

Grove William's Land GRW15

Some 22 sherds weighing 232g have been identified as prehistoric or possibly prehistoric in date. Identification of the latter was based on the lack of general similarity to Roman or post-Roman pottery from the site.

All except two sherd - fragments of simple flat bases - are plain, undecorated body sherds, lacking any distinguishing characteristics that would allow them to be classified within existing prehistoric typological schema. However, glauconitic sandy sherds from ditches 305, 505 and 706 correspond fairly well to a glauconitic sandy fabric (QU1) at Monk's Farm, and the 12 sherds, probably from a single vessel in coarse flint-tempered ware from ditch 1905 match fabric FL1 at the same site, where it was represented by middle Bronze Age forms. The FL1 sherds from GRW15 probably belong to a large middle Bronze Age bucket urn of the type identified at Monk's Farm, and may be residual in the fill of ditch 1905.

At Monk's Farm four flint-tempered fabrics were identified, but William's Land produced a distinctive fifth variety (FL5), represented by a single residual sherd from medieval ditch 1711. It incorporates abundant well-sorted calcined white flint in a sandy fabric, and the sherd is smoothed and well-fired. Although probably of broadly local origin, it closely resembles the well-made flint-tempered wares produced across the chalk downlands of south central Britain during the middle and late Iron Age.

The sherds in sandy ware QU1 have the wall thickness and roughly burnished surface finish typically seen on middle to late Iron Age vessels, but could be earlier. Glauconitic clays were used for potting throughout the prehistoric period, but their excellent firing qualities appear to have made them particularly popular from the middle Iron Age onwards. Two sherds in QU1 from ditch 505 belong to a simple flat bowl or jar base, and these examples additionally contain lumps of dark red ferrous material.

Plain body sherds and a fragment of a flat base of uncertain date were produced in a fine sandy clay with finely graded mixed temper of sparse platey shell, oolites, and white flint, with occasional red ferrous lumps. The sherds are fired to pale orange or buff and share some characteristics with both the Roman and medieval pottery range, but are described here along with the prehistoric material as fabric SH- (Table 1). There are five sherds representing three vessels in this fabric, from ditches 505, 1403 and 1805. Ditch 1805 also contained Roman pottery.

Table 1: Pottery

Ctx	Feature	Nosh	Wt (g)	Fabric	Form	Date	Comments
306	D305	1	8	QU1	body	MIA-LIA?	Very heavily abraded
506	D505	2x	35	QU1	BS1	MIA-LIA?	Roughly burnished. Red haematite lumps
506	D505	2x	35	SH-	body	undated	cross-wiped surface
706	D705	1	8	QU1	body	MIA-LIA	Highly abraded, limescale internal
1404	D1403	2x	12	SH-	BS1	undated	?Roman or medieval
1717	D1711	1	17	FL5	body	MIA-LIA?	Smoothed surface. Medieval pottery (1150-1300) present
1806	D 1805	1	10	SH-	body	undated	Smoothed light orange surface. Roman pot (AD250-410) present
1906	D1905	12	95	FL1		MBA	Resembles pottery from

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