

The Bronze Age to Iron Age transition in Chertsey: excavations at Guildford Road
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Appendix 1: Fired clay

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A total of 24 pieces of fired clay were recovered, including one fragment of medieval CBM in the form of a small tile fragment from context (121).

Most of the fired clay was recovered from pit [107]. While much of this comprised shapeless lumps of no identifiable form or function, two of the larger pieces from (110) <2> and <5> bore flat surfaces that appear to comprise fragments of triangular loomweights of characteristic Iron Age type.

Table 1 Catalogue of fired clay recovered from land west of Guildford Road, Chertsey

Context no	Context type	No of clasts	Wt (g)	Description	Date
104 <1>	fill of E–W ditch [103]	1	1		-
108 <4>	ultimate fill of pit [107]	3	8		-
109	fill of pit [107]	1	7		-
110 <1>	lower fill of pit [107]	1	193	large irregular rounded lump	-
110 <2>		11	229	one large fragment with a single flat surface, possibly part of a triangular loomweight	EIA
110 <5>		3	105	one large tapering fragment with two flat surfaces at right angles, possibly part of a triangular loomweight	EIA
121	fill of E–W ditch [103]	1	10	fragment of ceramic building material (tile)	med/post-med
171 <18>	fill of N–S ditch [170]	3	1	crumbs	-
Total		24	554		

Appendix 2: Pottery summary table

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Table 1 Catalogue of pottery sherds recovered from land west of Guildford Road, Chertsey (SC=sherd count; ENV=estimated number of vessels; FFB=fine flint; FMF=fine to medium flint; MCF=medium to coarse flint; FFQ=sandy/fine flint; FMFSID=fine to medium siderite/limonite; Q=sandy; QB=fine sandy; DS=decalcified shelly; DSS=decalcified shelly and calcareous inclusions; bs=body sherd)

Area	Context no	Context type	SC	Wt (g)	ENV	Fabric	Comment	Date
Eval Tr 1	3	alluvial layer	2	21	1	FFQ	bs	
			4	3	1	FMF	bs	
	4	ditch [6]	1	8	1	FFQ	bs	
Eval Tr 6	30	fill of pit [30]	2	11	1	DS	bs, low slashed cordon	LBA-EIA
			1	14	1	FMFSID	rim, weakly shouldered jar with finger impressions	LBA-EIA
Eval Tr 7	17	ditch [18]	7	37	1	FMFSID	rim/shoulder of weakly shouldered jar/bowl	LBA-EIA
			2	17	1	FFQ	bs	
Evaluation total			19	111	7			
A-C	+		1	3	1	DS	squared rim	LBA/EIA
A	104	fill of E-W ditch [103]	1	7	1	Q	bs	RB?
A	108 <4>	ultimate fill of pit [107]	7	15	1	DS	rim of round-shouldered jar, bs	LBA/EIA
			2	4	2	FFB	bs	
			3	17	3	Q	bs	
			1	7	1	QB	flat-topped rim	
			-	5	-	-	crumbs	
A	108	ultimate fill of pit [107]	4	23	1	DS	bs	LBA/EIA
			2	12	2	FFQ	rim of thin-walled bowl/cup (fig 6, no 1); bs round shoulder	
			6	135	3	Q	2 weak-shouldered jars with flat-topped rims, both v worn, one refired (fig 6, no 2); 1 large rim (2 sherds) with upright neck and finger impressions	

Area	Context no	Context type	SC	Wt (g)	ENV	Fabric	Comment	Date
							spaced below worn, flat rim (fig 6, no 3)	
A	109 <3>	fill of pit [107]	1	1	1	DS	bs + crumbs	LBA/EIA
A	109	fill of pit [107]	1	18	1	FMFSID	bs	LBA/EIA
			1	12	1	QB	bs	
A	110 <5>	lower fill of pit [107]	8	110	1	Q	bs	LBA/EIA
	110	lower fill of pit [107]	9	91	1	DSS	conjoining basal sherds	LBA/EIA
			47	1718	1	Q	large conjoining sherds of round-shouldered jar with upright cabled rim and pairs of finger impressions at the shoulder, some sherds with powdery surfaces, possibly burnt (fig 6, no 4)	
			2	12	2	Q	2 worn rims	
			4	100	1	Q	conjoining basal sherds (fig 6, no 5)	
			6	145	1	Q	conjoining basal sherds, possibly burnt (fig 6, no 6)	
			2	13	1	Q	bs, thin walled	
A	111	upper fill of pit [112]	2	6	1	fine QB	thin-walled bowl/cup, plain squared rim, burnished (fig 6, no 7)	LBA/EIA
			2	6	1	FMFSID	rim, shattered	LBA/EIA
A	129	fill of natural hollow [128]	1	1	1	Q	bs, tiny	-

Area	Context no	Context type	SC	Wt (g)	ENV	Fabric	Comment	Date
B	158 <14>	ultimate fill of well [151]	1	1	1	Q	bs, small (intrusive?)	RB?
B	158	ultimate fill of well [151]	1	12	1	DS	flared neck of shouldered jar, squared rim, possibly burnt (fig 6, no 8)	LBA/EIA
B	169	upper fill of pit [168]	1	12	1	FFQ	externally fingered rim (fig 6, no 9)	LBA/EIA
B	172 <19>	primary fill of pit [168]	5	5	1	FMF	bs, calcareous crusting on surface	LBA/EIA
C	178 <20>	fill of linear [177]	1	18	1	MCF	bs, thick walled	M/LBA?
Excavation total			122	2509	34			
Combined totals			141	2620	41			

Appendix 3: Pottery fabrics

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Nine separate fabric recipes were identified across the combined assemblage (table 1, table 2): five contained crushed burnt flint as the primary tempering agent; two contained quartz sand as the primary tempering agent; two contained organics, probably crushed burnt-out shell, as the primary tempering agent. As Blackmore (2019, 26–8) has recently noted, various fabric codes have been devised for prehistoric sites within the region of which Jones's type scheme (2009b, 117–24) for north-west Surrey is the most detailed and comprehensive. However, this has proved somewhat difficult to apply in practice and as a result has not been universally adopted. The fabric codes assigned to this assemblage, therefore, are those devised by Seager Thomas (2019) for the assessment of the pottery from the main excavation. They are as follows:

FFB: fine crushed burnt flint

FMF: fine to medium crushed burnt flint

MCF: medium to coarse crushed burnt flint

FFQ: sandy/fine crushed burnt flint

FMFSID: fine to medium siderite (iron-rich pellets)

Q: sandy quartz

QB: fine sandy quartz

DS: decalcified shelly

DSS: decalcified shelly and calcareous inclusions

FLINT-TEMPERED FABRICS (FFB; FMF; MCF; FFQ; FMFSID)

Five flint-tempered fabrics were identified based on the size and frequency of crushed burnt flint clasts within the clay matrices (Appendix 2: table 2), sherds of which were present in most of the feature groups, albeit in small numbers. Taken together, flint-tempered fabrics formed just under 7% of the overall combined assemblage by weight (Appendix 2: table 3), though the figures for sherd count (SC=22.3%) and estimated minimum number of vessels (ENV=38.46%) are rather higher.

Inevitably there is a degree of overlap between the various fabrics, some of which also incorporate elements of quartz sand (eg fig 6, nos 1 and 9). The individual clasts of burnt flint are generally crushed quite small (<2mm), although a single thick-walled body sherd defined as fabric MCF from linear feature [177] incorporated individual flint clasts >5mm in size. This was the only sherd to have been recovered from main excavation Area C, which further distinguishes it from the rest of the assemblage.

One of the flint-tempered fabrics, FMFSID, is defined by the presence of small iron-rich pellets in the clay matrices. Sherds of this fabric were found during the evaluation and within the upper fills of pits [107] and [112] in excavation Area A. Ferruginous pellets are a persistent feature of ceramic assemblages of Late Bronze Age/Early/Middle Iron Age date across the lower Thames Valley and have been variously identified as siderite, limonite or glauconite (eg Humphrey 1996, 161), though they do not appear to represent deliberate additions to fabric recipes. They occur naturally within the clays and sands of Eocene lithology such as the Bagshot Beds and Bracklesham Beds, both of which outcrop close to the site.

SAND-TEMPERED FABRICS (Q; QB)

Two main sand-tempered fabric recipes were employed (Appendix 3: table 1) though the distinction is one of degree, marked by the presence of exterior smoothing and burnishing on several vessels in fabric QB. One rim sherd in fabric Q (fig 6, no 2) also incorporates ferruginous pellets.

Sand-tempered fabrics comprise over 87% of the total combined assemblage by weight, nearly 60% of the site assemblage by sherd count and over 43% by ENV (Online Appendix 2: table 3), though this is skewed by the single semi-complete large vessel from pit [107], fill [110] (fig 6, no 4). Subtracting this vessel from the figures reduces the clear dominance of sandy fabrics within the assemblage, though they remain in the majority (eg SC=39%; Wt=62.7%; ENV=42%).

ORGANIC-TEMPERED FABRICS (DS; DSS)

Two organic-tempered fabrics are represented by sherds from pit [107] in Area A and within the ultimate fill of large waterhole [151] in Area B (fig 6, no 8) (Appendix 3: table 1). These appear to incorporate crushed burnt-out shell and comprise nearly 6% of the site assemblage by weight but around 18% by both sherd count and ENV (Appendix 3: table 1, table 2).

Shell-loaded fabrics are present in various local assemblages, but usually as a relatively minor component. Elements of the DS and DSS fabrics at Guildford Road may equate with Jones's SHELL and TUFA fabrics (2009b, 121–2), the latter thought by him to have derived from tufaceous clays dug from river palaeochannels during the Early to Middle Iron Age. These are distinct from the oyster shell-loaded fabrics used during the Late Iron Age in south Essex and north Kent.

Table 1 Combined fabrics by sherd count (SC), weight (g) and estimated number of vessels (ENV) (excluding 'crumbs' from context (108) <4> and two RB sherds from contexts (104) and (158))

Fabric	SC (%)		Wt (g) (%)		ENV (%)	
FFB	2	1.43	4	0.15	2	5.12
FMF	9	6.47	8	0.34	2	5.12
MCF	1	0.72	18	0.69	1	2.56
FFQ	8	5.75	70	2.68	6	15.38
FMFSID	11	7.91	75	2.87	4	10.25
Q	79	56.83	2251	86.34	14	35.89
QB	4	2.87	25	0.95	3	7.69
DS	16	11.51	65	2.49	6	15.38
DSS	9	6.47	91	3.49	1	2.56
	139		2607		39	

Table 2 Breakdown of the combined prehistoric pottery assemblage by generic fabric type (excluding 'crumbs' and two RB sherds)

Generic fabric	SC (n=139)		Wt (g) (n=2607)		ENV (n=39)	
Flint	31	22.30%	175	6.71%	15	38.46%
Sand	83	59.71%	2276	87.30%	17	43.58%
Shell	25	17.98%	156	5.98%	7	17.94%

Appendix 4: Pottery forms, surface finish and decoration

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Vessel forms are dominated by jars of various sizes, characterised by flattened rims and slack or rounded shoulders. Bases are flat, simple and include two with externally expanded feet (eg fig 6, no 5). Except for a few sherds belonging to two weakly-shouldered flint-tempered vessels from the evaluation phase, the jars are mostly in sand-tempered fabrics (eg fig 6, nos 2–4). Small bowls and/or cups are represented by just two sherds in flint- and sand-tempered fabrics from the upper fills of pits [107] and [112] in excavation Areas A and B (fig 6, nos 1 and 7) respectively.

Surfaces are generally somewhat worn, with evidence of interior and exterior wiping on several vessels. The lower wall of the large jar from pit [107] (fig 6, no 4) bears traces of vertical finger-rippling, presumably to disguise horizontal coil junctions. Both small thinner-walled vessels appear to have been finished with smoothed and/or burnished surfaces.

Decoration is restricted and largely confined to finger impressions variously disposed on the rim top, rim exterior and junction of neck/shoulder of at least five vessels. The large sandy jar from pit [107] in excavation Area A has a cabled rim and pairs of fingertip impressions on its rounded shoulder (fig 6, no 4), for example, while another sandy biconical jar from higher within the same pit features widely spaced finger impressions on the exterior of a much worn flattened rim (fig 6, no 3). Similar examples in flint-tempered fabrics were recovered during the evaluation phase and from pit [168] (fig 6, no 9) in excavation Area B. Two conjoining sherds of shelly ware from the evaluation (not illustrated) featured a low applied slashed cordon at the junction of neck and shoulder.

Finally, some sherds appear to have been variably affected by fire and have granular powdery surfaces. These include parts of the large semi-complete sandy jar deposited in layer [110] within pit [107] (fig 6, no 4). Some of the jar sherds were less affected, suggesting perhaps that burning had occurred after breakage when the fragments were either exposed on an occupation surface or midden deposit, or lying within the pit itself.

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