



Trevisker Pottery: some recent studies

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This paper provides an overview of Bronze Age Trevisker pottery. It is based largely on data from developer-funded investigations which have produced large numbers of radiocarbon determinations over the last decade. The ceramic style originates in Cornwall around the beginning of the second millennium BC. Most forms and decorative styles remain much the same throughout the Early and the Middle Bronze Ages, with differences in the archaeological record largely due to selection of different forms/styles for deposition in barrows and on settlement sites. In Cornwall there is extensive use of gabbroic Lizard clay. Recent work has indicated movement of this clay in the Middle Bronze Age and mixture with non-gabbroic materials. In Cornwall a late stage of the ceramic style been identified centred on the eleventh century BC.

In the Early Bronze Age a little Trevisker pottery is found in barrows outside Cornwall, some gabbroic, some more locally made. In the Middle Bronze Age the style becomes generally used on settlements across Devon, and in parts of west Dorset, south Somerset, and south Wales. Gabbroic clays, as well as other sources, are used in Devon. There is increasing evidence for the movement of gabbroic clay, as opposed to finished pots, into Devon and for the movement of clays from Devon sources within the county.

An initial version of this paper was given in a lecture at the conference entitled 'Wales and the West during the Bronze Age' organised by this Society and the Royal Archaeological Institute at Cardiff in April 2010. It is now presented in this volume dedicated to Frances Lynch Llewellyn as a small tribute to her great contribution to Bronze Age studies. This paper attempts to pull together some of the results of pottery reports carried out by the author over the last fifteen years, generally on developer-funded rescue excavations. They have all been collaborative projects with Dr Roger Taylor whose petrographic analysis has provided most of the significant new information set out here. Dr Taylor was not in a position to co-author this paper but his work is warmly acknowledged from the start.

Groundwork for the study of the Trevisker pottery and its range of Styles

The term 'Trevisker' was introduced in 1972 by Arthur ApSimon, taking the name from the lowland settlement (Fig. 1) excavated by Ernest Greenfield in 1955–56. He started work on the assemblage from the site, and its Cornish background, in the 1950s and presented the first results of his study in an overview of Cornish Bronze Age pottery published in 1958. His discussion of the pottery in the Trevisker excavation report attempted to demonstrate chronological developments both in form and decoration among Trevisker ceramics (ApSimon and Greenfield 1972). He also published a comprehensive account of the geographic spread of the style as known at the time (*ibid.* 371–5). It had long been recognised that features of Cornish Bronze Age ceramics were distinctive (Abercromby 1912, chapter 5) and Patchett had clarified these in two seminal papers (1944; 1950). However, ApSimon's work provided an extended account grounded to an exemplary extent in the archaeological

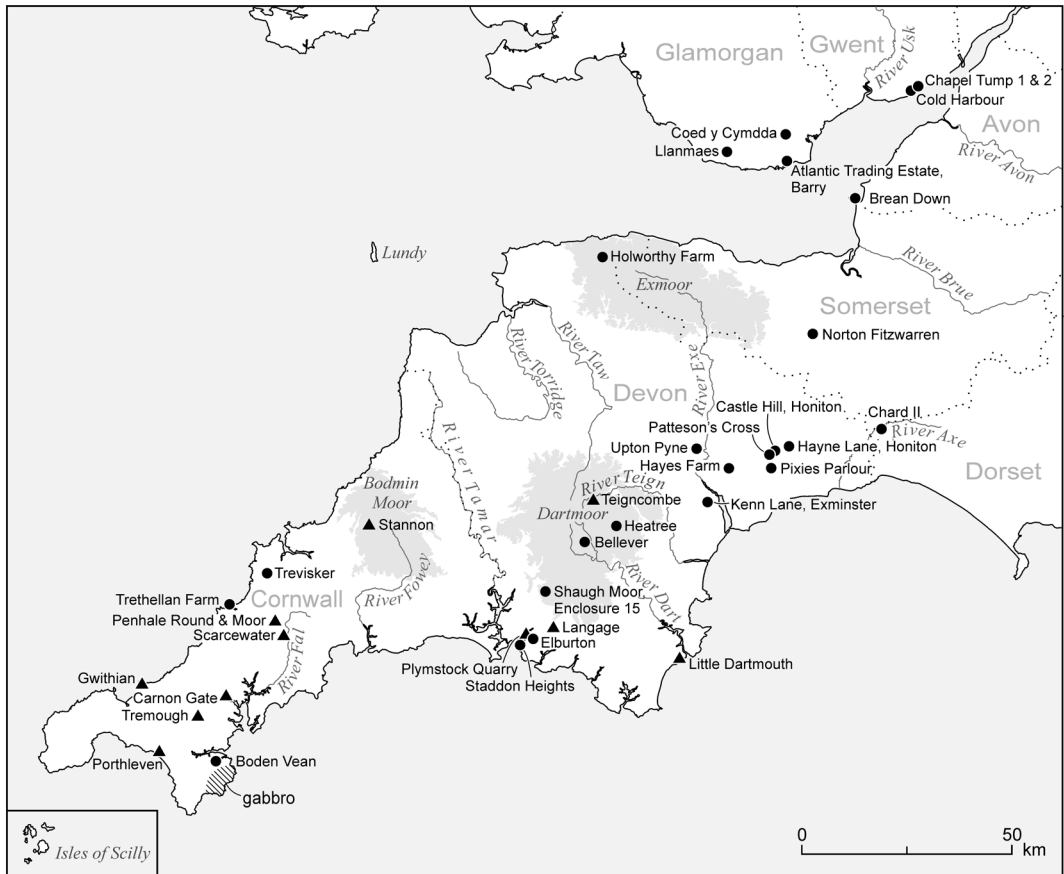


Fig. 1. Sites with Trevisker ceramics. Significant sites discussed in the text are named: those with evidence for the transport of gabbroic clay are distinguished by triangles.

knowledge of the time. During the 1970s and 80s the term Trevisker became generally accepted and was used increasingly frequently as the pace of rescue excavations quickened, for example at Tredarvah, Penzance (Pearce and Padley 1977).

A brief overview of Trevisker Styles

The Trevisker ceramic style was unusual in that it was used with little apparent change through the Early and Middle Bronze Ages, most of the second millennium BC. It appears to have originated in Cornwall and was the most common ceramic there in the Early Bronze Age. It was also used at this period in Devon and, occasionally, further afield. Early Bronze Age finds are almost exclusively from barrows and funerary/ritual contexts. Trevisker became the only style in use on the settlements of both Cornwall and Devon during the Middle Bronze Age and spread during this period into parts of south Wales, Somerset and the very west of Dorset (Fig. 1). During the Late Bronze Age it was superseded by Late Bronze Age Plain Wares, but chronological details of the change remain to be established.

Trevisker ceramics are generally biconical or have curved, rather than straight sides. Rims, especially

on larger vessels, tend to be strengthened by a variety of expansions and out-turned shapes. Decoration is restricted to the zone above the girth and ranges from simple parallel lines to complex patterns of zigzags and chevrons. It made use of impressed cord, in a variety of forms, and incisions, less frequently comb stamping and finger tip/nail impressions. Handles and lugs may occur, normally in pairs, occasionally in fours, set on the girth, within the lowest part of the decoration or just below it. Some vessels are plain. Occasionally cordons are found around the girth. The most extensive illustrations of vessels from funerary contexts are provided by Florence Patchett in her papers of



Fig. 2. Style 1 vessel, gabbroic fabric, containing a cremation, from a probable flat cemetery at Elburton in south-west Devon: impressed plaited cord decoration. Scale 1:4. Reproduced from the *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* 59 (2001), fig. 4. By permission of Martin Watts and the Devon Archaeological Society.

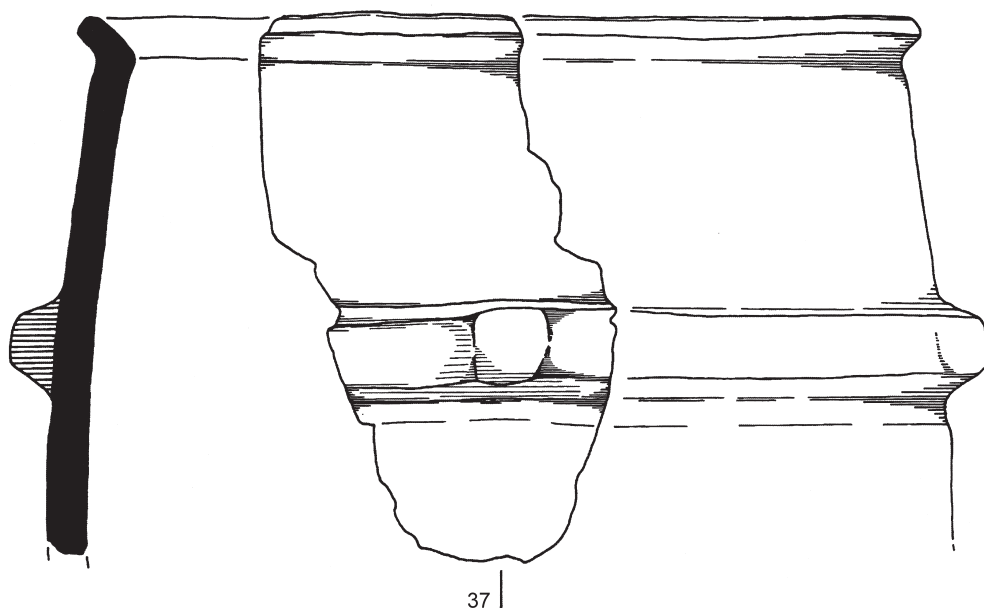


Fig. 3. Style 1a vessel, gabbroic fabric, from a pit at Tremough, Penryn, near Falmouth. Scale 1:3. Reproduced from *British Archaeological Reports, British Series 443*, fig. 28. *By permission of James Gossip and Andy M. Jones.*

1944 and 1950, while the figures of the ceramics from Trethellan provide the fullest view of vessels from a settlement site (Woodward and Cane 1991, figs 40–51).

Chronology and Trevisker Styles

ApSimon proposed that Trevisker ceramics could be divided into four broadly chronological Styles (ApSimon and Greenfield 1972, 326, 333). The chronological sequence proved to present some problems and Michael Parker Pearson (1990) then suggested a functional series of Styles, running through large storage jars (Style 1), through Styles 2, 3 and 4 medium-sized vessels appropriate for some storage, cooking and eating to Styles 5 and 6, small eating and drinking vessels. In 1991 Ann Woodward with Charlotte Cane (1991) published the largest assemblage of Trevisker material yet known, from the settlement at Trethellan Farm, Newquay (Fig. 1) which belonged to the fifteenth to thirteenth centuries BC. They showed that the full range of vessel sizes was present, as were both plaited and other cord impressed decoration, and that no chronological differences could be seen in the contexts excavated. Stylistic features absent from the assemblage were ‘true ribbon handles’, found on many Style 1 vessels decorated with plaited cord from Early Bronze Age funerary contexts, and straight-sided ‘flower pot’-type profiles, probably to be dated subsequent to the period of Trethellan Farm (see below). Woodward and Cane adapted Parker Pearson’s styles to accommodate large plain storage jars (Style 1A) and small vessels with finger tip/nail decoration (Style 6A). Their background studies for the Trethellan assemblage covered all available data from both domestic and funerary sites (in Woodward and Cane 1991). Subsequently Parker Pearson (1995) published an updated paper on Cornish Bronze Age pottery which incorporated Woodward and Cane’s work on Trethellan Farm.

Here Figures 2 – 9 have been reproduced to provide a visual overview of the various Styles with brief descriptions presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Definitions of Trevisker Styles after Parker Pearson 1995
(Figure numbers refer to the present article)

Style 1 (Fig. 2)	Impressed cord decoration from rim to shoulder (mainly 3 cord plait in vertical and horizontal chevron) with two large handles below the shoulder. The shape varies from biconical to bucket. Height varies between 23cm and 55cm though most are over 35cm high. Rim width varies between 20 and 46cm, with most wider than 24cm. These include all Trevisker . . . associated with Wessex II grave goods. . . . The appearance of a ribbon handle in an early context at Trevisker and its absence from Trethellan . . . suggest that this particular feature may have gone out of use by 1500–1200 BC. These would appear to be large storage vessels.
Style 1A (Fig. 3)	This is the same as style 1 but is undecorated. It is rare in funerary groups and forms up to 10% of some domestic assemblages.
Style 2 (Fig. 4)	Buckets with impressed cord decoration limited to immediately below the rim. Four, but sometimes three or two lugs, normally pierced, are also placed beneath the rim. These vessels are 23–44cm high and 15–29cm in rim diameter. . . . They may have been smaller storage or cooking vessels.
Styles 3 and 4 (Fig. 5)	Slightly rounded buckets with incised, grooved, comb or stamped decoration. They vary in height between 12 and probably 40cm and in rim diameter between 11 and 41cm. These are the predominant wares found in settlements . . . but form little more than 10% of funerary deposits. . . . they either belong to the later part of the Trevisker sequence . . . or were not appropriate funerary accompaniments. . . . In terms of size, these vessels correspond closely to style 2 and may very well represent a chronologically later style. They may have been used for food preparation and cooking.
Style 5 (Figs 7, 8)	Small pots with impressed cord decoration on their upper bodies. They may have small handles, unpierced lugs or dimples. They vary in height between 9 and 17cm. One or two are miniatures of style 1 forms. These were presumably individualized eating and drinking vessels.
Style 6 (Fig. 9)	Small, plain pots, occasionally with handles or lugs. They are 8–23cm high and 8–20cm wide at the rim. Their function is presumed to be the same as style 5.
Style 6A	Small pots decorated with finger impressions. These are relatively common in domestic contexts with styles 5 and 6 largely restricted to funerary accompaniments.

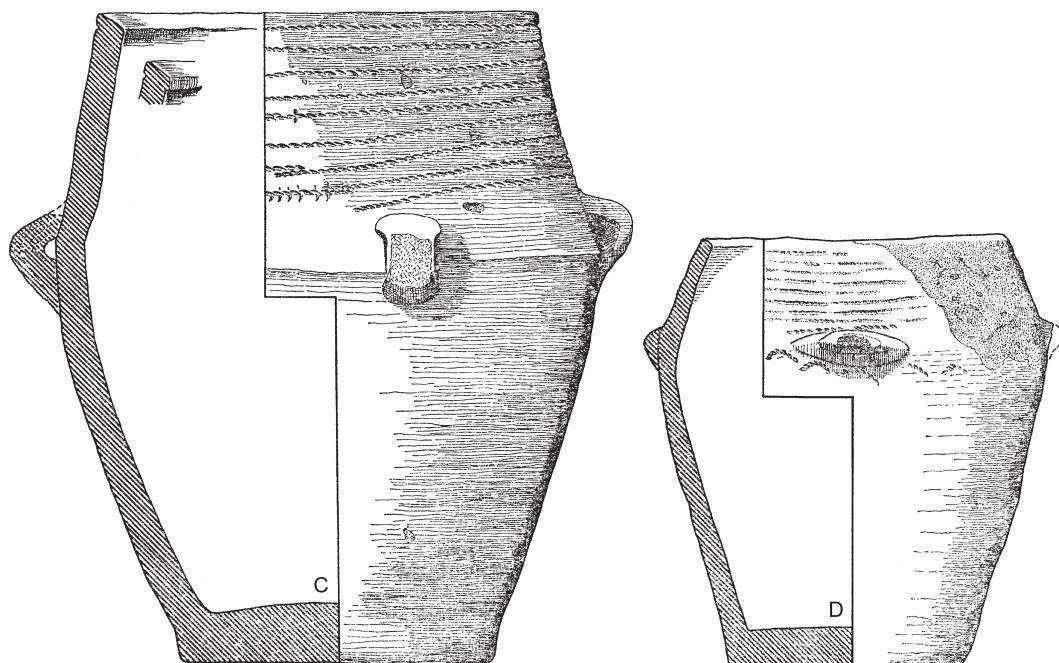


Fig. 4. Style 2 vessels, grogged fabric, with single-line impressed cord decoration, from deposits in barrow Upton Pyne 248b just north of Exeter. Scale 1:3. Reproduced from the *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* 27 (1969), fig. 6. By permission of the Devon Archaeological Society.

ApSimon, Parker Pearson and Woodward provide the groundwork for study of Trevisker ceramic Styles and their works should be referred to for detailed descriptions. Overall these Styles are a broad and useful guide to classification but as with so many ceramics there are now groups of material which do not fit in and which will be discussed below. The author has also observed that minor variation, particularly in decoration, is almost infinite, so much so that exact parallels for individual vessels can not be found. This observation has also been made by Mary Ann Owoc in her research on cord impressions on Bronze Age ceramics in Cornwall and Scilly (below and email to author). Overall the functional approach to stylistic division appears to be useful. This is well illustrated by the group of Style 5 vessels found as sherds in various contexts at the Site 2 cairn at Stannon (Fig. 8) in contexts dating from the seventeenth to the fifteenth centuries BC (Quinnell 2004–05). The vessels are small, generally less than 17 centimetres high with a capacity of between two and three litres: they have neat cord-impressed decoration. The Style 5 sherds were the only ceramics from this site. Their size suggests use as shared eating/drinking utensils and their presence is suggestive of feasting activities on the site. It had been previously demonstrated that Style 5 vessels do not generally occur on Middle Bronze Age settlement sites (Woodward and Cane 1991, fig. 53), their place being taken by Style 6 vessels, of similar size but plain, or sometimes with finger tip decoration (Style 6A).

In this paper the Early Bronze Age is considered to date broadly to 2000–1500 BC and the Middle Bronze Age to 1500–1100 BC.

A comment on terminology used for cord-impressed decoration

The term ‘plaited cord’ has long been used for impressions which appear to have been made with a piece of plaited cord. Such decoration has two lines of impressions with opposed twist and often only a slight space between them (for example, Fig. 2); here an actual length of cord plait may have been used. However, the two opposed twist lines often have a gap between them, for example on no. 3 from Stannon Site 2 (Fig. 8) which suggests that some other arrangement rather than a plait was used. The term ‘twisted cord’ tends to be applied to all cord impressions except those of plaited/opposed twist type. These may use single-cord lines or two close-set lines with parallel twist, for example nos 1–2 from Stannon Site 2 (Fig. 8). Three close-set lines of parallel twist are illustrated in Fig. 6 on a vessel from Trethellan. It is currently unclear exactly how most of these impressions were produced. The whole range of Trevisker cord impressions is currently being studied by Mary Ann Owoc of the Merceryhurst Archaeological Institute in Pennsylvania (Owoc *et al.* 2003; emails to author). Her work indicates that in some cases complex pieces of cordage may have been used to

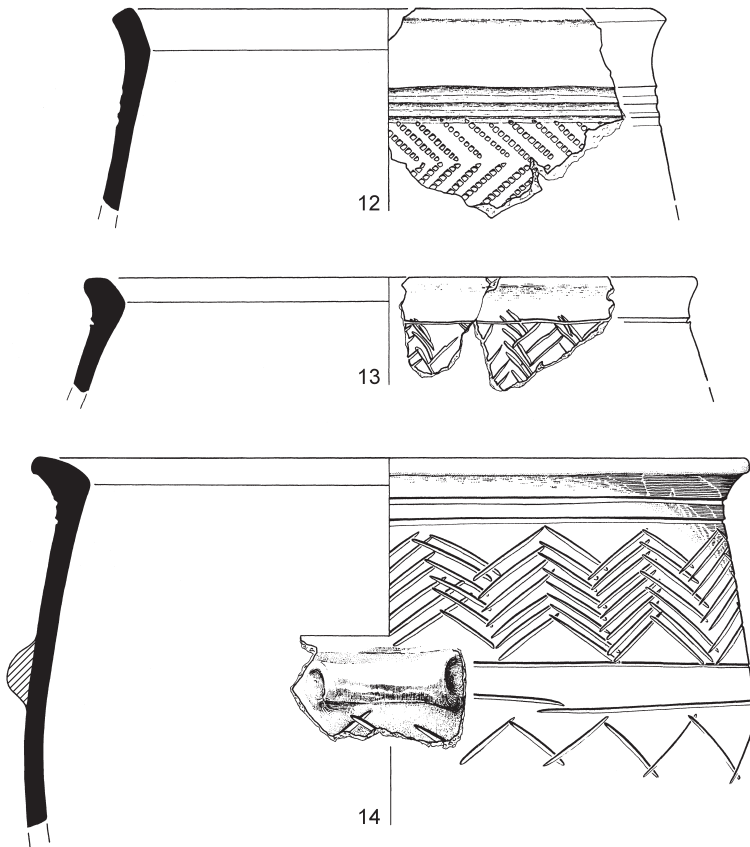


Fig. 5. Style 3/4 vessels, gabbroic fabrics, from house 142/3022 at the settlement at Trethellan Farm, Newquay: no. 12 comb impressed, nos 13–14 incised. Scale 1:4. Reproduced from *Cornish Archaeology* 30 (1991), fig. 42. By permission of Jacqueline Nowakowski, Ann Woodward and the Cornwall Archaeological Society.

form impressions. From this it follows that study of Trevisker impressions may provide insights to long-vanished objects made of cord or basketry. Owoc considers that some of the frequent parallel twist cord impressions are ‘likely to be two parallel rows of cord held/impressed side by side or stretched side by side across some sort of object/paddle and impressed’. Further work on these impressions is obviously important.

Groundwork on the petrology of Trevisker ceramics

ApSimon’s work on the Trevisker assemblage coincided with the innovative work of David Peacock on the sourcing of British ceramics and the report on the site included the comment ‘*Dr Peacock’s suggestion that the pottery was largely made of gabbroic clay from the Lizard peninsula, with some mixing in of local clay, is of great interest*’ (ApSimon and Greenfield 1972, 355). The general use of Lizard gabbroic clays for Trevisker ceramics throughout their currency was supported by subsequent work by David Williams (for example, in Harris *et al.* 1977, 55): his analysis of the Trethellan assemblage showed it all to have been made from gabbroic clays (1991a). Michael Parker Pearson then carried out a wide programme of thin-section analyses on Bronze Age ceramics from Devon and Cornwall published in 1990. This confirmed the widespread use of gabbroic clays in Cornwall for Trevisker ceramics, together with some other, especially granitic, clays. This also established a range of non-gabbroic inclusions in gabbroic vessels in what are generally known as ‘gabbroic admixture’ fabrics. However, contrary to the comment by Peacock in the Trevisker report, he suggested that all the non-gabbroic inclusions could be found in close proximity to gabbroic clay sources and considered it unlikely that gabbroic clays were transported very far before potting. This view had considerable influence for the subsequent fifteen years.

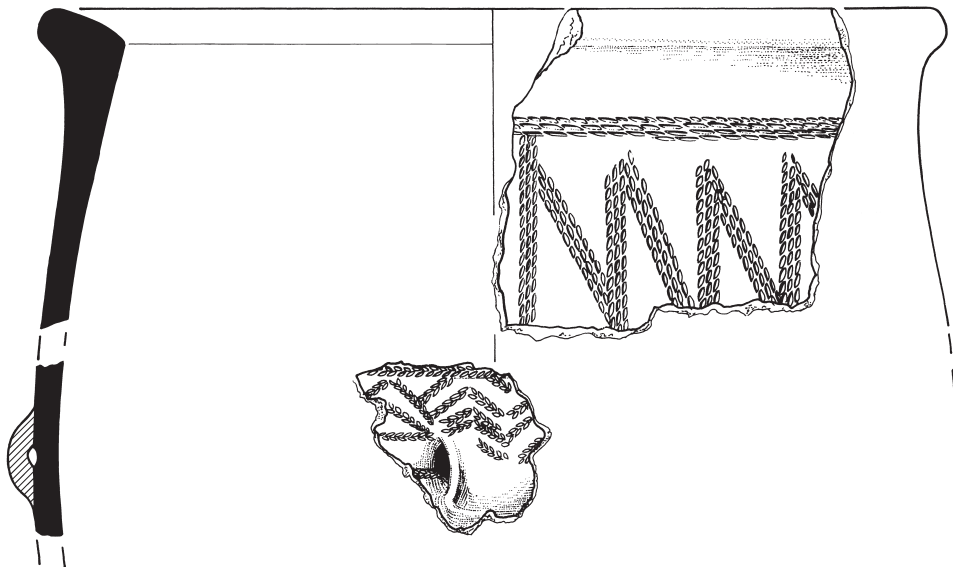


Fig 6. Sherd with triple line of parallel twisted cord impressions, gabbroic fabric, from house 2001 at the settlement at Trethellan Farm, Newquay. Scale 1:2. Reproduced from *Cornish Archaeology* 30 (1991), fig. 46. By permission of Jacqueline Nowakowski, Ann Woodward and the Cornwall Archaeological Society.

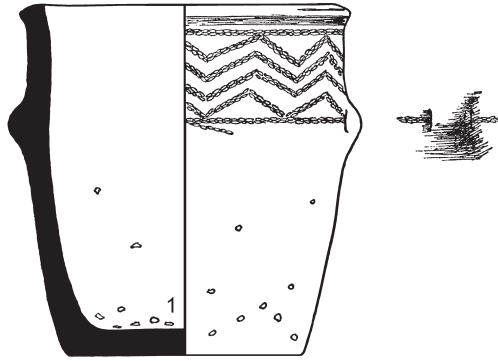


Fig. 7. Style 5 vessel, gabbroic fabric, impressed plaited cord decoration, containing a cremation in a cist cemetery at Port Mellon, Mevagissey, Cornwall. Scale 1:3. Reproduced from *Proceedings of the West Cornwall Field Club* 2:5 (1960–61), fig. 20, by permission of the Cornwall Archaeological Society.

Scillonian Bronze Age ceramics

ApSimon described the pottery found in the Isles of Scilly as a series parallel to Trevisker (ApSimon and Greenfield 1972, 357). The author concurs in this view: the principal difference lies in the use of horizontal lines of decoration on Scillonian vessels, as opposed to more complex patterns. However, in a recent survey some vessels on Scilly, most likely made of local clays, have been identified as probably in the mainland Trevisker tradition, notably those from Porth Hellick Great Tomb on St Mary's (Hencken 1932, fig. 9: Quinnell forthcoming c).

The contexts of Early Bronze Age Trevisker vessels

The Trevisker style appears to emerge at broadly the same date as Collared Urns and Food Vessels, out of the same ill-understood changes at the end of the third millennium cal. BC. Table 2 presents all radiocarbon determinations from Early Bronze Age sites, mostly barrows, with Trevisker ceramics, calibrated with OxCal 4.1. It should be noted that few of these are AMS dates and most have large standard deviations. Most were obtained some time ago when the practise of using short-lived material for dates had not been established. The table clearly distinguishes the latter dates. All vessel styles are represented, although impressed cord of various types is by far the most frequent decorative technique. One early date merits comment, that recently obtained on cremated bone from Harlyn Bay 32093. Harlyn Bay 32093 was a stone-capped pit with a Trevisker vessel containing parts of the remains of, probably, five individuals (Jones *et al.* 2011). The vessel was Style 3/4, decorated with a neat chevron design of incised lines. The determination, unfortunately only a single one, suggests that Style 3/4 vessels with incised decoration were present as early as any of the Trevisker Styles. It may be relevant that this funerary deposit was coastal and marked, if at all, with only a very low mound, and thus the rituals used may have been slightly different from those at the larger obvious barrow sites which produced the cord-impressed vessels.

Ceramics of all types are generally much more frequent deposits in Cornish than in Devon barrows

Table 2. Radiocarbon dates from monuments with Trevisker pottery which fall broadly in the Early Bronze Age (calibrated using OxCal 4.1). Upton Pyne is in Devon, Six Wells in South Glamorgan, all other sites are in Cornwall.

Site	Lab. number	Years BP	Calibrated cal. BC (95.4%)	References	Pottery
Cataclews 21710	HAR-8099	3510±70	2029–1667	Christie 1985, fig. 61; 1988, 165	Style 1 plaited cord
Chysauster 36006					
Pot 1	OxA-822	3430±80	1933–1529	Smith 1996, fig. 16, table 2	Style 1a plain
Pot 2	HAR-6652	3740±90	2459–1936	ibid.	Style 2 single line cord
Pot 3	HAR-6549	3790±120	2568–1902	ibid.	Style 2 comb stamped
Pot 4	HAR-6651	3680±80	2334–1782	ibid.	Style 2 single line cord
Pot 5	OxA-821	3330±80	1872–1436	ibid. fig. 17, table 2	Style 6 plain with lugs
Pot 6	HAR-6654	3110±70	1525–1133	ibid.	Style 2 stamped
Pot 7	HAR-6927	3280±120	1885–1308	ibid.	Style 2 single line cord
Crig-a-mennis	NPL-193	3515±90	2131–1619	Christie 1960, fig. 4; 1976	Style 1 plaited cord, second vessel single line cord
Davidstow 1	HAR-6634	3520±70	2035–1668	Christie 1988, fig. 11, 164	Sherds with plaited cord
Davidstow 16	HAR-8098	3440±100	2019–1510	Christie 1988, fig. 61, 164	Style 1 plaited cord sherds
Harlyn Bay 21749	BM-2472	3460±70	1964–1608	Preston-Jones and Rose 1987, fig. 3, 86	Style 5 single line cord
Harlyn Bay 32093	SUERC-15536 ***	3610±35	2121–1885	Jones <i>et al.</i> 2011	Style 3/4 incised
Six Wells 271'	GrA-27617 *** GrA-27623 ***	3215±35 3210±40	1605–1415 1606–1411	Information Adam Gwilt; Fox 1959, fig. 80	Style 3/4 incised, fingertip
Stannon Site 2	OxA-13385 * OxA-13386 * OxA-13389 * OxA-13388 *	3385±30 3254±31 3247±31 3223±30	1752–1610 1612–1452 1610–1447 1605–1426	Jones 2004–05, fig. 28, 15	Style 5 plaited cord sherds from multiple vessels
Trelan 2	HAR-4540 HAR-5510	3740±110 3330±120	2473–1882 1940–1386	Smith 1984, fig. 12, 24 Smith 1988	Style 6 plain with lugs
Treligga 2	HAR-810	3380±80	1886–1499	Christie 1985, fig. 50; 1988, 165	Style 2 single line cord sherds
Trelowthas	AA-29735 * AA-29736 * AA-29734 * AA-29733 *	3665±65 3530±50 3435±50 2895±55	2275–1883 2016–1739 1885–1625 1261–927	Nowakowski 2008, table 8.2	Wide vessel range, most as sherds
Tremough Structure 66	Wk-14995 * Wk-14994 *	3704±38 3380±38	2204–1977 1756–1534	Gossip and Jones 2007, 65	Trevisker style gabbroic sherds
Trevelgue	HAR-6128	3560±110	2205–1620	Nowakowski and Quinnell 2011, fig. 2.4, 34	Style 1 but single line cord
Try	GrA-30170 ***	3410±50	1881–1541	Russell and Pool 1964, fig. 7; Jones and Quinnell 2006, 53	Style 1 sherds but single line cord
Upton Pyne	BM-402 248b	3336±53	1744–1501	Pollard and Russell 1969, fig. 6; 1976	Two Style 2, single line cord, one Style 5 plaited cord

* = charcoal from selected short-lived species; *** = cremated bone

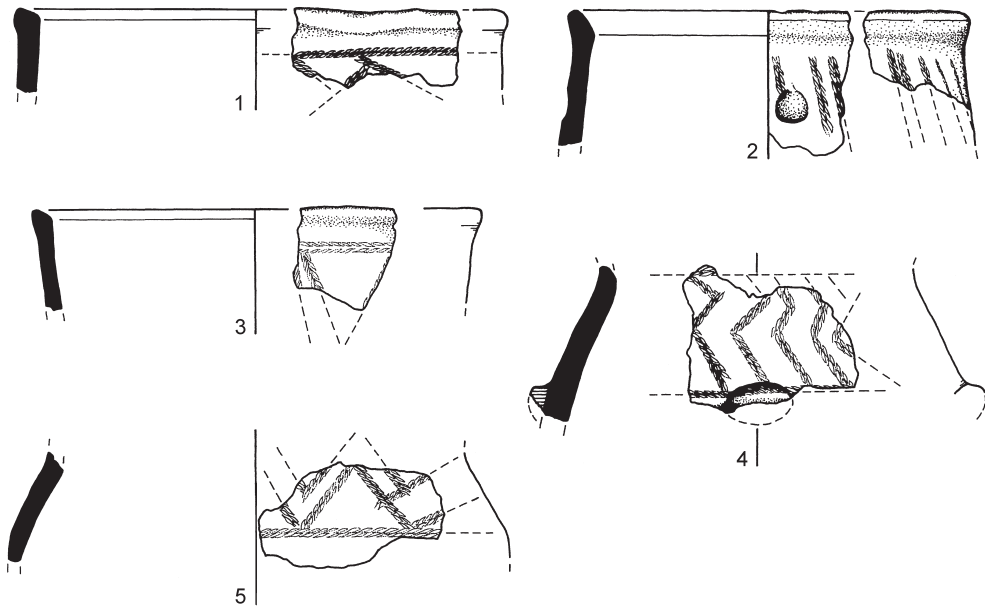


Fig. 8. Style 5 vessels, gabbroic fabrics, from contexts on the top of Site 2 'tailed cairn' at Stannon, Bodmin Moor. Nos 1–2 impressed double parallel twist cord, nos 3–5 double cord opposed twist/plaited cord. Scale 1:3. Reproduced from *Cornish Archaeology* 43–44 (2004–05), fig. 28. By permission of Andy M. Jones and the Cornwall Archaeological Society.

(Quinnell 1988, fig. 2), occurring in some 75% of Cornish investigations as opposed to some 25% in Devon. A rapid review of all available data provides a total of some 75 Trevisker vessels from Cornish barrows but only seven from Devon: figures for Cornwall for Collared Urns are 13+ and for Food Vessels 19+, for Devon Collared Urns 13+, Food Vessels 2+. These figures show about 70% of Cornish funerary-related pottery to be Trevisker as opposed to 33% of that from Devon. A Cornish origin for the Trevisker style is generally assumed and these figures provide some support for this.

In the Early Bronze Age Trevisker ceramics come almost exclusively from funerary and ceremonial deposits. In Cornwall and Devon as elsewhere in Britain pits are being found with increasing frequency with sherds of successive Neolithic styles and of Beaker pottery and are thought to relate to transient settlements. But these pits scarcely continue into the Early Bronze Age and no dated house sites have been identified until towards the middle of the second millennium BC. This means that currently we see the Trevisker ceramic style in the Early Bronze Age almost entirely in the vessels selected for deposition in ceremonial/funerary contexts and we have no way of judging how representative these were of the range of pottery in contemporary use.

Woodward and Cane's Trethellan report included a summary of Trevisker vessels from Cornish funerary contexts up to c. 1990 (1991, 122–7), showing that over 30% are large storage type jars (ibid. fig. 53). Both in Cornwall and in Devon most barrows are of Early Bronze Age date and by the Middle Bronze Age, after c. 1500 cal. BC, funerary monuments become both small in size and infrequent in occurrence (see A. M. Jones this volume). Most ceramics from barrows therefore belong

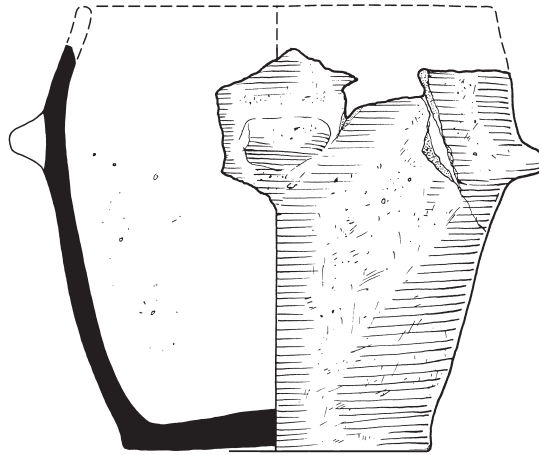


Fig. 9. Style 6 vessel, gabbroic fabric, from ditch of barrow at Trelan 2, Goonhilly Downs, Lizard, Cornwall. Scale 1:2. Reproduced from *Cornish Archaeology* 23 (1984), fig. 12. *By permission of George Smith and the Cornwall Archaeological Society.*

to the Early Bronze Age. For both Cornish and Devon barrows cremations tend to consist of small, sometimes ‘token’ amounts, of bone, as in the deposits in the cairn at Chysauster (Smith 1996, 188; Table 2). The preferential selection of large vessels has no apparent connection with the need for large containers to hold human remains. Large storage jar type vessels must have been selected for other reasons. Such vessels were presumably used for storing grain and it may have been aspects of grain and its storage which were important. However, lipid analysis has indicated the presence of ruminant dairy fats in the vessel from Harlyn Bay 32093 referred to above (Soberl in Jones *et al.* 2011) and in a number of Middle Bronze Age vessels from Trethellan Farm (Copley *et al.* 2005).

The sourcing of Early Bronze Age Trevisker vessels

Parker Pearson’s (1990) work established that some 80% of Early Bronze Age Cornish vessels were of gabbroic clay with a variety of inclusions, with the remainder of clays, mainly granitic, fairly local to the site of deposition. The overall picture for this period in Cornwall has been confirmed, not altered, by recent work. However, two Trevisker vessels from funerary deposits in Devon have now been shown to be made of gabbroic clay. Vessel 3 from Upton Pyne (Fig. 1 and Table 2) was a Style 5 vessel (ApSimon 1969, fig. 6A), one among a range of contemporary deposits which included a collared urn and two Style 2 Trevisker vessels in grogged fabrics (Fig. 4): ApSimon’s description makes a gabbroic source certain. The second gabbroic Trevisker vessel was found at Elburton just east of Plymouth among a group of deposits, some with cremations, which may have been covered by a barrow: the other deposits included a collared urn, a biconical urn and part of a Style 5 Trevisker vessel in a local granitic fabric (Watts and Quinnell 2001). The gabbroic vessel was ‘classic’ Style 1 with plaited cord decoration and ribbon handles (Fig. 2). Very occasional instances of Trevisker gabbroic vessels found much further away have been known since the identification of the vessel from

Hardelot, Pas de Calais, in 1969 (ApSimon 1969, 68). A scatter of vessels from Dorset, Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Somerset and Wiltshire, Glamorgan and County Dublin were listed by ApSimon and Greenfield (1972, 374–5) and some others have since been found, although these are generally in non-gabbroic fabrics, indicating sufficient acquaintance with Trevisker ceramics for local copies to be made (see Parker Pearson 1990, 20). A Middle Bronze Age vessel in gabbroic fabric has now been found in Kent (below).

Stylistic variation on Middle Bronze Age sites in Cornwall

By the start of the Middle Bronze Age, around 1500 BC, barrow construction and the deposition of ceramics was becoming uncommon both in Cornwall and in Devon, with the few barrows and burial sites known producing little in the way of artefactual material (A. M. Jones this volume). Settlement sites with round houses by contrast become common in this period and often produce quantities of ceramics, particularly in deposits relating to the closure of structures as clearly demonstrated at Trethellan Farm (Nowakowski 1991). These assemblages tend to be dominated by vessels of Style 3/4 (Fig. 5). A number of excavations have been carried out in recent years which have produced reliable high-precision dates (Table 3), the converse of the situation with the dating of Trevisker in the Early Bronze Age.

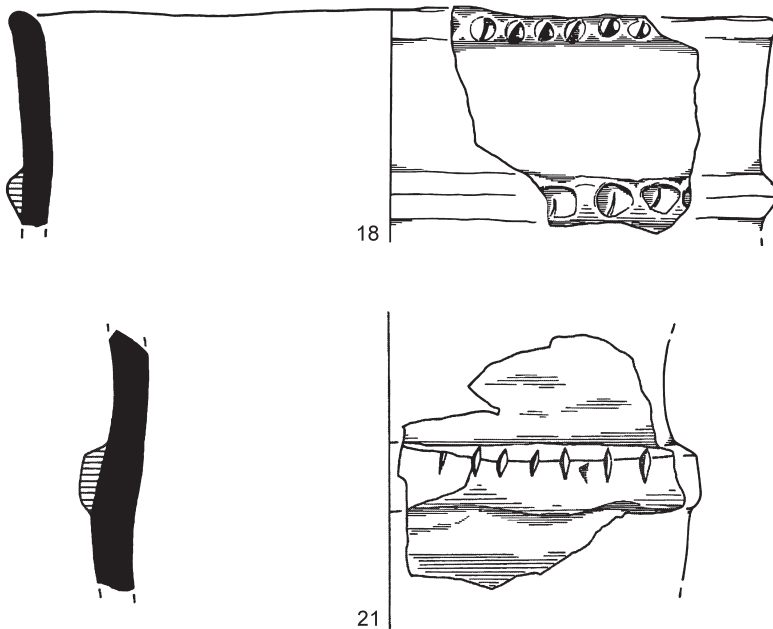


Fig. 10. Non-typical Trevisker vessels, gabbroic fabrics, from Structure 392 post ring at Tremough, Penryn, near Falmouth. Scale 1:3. Reproduced from British Archaeological Reports, British Series 443, fig. 26. *By permission of James Gossip and Andy M. Jones.*

Table 3. High-precision radiocarbon dates from some Middle Bronze Age settlement sites in Cornwall (calibrated using OxCal 4.1)

Site	Lab. number	Years BP	Calibrated cal. BC (95.4%)	Context	References
Boden Vean	OxA-14517 *	3085±30	1426–1271	Closing deposit in roundhouse with sherds of large storage jar	Gossip forthcoming a, table 8
	SUERC-6169 *	3055±35	1415–1215		
	SUERC-6170 **	3005±35	1381–1129		
Carnon Gate	Wk-19926 **	3126±37	1494–1310	Infilling of roundhouse	Gossip and Jones 2008, 109
Scarcewater	Wk-21456 *	3135±35	1496–1316	Roundhouse 1100 pit 1115	Jones and Taylor 2010, table 29
	Wk-21458 **	3280±32	1635–1460	Roundhouse 1100 pit 1115	
	Wk-21462 *	3035±35	1408–1135	Roundhouse 1250 pit 1876	
	Wk-21463 **	3082±35	1427–1267	Roundhouse 1250 closing layer	
	Wk-21464 *	3091±34	1432–1270	Roundhouse 1250 posthole	
	Wk-21466 *	3075±34	1422–1264	Roundhouse 1500 hearth 1715	
	Wk-21467 *	3137±34	1496–1316	Roundhouse 1500 hearth 1575	
	Wk-21847 *	2927±31	1258–1020	Roundhouse 1500 layer 1527	
Staddon Heights	Wk-15104 **	3118±37	1493–1298	Pit within roundhouse	Pamment-Salavatore and Quinell forthcoming, table 4
	Wk-15105 **	3122±42	1495–1299	Pit within roundhouse	
Plymstock Quarry	Wk-15163 *	3241±41	1614–1432	Soil over structure	Pamment-Salavatore and Quinell forthcoming, table 4
	Wk-15164 *	3146±41	1502–1316	Posthole in structure	
	Wk-15165 *	3173±41	1526–1323	Pit in structure	

* = charcoal selected from short-lived species; ** = ceramic residue

The last fifteen years have produced a number of variations from the range of Trevisker Styles attributable to the Middle Bronze Age. Woodward and Cane had clearly demonstrated that Style 1 vessels with good ribbon handles do not occur on many Middle Bronze Age settlement sites (Woodward and Cane 1991, 123) and it seems likely that such vessels were not in use far into the Middle Bronze Age. However, it is now apparent that these sites may produce sherds of large, sometimes very large, storage jars. Parts of one such vessel were found forming part of a closing deposit in the partial excavation of a roundhouse at Boden Vean, St Antony-in-Meneage (Table 3; Quinell forthcoming a). Sherds present represent about an eighth of the vessel which would originally have weighed perhaps 240 kilogrammes and had a capacity of some 218 litres or 57 gallons. A pair of strap handles above the girth had a mixture of deeply incised straight lines and cord impression. The cord impression decoration was all parallel twist, usually in lines of three. A good range of radiocarbon determinations allow the use of this vessel to be dated to the fourteenth or thirteenth centuries BC. Until this find, in circumstances which allowed conjoins to be fitted and the size of the vessel accurately estimated, it had not been suspected that such large vessels were present among Trevisker ceramics. It is very possible that small sherds of such vessels have not been recognised in other assemblages.

Two sites in southern Cornwall, Tremough and Scarcewater (Fig. 1; Table 3), have produced vessels which do not fit easily within the range of Trevisker Styles and which may be described at present as non-typical Trevisker. At Tremough, Penryn, there were five post rings considered non-domestic with radiocarbon determinations in the Middle Bronze Age, although one, Structure 66, without diagnostic ceramics, is probably Early Bronze Age (Gossip and Jones 2007, 31–40). None

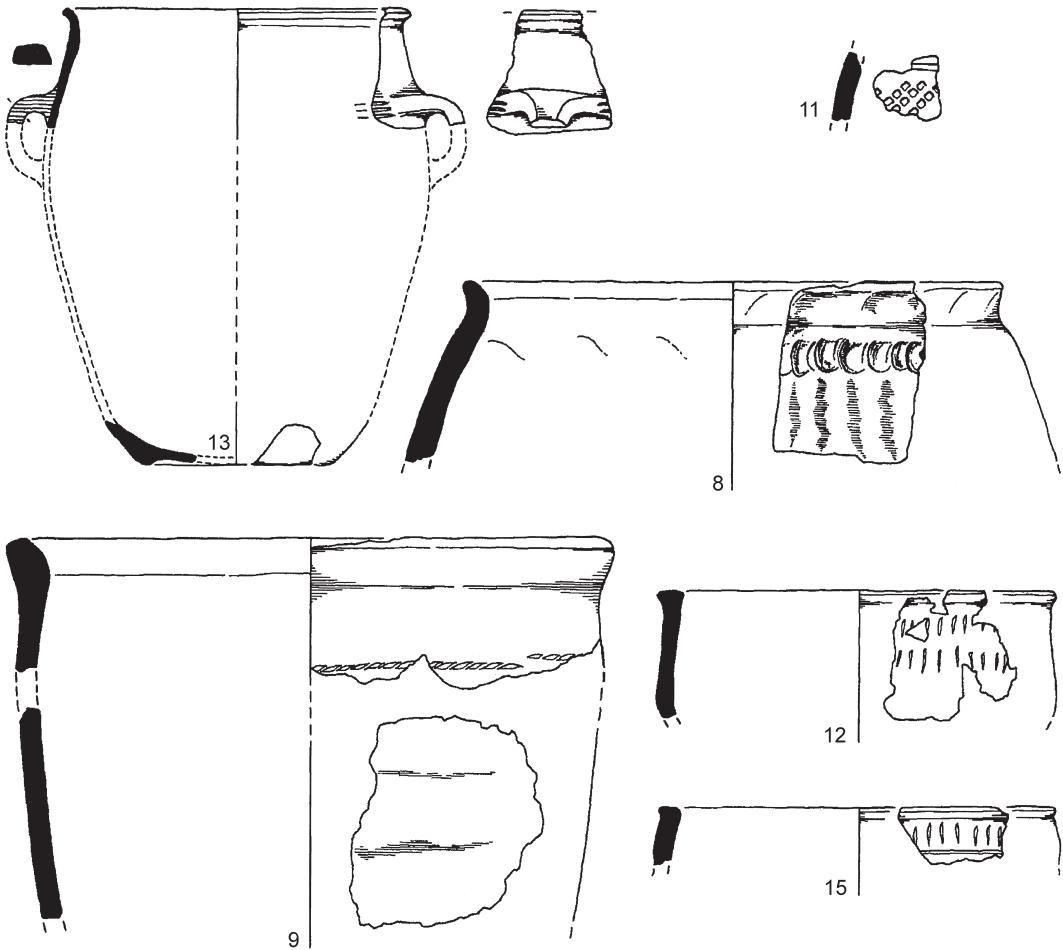


Fig. 11. Non-typical Trevisker vessels, gabbroic fabrics, from pit 1901 in Roundhouse 1500, Scarcewater, St Austell, Cornwall. Scale 1:3. Reproduced from *British Archaeological Reports, British Series 516*, fig. 49. *By permission of Historic Environment, Cornwall Council and Archaeopress.*

of the pottery is ‘typical Trevisker’—if such a style existed. The largest ceramic group, associated with features in post ring 392, is reproduced in Figure 10. All the vessels, from Structure 392 and the other post rings, were made from the same gabbroic admixture fabrics, some (P18, 22, 23, 27) from gabbroic clays mixed with local materials. One very marked feature is the use of finger tip/nail decoration on cordons and on rims.

The second site with non-typical Trevisker was Scarcewater near St Austell, a site with three widely spaced roundhouses and a series of pits (Jones and Taylor 2010). Most of the group deposited in a pit in Roundhouse 1500 is illustrated in Fig. 11. This has radiocarbon determinations centring on the fourteenth century BC. The presence of finger tip/nail decorations is again marked while the small

vessel P13 with strap handles and incised decoration is without parallels. The site generally had a small ceramic assemblage but the vessels associated with the other two roundhouses may be considered 'typical Trevisker'. An unusual Style 6 vessel with lines of stab decoration came from one of the pit groups (Quinnell 2010a, fig. 14). It may be relevant that both sites in Cornwall with non-typical Trevisker were close to the south coast and so perhaps more in touch, by sea, with neighbours. (Future finds, however, may make this suggestion untenable.)

The Tremough pottery report (Quinnell 2007) considers the arguments for possible Deverel-Rimbury affinities for some vessels, especially for P18 and P21 (Fig. 10). It is possible that there was some interchange of ideas on style among the makers of ceramics in south-west and in southern Britain—indeed the data discussed below regarding the movement of potting clay and pots shows a degree of mobility within society. It seems more reasonable to allow some interchange of ceramic styles than to single out particular vessels as 'Deverel-Rimbury'. The publication of a domestic assemblage with many affinities with Trevisker from the Île de Tatihou, Manche, implies that influences on ceramic production through interconnections by water may have been on occasion more long distance than previously supposed (Marcigny *et al.* 2007). The use of a standard range of forms and decoration in Trevisker wares over such a long period suggests a strong sense of tradition in the ceramics used: breaks with this tradition are likely to have happened for important reasons.

Comment on some Middle Bronze Age Trevisker vessels in Devon

The Middle Bronze Age settlements of Dartmoor have long been recognised as producing ceramics best described as Trevisker. Excavations and the study of collections in museums now show clearly that Trevisker ceramics were used on settlement sites of this period right across the county: references to some of these are given below in the discussion on sourcing of potting clays. However, the assemblage from Shaugh Moor Enclosure 15 has been categorised as Biconical, with only an occasional Trevisker sherd present (Wainwright and Smith 1980, 115, figs 18–19; Tomalin 1982). It remains the only site in Devon or Cornwall at which this ceramic style has been identified, a Biconical island in a Trevisker sea. It may now be suggested that nearly all the features present at Shaugh Moor, plain vessels of biconical shape with or without simple lugs, simple rims—rounded, pointed and flattened—and occasional fingernail decoration were present in Trevisker assemblages, as more is known about its range of traits. The only distinctive feature is the slight but marked angularity of the vessel wall at the girth. What is unusual at Shaugh Moor is the selection of vessels, presumably over some period of time, with angled vessel walls and little decoration apart from lugs. Choice by a community over generations of pots with traits found amongst a range produced by their neighbours seems more probable than a completely different ceramic tradition. In some ways Shaugh Moor demonstrates the same process of selection from within a ceramic tradition as that shown at Tremough and, to a lesser extent, at Scarewater. (The recent publication by the author (2010b) of probable Biconical material from Lundy Island can be easily explained as a marine extension of the Biconical assemblage from Brean Down.)

Moving to the east edge of the Middle Bronze Age Trevisker tradition, the most significant published assemblage is that from a settlement site at Castle Hill, Honiton (Laidlaw and Mephram 1999) reproduced here as Figure 12. While some pieces such as P25 belong to Style 3/4 Trevisker, most of the remainder do not. Finger tip/nail decoration is noticeable as is the use of applied bosses and a form of open bowl (P21). Dates at Castle Hill suggest activity in the fourteenth to twelfth centuries BC, perhaps a little later (Fitzpatrick *et al.* 1999, table 17). External influence on ceramic style seems more explicable on the edge of the region. (Note that reference to the vessels illustrated on Fitzpatrick *et al.* 1999, fig. 24 should be made with care as some illustrations are Late Bronze Age Plain Ware and others have been reinterpreted as Beaker: Quinnell 2003, 17, pl. 1).

New work on the sourcing of Middle Bronze Age ceramics in Cornwall

Comments accompanying the first identification of the fabric in the eponymous assemblage from Trevisker (ApSimon and Greenfield 1972, 355–6) suggested that local groups visited the Lizard on a regular basis and brought back clay for local manufacture. This was based on the alleged mixing of gabbroic clays with those local to the site, for which no supporting detail was published. Parker Pearson (1990) suggested in a broad-brush statement that all non-gabbroic additions in the fabrics then identified could be sourced immediately around the gabbro clay. His work also showed that gabbroic clay was by far the most common potting material, with the small number of non-gabbroic vessels being mainly of granitic clays. Roger Taylor's work has now shifted our perspectives, identifying a number of sites at which tempers identified in gabbroic admixtures do not occur in the gabbro area: in some instances he suggests that other clays, local to settlements, were mixed with gabbroic clays.

At Carnon Gate, Feock (Fig. 1; Table 3), about half the small assemblage from a partially excavated roundhouse was composed of gabbroic clays mixed with rock inclusions from Carnmenellis some five kilometres east or with sandstone inclusions of non-Lizard origin: some gabbroic clay had been mixed with estuarine clays from fairly close to the site (Quinnell and Taylor 2008). The pattern here indicates considerable complexity. At Scarcewater, Pennance, St Austell (Fig. 1), some of the ceramics from the three roundhouses were made of gabbroic clay mixed with local clay or inclusions (Taylor 2010). At a roundhouse at Penhale Round, Indian Queens (Fig. 1), all of the assemblage was of gabbroic clays mixed with rock inclusions fairly local to the site, while at nearby Penhale Moor part of the smaller assemblage was of similar mixed material, part of only gabbroic components or of local granitic fabric (Taylor forthcoming). At the settlement at Gwithian (Fig. 1), the transport of gabbroic clay in an unfired state has been identified from the latest Middle Bronze Age levels together with other indications of very local, if not on-site, manufacture of gabbroic fabrics (Quinnell and

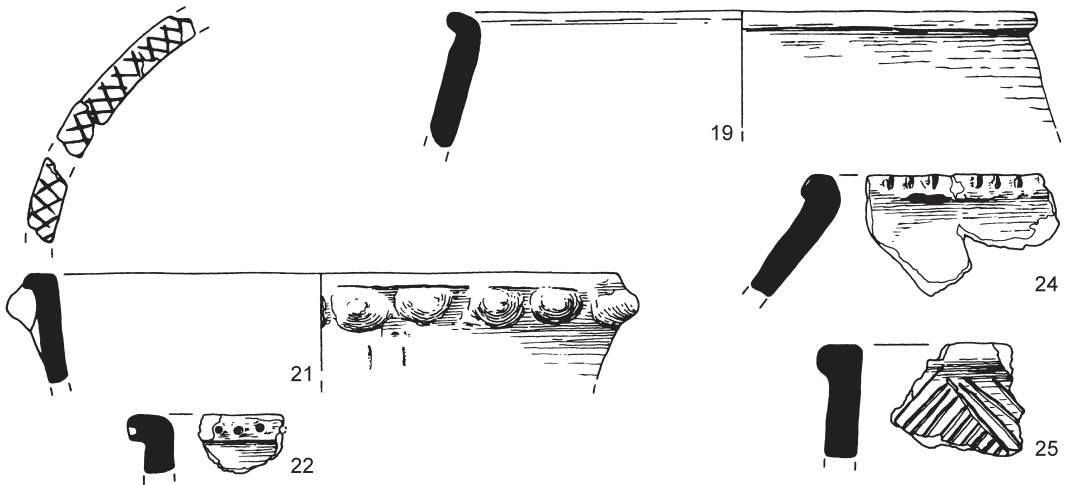


Fig. 12. Non-typical Trevisker vessels, mainly grogged fabrics, from the settlement and field system at Castle Hill, Honiton, Devon. Scale 1:4. Reproduced from *Prehistoric and Roman Sites in East Devon: the A30 Honiton to Exeter Improvement DBFO, 1996–9*, vol. 1, fig. 24. By permission of the Wessex Trust for Archaeology.

Thorpe 2007). Material from a pit group at Porthleven (Fig. 1) also shows mixing of gabbroic clays with local inclusions (Quinnell and Taylor forthcoming a).

Two Cornish Middle Bronze Age sites with apparent non-domestic functions have also produced Trevisker ceramics with evidence for mixing of gabbroic clays with local materials. Post rings 102 and 392 at Tremough, Penryn (Fig. 1) had some deposits with sherds in which gabbroic clay, presumably transported to the area of the site, was mixed with crushed mineral inclusions of local origin (Quinnell and Taylor in Gossip and Jones 2007, 59). At Stannon (Fig. 1) activity in late phases of three cairn sites, with dates ranging from the fifteenth to the twelfth centuries BC, produced gabbroic pottery with inclusions most probably from the aureole around the Bodmin Moor granite (Quinnell and Taylor 2004–05, 72–3).

It is apparent that the choices exercised in the manufacture of vessels using gabbroic clay were very complex: clay might be moved, mixed with clays or inclusions local to the site of use. The general usage of gabbroic clays which provide a simple distribution pattern belies degrees of complexity which are only beginning to be revealed. Roger Taylor considers that his skills in identification of the totality of material in a sherd, especially where accompanied by a thin-section, have improved with the work that he has done and that any work he carried out before *c.* 2003 may not have picked up small quantities of non-gabbroic material in gabbroic sherds. In support of the potential complexities of gabbroic vessels he and I would point to the very long list of inclusions published for the settlement at Trevisker by Parker Pearson (1990, table 1). Each variation represents a separate choice. Why such a range of choices was made remains a matter of speculation. Was it sometimes important for communities to mix gabbroic clays with materials from ground used by them or in some way important to them with? And we should not forget that, even if only gabbroic components are identified in a vessel, it cannot be assumed that the vessel was potted close to the clay source.

New work on sourcing of Middle Bronze Age ceramics in Devon (and beyond)

Parker Pearson in his comprehensive analysis of material available to him only identified a single vessel, that from the Dartmoor settlement at Smallacombe Rocks, as gabbroic (1990, no. 80). The pattern of ceramic sourcing here is, like that in Cornwall, proving complex. Small assemblages from evaluative work on probable house sites at Staddon Heights (Fig. 1; Table 3) and at Plymstock Quarry (Fig. 1; Table 3) contain only gabbroic material (archive reports by Roger Taylor for Pamment-Savatore and Quinnell forthcoming). Both sites have radiocarbon dates which situate activity within the Middle Bronze Age and both are on the east side of the mouth of the Plym. Their estuarine position may explain reliance on gabbroic materials which would best have been moved by sea along the coast. At Plymstock Quarry movement was definitely of gabbroic clay as analysis of sherds indicates a mix with local materials: detailed petrological work on the Staddon Heights assemblage has not been carried out. Further evidence for the movement of gabbroic clay, subsequently potted mixed with local materials, was found to the east on a site a little inland at Langage (Fig. 1; *ibid.*) and also close to the mouth of the Dart at Little Dartmouth (Fig. 1; Quinnell and Taylor forthcoming b). More surprising was the identification of a small part of the Trevisker assemblage from one recently excavated hut circle at Teigncombe (Fig. 1), on the east side of Dartmoor, as gabbroic, some of clay mixed with material from the edge of the granite (Quinnell and Taylor in prep. a.). The remainder of the Teigncombe assemblage had a variety of inclusions, both rock and grog, in clays which were either estuarine or deposited by rivers flowing off the moor at points where their speed of flow lessened, in other words just off the granite itself. The second recently excavated hut circle on Dartmoor, at Bellever (Fig. 1), produced a few gabbroic vessels, but the majority of the assemblage comprised estuarine clays with a variety of greenstone, sandstone and volcanic lava inclusions all considered to derive from

the Tavistock area (Quinnell and Taylor in prep. b).

Parker Pearson summarized his petrological work on the Trevisker pottery from Devon, particularly Dartmoor, as falling into two groups. One of these had greenstone inclusions in a granitic derived clay '*which may have been sorted by fluvial action, so losing much of its micaceous component. The other main fabric had a clay matrix with varying densities of rounded quartz grains and inclusions of doleritic and splilitic origin*' (Parker Pearson 1990, fig. 9, 17). Taylor's work at Teigncombe identifies these two separate clays, although greenstone was not present; he emphasises that one of the 'markers' of estuarine clays is the presence of polished/rounded quartz grains. Taylor's work at Bellever shows that the assemblage, apart from the gabbroic fabrics and some vessels with added granitic components, belonged to Parker Pearson's second clay group: however, inclusions come from both of Parker Pearson's groups. It is apparent that clays from the two different sources, estuarine and just off the moor, could contain a variety of added inclusions. The impression provided by the petrology of ceramics on Dartmoor is of a considerable degree of movement among the communities using house sites on the moor, mostly, as at Bellever, in patterns quite possibly repeated over some period of time.

The assemblage from another site on Dartmoor, the hut circles at Heatree, Manaton (Fig. 1), was partly from a source to the east, the Permian volcanics in the Exeter area (Williams 1991b). This was equated by Williams with the source of Peacock's (1969) Group 6 Glastonbury wares. This fabric has also been found in Middle Bronze Age contexts with Trevisker characteristics at Hayes Farm near Exeter (Woodward and Williams 1989; sites excavated by Cotswold Archaeology), at Castle Hill, Honiton (Laidlaw and Mephram 1999), at Kenn Lane, Exminster and Pixies Parlour near Honiton (Quinnell and Taylor forthcoming c); all sites shown on Figure 1. The sourcing and movement of Trevisker Middle Bronze Age ceramics in Devon are increasingly being shown to be complex.

Away from Dartmoor and access to easily identifiable igneous rocks, the Trevisker fabrics from settlements in Devon generally contain grog, a tradition which here goes back at least to the Beaker period (Jones and Quinnell 2008, 35). This is the case with the only Middle Bronze Age settlement yet excavated on Exmoor, at Holworthy Farm (Fig. 1), where vessels of broadly Style 3/4 were found in grogged fabrics probably made from clay found on the coast at Crock Point some five kilometres to the north (Quinnell 2009, Fig. 18). The Holworthy site has good radiocarbon dates in the fifteenth and fourteenth centuries BC. In East Devon grogged Trevisker vessels occur on the settlement sites of Castle Hill, Honiton (Fig. 1) and the nearby sites of Hayne Lane and Patteson's Cross (Fitzpatrick *et al.* 1999, 44, 84 and 110), although the communities at all these sites also used other, fairly local, clays mixed with a variety of sandy and chert inclusions.

Far away from Devon parts of a tall incised gabbroic Style 3/4 vessel have been found in a ring ditch at Monkton in Kent (Gibson *et al.* 1997) associated with a date of 3175±50 BP (OxA-6141) which calibrates to 1605–1316 cal. BC (OxCal 4.1). This is rather later than the presumptive Early Bronze Age dates of the other gabbroic vessels deposited far from their clay source and is a further reminder of the complexities of the movements of both finished ceramics and their components.

Trevisker ceramics in Somerset and Dorset

The presence of Trevisker material in Somerset was clearly established by the publication of the assemblage from Brean Down dating to a late stage of the Middle Bronze Age (Fig. 1; Woodward 1990a). The majority of the assemblage was in grogged fabrics although a small quantity was made of clay with volcanic inclusions from around Beacon Hill, Shepton Mallet (*ibid.* 133). A second significant Somerset assemblage is that from Norton Fitzwarren just west of Taunton (Fig. 1; Woodward 1989) with the same two fabric groups. The presence of clay from the Shepton Mallet area, assuming

it was potted before transport, suggests that the Trevisker ceramic style was known further to the north-east in Somerset. However, recent work on Middle Bronze Age activity in Shepton Mallet produced ceramics with Deverel-Rimbury affinities: this report did comment on the possibility of different ceramics styles occurring here at different dates within the Middle Bronze Age (Morris 2009, 38). Woodward's reports on the Brean Down and Norton Fitzwarren assemblages contain in-depth discussion of other Trevisker ceramics from south Somerset and their links with other ceramic styles. There is no evidence for other contemporary styles in this area and no work known to the author has altered this picture. The Trevisker style, however, did not have deep roots here. At Brean Down it was preceded by a Biconical assemblage broadly dating to the earlier Middle Bronze Age, with possible Biconical vessels also present at Norton Fitzwarren.

Trevisker ceramic assemblages are not published for Dorset. However, a detailed assessment of a group from an enclosed settlement at Thorncombe, near Chard in the extreme west of Dorset was carried out by the author (in Hulka and Valentin 1999; Quinnell and Langman 1996). The site, Chard II (Fig. 1), remains unpublished, but the enclosure contained at least two roundhouses and these and the ditch fill produced an assemblage of some 1300 sherds weighing *c.* 19.5 kilogrammes and representing at least 50 vessels. These were generally in grogged fabrics and have their closest parallels in incised Trevisker vessels. Forms were generally straight-sided, rims frequently heavy and flattened—typical of Trevisker styles—and decoration of incised vertical lines and chevrons, with some fingernail and fingertip; there are a number of small lugs. One vessel only had incised arcs. Some 300 metres east of the Chard II enclosure lies a second, Chard I, which has been excavated and published (Taylor and Preston 2004). Here the pottery appears to have more affinities with Deverel Rimbury and the site may be rather earlier in date than Chard II. Currently the data suggest that the Trevisker style may have spread into the western edge of Dorset at a late date in the Middle Bronze Age, rather as it did into parts of south and west Somerset.

Trevisker ceramics in south Wales

ApSimon suggested that the vessel from Six Wells Barrow 271', Llantwit Major, belonged in the Trevisker tradition (ApSimon and Greenfield 1972, 375). A small Style 3/4 vessel with horizontal lines and fingertip decoration, there are now two dates on the cremated bone it contained (Table 2). This remains the only vessel of this tradition from a barrow in south Wales.

Ceramics with some probable Trevisker affinities now come from a range of Middle Bronze Age settlement and cave sites along the coastal strip of Glamorgan and Monmouthshire (for example, Allen 1995: Bell *et al.* 2000, chapter 16). Those from caves at Lesser Garth and Culverhole in Glamorgan (Savory 1980, figs 72, 12) have long been known and have few markedly diagnostic features. Other Trevisker-related sherds may be identified from the roundhouse at Atlantic Trading Estate, Barry (Gibson 1998), from Chapel Tump I and II, and Cold Harbour on the Gwent Levels (Fig. 1; Whittle *et al.* 1989; Woodward 2000, 16.11; Woodward 1990b). In the author's view each of the sites has material which is best categorised as Trevisker. One good group of Trevisker ceramics comes from Coed y Cymdda, Wenvoe (Fig. 1; Savory 1988, fig. 17). These ceramics were published as of Deverel-Rimbury type, but the use of cordons and incised and fingernail/tip decoration can be much better paralleled amongst the Trevisker assemblages now known from Cornwall and Devon. A long-term project with excavation at Llanmaes, Llantwit Major, has produced a roundhouse and subsequent cremation burial, at the beginning of a long sequence which runs through the subsequent prehistoric and Roman periods (Gwilt *et al.* 2006). The roundhouse has associated pottery of undoubted Trevisker affinities, including broadly Style 3/4 vessels with neat incised zigzag decoration in, mostly grogged, fabrics. Associated with the roundhouse is determination 3008±34 BP (UBA-7499), calibrated to 1383–1129 cal. BC.

The general Middle Bronze Age pottery in Wales, Bucket, Barrel and Cordoned Urns, provides the background to the ceramics of this period and is, as new work is done, producing a range of regional variation. Some Trevisker characteristics appear to have been copied, in coastal south Wales, from traditions current on the other side of the Bristol Channel. Borders of ceramic zones are not clear-cut, and different stylistic features may have been adopted at different dates. The chronology of Middle Bronze Age settlements, even with the range of radiocarbon dates available right across the area with Trevisker ceramics, still lacks the precision necessary for a definitive account of the style and changes within it across the landscape of south-west Britain and coastal south Wales.

A late phase in Cornish Trevisker ceramics

Radiocarbon dates on two assemblages suggest that there was a late Trevisker style in Cornwall, possibly, on present evidence, overlapping to some extent with Late Bronze Age Plain Ware as dates from activity at Scarcewater and at Higher Besore, Truro, now suggest (Table 4). The large but unpublished assemblage from the upper levels of the later Middle Bronze Age settlement, Phase 5, at Gwithian had predominantly straight-sided vessels with untidy incised decoration; cord impressions were not found and vessels generally had simple upright rims with no modelling (Quinnell and Thorpe 2007 and pl. 10). Dates appear to centre on the eleventh century BC. A small group from pits with postholes at Porthleven had similar features and was associated with radiocarbon dates calibrating similar to those from Gwithian (Quinnell forthcoming b). Appropriately these late assemblages confirm suggestions of a distinctive final phase made by Arthur ApSimon and by Ann Woodward and Charlotte Cane in their major works on Trevisker ceramics. The dates for Late Bronze Age Plain Ware do appear a little later, but more work is needed for resolution of the chronology of the two ceramic types.

Table 4 High precision radiocarbon dates from sites with 'late' Trevisker and with Late Bronze Age Plain Ware in Cornwall (calibrated using OxCal 4.1)

Site	Lab number	Years BP	Calibrated	Context	References
		cal. BC (95.4%)			
Late Trevisker	SUERC-30658 *	2840±35	1116–913	Portleven pit 119	Morris forthcoming
	SUERC-30659 *	2855±35	1127–919	Porthleven posthole 123	
	SUERC-6162**	2835±35	1115–908	Gwithian Phase 5 context 433	Nowakowski <i>et al.</i> 2007, table 1
	OxA-14525 **	2946±29	1265–1051	Gwithian Phase 5 context 433	
	OxA-14527 **	2878±29	1191–938	Gwithian Phase 5 context 576	
	OxA-14589 **	2944±33	1268–1028	Gwithian Phase 5 context 546	
	OxA-14590 **	2836±32	1113–911	Gwithian Phase 5 context 1088	
	SUERC-6163 **	2980±35	1374–1058	Gwithian Phase 5 context 343	
Late Bronze Age Plain Ware	Wk-21465 *	2835±34	1114–909	Scarcewater enclosure ditch 3002	Jones and Taylor 2010, table 29
	Wk-21449 **	2847±33	1117–921	Scarcewater roundhouse 3084	
	Wk-21450 **	2871±32	1189–930	As above	Gossip forthcoming b, table 20
	Wk-21208 **	2650±30	895–788	Higher Besore pit 3000	
	Wk-21202 *	2817±30	1056–896	Higher Besore pit 5030	
	Wk-21204 **	2805±30	1046–855	Higher Besore pit 5027	
	Wk-212203 *	2729±30	928–812	Higher Besore pit 5039	
	Wk-21209 **	2779±30	1004–842	Higher Besore pit 5055	

* = charcoal selected from short-lived species; ** = ceramic residue

Trevisker ceramics—present understanding and future possibilities

The Trevisker style can be demonstrated to occur in Cornwall from a date early in the Early Bronze Age and to have been used to some extent during this period in Devon. All the Styles indentified by ApSimon and given closer definition by Woodward and Parker Pearson are present during this period. Early in the subsequent Middle Bronze Age Style 1 and Style 5 vessels were no longer made but the other Styles continue and are joined by a wide range of forms with a variety of decoration currently described as ‘non-typical’ Trevisker. During the Middle Bronze Age the mix of surviving Styles and non-typical Trevisker provide the only ceramics on settlement sites in both Cornwall and Devon and, at a late date in the Middle Bronze Age, spread into parts of Somerset, Dorset and south Wales. However, the radiocarbon dates currently available only allow very broad statements about chronology. The investigation of sites with some stratigraphic sequence for which groups of dates to which Bayesian statistics can be applied is a high priority for more detailed understanding of the sequence of forms and decoration.

New excavations continue to reveal new Trevisker forms. Hopefully with further new discoveries many of the ‘non-typical’ forms in Cornwall can be classified in some meaningful way and regional variations in Devon, Somerset and south Wales can be clearly defined. Under the broad umbrella of Trevisker ceramics a network of small regional groupings will probably emerge. But the most important future work will lie in the understanding of the functions of vessels of differing shape and decoration. Here close attention to context and application of scientific approaches such as lipid analyses will be necessary. Petrographic studies have demonstrated complex movements of clays and ceramics. It is fortunate that most Trevisker ceramics are found in areas where varied and complex geology allows potentially complex biographies of vessels to be identified. One aim of future study must be the close linkage of the form and decoration of a vessel to its petrology.

The long span of Trevisker wares is currently unparalleled in Britain and the reasons for this are not understood. This long continuity of ceramic styles needs to be considered in any analysis of communities living in the south west peninsula in the second millennium BC. Now that more Trevisker ceramics have been studied and published, the ceramic style can take its place along side those of Wessex, especially Deverel-Rimbury, as a source of influence. The distinctive ceramic practices of south-west England can be recognised along side those connected with barrows and the deposit of human bones (Miles 1975; Jones 2005) as those of a region with its own identity interacting with its neighbours rather than developing under their influence.

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