

Scotland's First Settlers: Report on the Coarse Pottery

Ann MacSween¹

This report presents the pottery finds from the Scotland's First Settlers project as a whole. Because of the diversity in site type, geographical location and chronology, it is presented as a catalogue. The more substantial sherds are recorded in full and small fragments and crumbs are listed. In the majority of cases the sherds were small or abraded and had no diagnostic attributes, and there are only a few instances where comment is made on the possible date of a sherd. As has been commented on in various papers (eg Lane 1990; Campbell 2002; MacSween 2002) fabric has yet to be proved a reliable indicator of date. Individual references to pottery finds are also included in the accounts of individual sites (see sections on **Sand**, and the **active sites section**)

NB: For crumbs weighing less than 2g, no weight is recorded.

SFS 10 ALLT NA UAMHA

TP1 context 1

P80. Eleven body sherds, slightly abraded. The fabric is fine sandy clay with occasional rock fragments which has fired hard and is grey with a brown exterior margin. Interior surface sooted.

Th 4mm; Wt 8g

TP1 context 2

P 81. One body sherd, fresh. The exterior surface is smoothed. The fabric is sandy clay which has fired hard and is grey with a red interior surface. The exterior surface is sooted.

Th 6mm; Wt 5g

P 82. One body sherd, abraded. The exterior surface is smoothed. The fabric is sandy clay with occasional mixed rounded and angular rock fragments which has fired hard and is grey. The interior surface is sooted.

Th 7mm; Wt 4g

P83. One body sherd, fairly fresh. The exterior surface is smoothed. The fabric is fine sandy clay which has fired hard and is red.

Th 7mm; Wt 2g

Comment: Probably Iron Age or later

SFS 30 AN CORRAN C

Surface

¹ Ann MacSween, 6 Ettrick Grove, Edinburgh, EH10 5AW
ettrick@btinternet.com
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P6. N13 Rim which has been pinched up, leaving a slight bevel on the exterior. The fabric is fine clay with small voids (organics) which has fired hard and is grey with red surfaces.

Th 5mm; Dia 120mm; Wt 4g

SFS 101 AN CORRAN E

Surface

P7. N30/ V1 One body sherd, slightly abraded, decorated with deep oblique incisions, 3mm wide and 1mm deep. The fabric is fine sandy clay with occasional rock fragments and round/triangular voids (possibly shell) which has fired soft and is brown. Light sooting on both surfaces.

Th 8mm; Wt 8g

Comment From the angle of the sherd and the nature of the decoration, this sherd is probably from an Unstan Ware vessel, dating to the earlier part of the Neolithic. (cf, for example, pottery from Bharpa Carinish, North Uist [MacSween 1993, 373, Fig 8, V54]).

P8. V2 One body sherd, slightly abraded. The fabric is fine clay with occasional rock fragments which has fired soft and is grey with a red exterior surface.

Th 7mm; Wt 6g

SFS 66 ARD CLAIS SALACHER 2

P14. V1 Sherd, probably from the rounded part of a base, fresh. The fabric is coarse sandy clay with occasional rock fragments which has fired hard and is buff. There are finger impressions on the interior surface, probably from shaping.

Th 9mm; Wt 18g

P15. V2 Body sherd, fresh. The fabric is sandy clay which has fired hard and is black. Both surfaces are sooted.

Th 6mm; Wt 11g

P17. V1A Two sherds, probably from the same vessel. The fabric is sandy clay with occasional coarse quartz which has fired hard. Exterior surface sooted.

Th 7mm; Wt 12g

P18. V2A One sherd. The fabric is sandy clay which has fired hard and is black. Sooting on both surfaces.

Th 6mm; Wt 7g

P19. V3A Sherd from the neck of a vessel, decorated with a horizontal line around the neck of the vessel, with vertical lines c12mm long and 3mm apart below it. The fabric is sandy clay with occasional rock fragments which has fired hard and has a red exterior and a grey interior.

Th 10mm; Wt 31g

Comment: the nature of the decoration - a band of incised decoration around the neck of the vessel - is indicative of an Iron Age date (cf decoration on a vessel dating to the earlier Iron Age from Kebister, Orkney [Dalland and MacSween 1999, illus 159.1, p 181]).

P20. *TP 1 Context 4 S1032*

One body sherd from a coil-constructed vessel, slightly abraded. The fabric is fine clay with c20% of angular rock fragments up to 6mm long which has fired hard and is grey with a red exterior surface. There is light sooting on both surfaces.

Th 8mm; Wt 14g

P16. Sherd of modern glazed pottery.

SFS 99 CLACHAN CHURCH

TP1 Context 9914

P23. One sherd, broken in two. The fabric is sandy clay which has fired hard and is black. There is sooting/residue on both surfaces.

Th 4mm; Wt 5g

??One fragment. The fabric is sandy clay.

Th 5mm

SFS 17 CHUCH CAVE, RONA

P84. *TP2, Context 1*

One body sherd, slightly abraded. The fabric is coarse sandy clay which has fired hard and is grey with a red interior margin.

Th 7mm; Wt 4g

P85. *TP2, Context 2*

One body sherd, slightly abraded. The exterior surface is smoothed and possibly burnished. The fabric is sandy clay which has fired hard and is grey with a brown interior surface.

Th 4mm; Wt 2g

P86. One body sherd, slightly abraded. The fabric is sandy clay which has fired hard and is grey with red surfaces.

Th 6mm; Wt 1g

P87. One body sherd, abraded. The exterior surface is smoothed and decorated with incised lines probably forming a chevron pattern. The fabric is fairly coarse sandy clay which has fired hard and is grey.

Th 6mm; Wt 3g

Comment: Probably Iron Age or later. The motif on the one decorated sherd is indicative of an Iron Age date, and the fabrics and fineness of the undecorated sherds indicate an Iron Age or later date.

SFS 117 DUN HASAN

Surface

P25. N29 One body sherd, slightly abraded. The exterior surface is smoothed. The fabric is fine sandy clay with occasional rock fragments and voids which has fired hard and is grey with brown surfaces.

Th 10mm; Wt 25g

SFS 08 LOCH A SGUIRR 1

TP9 Spit 8

P1. V1 Body sherd, slightly abraded. The fabric is fine sandy clay with occasional voids (organics) which has fired hard and is grey. The exterior surface is sooted.

Th 7mm; Wt 3g

P2. V2 Two body sherds, fresh. The fabric is fine sandy clay which has fired hard and is grey with red margins. The exterior surface is sooted and there is lighter sooting in the interior.

Th 5mm; Wt 4g

P3. 2 crumbs. Sandy clay. Grey with a red exterior margin. c 4mm.

SFS 18 LOCH A SGUIRR 2

TP1 Spit 1

P4. One body sherd, slightly abraded. There are finger smoothing marks on the interior and exterior surfaces. The fabric is fine clay with small voids (possibly organics) which has fired hard and is grey with a red exterior margin. The exterior surface is sooted with small patches of residue.

Th 6mm; Wt 8g

TP9 Spit 7

P5. Two abraded fragments from the same vessel. The fabric is fine sandy clay which has fired hard and is grey with red surfaces.

Th 11mm

SFS 106 LOCH TOSCAIG 3

Surface

P24. Small abraded fragment. The fabric is fine sandy clay which has fired hard and is grey with red margins.

Th 7mm

SFS 171 MEALL NA H'AIRDIE 2

P79. *TP1 context 2*

One body sherd, slightly abraded. The fabric is sandy clay which has fired hard and is grey with a red exterior margin. The exterior is sooted and the interior is sooted with a residue.

Th 6mm; Wt 14g

Comment: Probably Iron Age or later.

SFS 96 MEALLABHAN

Surface

P28. V1 One body sherd (fresh) and one fragment (slightly abraded). The fabric is sandy clay which has fired hard and is grey with brown surfaces. Sooting/residue on the exterior and interior surfaces.

Th 6mm; Wt 14g

P29. V2 One body sherd from below the neck of the vessel. The fabric is fine clay with organics (incompletely burnt out) which has fired soft and is light grey with a buff exterior surface. The exterior surface is smoothed.

Th 6mm; Wt 6g

P30. V3 One body sherd, slightly abraded. The fabric is fine sandy clay with occasional rock fragments which has fired hard and is red. The exterior surface is sooted.

Th 6mm; Wt 6g

P31. V4 One body sherd, slightly abraded. The fabric is fine sandy clay which has fired soft and is grey with a red interior margin. The exterior surface is sooted and there is light sooting in the interior.

Wt 7g; Th 7mm

P32. V5 One body sherd and two rim sherds (flat rim), abraded. One sherd is from the neck of the vessel (33mm from the lip of the vessel to the point of inflection). The fabric is coarse sandy clay which has fired hard and is grey with buff margins. The exterior surface is sooted.

Th 7mm; Wt 16g

P33. V6 Three body sherds (abraded). The fabric is coarse sandy clay which has fired hard and is grey with a brown interior margin. The exterior surface is sooted.

Th 5mm; Wt 12g

P34. V7 Plain rim from a necked vessel (22mm from the lip of the vessel to the point of inflection). The fabric is coarse sandy clay which has fired hard and is grey with red margins.

Th 9mm; Wt 16g

P35. V8 Body sherd, slightly abraded. The fabric is fine sandy clay with occasional voids and occasional rock fragments which has fired soft and is grey with a red exterior margin.

Th 6mm; Wt 6g

P36. V9 Forty body sherds and fragments plus two rim sherds from a necked vessel with a flattened lip. Slightly abraded/abraded. 23mm below the lip of the vessel, above the point of inflection, is a pinched up cordon. The fabric is sandy clay with some voids (organics) which has fired hard and is grey with a buff exterior margin. Some of the body sherds have been combed on the exterior surface. Both surfaces are sooted.
Dia at neck 100mm; Th 7mm; Wt 176g

P37. V10 Two rim sherds and two body sherds from a necked vessel with a slightly everted lip, abraded. 18mm below the lip of the vessel is a pinched up cordon. The fabric is sandy clay which has fired hard and is grey with a buff exterior margin. There is light sooting on the exterior surface.
Wt 12g

P38. V11 32 body sherds and a rim sherd, probably all from the same (flat-rimmed) vessel. One sherd has a pinched up cordon, abraded. The fabric is sandy clay with c10% of inclusions which has fired hard and is grey with a buff/red exterior margin. There are patches of residue in the interior.
Th 7mm; Wt 102g

TP1 Context 1 S1095

P22. 3 crumbs, probably pottery, from different vessels. The fabric is fine sandy clay.

Comment: Some of the pottery from this site, in particular V9 and V10 may be medieval in date (Julie Frankilin, pers com), cf, for example, the form of a vessel of the Scottish White Gritty ware, 13-14th century, from Kirkwall (MacAskill 1982b, reproduced in McCarthy and Brooks 1988 Fig 114, no 525, p 210).

SFS 58 RUBHA CHUAIG

Surface

P9. N58 Body sherd, slightly abraded. The fabric is fine sandy clay which has fired hard and is grey with red margins. The exterior surface is sooted.
Th 5mm; Wt 5g

Test Pit 1

P12. Three body sherds from the same vessel. The fabric is sandy clay which has fired hard and is grey with red/brown margins. There is sooting on the exterior and interior surfaces.
Th 10mm; Wt 29g

P13. *TP 1 Context 1*

Another sherd from the same vessel
Th 10mm; Wt 13g

TP 1 Context 4

P11. Abraded body sherd from the same vessel. The fabric is sandy clay which has fired hard and is grey with red/brown margins. There is sooting on the exterior and interior surfaces.

Th 10mm; Wt 11g

TP 2 Context 2

P10. Body sherd, slightly abraded. The fabric is coarse clay which has fired hard and is grey with red margins. Raised surface (?unsmoothed coil junctions). Sooted.

Th 5mm; Wt 5g

SFS 4 SAND 1 (MAIN EXCAVATION SITE)

Surface - Molehill

P27. Three fragments from different vessels. Fine sandy clay with c10% of rock fragments which has fired hard and is grey with a brown exterior.

Th 8mm

TP7 Spit 3

P26. Abraded sherd. The fabric is sandy clay with c10% of rock fragments up to 5mm long which has fired soft and is grey with a brown interior margin.

Th 6mm; Wt 4g

P21. B4B SE Spit 6 context 7/8

Small abraded sherd. The fabric is fine sandy clay with occasional rock fragments which has fired hard and is grey with buff margins.

Th 6mm; Wt 2g

P108. B25B Spit 3

Body sherd. Sandy clay which has fired hard and is grey with a brown exterior. The interior surface is sooted.

Th 6mm; Wt 2g

P109. B3B.SW 013/023 (disturbed)

Abraded sherd, possibly a rim. Fine sandy clay with c10% of rock fragments which has fired hard and is grey with a brown exterior.

Wt 4g

P110. A1B NW Spit 2

Body sherd. Sandy clay with 10% of rock fragments which has fired hard and is grey with a brown exterior.

Th 8mm; Wt 3g

P111. B4B SW 001

Body sherd. Sandy clay with 10% of rock fragments which has fired hard and is grey with brown surfaces.

Th 11mm; Wt 2g

Sand: coarse pottery from sorting (all very abraded)

No weight = total weight less than 1 g

P39.	A1B NE	Spit 2	1 sherd	fine sandy	5g
P40.	A2B SE	Spit 3	1 frag	sandy	5mm
P41.	A2B SW	Spit 4	3 crumbs	fine sandy	
P75.	A2B NW	Spit 5	2 crumbs	fine sandy	
P119.	A2B SE	Spit 5	1 crumb	fine sandy	
P120.	A2B SW	Spit 6	2 crumbs	fine sandy, occ rock	2g
				(possible rim frag)	
P42.	A3B NE	Spit 4	1 frag	sandy	
P43.	A3B NW	Spit 2	1 frag	sandy, voids	
P118.	A3B NW	Spit 6	2 crumbs	fine sandy, organics	
P44.	A6B	Spit 1	1 frag	fine sandy	6mm
P45.	B1A	Spit 2	3 crumbs	fine sandy clay	
P46.	B1A	Spit 2	2 crumbs	sandy	3g
P115.	B1A	Spit 2	1 crumb	sandy, occ rock	
P77.	B1A	Spit 2	1 sherd	sandy	5mm 3g
P47.	B1A	Spit 3	2 frags	fine sandy/sandy	
P48.	B1B NE	Spit 4	2 crumbs	fine sandy	
P49.	B1B SE	Spit 1	1 sherd	fine sandy	6mm 4g
P50.	B1B	Spit 2	2 frags	sandy	7mm 3g
P51.	B1B NW	Spit 3	1 frag	fine sandy, voids	
P52.	B2	Spit 2	1 crumb	fine sandy clay	
P53.	B2B	Spit 2	1 body	sandy	
	7mm 2g				
P54.	B2B	Spit 3	2 sherds	sandy	7mm 3g
P55.	B2B	Spit 3	1 frag	fine sandy	7mm
P56.	B2B NW	Spit 4	1 frag	sandy	
P78.	B3B	Spit 2	2 frags	sandy	6mm 3g
P57.	B3B SW	Spit 3	1 crumb	fine sandy	
P113.	B3B SE	Spit 3	1 crumb	sandy	
P114.	B4B NW	Spit 2	1 crumb	sandy	
P58.	B4B NE	Spit 7	1 frag	fine sandy, occ rock,	
	organics				
P59.	B4B SE	Spit 7	1 frag	fine clay	8mm
P60.	B4B SW	Spit 2	1 frag	sandy	
P61.	B4B SW	Spit 5	1 crumb	fine sandy	
P76.	B4B SE	Spit 3	1 crumb	fine sandy	
P62.	B5B NW		1 crumb	sandy	
P63.	B5B NE	Spit 2	1 frag	sandy, occasional large	
	quartz				
P64.	B5B SE	Spit 4	1 crumb	sandy clay	
P65.	B5B SE	Spit 6	2 sherds	fine sandy, voids	6g
		2 frags		fine sandy, voids	
		2 crumbs		fine sandy, voids	
P66.	B6B SW	Spit 4	1 crumb	fine sandy, occasional	
	rock, voids				
P67.	B6B SE	Spit 5	1 crumb	fine	
P68.	B6B SE	Spit 6	1 frag	sandy, voids	
P69.	B20B	Spit 1	1 frag	fine, sandy	7mm
			1 crumb	fine, sandy	

P70.	B24B	Spit 2	1 crumb	fine sandy clay
P117.	B24B	Spit 2	2 crumbs	sandy, occ rock
			2g	
P112.	B25	Spit 2	1 crumb	sandy
P71.	B25A	Spit 2	1 frag	fine sandy clay 6mm
P72.	B25A	Spit 3	1 crumb	fine sandy clay
P73.	B25B SE	Spit 4	1 frag	fine sandy
P74.	B24B SW	Spit 3		1 tiny crumb sandy
P116.	B25B	Spit 2	1 crumb	sandy

GLAZED POTTERY AND GLASS

P95.	SFS 76, Camusteel 1, TP1 context 1, s1105			19 sherds/fragments
P96.	SFS 77, Camusteel 2, TP1 context 1			6 sherds
P88.	SFS 23, Crowlin 4, TP 1 context 1, s1105			glazed pottery (4 small pieces)
P90.	SFS 22, Crowlin 3, TP1; context 3			3 pieces glazed pottery 4 pieces glass
P106.	SFS 22, Crowlin 3, TP1 context 3			2 sherds
P107.	SFS 22, Crowlin 3, TP1 context 3			1 fragment
P91.	SFS 4, Sand 1, spit 1			1 piece glazed pottery
P93.	SFS 4, Sand 1, TP11 spit 2			1 piece glazed pottery
P92.	SFS 4, Sand 1, B17A, Turf; N31			1 sherd
P104.	SFS 104, Fearnmore 1, surface			2 sherds
P101.	SFS 104, Fearnmore 1, surface			1 fragment
P100.	SFS 104, Fearnmore 1, TP1 context 1			3 fragments
P103.	SFS 104, Fearnmore 1, TP2 context 1			1 sherd
P99.	SFS 104, Fearnmore 1, TP3 context 1			2 fragments
P98.	SFS 104, Fearnmore 1, TP4 context 1			3 sherds
P102.	SFS 104, Fearnmore 1, TP6 context 1			5 sherds 3 fragments 1 pipe stem
P89.	SFS 100, Fraser's Croft, TP1 context 2, s1082			glazed pottery (1 piece)
	SFS 100, Fraser's Croft, TP1 context 2,		1 handle	
P105.	SFS 19, Toscaig 1, TP1 context 1		4 sherds	

SFS 68; A3B; SW Sp5 white material (not pottery) - *I have found this one: the 68 was written after the rest – this is Sand definitely – no idea what the 68 refers to but its not the site. Could we delete it as it is not pottery and not analysed ???*