

Finds assessment [HL2]

by Rebecca Sillwood, Sarah Percival and Rebecca Devaney

The finds assemblage numbered nine sherds of pottery and two lithics. These were found in two separate trenches and were of prehistoric date. The finds are summarised by feature in Table 1 and a complete catalogue is given at the end.

Table 1. Summary of finds assemblage by feature with spot dating (dating is for finds in the fills of these features and does not necessarily date the features; small assemblages should be used with particular caution for dating purposes).

Feature Type	Feature Number	Trench	Pottery (PH)		Lithics		Spot date
			Qty	Wt (g)	Qty	Wt (g)	
Pit	2804	28	9	87			LIA
Ditch	5704	57			2	35	PH
Total			9	87	2	35	

Methodology [HL3]

The report includes both hand-collected finds and those from sample retents. The finds were collected, processed and packaged for long term storage in accordance with professional guidelines (CifA 2014b; Watkinson and Neal 1998). The finds were each assessed and recorded by appropriate specialists using relevant typologies (CifA 2021). The resultant data was then drawn together into one MS Excel database. A copy of this data is given at the end of the report.

The assemblage was analysed in accordance with the guidelines for analysis and publication recommended by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (PCRG 2010). The total assemblage was studied, and a full catalogue prepared. The sherds were examined using a binocular microscope (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types. Vessel form was recorded, and the sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Decoration, condition, food residues and sooting were also noted.

The worked flint was catalogued according to a standard debitage, core or tool type (as published by Butler 2005). Information about burning, breaks, condition, raw material and technology (as published by Inizan 1999) was recorded and, where possible, dating was attempted. Two finds recovered as potential lithics were found, on specialist examination, to be natural. They have been discarded and have not been recorded or reported.

Prehistoric pottery [HL3]

Sarah Percival

A total of nine sherds weighing 87g were recovered from pit [2804] in trench 28. The sherds are of later Iron Age date, from the base of a single handmade vessel in sandy fabric with common fine to medium sub-angular white quartzite inclusions. The pottery is similar to Iron Age pot found locally at Fincham (Percival 1995) and dates to c.350BC-50BC.

Lithics [HL3]

Rebecca Devaney

Two pieces of worked flint, weighing 35g, were recovered from ditch [5704] in trench 57. A small blade-like flake, weighing 2g, has a small butt and clear cone of percussion. It is a tertiary removal with no dorsal cortex. A larger blade-like flake, weighing 33g, has been used as a core, with removals taken from both lateral sides of

the ventral surface. It has a clear point of percussion on the butt and incipient cones of percussion, caused by mishits, on the dorsal surface. The distal end of the flake has retained dorsal cortex, indicating the use of chalk flint. Both pieces have suffered slight post-depositional damage but remain unaffected by surface alteration. The flint is chronologically undiagnostic but suggests activity during prehistory.

Dating, distribution & discussion [HL3]

The finds assemblage from this site was small and came from only two features in two trenches. The most closely datable finds were of late Iron Age date and consisted of pottery numbering nine sherds from pit [2804] in Trench 28. Some prehistoric lithics were also recovered from ditch [5704]. The low numbers of finds from this site precludes much further conclusion to be made about the nature of the activity on the site, but it is clear that a prehistoric and later Iron Age presence can be seen.

Statement of potential [HL3]

The assemblage is too small for further potential.

Recommendations for further work [HL3]

The assemblage is fully recorded and no further work is necessary.

Recommendations for archive [HL3]

Retention and discard recommendations are recorded in the finds data. They are summarised here. The archive will be prepared in accordance with professional standards (AAF 2011) and the specific requirements of the receiving repository.

Material	Total count	Total weight (g)	Retain	Discard
Pottery (PH)	9	87	Y	-
Lithics	2	35	Y	-

References [HL3]

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Appendix 3.1 Finds catalogue [HL3]

Tr	Context	Feature	Qty	Wgt (g)	Material	Object	Description	Spot date
28	2805	2804	9	87	Pottery (PH)	QQuCFM	base of a single handmade vessel in sandy fabric with common fine to medium sub-angular white quartzite inclusions	350BC-50BC
57	5705	5704	1	2	Lithics	Blade-like flake	Small butt, clear cone, tertiary removal	PH
57	5705	5704	1	33	Lithics	Core on a flake	Large blade-like flake, removals from both lateral sides of ventral surface, clear point of percussion on butt, incipient cones on dorsal surface	PH