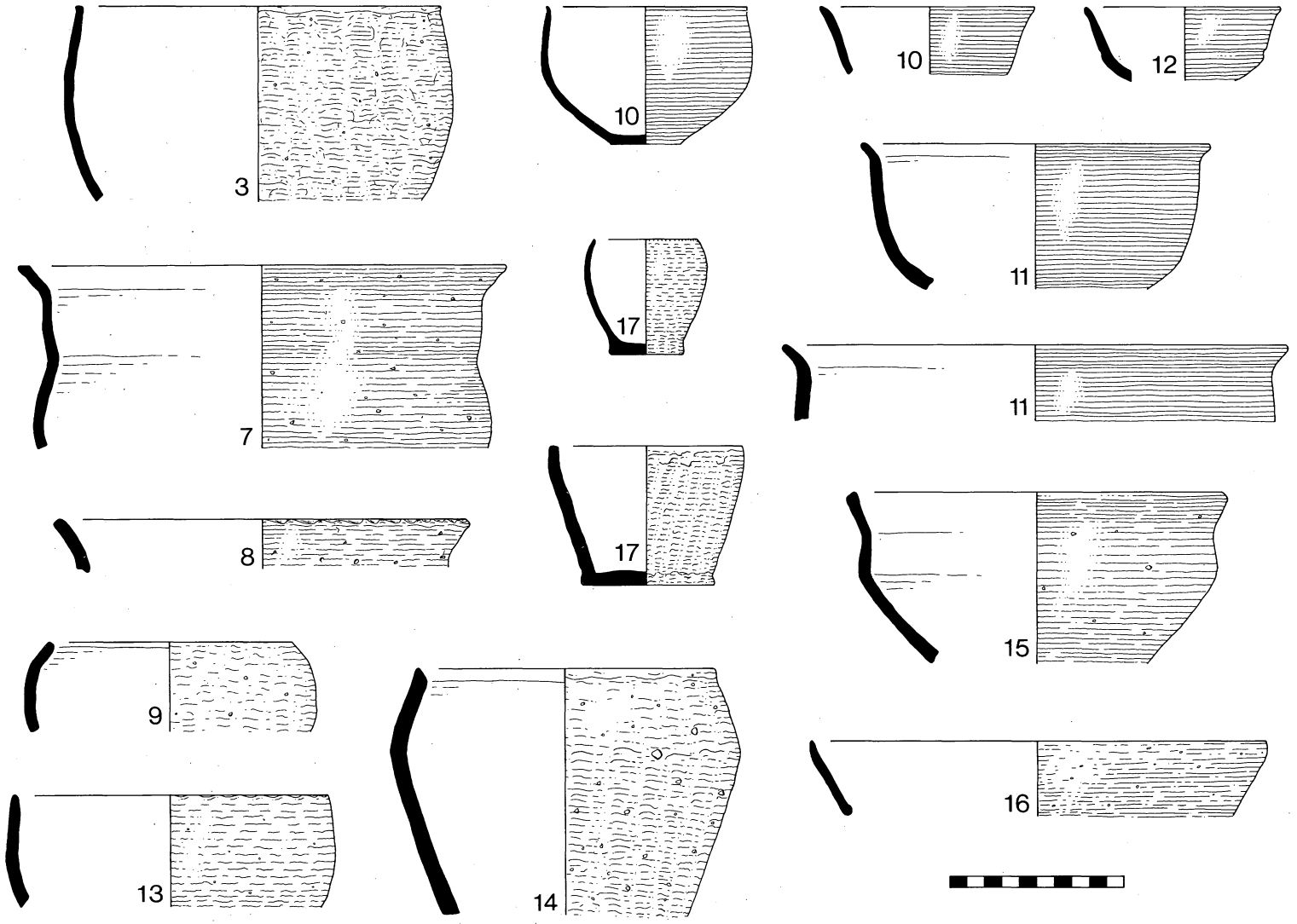


Fig 12. Weston Wood. Type series of Later Bronze Age pottery: jar forms 3, 7 and 8; bowl forms 9–16; cup forms 17

5.4.1 *Presentation*

The illustrated pottery was arranged according to area, and further divided into pit groups and occupation layer (L3). All rims, handles and decorated pieces, and a small selection of bases, from pits were illustrated.

A selection of rims, showing the typical forms but not necessarily reflecting their relative site frequency, a few bases and all decorated and other diagnostic sherds were shown from the occupation layer (L3). Numbers in parentheses refer to the vessel number on Figs 13–25.

A detailed catalogue of the pottery appears as appendix 2 (microfiche 3–31).

5.4.2 *Type series*

Form 1 Slack-sided jars

Form 1 jars have slightly convex sides with simple, rounded (1, 2, 25, 90, 122, 142, 143, 202), flat-topped (7, 13, 147) or bevelled (5) rims. Rounded rims are most frequent (72%); the internal bevel is rare (2%) and found only on area 1. Rim diameters range from 70 to 350mm, with modes between 170 and 310mm.

Bases are typically slab-built and are characterised by a splayed foot (25). Vessel 117 has a narrow strap handle attached by a dowel-like projection inserted through a perforation in the vessel wall and smoothed over to conceal the join. One sherd (271) has a perforation drilled after the vessel was fired. Surface finishing is generally minimal and restricted to vertical finger smearing (1, 116) and wiping, probably with organic matter (117), resulting in a rough, irregular appearance.

Form 2 Hooked-rim jars

This is a variant of form 1 having markedly inturned or hooked rims (207, 218). Rims are usually uneven and irregular, and have diameters ranging from 140 to 330mm, with modes between 270 and 280mm. An applied cordon occurs on vessel 205 and another jar has unusual, round, deep, flat-bottomed impressions which never penetrate the inner surface of the vessel walls (26). Bases are slab-built with splayed feet. Surface finishing consists of vertical finger smearing (207) leaving irregular ridges. Vessel 205 is coil-built.

Form 3 Round-bodied jars

These jars have simple convex sides with typically rounded (66, 141, 157, 169, 228), flat-topped (82, 180), or slightly internally bevelled (12, 211, 216) rims. Rim diameters range from 80 to 290mm with modes from 110 to 160mm. Surfaces are generally rough and irregular with vertical smearing, or less frequently burnishing (249). Form 3 jars are generally smaller and have thinner body walls than form 1 jars.

Form 4 Vertical or near vertical-sided bucket jars

This form is distinguished by the presence of a vertical or near vertical profile which tapers slightly towards the base. Rims are rounded (60), square-topped (93, 102) or more rarely bevelled (273), with diameters ranging from 100 to 300mm. Surfaces are usually smoother and more regular than form 1–3 jars.

Form 5 High-shouldered convex-sided jars

Form 5 jars have pronounced high shoulders and markedly convex bodies; some might be considered biconical. Rims are usually upright and rounded (76, 126, 128, 137, 173, 188, 210) or flat-topped (8, 200, 214). Rim diameters range from 120 to 350mm, with modes between 130 and 270mm. Vessel 291 has a perforation below the rim which was drilled subsequent to firing. Surfaces are generally rough (200, 291) or smooth and burnished (188, 210).

Form 6 Slack-shoudered jars

These are large tall jars with high slack shoulders (73, 132, 225). Some of the form 6 jars on area 1 have rather more pronounced shoulder angles than those from area 2 which characterise the form. Rounded rims are common (3, 56, 85, 136, 174, 217, 219, 227) while flat-topped (58, 139, 189, 204, 267) and bevelled (10) examples are less frequent. Rim diameters range from 110 to 320mm with modes from 160 to 200mm. Bases are slab-built and splayed (132). Vessel 9 has a raised band below the rim and is atypical of the series. Surface finishes are variable, ranging from rough, irregular, smeared (59, 61, 132, 225), wiped (39) to smoothed and burnished (11, 73).

Form 7 Round-bodied, necked jars with flaring rims

This is an uncommon form distinguished by a near vertical neck, flaring rim and convex body (96). Rims are generally flat-topped (171, 226) and have diameters of 160–170mm. A lightly burnished finish (96) is typical, and surfaces are smooth with little trace of protruding temper.

Form 8 Flaring rim jars

This form embodies all those rims with everted or flaring profiles which could not be attributed to other forms, and as such it remains likely that this form incorporates rims from other groups. Most of the rims are rounded (14, 15, 21, 259, 275) or more rarely flat-topped (281) and occasionally carry decoration. Rim diameters range from 130 to 300mm, with a mode at 160mm. Surfaces are variable: rough and irregular (281), vesicular (276), burnished (15) or smooth (14). Such variation probably reflects the likely heterogeneity of the group.

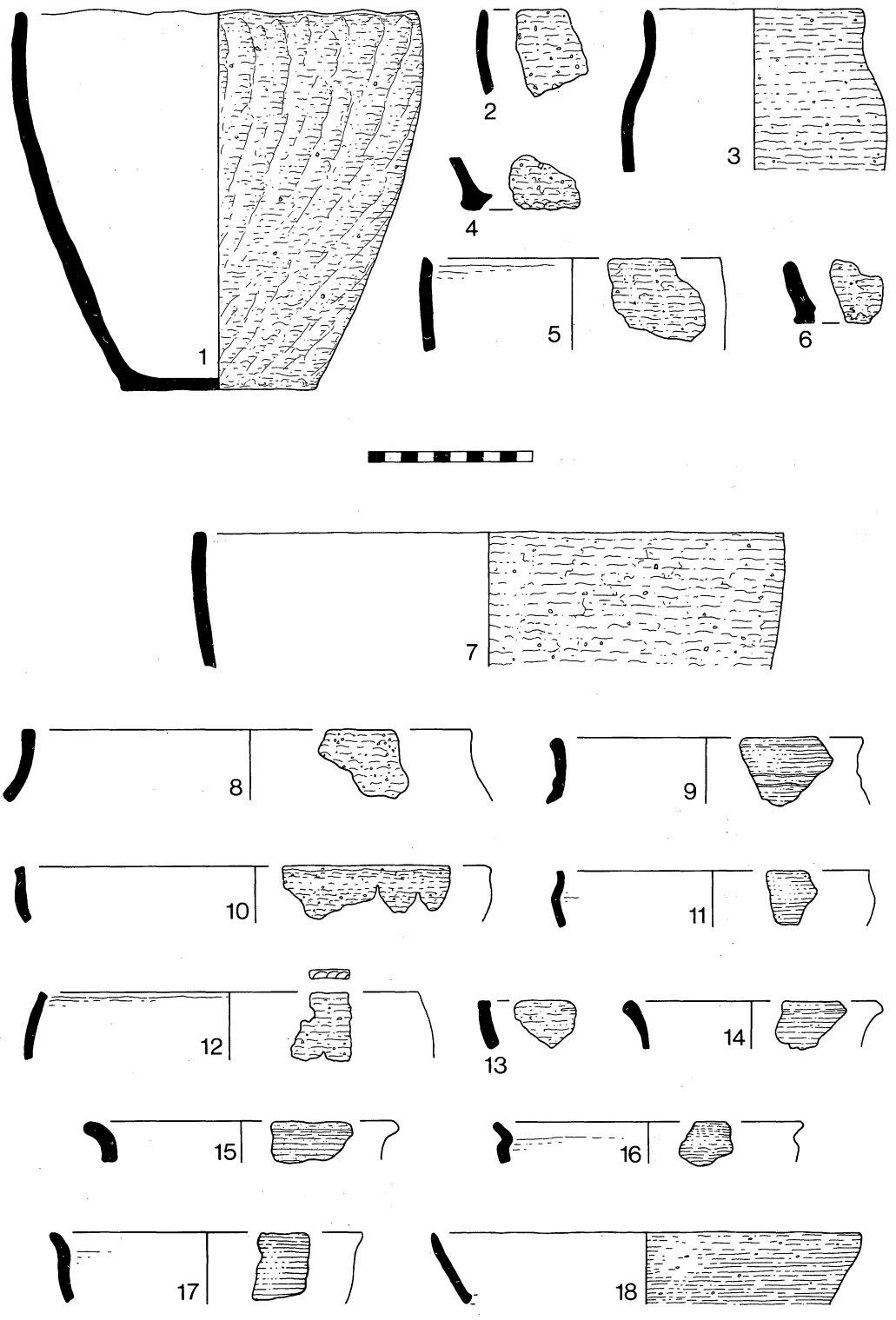


Fig 13. Weston Wood. Bronze Age pottery, area 1, nos. 1–18

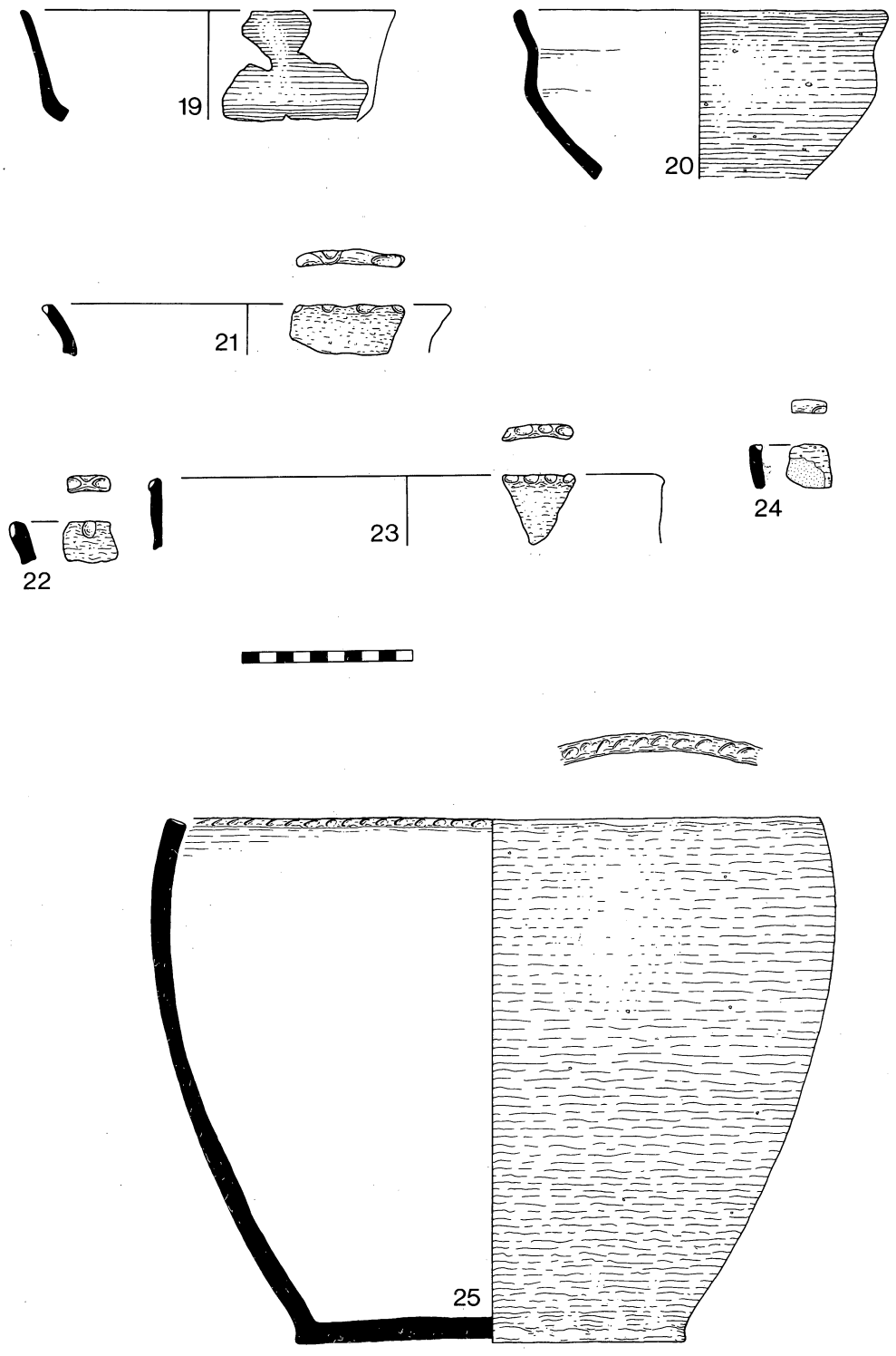


Fig 14. Weston Wood. Bronze Age pottery, area 1, nos. 19–25

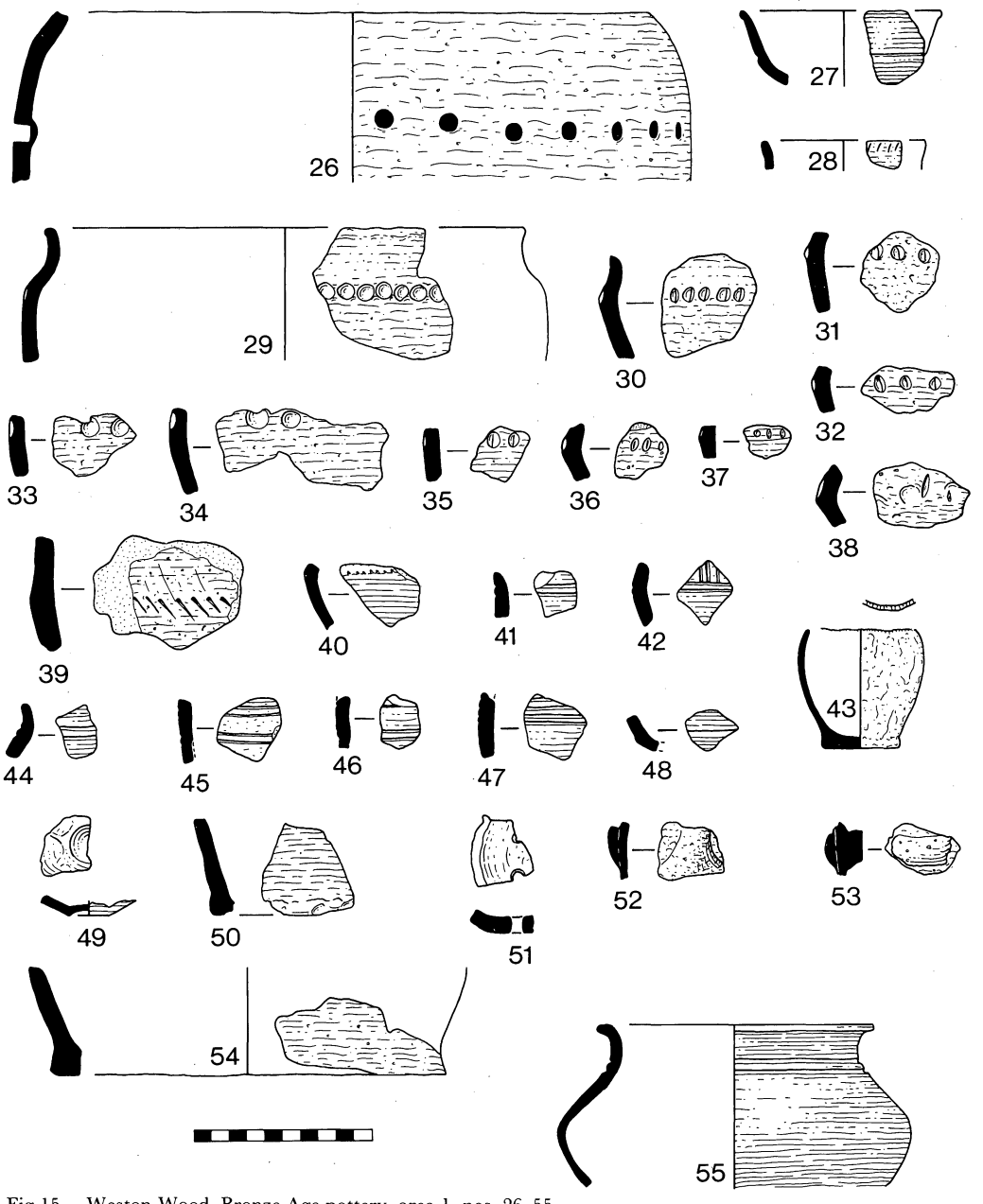


Fig 15. Weston Wood. Bronze Age pottery, area 1, nos. 26–55

Form 9 Convex-sided bowls

Form 9 bowls have simple round bodies with inward sloping (94, 232, 236), bevelled (153, 172, 231, 246) or flat (72) rims. A slight bead is apparent on vessel 233. Rims were formed by squeezing the body with finger and thumb and pressing into shape: traces of such forming marks occur on vessels 94 and 232. Rim diameters range from 90 to 330mm with modes from 110 to 170mm. No base could be attributed, but it seems likely that some of the smaller splayed slab-built examples belong here. Surface finishing is poor, and forming marks are present on several pots. Burnishing (236) is quite rare.

Form 10 Carinated bowls

These are bowls with a simple, sometimes weakly defined carination above which is a slightly flaring neck and typically rounded (74, 81, 163, 185, 235, 237, 240, 241, 243), slightly bevelled (190, 234) or slightly squared-off

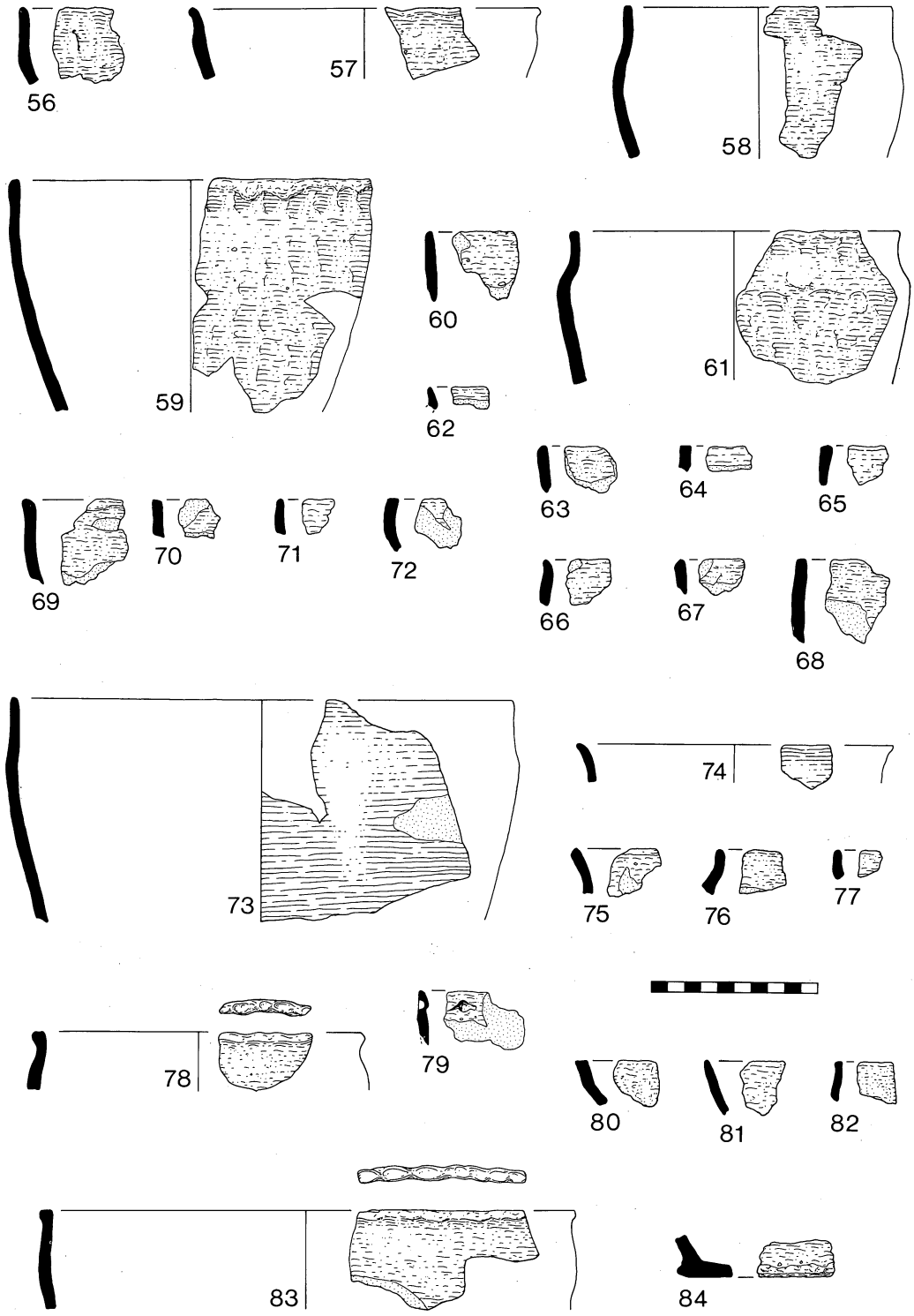


Fig 16. Weston Wood. Later Bronze Age pottery, area 2, nos. 56–84

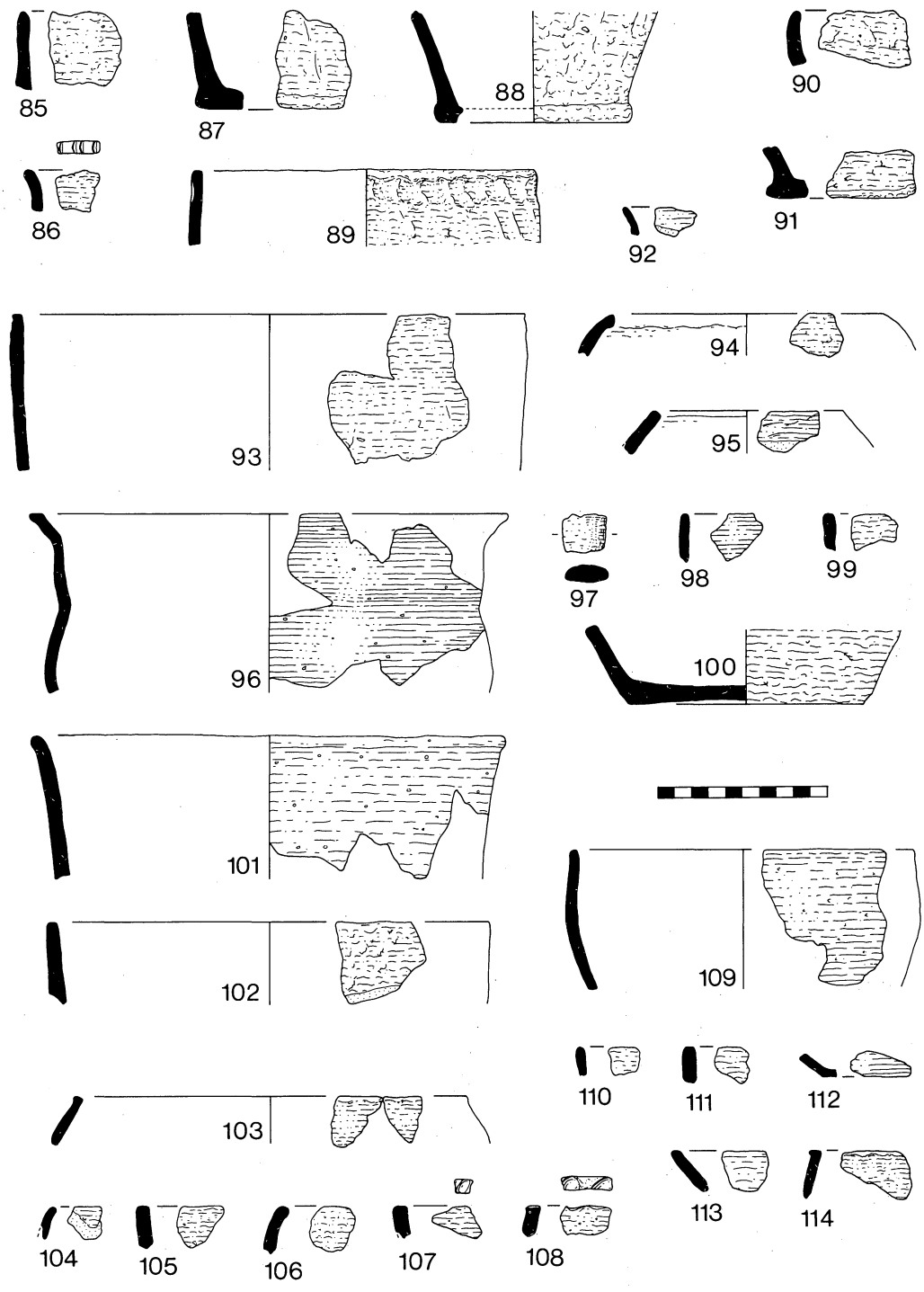


Fig 17. Weston Wood. Later Bronze Age pottery, area 2, nos. 85–114

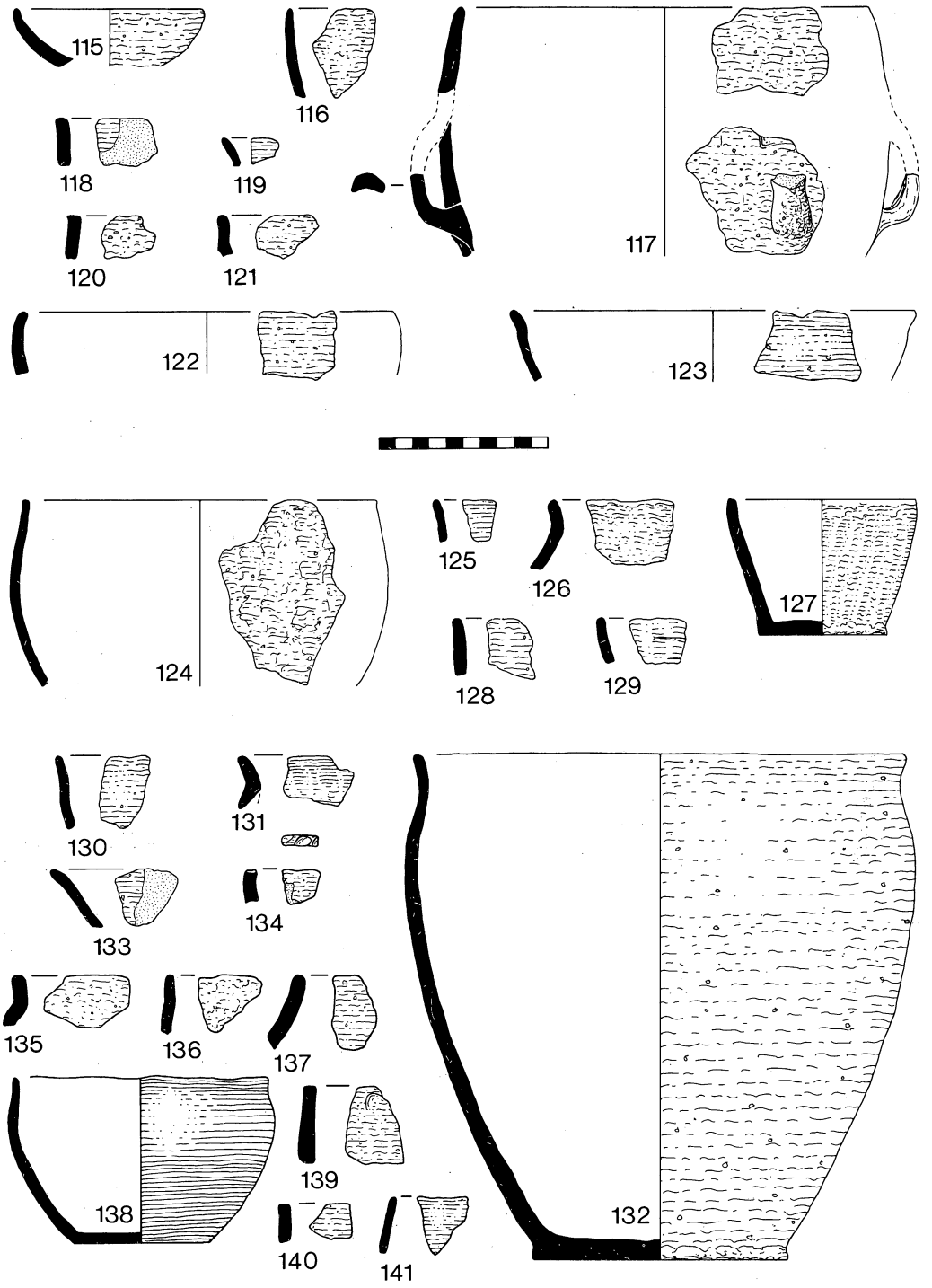


Fig 18. Weston Wood. Later Bronze Age pottery, area 2, nos. 115–141

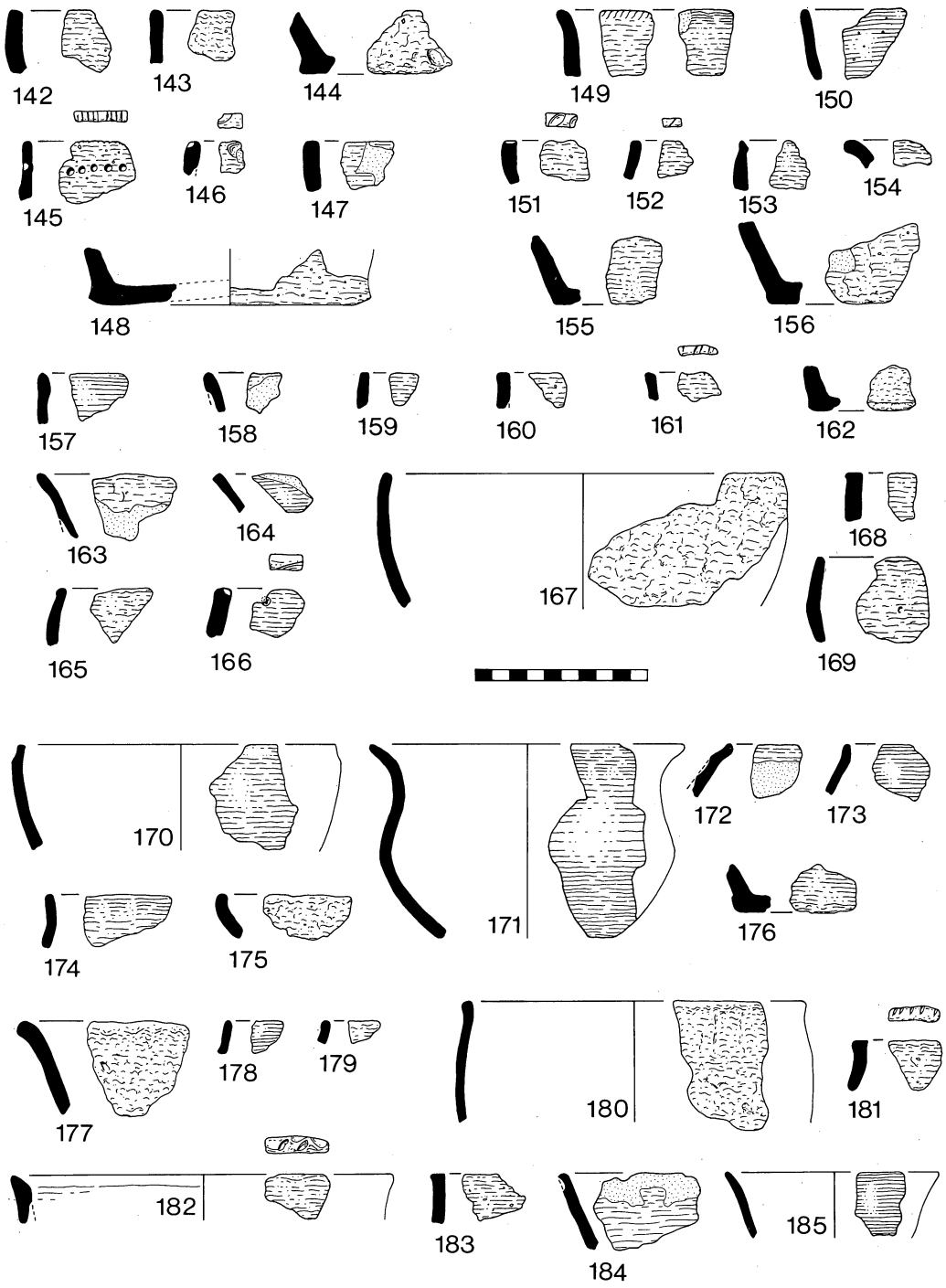


Fig 19. Weston Wood. Later Bronze Age pottery, area 2, nos. 142–185

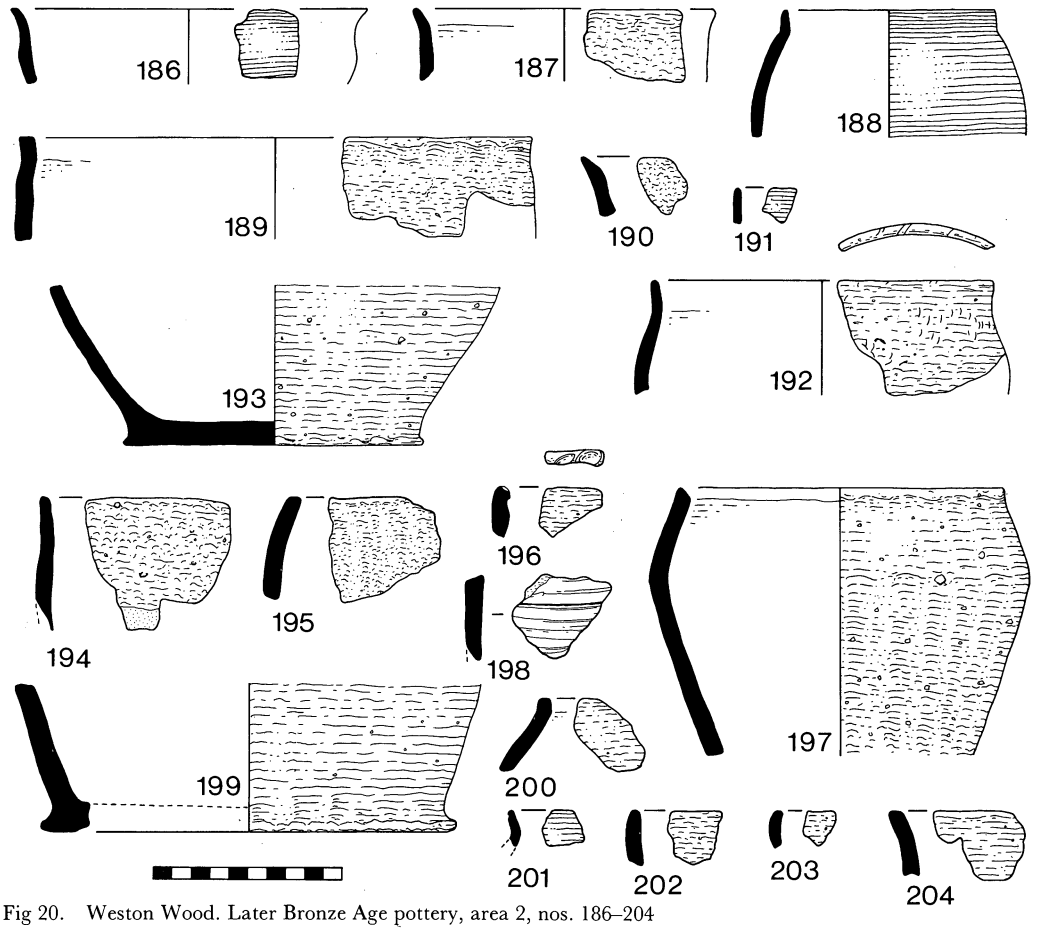


Fig 20. Weston Wood. Later Bronze Age pottery, area 2, nos. 186–204

(164, 186) rim. A few of these bowls have more upright necks (138, 237, 313). Rim diameters range from 90 to 270mm, with modes from 110 to 190mm. Vessel walls are usually thin, under 6mm, and are well finished with burnishing (74, 138, 235), polishing (230) or more infrequently smoothing (81, 241, 243). Most form 10 bowls appear to be coil-built (138).

Form 11 Round-bodied bowls with flaring rims

These bowls are larger than, but clearly a variant of, form 10 vessels. They have round bodies with slightly flaring or everted rims. Rounded rims are most common (17, 19, 130, 184, 224, 239) but square-ended examples (16, 177, 223) are also represented. Rim diameters range from 90 to 340mm, with modes from 120 to 200mm. Most form 11 bowls are well finished, coil-built, and have smooth (184) or burnished (239) surfaces: rough finishes are quite rare (177).

Form 12 Bowls with flanged carination

This rare but distinctive form is characterised by a grooved and slightly flanged carination (27, 48). Rim diameter is 115mm. Surfaces are exclusively burnished.

Form 13 Vertical-sided bowls

A near vertical neck rising from a convex body distinguishes form 13 bowls. Rims are usually rounded (150, 282, 290), flat-topped (109, 215) or bevelled (279), and have diameters ranging from 110 to 300mm, with a mode at 160mm. No bases were associated. Surfaces are generally fairly rough (282) but are occasionally slightly smoothed (290).

Form 14 Biconical jar/bowl

These vessels have biconical profiles with marked angular carinations. Rims have internal bevels (197, 229) or are square-ended (95, 212) with diameters ranging from 100 to 200mm and modes from 130 to 160mm. No bases were associated. Surface finishing is variable, and may be irregular with vertical smearing (197), burnished (212) or highly polished (229). Vessel 229 is coil-built as shown by a junction at the girth carination.

Form 15 Tripartite bowl

Only one vessel (20) was recognised. Its rim is simple and outwardly bevelled, with a diameter of 220mm. The vessel is coil-built and has smooth and burnished surfaces.

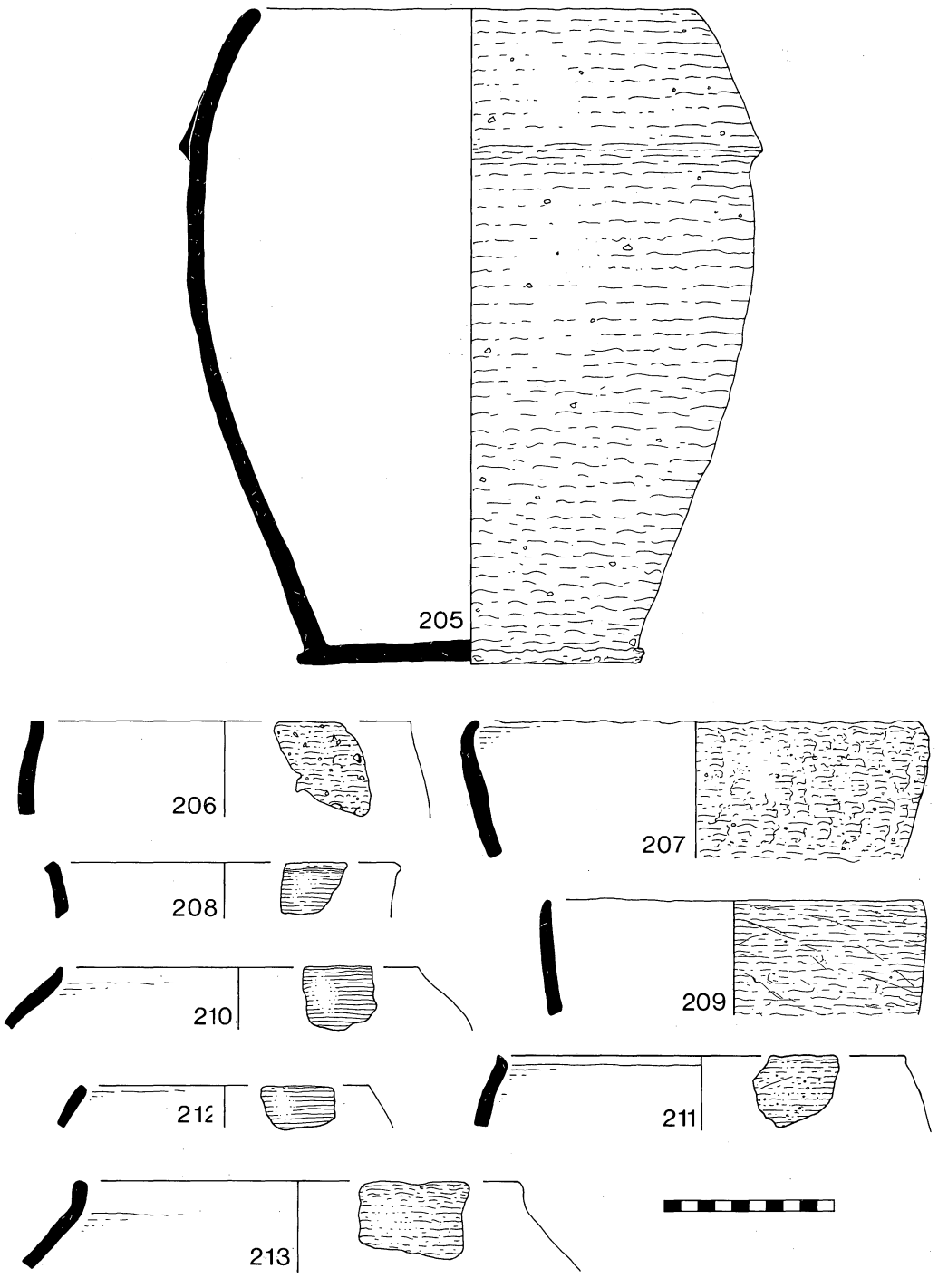


Fig 21. Weston Wood. Later Bronze Age pottery, area 2, nos. 205–213

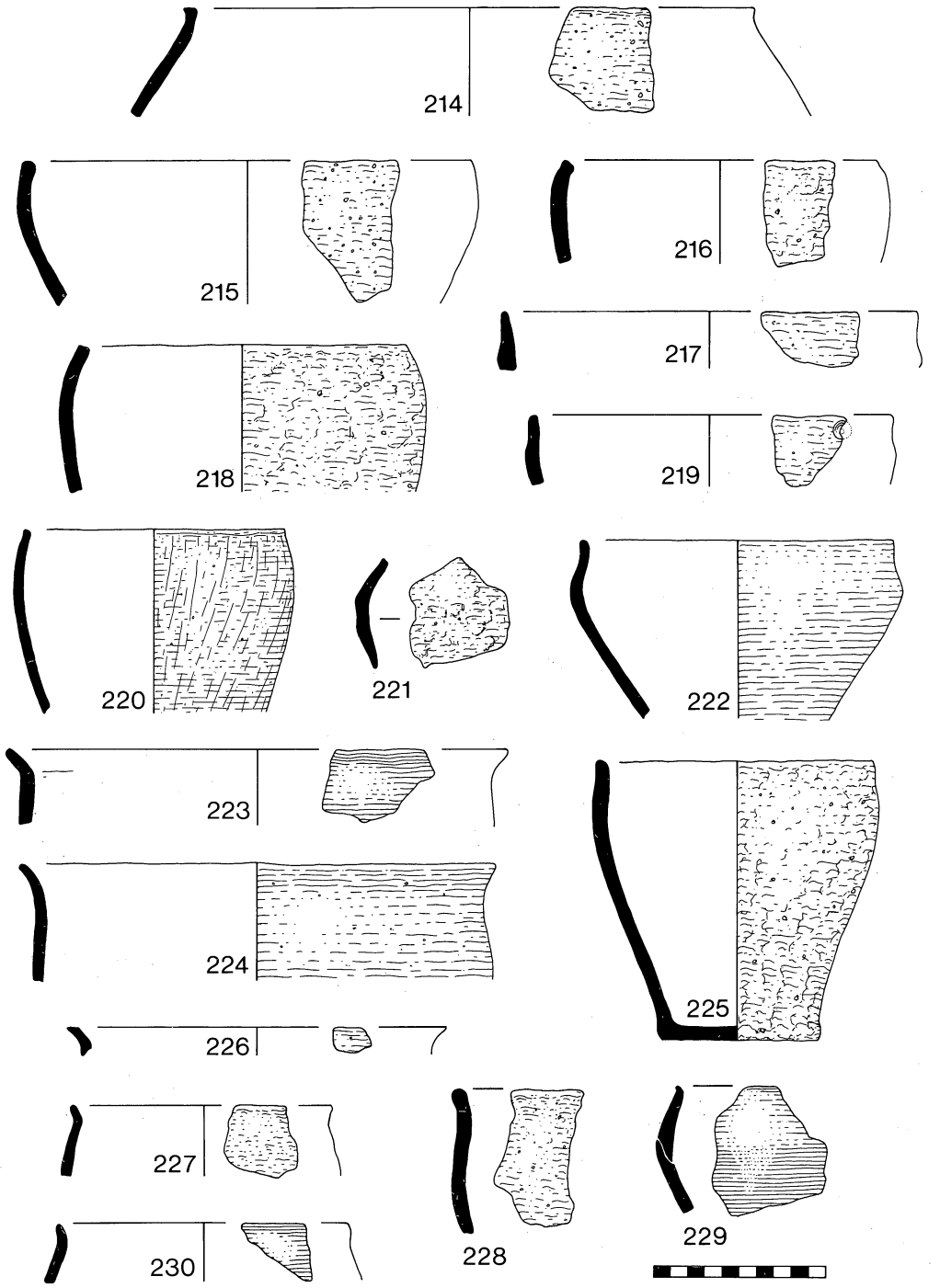


Fig 22. Weston Wood. Later Bronze Age pottery, area 2, nos. 214–230

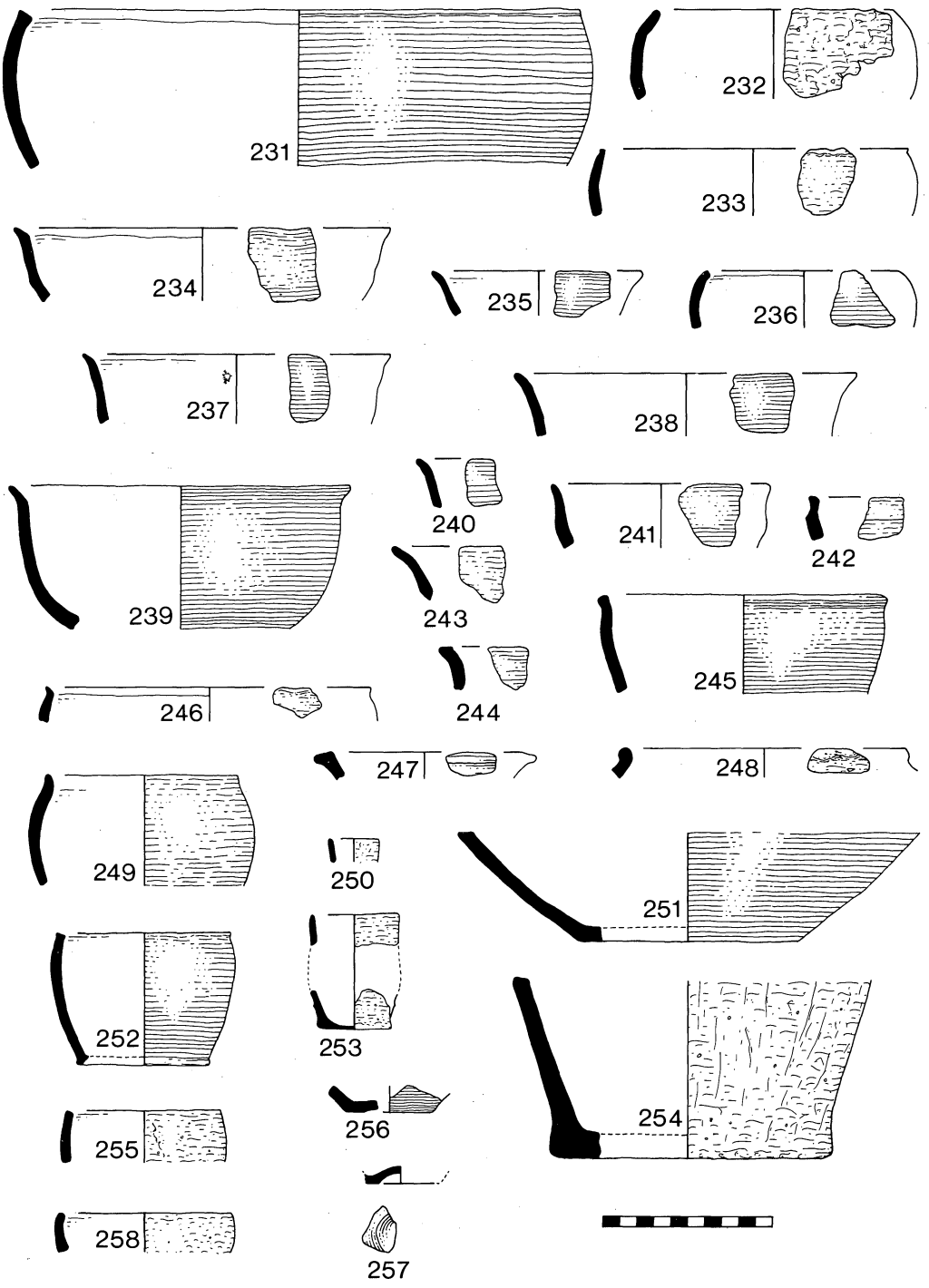


Fig 23. Weston Wood. Later Bronze Age pottery, area 2, nos. 231–258

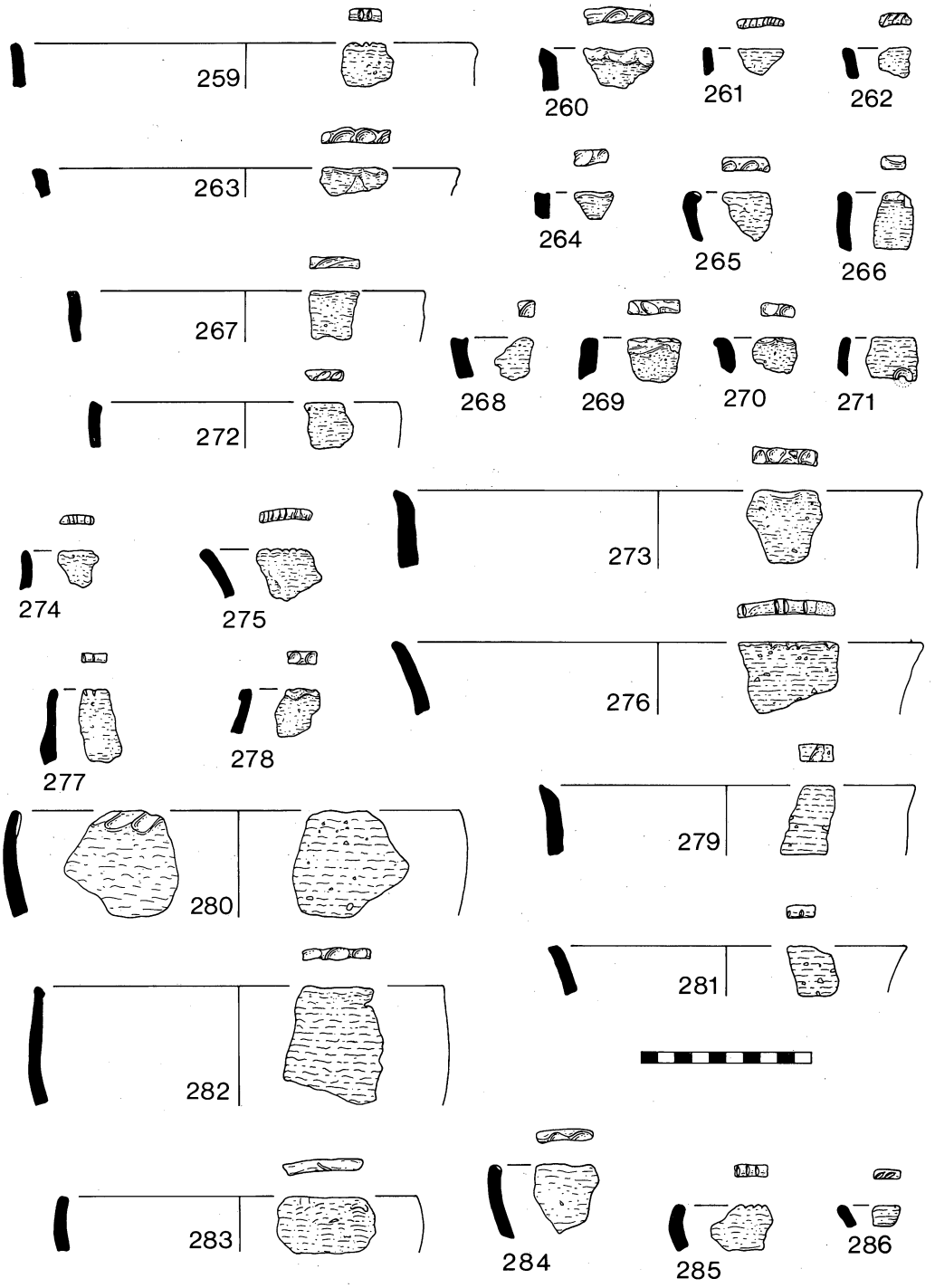


Fig 24. Weston Wood. Later Bronze Age pottery, area 2, nos. 259–286

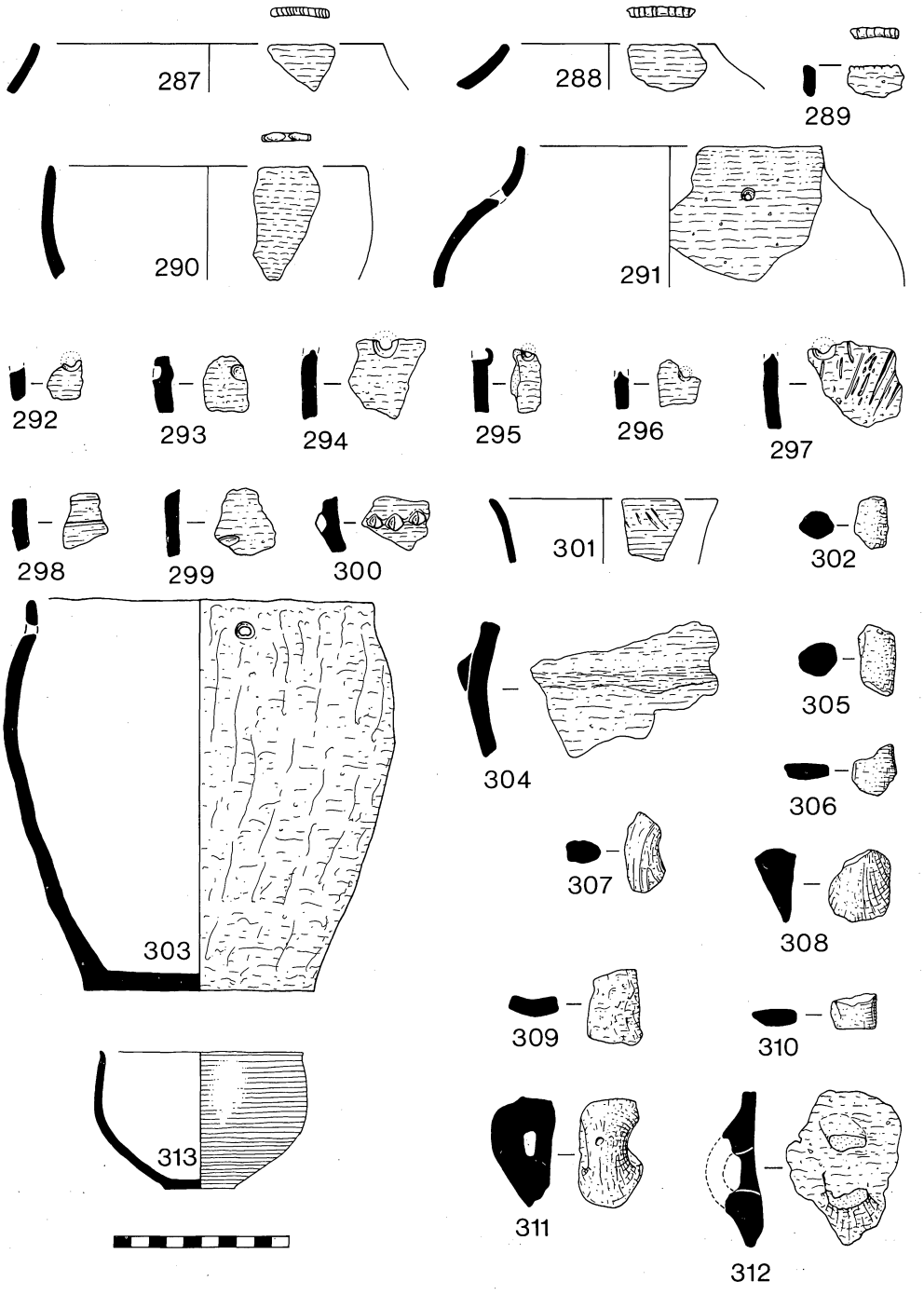


Fig 25. Weston Wood. Later Bronze Age pottery, area 2, nos. 287–312

Form 16 Shallow open bowl

A complete profile of a single vessel (18) with slightly outward sloping walls, only 43mm high, is represented. The rim is rounded and has a diameter of 260mm. This vessel is coil-built with smoothed and slightly burnished surfaces.

Form 17 Cups

Small-diameter vessels, ranging from 40 to 260mm with modes of 50–150mm, which do not usually exceed 100mm in height, were identified as cups. A certain amount of typological variability is present in the series, but two main sub-divisions may be made: cups with more or less convex profiles (28, 43, 252, 253, 255, 258) and cups with near vertical or slightly outward sloping walls (127). A shallow cup (115) which was formed by pinching, is atypical. Cup 253 has a slightly bevelled rim and possible vestigial bead. Bases, where directly associated, are slab-built with splayed foot (43, 127). The degree to which these pots were finished varies considerably ranging from typically rough, irregular, sometimes smeared (43, 127), to smoothed, burnished (252) or pinched (115) surfaces.

5.5 MANUFACTURE

The production of a ceramic vessel may be viewed as two technological processes: those which are essential, such as collecting and preparing raw materials, and forming and firing the vessels, and those which are non-essential, such as decoration and surface finishing (Rye 1981, 3, 58). Forming processes are often difficult to infer because subsequent surface treatments usually obscure or erase traces of the methods of construction. Surface treatments are generally easily recognised from sherd evidence, and it is invariably these that the archaeologist comments on. It is important to recognise the differences between forming (essential) and finishing (non-essential) techniques and appreciate that no single finishing treatment need be exclusively associated with a specific forming method. The identification of slab-building (forming technique) from vertical smearing (finishing technique) in Late Bronze Age assemblages (Barrett 1975, 104; Elsdon 1982, 128–9) is therefore not only misleading, because a finishing technique has been used to infer a construction method, but it also assumes the exclusivity of one technique with another. Equally, thin walls, usually taken as evidence of slab-building, may be formed using coiling or drawing techniques.

5.5.1 *Pot-building*

A variety of forming techniques, including pinching, coiling, drawing and slab-building, were available to the Bronze Age potter, although as has already been discussed, they are often difficult to recognise directly from sherd evidence because of subsequent modifications caused by finishing techniques. On only a few vessels was it possible to identify the construction techniques involved. Pinching from a single body of clay, which is appropriate for small pots, appears to have been used for some cups (form 17, 115). Cup 127 shows characteristic ring-joints typical of coil-building. Coil-building was also observed on large jars (205) and certain bowls (form 10). Slab-building is almost certainly present on jar 1 and a biconical jar (229), but cannot certainly be inferred for many other vessels. Large jars could have been made by slab-building, drawing, or coiling.

Two main construction techniques for building bases were identified. The most common (67%) are bases made from a circular slab to which the vessel walls were applied by smearing clay downwards creating a characteristic splayed circumference to the base and vertical rippling on the sides of the pots. Many separate circular slabs were found indicating that this method of attachment was only partially successful. Dense concentrations of coarse (up to 2mm) flint grits are frequently observed on the exterior surfaces of these bases. Longley (1980, 65) has recently discussed this phenomenon and suggests that it represents grit derived from surfaces upon which vessels were made or dried to prevent them sticking. Other bases appear to have been constructed from coils (251). The omphalos base (49, 256, 257) is very rare (0.5%) and occurs only in fine, burnished fabrics.

Thirteen handles or fragments of handles were found of which 6 were straps (97, 117, 305, 309, 310, 312), 4 were rods (302, 305, 307, 311), 2 were unassignable lower junctions (52, 308) and 1 was a simple lug (53). In only one case (117) was it possible to attribute a handle to a vessel form. Two loop handles (117, 312) were attached by pushing a dowel-like projection into the vessel wall. A

further loop handle (311) was simply luted to the vessel walls, as were two lower handle junctions (52, 308) and the lug (53).

Most of the assemblage has a range of surface colours which reflect shades of brown to dark brown. Dark brown (7.5YR3/0–10YR3/1–2) colours are mostly (82%) associated with carinated (form 10) and form 11 bowls; jars tend to be slightly lighter, typically orange-brown or brown (5YR5/3–7.5YR5/4). These colours suggest a partially reducing atmosphere where the presence of oxygen has been restricted. The temperature at which the vessels were fired is more problematical, but the lack of alteration of the clay minerals as evidenced by consistently anisotropic matrices seen in thin-section suggests that firing temperatures did not exceed about 800°C.

5.5.2 *Surface finish*

The surface finish of a vessel is one of its most distinctive features and is related, partially at least, to vessel function. Surface treatments employed on the Weston Wood pottery fall into five groups: rough smearing, smoothing, burnishing, polishing and wiping; some occur together.

Smearing, either as vertical dragging (1, 127, 197, 303) or horizontal wiping (132, 208, 218, 228, 232) is most commonly found on jars and in association with coarse fabrics. Vessels which have traces of smearing are occasionally smoothed (170). Burnishing, where a lustre is formed by rubbing vessel walls when leather hard with an implement, leaving characteristic narrow horizontal marks, is found on small jars and carinated (form 10) bowls (18, 138, 223, 229, 231, 239, 251) and is generally restricted to fine fabrics. Polishing is rarer, and is distinguished from burnishing by the evenness of the lustre and regularity of the surface finish. Polishing is almost totally associated with bowls (230, 237). Occasionally vessels possess shallow striations which are consistent with being wiped with organic matter (220, 297).

It is probable that vessels possessing a burnished or polished surface were treated with a slip or slurry to conceal any intrusive temper. Thin-section analysis and re-firing experiments, however, failed to detect any possible slip or slurry. In the absence of certain evidence to support this notion, it must remain equivocal.

5.5.3 *Decoration*

Decoration is confined to about 13% of the total EVES on the site, though significant differences in the type, location, occurrence and frequency of decoration exist between areas. To demonstrate this variation the frequency of forms and associated decoration for each area was calculated as a proportion of the total EVES for the site (fig 26). This difference is further illustrated by examining each area individually, and for this purpose the relative frequencies for each area were calculated on the total EVES for each respective area. These data are discussed below.

5.5.3.1 Area 1

About half (49%) of 6.1 EVES for the area, or 6.2% of the total EVES for the site, were decorated. Fingertip decoration, varying from subtle depressions to deep, well defined cavities, is most common: 22.9% on rim tops mainly on form 1 (25), 3 (12) and 8 (21) jars; and 5.8% exclusively on the shoulders of form 6 jars (30, 31, 32, 36, 39). Shallow slashes, usually fairly regularly spaced, occur on rims (8.4%) of form 17 cups (28, 43) and less frequently (0.5%), but exclusively, on shoulders of form 6 jars (39). Deep, round impressions, which have flat bottoms never penetrating the interior surface, account for 5.8% of the area total, and are found on a single form 2 jar (26). A single vessel (1.7%) of form 12 (27) has a shallow, incised groove above a slightly flanged carination. Although not directly assignable to a specific form, there is also a closely related group of body sherds with shallow, incised decoration (41, 42, 44, 46, 47) and a carination with shallow V-shaped impressions (40).

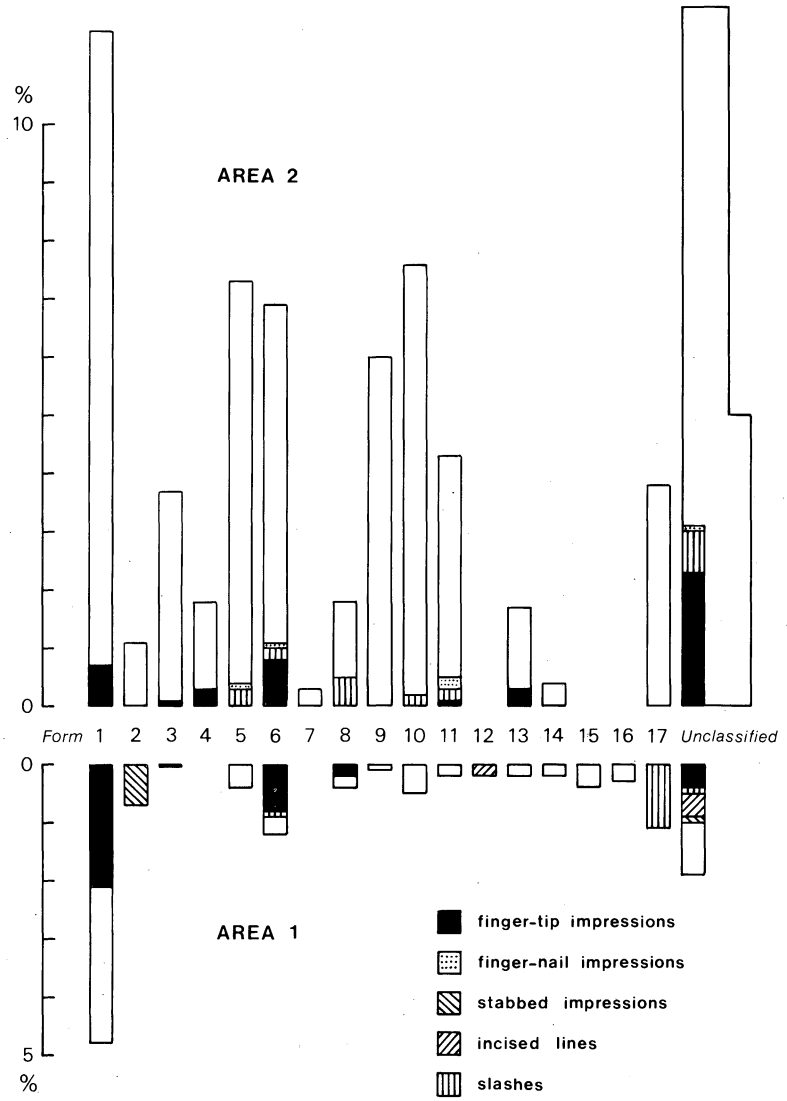


Fig 26. Weston Wood. Histogram showing frequency of forms and decoration

5.5.3.2 Area 2

Only 8% of 41.5 EVES for the area, or 7% of the total EVES for the site, were decorated which provides a marked contrast with Area 1. Fingertipping was again most frequent (4.7%) occurring on rims of form 1 (196, 268, 269, 272, 280, 283, 284), 4 (270, 273) and 6 (192, 267), jars and on form 11 (163) and 13 (279, 282) bowls. In only one case (300) does fingertipping occur on a shoulder: this sherd is anomalous to the main assemblage. Fairly regularly spaced incisions occur almost exclusively on rim tops (2.4%) and are found on forms 5 (152, 181, 287, 288), 6 (145, 274, 277), and 8 (259, 275, 276, 281) jars, and type 10 (301) and 11 (149) bowls. Finger nail decoration (0.9%) occurs on a form 5 (192) jar. There is also an applied cordon on a form 2 (205) jar and another (304) which is not attributable to a form. Two sherds (293, 295) have deep, round, impressions, and one other (298) has shallow incisions.

Nine sherds possess round perforations, most of which appear to have been drilled after firing (166, 219, 291, 292, 294, 297, 299), while the others were drilled at the leather hard stage (296, 303). Where perforations occur on reconstructable forms, such as 291 and 303, they are associated with large jars and are located just below the rim. Adkins & Needham (1985) have suggested that similar perforations may have been for fixing some form of lid or cover.

5.6 FABRIC AND FORM ASSOCIATIONS

Fig 27 illustrates the fabric composition of each vessel form by expressing the component fabrics for each form as a proportion of the total fabrics, by EVES for that form. To emphasise possible trends in the association of specific fabrics with particular vessel forms, similar fabrics have been grouped together.

As might be expected large jar forms 1, 2 and 4 are almost totally associated with coarse fabrics, particularly flint-tempered wares. Equally, form 5 and 6 jars are predominantly made from coarse

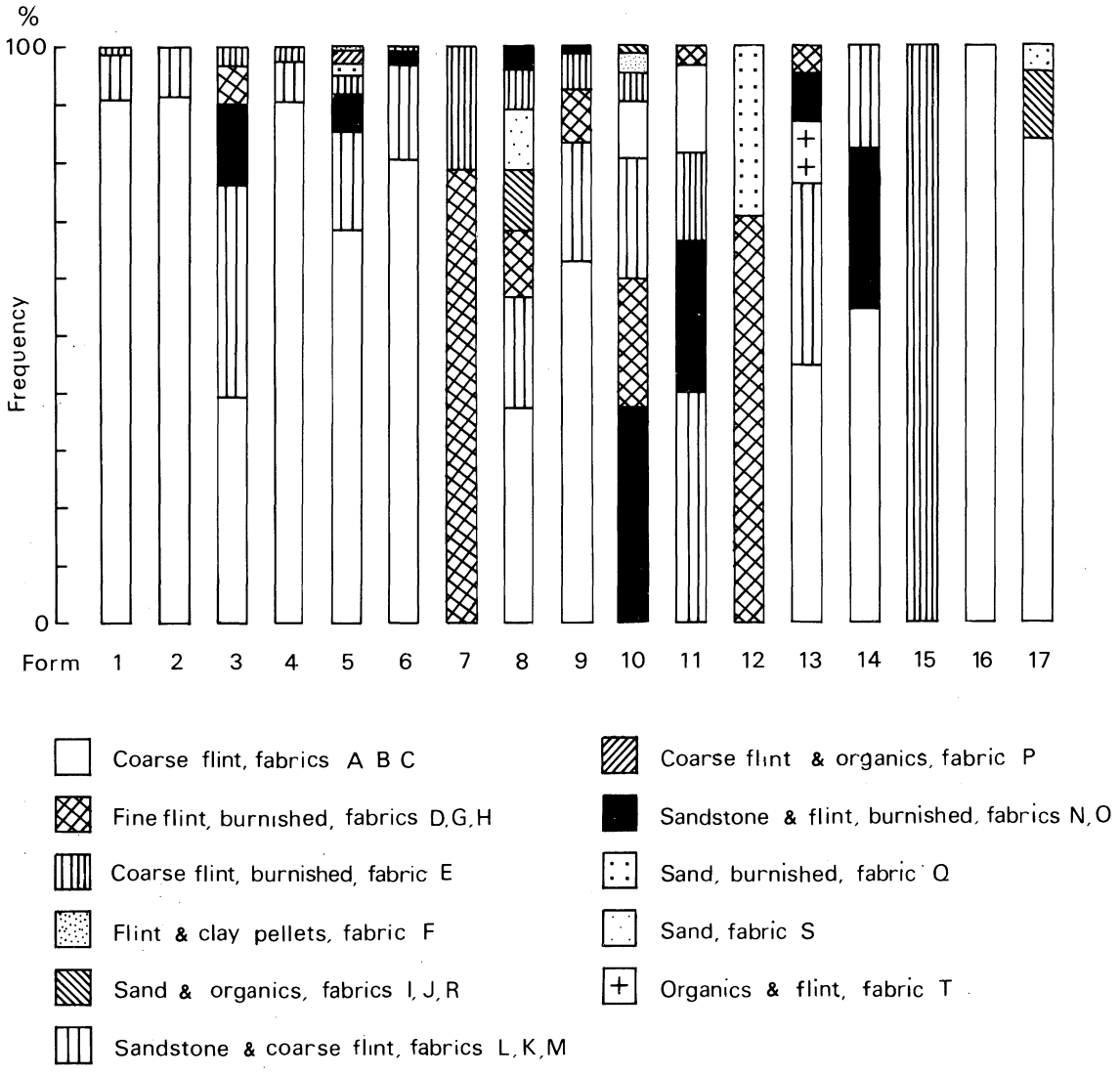


Fig 27. Weston Wood. Bar chart showing fabric and form associations

fabrics with only a minor occurrence of finer or burnished wares. The smaller jars of form 3 mainly use coarse fabrics, but over 20% of the form consists of finer burnished wares. The variety of fabrics represented in form 8 jars almost certainly reflects the heterogeneity of the form itself (section 5.4.2). Form 7 jars contrast with other jar forms in that they are exclusively associated with burnished fabrics, of which most are fine flint-tempered wares.

Form 9 and 13 bowls are predominantly made from coarse, unburnished fabrics; finer burnished wares are uncommon. Form 10 and 11 bowls occur most frequently in fine, burnished fabrics and only very rarely in coarser wares. Form 12 bowls occur in fine, burnished wares. Biconical jars/bowls (form 14) are mostly found in coarse flint or flint and sandstone tempered fabrics with almost 30% in fine, burnished fabrics. The tripartite bowl (form 15) occurs in a semi-fine flint tempered, burnished fabric. Cups (form 17) most commonly are of coarse flint tempered fabrics, but also occur in quartz sand and organic, and quartz sand tempered wares. The total association of coarse flint tempered fabrics with form 16 bowls is not significant since only one example of the form is represented.

It is clear that most jars were made from coarse tempered fabrics, particularly those containing calcined flint. Only form 7 jars consistently use fine, burnished wares. A series of coarseware bowls (forms 9, 13) contrasts with a range of fineware, thin-walled bowls (forms 10, 11, 12). Cups, (form 17) are strictly fairly thin-walled, coarseware vessels.

5.7 FIRED CLAY OBJECTS

A small assemblage of spindle-whorls and fragments of loom weights was also submitted for analysis. The collection of loom weights is certainly not complete since at least 12 complete cylindrical examples are shown in photographic slides of the site: none of these is represented in the group under discussion. It is perhaps possible that if these loom weights were included in the assemblage they became broken and incorporated in some 7752g of fired clay fragments which are also represented. This suggestion seems unlikely, however, since all the identifiable loom weight fragments are made of hard, dense sand tempered fabrics, while the amorphous lumps of fired clay are usually soft and contain common amounts of organic material. In view of the probably incomplete character of this assemblage no detailed quantification has been attempted.

5.7.1 *Spindle-whorls* (fig 28: 1–4)

1 Biconical form; slightly tapered perforation; made from a hard, dark brown (7.5YR3/2) coloured, dense quartz sand tempered fabric (fabric Q). Area 1, structure 1. (E6).
2 Biconical form; slightly concave on one side; in a fairly hard, brown (7.5YR4/4), flint tempered fabric (fabric B). Area 1, structure 1. (E6).
3 Two joining halves of a sub-conical spindle-whorl in a fairly soft, dark-brown (7.5YR3/2), untempered clay. Area 2, near F76 and F81. (AJ5 Q, AK5).
4 Biconical form; smaller than other examples, in a brown (7.5YR4/6), untempered fabric similar to 3. Area 2. (AM7).

Three other spindle-whorls were found on area 2, of which all are biconical forms in either untempered (AJ6, AF/AG9) or flint tempered (fabric A) wares (AJ5). The typical colour of the spindle-whorls is dark-brown (7.5YR3/2).

5.7.2 *Loom weights* (fig 28: 5–6)

No loom weights were found on area 1. Seven certain fragments and 31 possible pieces of loom weights were recovered from area 2, but this total does not reflect several complete cylindrical examples shown in photographs. The two illustrated pieces (5, 6) are cylindrical with central perforation. All the identifiable loom weight fragments are made from a fairly hard, dense quartz sand tempered fabric (fabric S) and tend to be orange (2.5YR4/8) or brown (5YR5/6).

5.7.3 *Perforated bases*

Sherds from two perforated base-like objects were found on area 1, context E6, and area 2, context AG10, apparently in the occupation layer (L3). That from area 1 (fig 15: 51) is represented by a single, small base-like sherd with slightly turned-up sides, circular profile and two perforations. It is made from a fairly hard fabric tempered with organic matter (fabric T), the surfaces of which are dark-brown (7.5YR4/2) and fairly smooth.

The perforated base from area 2 (fig 28: 7) was reconstructed from a group of 12 joining sherds. It is made from a circular, coil-built disc about 21cm in diameter from which a low wall and a square-topped rim rise. The flattened base portion is perforated with a series of at least 17 small, irregular and randomly spaced holes, mostly 5mm in diameter, made before firing. A flint and quartz sand tempered fabric (fabric U) was used in the manufac-

ture of this object. Surfaces were roughly finished and show signs of wiping with vegetable matter. The item as reconstructed in fig 28: 7 shows the rim-like sides upright, but they could equally well point downwards to form a kind of foot-ring.

Perforated slabs have been found on a number of Late Bronze Age–Early Iron Age sites in southern England, most notably at Queen Mary's Hospital, Carshalton (Adkins & Needham 1985, 33–8), but are not a common component on such sites. Those from Queen Mary's Hospital are typically sub-square slabs with five or six fairly large, regularly-spaced perforations. No upturned rim-like structures are represented. The examples from Weston Wood, particularly that from area 2, contrast with, and are typologically different from, the sub-square forms found at Queen Mary's Hospital and other Late Bronze Age sites (Champion 1980). The Weston Wood forms have no convincing parallel and appear unique to the site.

In their recent review of perforated clay slabs, Adkins & Needham (1985) suggested that these objects might have been used in kilns or hearths as supports upon which pottery vessels could have been stacked for firing, or to place between vessels to stabilise the load in a bonfire kiln. A similar function could be inferred for the Weston Wood example, particularly if the rim is viewed as a foot-ring designed to raise the object from the oven floor in a clamp kiln. Alternatively, it could be a strainer or sieve used in cooking or for grading flint temper for pottery manufacture. The possibility of a sieve is further commended by the rather small size of the holes, which would not be very efficient in the circulation of heat and gases in a kiln, but would grade flint temper into the size ranges seen in fabrics A and B.

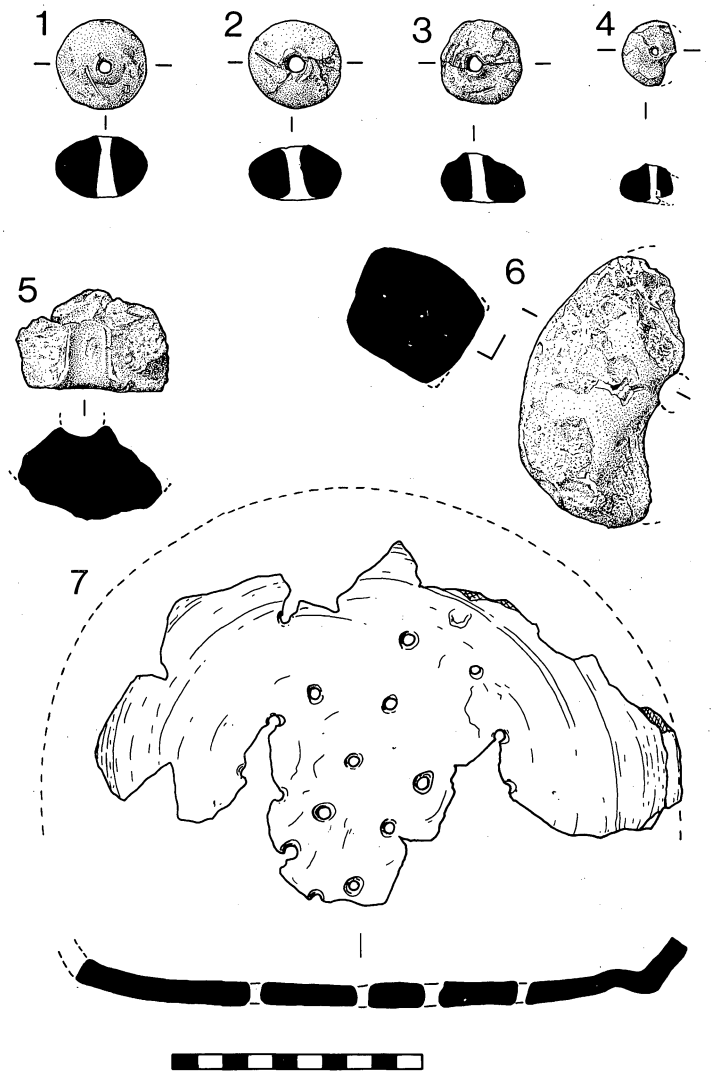


Fig 28. Weston Wood. Fired clay objects: 1–4 spindle-whorls; 5–6 loom weights; 7 perforated base. (Drawn by Alex T Thorne)

6 Discussion

6.1 CHRONOLOGY AND AFFINITIES

The date of the pottery from Weston Wood has been discussed in several recent articles (Barrett 1980; Elsdon 1982; Needham 1987), in which the ceramics were dated on typological grounds to the Late Bronze Age, perhaps falling in the 8th or 9th centuries BC. Given this typological assessment the radiocarbon determination of 510±110 bc (Q-760) appeared late and anomalous (Elsdon 1982; Barrett 1980). This worrying disparity has not been satisfactorily explained or resolved, and while Needham's (1987) cautionary remarks concerning the use of the radiocarbon date are helpful, they do little more than emphasise the problem.

This confusing situation appears to have resulted from largely cursory examinations of the pottery which have removed the ceramics and radiocarbon date from their respective site contexts. Moreover, it is probable that only material from area 2 was examined since the majority of the pottery was found there. In addition, it would also appear that the material from area 2 was assumed to be typical and representative of the site as a whole (Needham 1987, fig 5.12:8, but cf footnote 23 and p 128).

That this problem is artificial has been demonstrated by detailed analysis of the pottery in its site (area) contexts. It has highlighted significant differences in the pottery assemblages between areas 1 and 2, and indicates that there are no *a priori* grounds for regarding the ceramics as deriving from a single, homogeneous assemblage. Indeed, it is argued that the two area assemblages should be treated as separate and distinct.

The reasons for this important division were reviewed in earlier sections and need only be summarised here. Fabric analysis has demonstrated the almost total association of fine, sandy wares, and the exclusivity of organic tempered fabrics with area 1 (section 5.3.2). Certain vessel forms, particularly bowls with grooved and flanged carinations (form 12) and the tripartite bowl (form 15) were restricted to area 1, while most of the other forms occurred on both areas (section 5.4.2). The most striking difference between the excavated areas was demonstrated by the type and frequency of decoration on vessels. The preponderance of decorated vessels on area 1 provides a marked contrast with the paucity of ornamented pots on area 2; with the exception of a single, anomalous sherd, decorated shoulders occurred exclusively on area 1 (section 5.5.3).

Given the size of the assemblage and the fact that around 90% of the pottery came from area 2, the absence of certain fabrics and forms and the lack of decorated vessels on that area appear highly significant. Had a single assemblage been represented some occurrence, if only minimal, of the complete range of fabrics and forms, and a rather more even distribution of decorated material between areas, might have been anticipated. Accepting the possibility of functional variations across the site, which is discussed later, there can be little doubt that this evidence indicates two separate assemblages. The chronological significance of the division may now be discussed.

One of the most important advances to our comprehension of Bronze Age ceramic traditions has come from Barrett's (1975; 1980) demonstration that a fundamental change in ceramic production took place towards the end of the second millennium BC, resulting in the appearance of a range of jar forms that evidently evolved from bucket and globular urns of the Deverel-Rimbury complex, and which may have been influenced by continental elements (Dacre & Ellison 1981). Within this 'post-Deverel-Rimbury tradition', Barrett (1980, 306–9) has identified two essentially chronological components which have the appellations 'plain-ware' and 'decorated' traditions. The plain-ware assemblage, which dates from the 11th to 8th centuries BC, is characterised by a series of undecorated jars and, later, by a range of fineware bowls. Sometime in the 8th century BC the plain-ware tradition was succeeded by a decorated assemblage, which embodies a developed range of bowls and jars that typically, and increasingly with time, carry a diverse variety of decorative treatments.

The character and velocity of the transition from Deverel-Rimbury to post-Deverel-Rimbury traditions probably varied according to region (Barrett 1980), but that documented for the Thames Valley appears to have been fairly rapid and complete. Needham (1987, 116–20) has

suggested that plain-ware assemblages were in existence in Surrey by 900BC and probably a little before, and cites the important site assemblages of Green Lane, Farnham (Lowther 1939; Elsdon 1982; Wingate 1984), Queen Mary's Hospital, Carshalton (Lowther 1944–5; Adkins & Needham 1985), Coombe Warren, Kingston Hill (Field & Needham 1986) and Runnymede Bridge, Egham (Longley 1980). These sites produced a series of slack-shouldered, biconical and round-bodied jars as well as carinated and round-bodied bowls. Cups are rare. In earlier groups the range of forms is evidently restricted and lacks angular shoulders or carinations, a feature which assumed importance in later assemblages of the 9th and 8th centuries BC, and which continued into the Iron Age. The forms and decoration observed at Runnymede Bridge herald developments into a truly decorated assemblage, as at Petters Sports Field, Egham (O'Connell 1986), the old land surface at Brooklands A, Weybridge (Hanworth & Tomalin 1980) and Wisley (Needham 1987).

Elements of both plain-ware and decorated traditions are clearly recognisable at Weston Wood. The large quantity of pottery from area 2 finds affinity with the plain-ware tradition. Large, high-shouldered jars with convex sides (form 5) occur at Aldermaston Wharf (Bradley *et al* 1980), Ram's Hill (Bradley 1975), and Green Lane (Elsdon 1982). Slack-shouldered jars (form 6) also appear at Ivinghoe Beacon (Cotton & Frere 1968), Knight's Farm, sub-site 3 (Bradley *et al* 1980) and Queen Mary's Hospital (Adkins & Needham 1985), in 10th–8th century BC contexts, but as Longley (1980) has noted, this form appears to have a long currency. Handled jars such as those found at Aldermaston Wharf (Bradley *et al* 1980), Runnymede Bridge (Longley 1980), Mucking South Rings (Jones & Bond 1980) and Kingston Hill (Field & Needham 1986) are uncommon in Late Bronze Age assemblages. An unusually large group came from Queen Mary's Hospital (Adkins & Needham 1985) and a slightly smaller one from Ivinghoe Beacon (Cotton & Frere 1968), which Needham (1985) suggests probably relates to functional and economic variations between hilltop and valley sites. In this context the fairly small number of handled vessels from Weston Wood, a site in close proximity to the Tillingbourne river valley, would fit Needham's putative model.

Bowls with flaring rims and, usually, poorly defined carinations (form 10) which typify the area 2 assemblage are well matched at Green Lane, Farnham (Elsdon 1982), but contrast with those found on Thames Valley sites, where carinated bowls with concave necks predominate, as at Runnymede Bridge, Queen Mary's Hospital and Aldermaston Wharf. Round-bodied and near vertical necked bowls (forms 9 and 13) are represented at Runnymede Bridge, though the beaded examples there (forms 5b and 7b) are comparatively rare at Weston Wood.

The relative abundance of cups at Weston Wood contrasts markedly with the comparative rarity of such vessels in other site assemblages (Barrett 1980), and may well be related to site function rather than chronology. The bag-shaped cup from pit F75 (fig 18:127) is remarkably similar to one from South Cadbury Castle (Alcock 1972, fig 16) and another from Brean Down in a possibly 9th–8th century context (M Bell, pers comm).

Attention has already been drawn to the paucity of decoration on the pottery from area 2. Restricted rim decoration, typically fingertipping, is found on developed plain-ware assemblages, as at Ivinghoe Beacon, Runnymede Bridge and Queen Mary's Hospital. At Aldermaston Wharf less than 10% of the total assemblage was decorated, while at Runnymede the figure appears to be slightly higher – somewhere between 16 and 22%. The proportion of decorated material at Queen Mary's Hospital (Adkins & Needham 1985), though not specifically quoted in the report, would appear to be quite low, probably under 10% of the total assemblage. The fairly common use of knife slashing on rims of jars at Weston Wood is more unusual and appears to have no local parallels.

The contemporaneity of pit groups is not easily assessed owing to a lack of stratigraphic control or data. Most of the pits, however, with the notable exception of F83 and 86, appear to form a fairly coherent chronological group. F86 is stratigraphically later than F85 through which it was dug, and contained jars and bowls which are apparently atypical of the assemblage from area 2. The carinated bowl with markedly flaring rim (fig 19:171) and the form 6 jar (fig 19:170) have close parallels at Runnymede Bridge (Longley 1980, vessels 511 and 274 respectively). Similarly, the pottery from pit F83, particularly the carinated bowl with concave neck (fig 20:186) and the form 6 jar (fig 20:188) which are matched at Runnymede Bridge (vessels 272, and 53 and 367 respect-

ively), is probably typologically later than the main assemblage. It is perhaps significant that the two pits were less than two metres distant, and their contents would seem to be related both typologically and chronologically.

On the basis of the fairly diverse range of fabrics and forms, and equally by the presence of a certain, if limited and restricted, amount of decoration, the assemblage from area 2 would appear to fall somewhere in the 10th–9th centuries BC. The assemblage does not exhibit the range of forms, nor the angularity in profile of vessels from Runnymede Bridge, though much of the material at Weston Wood foreshadows such developments. Similarities with Green Lane, Farnham have been noted. Elsdon (1982) has argued that the undeveloped and rather limited range of these vessels indicates a date from 1100 to 800 BC but favours a terminal date nearer to 800 BC. However, as Needham (1987) has rightly observed, this assessment must remain tentative in the absence of critical associations. That the Weston Wood assemblage represents a development of the Green Lane material is shown by the increased application of decoration and greater variety of forms in existence at the former. In addition, the range of fabrics at Weston Wood is more varied than the minimum of three flint and sand tempered wares identified by Wingate (1984) at Green Lane.

The rather smaller, but nonetheless important assemblage from area 1 provides an interesting contrast with that from area 2. Although a similar range of jars is represented, including high-shouldered and slack-sided forms, these have rather more pronounced and angular shoulders which typically carry fingertip or, more rarely, slashed decoration (fig 15:29–39). Similar vessels were found at Runnymede Bridge (Longley 1980), Petters Sports Field (O'Connell 1987), Brooklands A (Hanworth & Tomalin 1977), St Catherine's Hill (Bishop 1971), Heathrow (Canham 1978), Hawk's Hill (Hastings 1965) and Knight's Farm (Bradley *et al* 1980) in late 9th–6th century BC contexts, and clearly continuing into the Iron Age. The angularity of the shoulders of many of these jars is not as marked at Weston Wood, and might indicate that the assemblage is not as advanced as some of the groups cited.

The unusual carinated bowl with slightly flaring neck (fig 14:19) is similar to bowls from Eldon's Seat, Dorset (Cunliffe 1968). Vessel 313 has no convincing parallel on area 2, with the possible exception of vessel 138, but finds affinity with certain bowls at Runnymede Bridge and Petters Sports Field. Similarly, the carinated bowl with flanged and grooved carination (form 12), is probably related to those at Runnymede Bridge and Petters Sports Field. The tripartite bowl (form 15) is present only on area 1, but its external parallels are rather difficult to assess. Tripartite vessels appear at Petters Sports Field and Knights Farm, and also occur in the old land surface at Brooklands, Weybridge (Hanworth & Tomalin 1977).

Roughly half the assemblage from area 1 was decorated with a variety of ornamental devices. Fingertipping was most frequent, occurring on rim-tops and shoulders of jars, parallels for which have already been discussed. A group of sherds with incised decoration, which probably come from bowls, are similar to examples at Runnymede Bridge and Knight's Farm, but the complex incised and stabbed motifs present there are not represented at Weston Wood.

Since certain forms, such as a tripartite bowl, and hard sandy fabrics do not occur at Runnymede Bridge, 1976 trench, it is suggested that the area 1 assemblage might be slightly later. In addition, the frequency of decoration evidenced on area 1 is greater than the maximum figure of 22% at Runnymede Bridge, and would indicate a development of that assemblage. If this assessment is correct it is surprising that the jar forms do not exhibit the degree of angularity seen at the Thames Valley sites, though regional variations cannot be ruled out. The lack of complex decorations, which are present on sites dated to the 7th or 6th centuries BC, suggests that area 1 probably pre-dates such sites. On balance, the typological affinities for area 1 point to a date in the 8th–7th centuries BC.

Given that area 1 is arguably later than area 2 and probably dates to the 8th–7th centuries BC, the radiocarbon date of 510±110 bc, once placed in its area 1 context, appears rather more acceptable. Although a single radiocarbon determination with a large standard error is difficult to interpret, correction using the calibration curve derived from Irish bog oaks (Pearson *et al* 1983; Baillie 1985) gives a date of 840–375 CAL BC at two standard deviations. The range of almost 500

years is disappointingly large and provides no possibility of precision, but at its upper limit accords fairly well with the preferred typological chronology for the area.

Some degree of chronological overlap is hinted at on area 2, but is difficult to interpret without detailed stratigraphic data. Little significant time depth is indicated by the pottery from those pits which have clear stratigraphic sequences. A possible exception is pit F62, which contained a bowl with beaded rim (fig 16:57) in layer 5 and a form 6 jar with pronounced shoulder (fig 16:61) from layer 6. These forms appear rather more advanced and developed than most of the pottery from the area; the jar may be related typologically to a similar vessel (fig 15:29) on area 1.

Certain pottery from the occupation layer (L3) on area 2 also appears developed and later than the bulk of material represented there. The beaded rim of a form 9 bowl (fig 23:233) is atypical, as is the finewear biconical bowl or jar with beaded and bevelled rim (fig 22:229), which is closely matched at Petters Sports Field (O'Connell 1986, fig 49:106–125). Equally, the decorated shoulder (fig 25:300) in a hard, sandy fabric, is discordant with the area 2 assemblage and is more closely related to similar sherds on area 1, for which an 8th–7th century BC date has been suggested.

6.2 FUNCTIONAL VARIATION

Although most of the differences between excavated areas are apparently chronological, functional variations cannot *a priori* be discounted. Barrett (1980, 302–3) distinguishes five functional vessel classes which combine elements of fabric and form: coarse- (class I) and fineware (class II) jars, coarse- (class III) and fineware (class IV) bowls, and cups (class V). The proportions of these classes for areas 1 and 2, which were calculated on the total EVES for each area, are shown in table 2.

	Area (%)	
Class	1	2
I	62	53.2
II	4	5.4
III	9.6	14.3
IV	14.4	20.7
V	12	6.4

TABLE 2

That there is a striking similarity of the functional vessel classes between areas is unquestionable. The only real divergence is seen in class V, but this result is probably not significant because of the small size of the area 1 assemblage. Clearly, therefore, a simple functional model does not explain the total variation between areas, though the results reflect the general trend towards fineware bowls in Late Bronze Age assemblages (Barrett 1980, fig 4).

The distribution of vessel types on each excavated area (fig 29) displays some interesting patterning which, though probably related to rubbish disposal, may betray underlying functional divisions of the site.

Most vessels on area 1 were found either in hut 1 or on the presumed working area, F56. The range of vessels from hut 1, which include the unusual shallow bowl or dish (fig 13:18), jars, coarse- and fineware bowls, and cups, is more varied than that from F56, and might indicate a semi-specialised function for the hut. Isolated vessels probably reflect discard rather than activity-associated behaviour.

Two main foci are represented on area 2. The first, which is associated with kiln or furnace F62, is dominated by shouldered jars. Bag-shaped jars are also fairly common, while bowls are rare and, significantly, restricted to coarseware examples. A correspondingly large number of jars is represented at the second focus, which centres on kiln/furnaces F64 and F80. A contrast between these foci is provided by the significantly large quantity of fineware bowls at the latter, and also by the presence of cups, one group of which is fairly large. The wide range of vessels, including

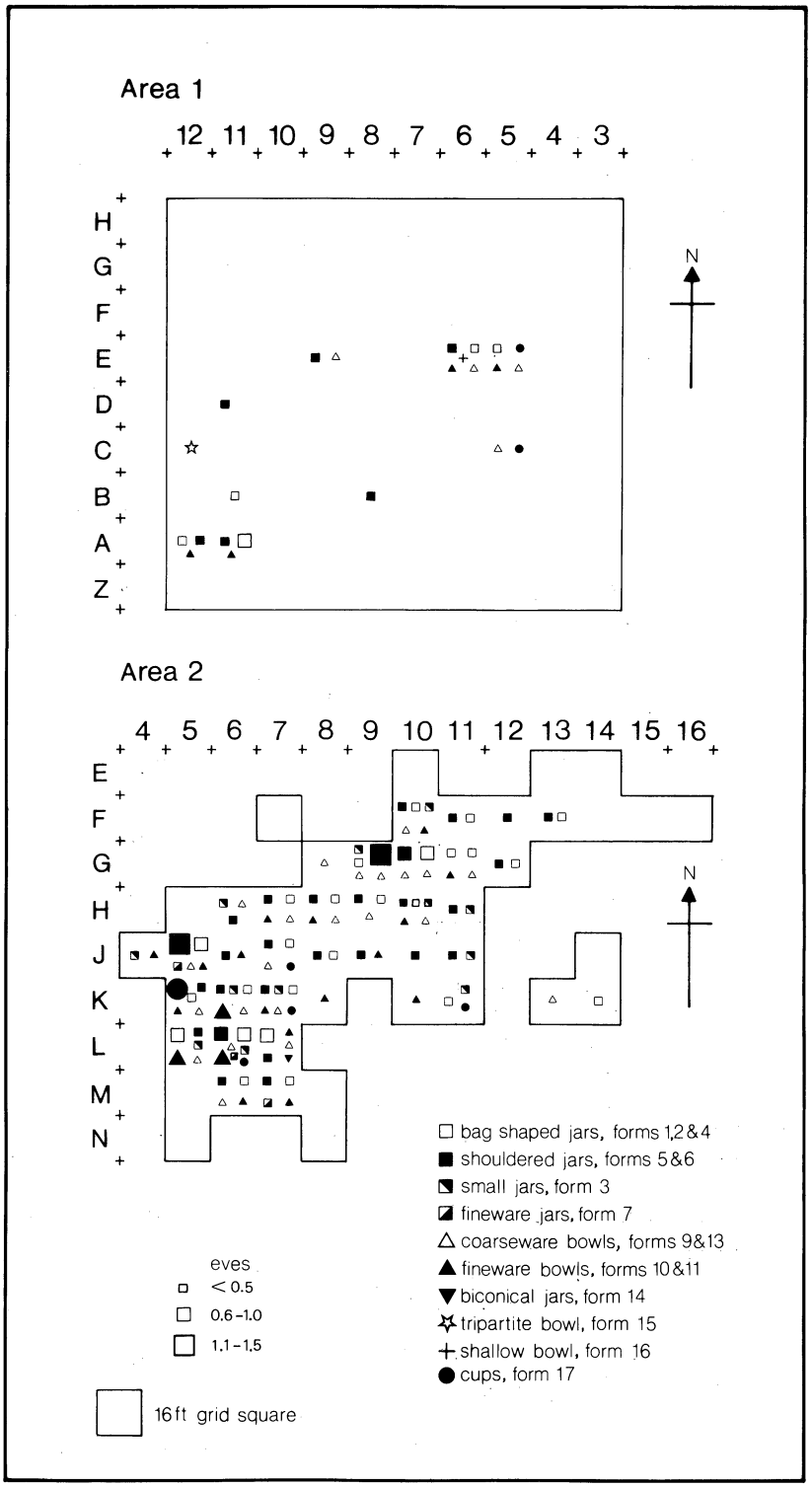


Fig 29. Weston Wood. Plans of areas 1 and 2 displaying the distribution of vessel types

fineware jars, at the second focus suggests a greater variety of activities than evidenced at the first. Precise details of these activities are wanting, though the association with probable kilns or furnaces indicates non-domestic, perhaps industrial, usage. In this light the relatively high proportion of cups from area 2 might be linked with specialised on-site activities and need not be seen as purely domestic items.

Until further spatial analyses of possible activity areas from other sites are published, the results from Weston Wood must remain as a tantalising glimpse into ceramic usage in the Bronze Age.

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