

THE PETERBOROUGH WARE BOWL FROM CALLING LOW DALE, DERBYSHIRE

By J. A. GILKS

(The Tolson Memorial Museum, Ravensknowle, Huddersfield, Yorkshire)

SUMMARY

The Calling Low Dale (formerly Church Dale) Neolithic bowl has recently been restored, allowing minor amendment to the previously-published drawing. The impressed decoration was done with bones of the Common Sandpiper.

MAJOR T. A. HARRIS of Ashford, Derbyshire, discovered between 1936/7, traces of occupation and unstratified burials in a rock shelter, buried below a talus slope in Calling Low Dale (formerly known as Church Dale), (Leask 1938), Nat. Grid Ref. SK 183654. At a depth of four feet two cists were discovered, A and B respectively; three sides of each cist were constructed of limestone boulders and the fourth formed by the cliff face. The cists were excavated by Major Harris and Mr. Leslie Armstrong; cist B was found to contain the disarticulated remains of at least four individuals, whether male or female it is not recorded. Associated with the remains were fragments of flint and chert waste, a *petit tranchet* arrowhead, and sherds of two Peterborough Ware bowls. Only one bowl and the arrowhead have survived and these were illustrated and briefly commented upon by Professor Piggott in 1953 (Piggott 1953; also 1954, p. 307).

Major Harris presented the arrowhead and bowl to the Sheffield City Museum. After restoration the bowl was redrawn by the writer and the amended drawing is illustrated here as an alternative to that published by the previous authors. No discussion is given as to the cultural and chronological implications of the Calling Low Dale and related burials, as these have been studied in detail in a separate paper prepared by the writer (Gilks forthcoming).

Bowl, fig. 1. 1; pl. 1. Sheffield Mus. J. 1956, 76

A hard, well-smoothed buff-orange fabric with a dark brown to grey outer surface. The interior is also dark brown to grey but is not smoothed.

Protruding through both the interior and exterior surfaces are large angular fragments of sandstone varying between 2 and 4 mm. in length. The diameter of the bowl at the rim is 6 in. (15.2 cm.), the overall height 3.75 in. (9.5 cm.), the thickness of the wall at the lowest point 0.3 in. (0.8 cm.). The whole of the exterior surface, the internal groove below the rim and the top of the rim are decorated with circumferential lines of bird bone impressions.

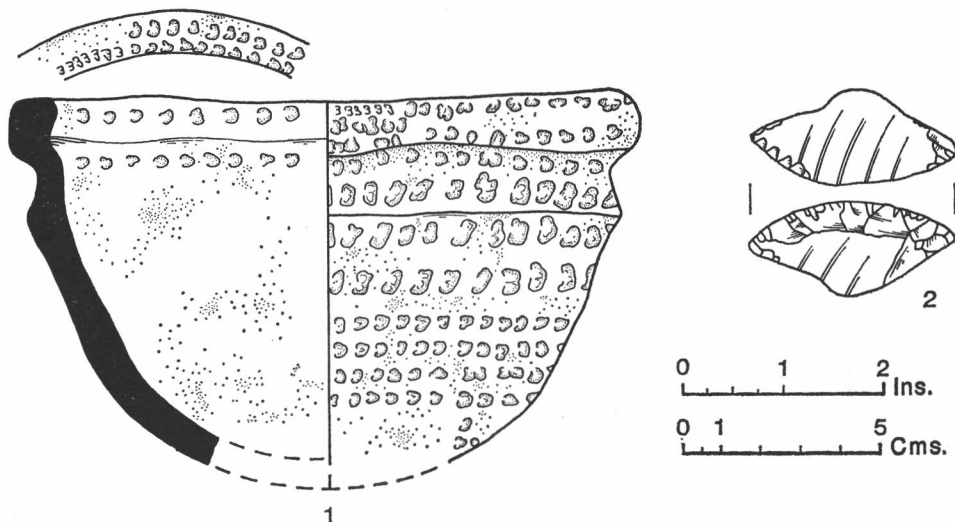


FIG. 1. Calling Low Dale, Peterborough Ware bowl and flint arrowhead, scale 1:2.

Recent tests conducted by D. Bramwell have shown that the impressions were probably produced by bones of the Common Sandpiper (*Tringa hypoleucos*), and three bones at least appear to have been used. The large impressions in the neck and the two rows below the shoulder appear to have been produced by the distal end of a humerus, whilst the small, almost circular impressions, along the top and outer face of the rim compare with impressions produced by the distal end of a tibia. Small wedge-shaped impressions along the top and crest of the rim can be matched with the distal end of a metacarpal. The decoration present on this vessel can be paralleled with that found on three Mortlake Ware bowls from the West Kennet long barrow (Piggott 1962, pp. 38-40, figs. II, 9, 12, 16, 17), and it is to this decorated ceramic series that this vessel should be assigned.

Petit Tranchet Arrowhead, fig. 1. 2. Sheffield Mus. J. 1956, 77

Petit tranchet arrowhead, class E (Clark 1934, 50), in a translucent brown flint with a thin mottled white-grey patina along part of the cutting edge; secondary working with some marginal retouch is confined to the cutting edge and the tips on the flake face.

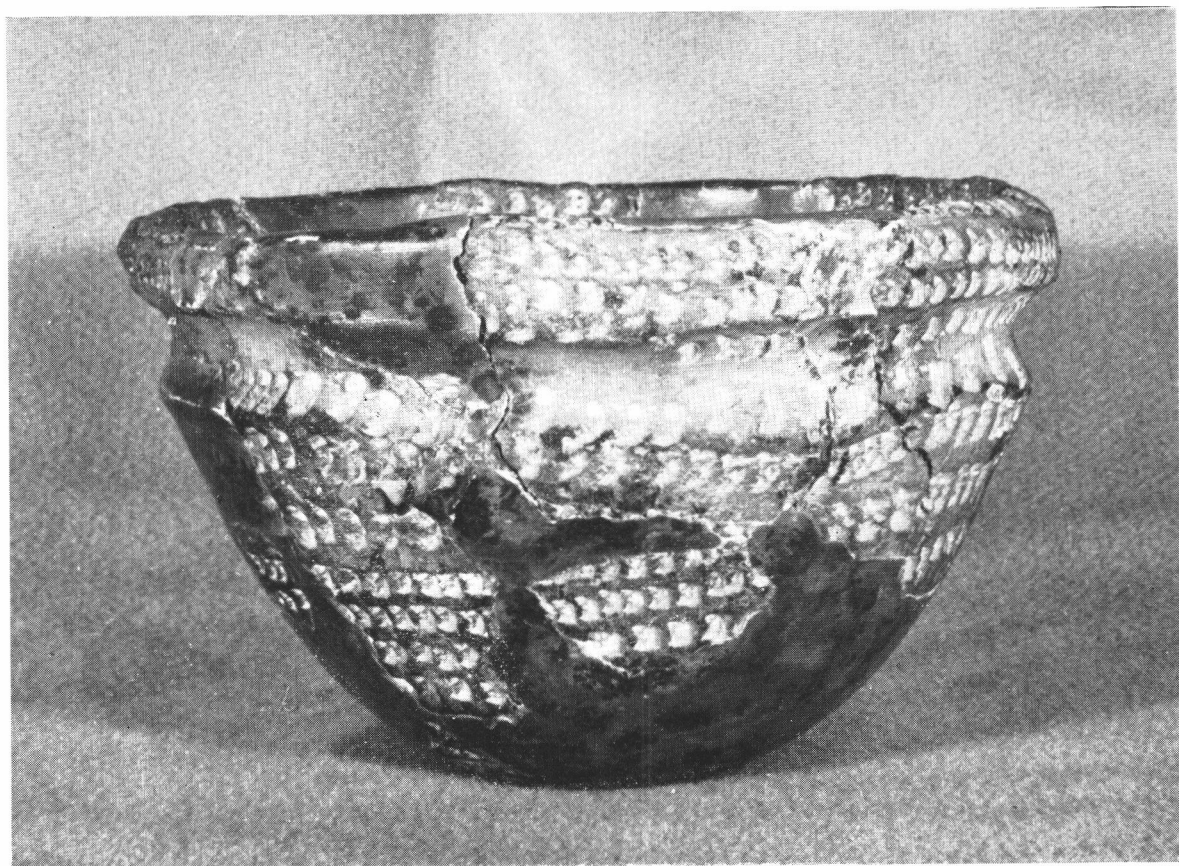


PLATE I. Calling Low Dale, Peterborough Ware bowl, scale approx. 5:6.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The writer would like to record his thanks to Mr. A. Butterworth and Mr. G. D. Lewis, Director of Sheffield City Museum, for permission to publish this vessel, and to Mr. D. Sier for supplying the photograph. Mr. D. Bramwell, Bakewell, kindly supplied information relating to the bird bone decoration referred to in this paper.

REFERENCES

- CLARK, J. G. D., 1934. "Derivative forms of the *Petit Tranchet* in Britain", *The Archaeological Journal*, xci, 32-58.
- GILKS, J. A., forthcoming. "A Neolithic Burial and Occupation Site at Elbolton Cave, Wharfedale", *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal*.
- LEASK, H. G., et al., 1938. "Notes on Excavations in Eire, England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales during 1938", *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, iv, 314-25 ("Church Dale, Derbyshire", p. 317).
- PIGGOTT, S., 1953. "Secondary Neolithic Burials at Church Dale, near Monyash, Derbyshire, 1937-39", *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, xix, 228-30.
- PIGGOTT, S., 1954. *The Neolithic Cultures of the British Isles*, Cambridge University Press.
- PIGGOTT, S., 1962. *The West Kennet Long Barrow, Excavations 1955-56*, Ministry of Works Archaeological Reports, 4, London, H.M.S.O., 1962.