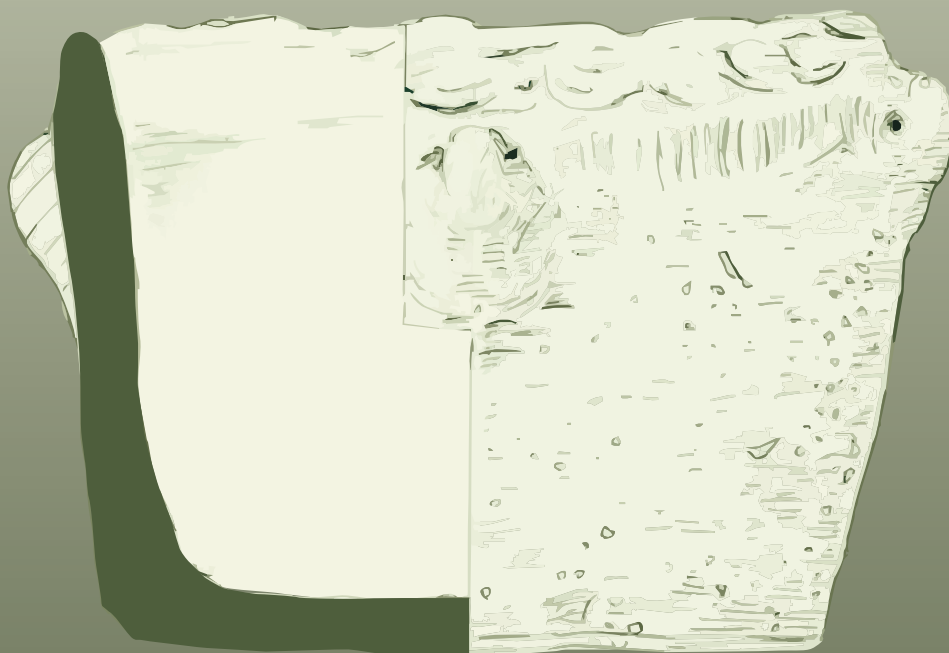


# Landscape Evolution in the Middle Thames Valley Heathrow Terminal 5 Excavations Volume 2

## Prehistoric Pottery

(Section 1)



*by Matt Leivers  
with Rachel Every and Lorraine Mephram*

## SECTION 1

### PREHISTORIC POTTERY

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#### Introduction

The prehistoric pottery assemblage studied here consists of 18,316 sherds weighing 162, 818g, recovered from seven sites: POK 96, WPR 98, GAI 99, GAA 00, PSH 02, LFA 05 and TEC 05. The material from POK 96, WPR 98, GAI 99 and GAA 00 has been analysed and published elsewhere (Every and Mephram 2006), but is represented here as a part of a much larger assemblage. The increased size of the available sample of prehistoric ceramics from Heathrow T5 necessarily results in different emphases in the analysis, and in varying conclusions; while these differences are not major, it is instructive to compare the two phases of analysis and reporting, and the format of this report follows that of the 2006 publication as closely as possible for that reason.

It is also worth noting that while the overall assemblage size more than doubled between the first and second phases of analysis, the overall density of pottery decreased, from 37.6 sherds weighing 292.7g per 100 square metres, to 23.7 sherds weighing 233.5 g per 100 square metres.

The material spans the Early Neolithic to the Middle Iron Age (later ceramics are reported on elsewhere), with the largest period assemblages dating to the Middle Bronze to Middle Iron Ages. In this sense, the material from PSH 02, LFA 05 and TEC 05 is not markedly different to that from POK 96, WPR 98, GAI 99 and GAA 00: the only significant alteration to the assemblage as a whole being the increased quantities of Late Neolithic ceramics, which are notably better represented in the later phases of work. Early Neolithic ceramics remain somewhat under-represented; diagnostic Early Bronze Age pottery still accounts for less than one per cent of the total assemblage.

Throughout this report, the assemblage is discussed as a geographic whole, rather than in terms of phases of excavation or analysis.

## Dating

As in 2006, the longevity of flint-tempered and sandy ceramics inhibits the definite separation of otherwise featureless sherds into chronologically-distinct groups. The difficulties in distinguishing Middle and Late Bronze Age wares on the basis of fabric alone remain insurmountable, although the separation of those traditions from Early and Middle Neolithic ceramics has been eased by the presence of chronologically significant forms in relevant fabric groups.

Radiocarbon dates obtained for the first phase of analysis did not consistently accord with the expected pottery dating (Every and Mephram 2006, 2). Dates associated with later phases of excavation however had the potential to provide a chronology that was much more secure. Table 1 shows contexts dated by radiocarbon samples and the presumed dates of the ceramics they contain.

**Table 1: Radiocarbon dating from stratified contexts dated by pottery**

Feature	Context	Sample Id	Material	Date (95.4%)	Ceramics
135071	135040	WK10030	wooden stake offcut	1530-1310BC	MBA
178108	178123	WK10032	wooden stake	1450-1210BC	MBA
135071	135040	WK10035	wooden stake offcut	1420-1120BC	MBA
135071	135040	NZA14903	socketed axe handle	1438-1132BC	MBA
539450	539451	Wk-19334	Hordium	360 – 280 BC (27.3%) 240 – 50 BC (68.1%)	LBA-EIA, MIA
125233	125228	WK9373	charcoal	850 – 410 BC	LBA-EIA
517310	517298	Wk-18456	Salix	1130 – 930 BC	LBA-EIA
135071	135040	WK9374	seeds	1260 – 910 BC	MBA
141024	121047	WK9371	wood	1380 – 930 BC	LBA-EIA
156031	156020	WK9376	seeds	1420 – 1100 BC	LBA-EIA
216009	216011	WK9377	seeds	1160 – 1400 AD	LNeo
539096	527085	Wk-18579	Emmer/spelt grains	1410 – 1250 BC (92.5%) 1240 – 1210 BC (2.9%)	MBA, LBA-EIA
539283	539284	Wk-19338	Triticum/spelta	1430 – 1250 BC (91.8%) 1240 – 1210 BC (3.6%)	LBA-EIA
539096	527076	Wk-18578	Emmer/spelt grains	1420 – 1260 BC	MBA, LBA-EIA
581045	581027	Wk-18576	Emmer/spelt grains	1380 – 1340 BC (3.4%) 1320 – 1110 BC (90.9%) 1100 – 1080 BC (1.1%)	MBA
563060	563055	Wk-19339	Hordeum	1440 – 1290 BC (94.0%) 1280 – 1260 BC (1.4%)	MBA
515233	515173	Wk-18574	Barley grains	1440 – 1290 BC	MBA
583160	529015	Wk-18575	Emmer/spelt grains	1500 – 1360 BC (85.2%) 1350 – 1310 BC (10.2%)	ENeo
563060	563056	Wk-18573	Barley grains	1500 – 1370 BC (92.6%) 1340 – 1320 BC (2.8%)	MBA, LBA-EIA
539096	527085	Wk-18577	Emmer/spelt grains	1500 – 1370 BC (87.6%) 1350 – 1310 BC (7.8%)	MBA, LBA-EIA
559328	559297	Wk-18460	Alnus	1500 – 1380 BC (93.7%) 1340 – 1320 BC (1.7%)	MBA
527078	527081	Wk-19336	Hordium	1520 – 1400 BC	MBA
543202	543204	Wk-18581	Emmer/spelt	1530 – 1410 BC	MBA
136194	136193	WK9375	seeds	1630 – 1320 BC	LBA-EIA
557027	557039	GU-14472	sediment	1690 – 1500 BC	MBA
510047	562038	GU-14471	sediment	1940 – 1740 BC	MBA

Analysis of ceramic assemblages alongside secure sequences of radiocarbon dates on previous Framework Archaeology projects has allowed the construction of chronologically sensitive sequences of fabric groups and vessel forms, particularly in the Middle and Late Bronze Age (Leivers 2008). Consequently, a similar approach was attempted for the Heathrow material, on the basis of dated contexts containing well-stratified ceramic assemblages. This programme has been only partially successful, due to the clustering of the majority of the radiocarbon determinations in the period 1500 – 1150 cal BC (Needham 1996's Period 5), and also as a result of the remarkable uniformity of some fabrics between the Middle and Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age.

## **Methods**

The material was analysed in accordance with the nationally recommended guidelines of the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1997). Sherds were examined using a x20 binocular microscope to identify clay matrices and tempers, and fabrics were defined on those bases. No petrological analyses have been undertaken: the predominantly flint-tempered and sandy fabrics meant that such a technique would not have been particularly enlightening. All data have been entered onto the Framework Archaeology Pottery Database.

## **Condition**

Condition of sherds was assessed on the basis of the degree to which edges and surfaces were abraded. The assemblage was dominated by sherds in moderate condition (73.2%), with much smaller proportions of good (6.87%), poor (16.24%) and very poor (3.68%). There were very few reconstructable profiles, despite the occurrences of probable single-vessel deposits. The presence of residues was also recorded, although the analysis of those residues was not undertaken as part of the current programme.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the earlier prehistoric material has a markedly lower mean sherd weight than the later material (see Table 2).

## Context

Of the 1,969 contexts containing prehistoric ceramics, 114 contained more than 30 sherds (two contexts from GAI99 each contain sherds of a single Middle Bronze Age vessel, while 12 other contexts from WPR98 and ten from PSH02 contained complete or near complete vessels of various dates). 1,240 contexts produced less than five sherds. As might be expected from these figures, dating of contexts on the basis of pottery has proved difficult. A further 75 contexts have between 20 and 29 sherds, 212 with between 10 and 19 sherds, 328 between 5 and 9 sherds.

## Pottery by chronological period

A total of 52 fabric groups were defined, which have been grouped into seven chronological periods. The breakdown of ceramics by fabric group and chronological period is given in Table 2. Fabric descriptions are given in Appendix 1.

*Table 2: Prehistoric pottery fabrics by chronological period*

Date	Fabric	No. sherds	Weight (g)	ASW (g)
EARLY NEOLITHIC	FL4	1,010	4,033	
	FL8	1	15	
	FL15	54	607	
	FL16	51	315	
	FL17	11	77	
	FL18	23	286	
	QU13	23	152	
	QU17	5	56	
	<b>Sub-total EN</b>	<b>1,178</b>	<b>5,541</b>	<b>4.70</b>
MIDDLE NEOLITHIC	FL19	22	172	
	FL20	7	48	
	FL21	148	684	
	FL22	225	772	
	FL23	49	887	
	<b>Sub-total MN</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>2,563</b>	<b>5.68</b>
LATE NEOLITHIC	GR2	216	1,186	
	GR5	348	1,252	
	<b>Sub-total LN</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>2,438</b>	<b>4.32</b>
EARLY BRONZE AGE	GR1	104	325	
	GR9	52	521	
	<b>Sub-total EBA</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>5.42</b>
MIDDLE BRONZE AGE	FL2	2,417	30,835	
	FL3	525	3,179	
	FL10	684	14,393	
	FL24	120	803	
	FL25	72	573	

Date	Fabric	No. sherds	Weight (g)	ASW (g)
	FL26	31	273	
	GR6	9	61	
	<b>Sub-total MBA</b>	<b>3,858</b>	<b>50,117</b>	<b>12.99</b>
LATE BRONZE AGE -	FL1	2,102	14,738	
EARLY IRON AGE	FL5	491	5,132	
	FL9	1,261	15,254	
	FL11	617	5,078	
	FL12	177	1,585	
	FL13	1,565	16,341	
	FL14	175	1,560	
	FL27	35	547	
	IV1	259	2,391	
	QU8	423	3,150	
	QU12	15	75	
	QU15	81	586	
	QU18	9	106	
	QU19	27	257	
	SH2	24	74	
	SH4	1	8	
	<b>Sub-total LBA</b>	<b>7,242</b>	<b>66,972</b>	<b>9.25</b>
EARLY - MIDDLE IRON AGE	FL6	13	162	
	QU1	2,064	14,688	
	QU2	782	6,712	
	QU3	115	1,305	
	QU4	3	16	
	QU5	379	2,117	
	QU7	517	6,054	
	QU9	452	1,446	
	QU22	117	1,199	
	<b>Sub-total MIA</b>	<b>4,442</b>	<b>33,699</b>	<b>7.59</b>
UNCERTAIN	FL99	365	568	
	GR99	25	31	
	QU99	33	40	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>18,316</b>	<b>162,818</b>	<b>8.89</b>

### *Early Neolithic*

A total of 1,178 sherds weighing 5,541g was identified as Early Neolithic. Some uncertainty remains in the separation of Early Neolithic and Middle/Late Bronze Age flint-tempered fabrics, but the increased numbers of diagnostic sherds has aided this distinction somewhat.

Eight fabrics were identified, six flint-tempered (FL4, FL8 and FL 15-18) and two sandy (QU13 and QU17). There is nothing to suggest anything other than local manufacture for the Early Neolithic assemblage, which is a pattern well documented for other earlier Neolithic assemblages in the Thames Valley, such as Staines (Robertson-Mackay 1987, 67) and Runnymede Bridge (Kinnes 1991, 158).

The assemblage includes 51 rim sherds, which derive from a maximum of 34 vessels (a maximum of 12 from tree throw 156191, and three from ditch 961508). Using the tripartite rim typology of *plain*, *rolled*, and *heavy* as applied to the assemblage from

the Staines causewayed enclosure (Robertson-Mackay 1987, fig. 37), seven different rim forms were identified (other fragments were too small to identify accurately):

*Plain*

1. Plain (5 examples, e.g. **ILLS 1-3**)
2. Pointed (2 examples, **ILL. 4**)
3. Everted (2 examples)

*Rolled*

3. Rolled Over (9 examples, e.g. **ILLS 5-13**)
4. Externally Thickened (3 examples, e.g. **ILLS 14-17**)

*Heavy*

5. Expanded (20 examples, e.g. **ILLS 18-20 and 28**)
6. T-sectioned (3 examples, e.g. **ILLS 21-22**)
7. Angular (1 example, **ILL. 23**)

Most are too small to ascertain overall vessel profile, or even rim orientation, and it is therefore not possible to place the vessels in any classificatory scheme such as Cleal's (1992). However, most appear to derive from open or neutral forms; at least one is carinated (**ILL. 23**); and two appear to be shouldered (**ILLS 1 and 28**). Three vessels are decorated: one with impressed dots (**ILL. 17**); a second with incised lines on the interior (**ILL. 25**); and a third with impressed dots on the body and twisted cord on the rim (**ILL. 28**). Four have pre-firing perforations just below the rim, which may also be considered as decorative (**ILLS 20 and 24**), and four have applied lugs (**ILLS 3, 21, 27 and 28**). On one of these latter, the lug is elongated and tapering, and has a vertical perforation made when the clay was leather hard (**ILL. 27**); a second has a series of lugs approximately 25mm below the rim, at least one of which has a horizontal incision across its width (**ILL. 3**), and a third has a lug with a pair of pre-firing perforations (**ILL. 28**).

*Distribution*

A large proportion of this group derived from a single context (tree throw 156191: 541 sherds; 1444g), with smaller groups from pit group 527124/311056/527115 (38 sherds weighing 318g from a single vessel – the feature also contained Middle Neolithic Peterborough Ware), tree-throw 527288 (31 sherds; 270g), pit group 561277/561278 (68 sherds weighing 468g from three vessels; 561278 contains an assemblage dominated by Middle Neolithic Peterborough Ware), pit 836044 (45 sherds weighing 434g from four vessels); tree throw 558057 (52 sherds; 308g); and residual in Bronze Age field system ditch 961508 (80 sherds; 301g). In general the condition of this material is poor; sherds are small and moderately to heavily abraded. However the fabrics (in particularly the flint-tempered fabrics) tend to be extremely friable and a high degree of fragmentation does not necessarily reflect a commensurate level of post-depositional movement. The main groups in tree throws 156191 and 527288 and pit 836044 seem to have been deposited as single events, while the group in pits 561277 and 527124 are likely to have been an early element within a suite of depositional events of which the Peterborough Ware represents a later phase (it is possible that these two ceramic styles in fact overlap in use). Within ditch 961508, while obviously residual, the sherds are likely to have been redeposited from a disturbed deposit nearby.

The original deposition of these groups may have taken place on chronologically widely separated occasions, although the fragmentary nature of the vessels and predominance of plain body sherds (with very few rims, less angled body sherds and no bases) suggests that they may have been stylistically similar.

Within the total area of excavation, the distribution of Early Neolithic pottery remains as described by Every and Mephram (Fig. 1): a low density spread of features east of the Stanwell Cursus. West of the cursus occurrences of Early Neolithic ceramics are slight: in addition to the two sherds from the western cursus ditch can be added three from pit 579139 pre-dating the western ditch; one in tree throw 600010 between the ditches; six from tree throw 511067; three from ditch 576017; and a small number of residual pieces in a Bronze Age ditches 526084, 583160 and 602110. Biased deposition is also evident in the C2 cursus, where ceramics were only recovered from the eastern ditches.



Other sherds came from scattered tree throws (including the large groups from 156191, 558057 and 527288), pits and other features, including a significant quantity from the extreme north-east corner of the excavations. Neolithic Pit Complex 2 on PSH 02 and pit 836044 on TEC 05 both contained ceramics that were distinct from those in tree throws closer to the cursus. Pit Complex 2 consisted of seven intercutting features, the second of which (561278) contained sherds from a thin-walled bowl; a larger, thicker, shouldered vessel (**ILL. 1**) and a single sherd from a well-fired, thin-walled, well-finished vessel. A later pit in the sequence contained further sherds from the vessels in 561278 and a large portion of one (or possibly two) Ebbsfleet-type Peterborough Ware vessels. Pit 836044 contained portions of a Decorated Bowl (**ILL. 28**). Taken together, these features suggest either that different sorts of ceramic were being used for different purposes, or that there was a shift away from deposition near to the Stanwell Cursus after perhaps 3,600 BC.



*Figure 1: Early Neolithic ceramic distribution by weight. Contemporary features shown in blue.*

*Discussion*

Parallels for the bowl fabrics and forms occur locally, for instance at Staines and Runnymede Bridge (Robertson-Mackay 1987; Kinnes 1991; Longworth and Varndell 1996; Needham 2000). The range of forms and predominantly coarse flint tempered fabrics is better matched at Staines, as the published Runnymede material tends to be finer and to have a greater proportion of carinated forms. These differences are perhaps chronological, with the Runnymede material earlier. This difference may also be visible in terms of decoration. As at Staines, the lack of decoration among the bowls from Heathrow T5 is notable (the ratios of decorated to plain vessels are 1:17 at Heathrow T5; 1:23 at Staines; totals for Runnymede are not available). In this respect the Heathrow T5 assemblage is similar to other regional comparanda such as the material from Cippenham, Slough (Ford and Taylor 2004; Raymond 2003a), Manor Farm, Horton (Raymond 2003b) and Charvil, Berkshire (Lovell and Mephram 2000). It is possible that the emergence of decoration in the Heathrow area is concordant with a shift in depositional focus: the only contexts containing definite Decorated Bowl occur on the east of the excavations, in areas where Middle Neolithic Peterborough Wares replace Early Neolithic Bowls in pit sequences. The best parallels for the Heathrow T5 Decorated material come from the middle and upper Thames, at Whiteleaf Hill, Buckinghamshire, some 25 miles to the north-west (Childe and Smith 1954, fig. 5) and Abingdon, Oxfordshire (Avery 1982, fig. 15).

Herne argues that the emergence of decoration in the Early Neolithic ceramics of the English south-east is a late development (Herne 1988). However, two points should be considered in any consideration of the chronological significance of this material: firstly, the assemblage is quite small and fragmentary; and secondly, decorated vessels did not necessarily replace plain ones. Whittle (1977) has typified the ratio of decorated to plain vessels in assemblages of his Decorated Style (within which the Heathrow T5 material would lie) as 3:7. Given these factors, it is not possible to determine whether the very low proportion of decoration is necessarily a chronological trait, rather than a deliberate choice by the users of the pottery.

It has been argued that some assemblages in the locality represent a distinct and new regional style (Kinnes 1991, 158), or that the differences perceived in each newly-excavated assemblage represent a strongly regional character to the Early Neolithic ceramics of the region (Robertson-Mackay 1987, 92). Both of these suggestions fit

with the general recession of relevance of the traditional generalising culture-historic schemes of categorising Earlier Neolithic pottery. Instead of attempting to fit the Heathrow T5 ceramics into a Mildenhall or Abingdon cultural tradition, or an Eastern or Decorated one, we should instead see the vessels as locally-adopted solutions to particular sets of needs. The resulting assemblages will have similarities and differences to other local and regional assemblages manufactured by the same people, their contemporaries, forebears or descendants, as solutions to other sets of needs. The possibility of different depositional activities involving different types of ceramics and contexts (plain bowls in tree throws towards the cursus; Decorated vessels and later Peterborough Wares in pit sequences further east) indicates that those needs may not have been simply utilitarian. Sadly, the lack of suitable material precluded direct dating of these two styles, and their precise chronological relationships at Heathrow T5 are therefore unknown.

### ***Middle Neolithic***

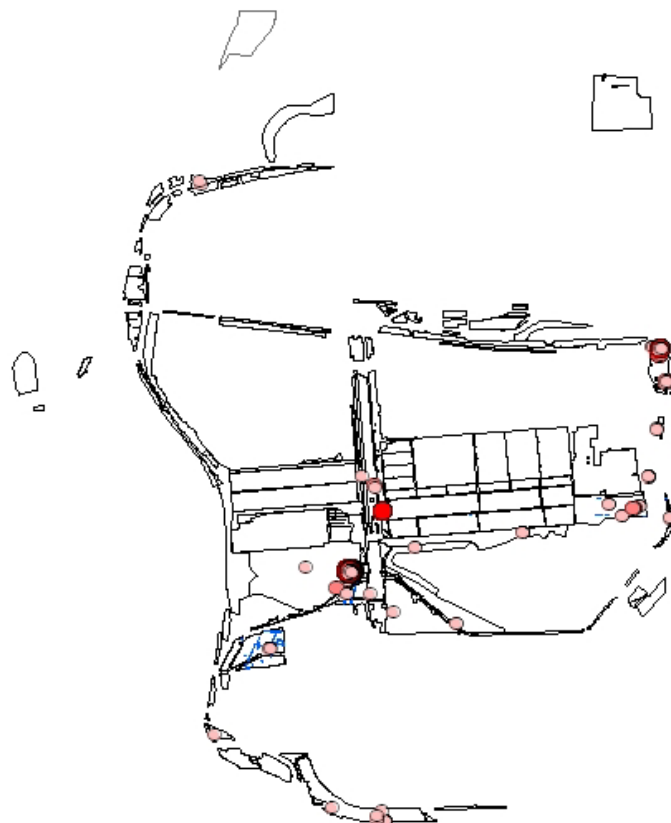
Middle Neolithic Peterborough Wares were represented by 451 sherds weighing 2,563g in five flint-tempered fabrics (FL19 – FL23). All appear to be of local manufacture. With the exception of a large portion of an Ebbsfleet-type bowl from pit 555922 (**ILL. 29**), the assemblage consisted of small fragments of Mortlake-type vessels. For the most part, vessels are too fragmentary to suggest forms.

In terms of distribution, Peterborough Wares were found across the site (Fig. 2). At the extreme south of the excavated area a small number of sherds clustered around an opposed pair of terminals to segments of the ditches of the Stanwell Cursus. In the eastern ditch, the northern terminal contained a single fingernail impressed sherd in a distinctive ferrous fabric (FL19), while the southern contained a single plain sherd in fine flint-tempered fabric FL20. This terminal cut an earlier pit which itself contained one rim, three body, two shoulder sherds in coarse flint-tempered fabric FL21, all with whipped cord maggots (the rim also has an incised line along the top and other incised impressions).

In the western ditch, the northern terminal contained a single sherd from a cavetto zone in FL21 with fingernail impressions on one surface and a whipped cord maggot herringbone on the other. The southern terminal contained two sherds in FL19, one (a

cavetto fragment) with whipped cord maggots and a second probably from the same vessel with fingernail impressions.

A further sherd was recovered from the western ditch of the Stanwell Cursus in the centre of the excavation. This sherd (in FL20) has a series of very deep, rather coarse impressions which may be twisted cord forming at least six pronounced ribs (**ILL. 30**). This type of decoration is paralleled elsewhere at Heathrow (Grimes 1960, 191 and fig.77 nos. 9-11). A single plain sherd in FL21 was recovered from the eastern ditch at the extreme north of the excavations.



**Figure 2: Middle Neolithic ceramic distribution by weight. Contemporary features shown in blue.**

In the north-east corner of the excavations, pit 555922 in Neolithic Pit Complex 1 contained 40 sherds of an Ebbsfleet-type bowl (**ILL. 29**), heavily encrusted with residues. With the exception of a very small number of featureless sherds, this Ebbsfleet vessel is the only instance of fabric FL23, suggesting that – while no doubt contemporary with the other Peterborough Ware styles – Ebbsfleet-type vessels do

form a distinct sub-set of these ceramics. The vessel was represented by 32 body, five rim and three shoulder sherds, with fingernail impressions on the body (the sherds are abraded and many obscured with a heavy deposit, but some at least have all-over decoration), above the shoulder in the neck and on top of rim. Earlier pits in Complex 1 contained single flint tempered sherds that cannot be accurately identified, but which probably derive from similar vessels.

Immediately to the north, Neolithic Pit Complex 2 contained both Early and Middle Neolithic ceramics. In this instance, pit 561277 containing Early Neolithic bowl sherds was cut by pit 561278 containing fragments of one or two Mortlake vessels. The distinction between the two pit complexes in terms of the style of Peterborough Ware they contain is very marked.

South of these pit groups, ditch 547363 contained small portions of three vessels, including 14 sherds of a vessel in FL22 (one with a very deep fingertip impression), a sherd in FL21, and two in FL19. Small quantities of Mortlake wares were recovered from Middle Neolithic features across the eastern edge of the excavations, including the terminal of ring-ditch 528117. At the very eastern limit of the site ditch 559782 contained three sherds in FL21, including a shoulder/cavetto fragment, a crumb and a fragment of an elaborated 'T'-sectioned rim with whipped cord maggots on the upper surface. These may all derive from the same vessel. Middle Neolithic ceramics were also recovered as residual finds from later features in this area: Bronze Age pit 531048 contained three sherds in FL23 including a rim with fingernail impressions in an 'X' pattern on the top and incised lines below the rim on the inner surface; Middle Bronze Age waterhole 559665 contained seven sherds in FL22 including two with very deep fingertip impressions, one of which has three vertical whipped cord maggots immediately above (**ILL. 34**).

Other widely scattered Middle Neolithic features contained contemporary ceramics. Immediately north of the C3 Cursus, ditch 561136 contained a single sherd in FL19, while pit 527124 (the uppermost pit in a sequence of intercutting features) contained fragments of four vessels. One (in FL20) was represented by a single sherd with fingernail impressions on the oxidised exterior, while a second necked sherd in the same fabric had a smoothed exterior decorated with rows of impressions below the neck possibly made with the end of a bird bone (**ILL.31**). The other two vessels were present in much larger quantities: 69 sherds of a vessel in FL21 included some with

fingernail impressions, and one with a row of twisted cord either side of a blank 'panel'. The three rim sherds from this vessel were 'T'-sectioned and flat topped, with the top, outer and inner surfaces all decorated with fingernail impressions. On the inner surface these were between raised ridges (**ILL. 32**). The fourth vessel was represented by 138 sherds in FL22. Some sherds were plain, while others had fingernail decoration. The rim was an elaborate 'T'-shape, with fingernail and stick or bird bone impressions (**ILL. 33**). Hedgerow 527115 cut this pit group and also contained Mortlake sherds, which may have derived from one of the earlier pits. Nearby, tree throw 561096 contained a pair of featureless body sherds in FL23.

Further north, pit 561075 contained 29 sherds in FL22, one of which had an inturned rim with three rows of circular impressions on the top and three rows of possible bird bone impressions on the interior surface. The remaining sherds were mostly plain, although one (possibly a shoulder) has two lines of circular impressions. Two sherds in FL20 including a rim with whipped cord maggots on the top and fingernail impressions below were residual in Middle Bronze Age ditch 556014 in this area. Other featureless sherds came from the fills of later pits and ditches across the excavated areas.

### *Discussion*

The material from the Stanwell Cursus increases significantly the quantity of Peterborough Wares recovered from that structure. The earlier Stanwell Cursus excavations (O'Connell 1990) produced four sherds of Peterborough Ware (one Ebbsfleet-type rim and three Mortlake-type body sherds: Cotton 1990, 28-9) all comparable to the Heathrow T5 material in terms of fabric and decoration. The Heathrow T5 material is perhaps indicative of more intentional depositional processes, tending to be coincident with ditch terminals.

The Heathrow T5 Peterborough Wares find numerous immediate and distant local parallels amongst the material listed by Cotton (Cotton with Johnson 2004, 135-44, especially numbers 1 to 26). This material attests to a fairly dense use of the area on the eastern side of the Colne, north of the Thames. As within the Heathrow T5 assemblage, this wider group of material derives from both large earthworks (mostly secondary contexts in earlier Neolithic structures) and small features such as pits. At

Heathrow T5 at least, there is no repeated difference in the ceramics recovered from the different locations.

The isolated pits containing substantial portions of individual vessels or sherds of several vessels can be paralleled within the immediate vicinity, especially in the pair of pits within the later Caesar's Camp enclosure (Grimes 1960), now beneath the northern runway at the eastern end of the airport. Similar pits containing either Mortlake or Ebbsfleet-type ceramics (but seldom if ever both) are known from the wider area, including Mixnam's Pit, Thorpe (*ibid.*, 181-5); Cranford Lane, Harlington, Holloway Lane and Sipson Lane immediately north of the airport (Cotton *et al.* 1986); Petters Sports Field, Egham (O'Connell 1986) and Iver, Buckinghamshire (Lacaille 1937).

The Middle Neolithic ceramics of the region have been discussed most recently by Cotton, whose paper provides a useful framework within which to discuss the Heathrow material. Cotton notes that Peterborough Ware's broad depositional associations are "in secondary contexts on established monumental sites, in low-lying and/or wet places, and in small pits, the latter far and away the most numerous" (Cotton with Johnson 2004, 145). In terms of the Heathrow T5 assemblage this is true in terms of the first and third, but whether or not it is the case that the pits (or pit groups, where they occur) are "usually (but not always) at some remove from monuments like the Stanwell 'cursus'" (*ibid.*) is more difficult to assess. Certainly within the excavated areas at least the pits with significant quantities of Middle Neolithic ceramics – whether Ebbsfleet or Mortlake types – are situated east of the cursus and at a little distance from it, but within a landscape context it can be argued that the cursus serves rather as a focus *for* these pits. In this light it is perhaps significant that the most complex series of intercutting pits (containing both Early Neolithic plain bowl and Middle Neolithic Ebbsfleet and Mortlake-type ceramics) are situated at the extreme eastern limit of the excavated area. These series' could well be typified as examples of Thomas' 'significant places/events/ceremonies' containing larger, more elaborately or frequently decorated sherds than other depositional contexts (Thomas 1999).

Cotton proposes a series of possible avenues for further research, several of which are beyond the scope of this analysis. The majority of the Heathrow Peterborough Wares are in a state that precludes estimates of size and volume for instance, and any

correlation between those variables and proposed uses and depositional regimes is consequently lost. Similarly, the reconstruction of decorative grammar is difficult in an assemblage consisting of small non-joining fragments. It is possible that portions of the same vessels may be present in separate features, but the ubiquity of the basic flint-tempered fabric and the abraded condition of the sherds make such identifications impossible with any certainty. It may indeed be the case that portions of these vessels lie outside the excavated areas (elsewhere in the cursus ditches, for instance) or even on other previously excavated sites in the vicinity. Peterborough Wares are not scarce around Heathrow and as Cotton enquires “if parts of bodies can be moved around the landscape why not fragments of pots too?” (Cotton with Johnson 2004, 146). The very different conditions of the surviving sherds at Heathrow and – for instance – Imperial College Sports Ground (Wessex Archaeology 2000) raise interesting questions concerning the circulation of broken pots, their use and possible re-use.

In terms of the significance of tempering agents, the near ubiquity of burnt flint as a filler would seem to preclude its being somehow magically significant, unless we are to accept the entire assemblage as such, in which case we are left with no scale of comparison against which to measure any differences in meaning. More significant perhaps is Cotton’s identification of a fabric largely free of quartz sand, which is very similar to Heathrow T5 fabric FL23, present only as the single instance of an Ebbsfleet-type ceramic (and a meagre handful of unidentifiable body sherds).

### ***Late Neolithic***

Late Neolithic pottery is not common in the Heathrow area: only 564 sherds weighing 2,438g were recovered during the T5 excavations. To some degree, identification is hampered by a dependence on fabric type, and the similarity of Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age fabrics, but the combination of fabric and characteristic decoration indicates two grog-tempered groups, which break down into a division of more or less vesicular (GR5 and GR2 respectively).

The majority of sherds came from three features on the eastern side of the excavations (Fig. 3). Pit 695027 contained eight small sherds from two vessels in its lower fill, one in GR2 and one in GR5. 19 sherds of the GR5 vessel and 61 sherds and crumbs from



the GR2 example came from the upper fill. Pit 708007 contained a second pair of vessels in its single fill. As with 695027, there was an example of each fabric type, with 76 sherds in GR5 and 48 in GR2. It is possible that the sherds in both pits derive from the same pair of vessels; those in 695027 are in markedly better condition than those in 708007, which was cut by Early Bronze Age feature 707016. This feature contained portions of a Collared Urn (see below) and four further sherds of the GR2 Grooved Ware vessel. A series of Middle to Late Bronze Age features cut the pit, and contained another five sherds of the GR5 vessel.

The GR5 vessel has an asymmetrical rim with a slight convex external collar, from which depends a series of vertically grooved applied cordons (at least two, probably more). The small fragments of flat base suggest a slight protruding foot. The decorative scheme is complex, but basically consists of the upper portion of the body divided into panels infilled alternately with incised herringbone and impressed finger tip decoration (**ILL. 42**). Below both is a horizontal panel of incised parallel lines above a zone with only intermittent and less well-executed herringbone incision. The wall is thin throughout (never more than 10mm).

The GR2 vessel is more fragmentary, and generally less well-preserved, but it appears to have had a simple upright rim, below which was a zigzag pattern of broad incised lines covering much of the body. There does not seem to have been any division of the surface into panels. The base appears to have been flat. Both of these vessels are Durrington Walls-type.



*Figure3: Late Neolithic ceramic distribution by weight. Contemporary features shown in blue.*

Pit 836009 contained 96 sherds (275g) forming approximately 65% of the rim of a vessel 280mm in diameter (**ILL. 46**). The rim is simple, upright and pointed, with an applied internal triangular strip of clay moulded to form a bevel. The bevel carries two horizontal incised lines with short vertical impressions between giving an almost rouletted effect. Externally, the vessel has a band of four horizontal incised lines above and below a panel of four lines of zig-zag. This vessel most probably belongs to the Clacton type.

Pit 580310 contained large rim sherds from a pair of vessels in a variant of GR2, the form and decoration of which indicate the Woodlands sub-style (**ILLS 43 and 44**). Both have sinuous raised cordons with slash-marks. At points along these cordons on one vessel (in one instance at the convergence of two cordons) are larger impressions apparently made with a finger end – these may replicate the more elaborate applied ‘stops’ at the convergence of cordons on more typical Woodlands vessels. The atypical feature of these sherds is the presence of two lines of twisted cord

impressions below the rim of one (**ILL. 43**), suggesting a Woodlands/Durrington Walls hybrid.

Slightly further to the west, 97 sherds from three vessels in GR5 were recovered from pit 531011 (nine sherds of one vessel in fill 531013 (**ILL. 35**); 22 sherds of a second vessel (**ILL. 36**) spread between fills 531015 and 531019; 66 sherds of a third vessel in fill 531022 (**ILL. 37**)). All were burnt and extremely friable. Another sizeable group came from pit 216009/216118 (respective secondary fills 216011 and 216120 (**ILL. 38**); 41 sherds: 134g); sherds from 216011 were noticeably more abraded than those from 216120, which almost certainly derived from the same vessel. Diagnostic sherds include part of the rim with horizontal grooved decoration below (**ILL. 38**). This appears to be a relatively thin-walled, bucket-shaped vessel, with a simple rounded rim. Form and decoration are sufficient to assign this vessel to the Durrington Walls sub-style.

The majority of the identifiable vessels belong to this same sub-style (Wainwright and Longworth 1971, 240-2). Here, the characteristic traits are whipped and twisted cord (**ILLS 35** and **39**); internally-bevelled and concave rims, often with incised decoration below (**ILL. 40**); vertical plain cordons (**ILL. 41**) and external incised or grooved decoration (**ILLS 35, 36** and **40**). Much of the material derives from a series of closed vessels, although very few profiles can be reconstructed. In addition to those already described, a further 10 sherds with grooved decoration from other contexts (pits 127022, 141228, 170007; ditches 146205 and 961747) are also probably of the same sub-style, although too small to make a definitive identification. The remaining sherds are plain and undiagnostic.

### *Discussion*

Every and Mephram identified the Perry Oaks Grooved Ware as a significant addition to the rather scanty ceramic record for the Late Neolithic in the west London area (2006, 7). At the time of the first stage of analysis, all of the identifiable vessels belonged to the Durrington Walls type, and the addition of a Clacton tub and – especially – a possible Durrington Walls/Woodlands hybrid increases the importance of this material still further. Previous finds in the area (including over 500 sherds from Holloway Lane, Harmondsworth (Cotton *et al.* 1986, 36 and fig. 22b; Field and Cotton 1987; Merriman 1990, 24-5); 120 sherds from at least three vessels in a hollow

at Prospect Park, Harmondsworth (Laidlaw and Mephram 1996); an unspecified quantity of material from a feature at Sipson Lane, Harmondsworth (Longworth and Cleal 1999, 185); two sherds from a ring ditch at West Bedfont (*ibid.*) and fragments of a burnt vessel from Lower Mill Farm, Stanwell (Jones and Ayres 2004)) belong to the Durrington Walls, Clacton and Woodlands types.

Unlike the Peterborough Wares, the Grooved Ware sub-styles tend to merge into one another, so an instance such as the vessel in pit 580310 is not atypical. Although the sub-styles show no real regional or chronological cohesion, the different sorts of vessel were often used in different ways. Woodlands-style pots are predominantly found in pits, as at Heathrow. Durrington Walls-style vessels are found in a variety of contexts, including ring ditches and the large Wessex henges, but also in isolated pits. Given this, in spite of its scarcity in the region, Grooved Ware seems to have been fulfilling the same roles as in areas where it was in more common use.

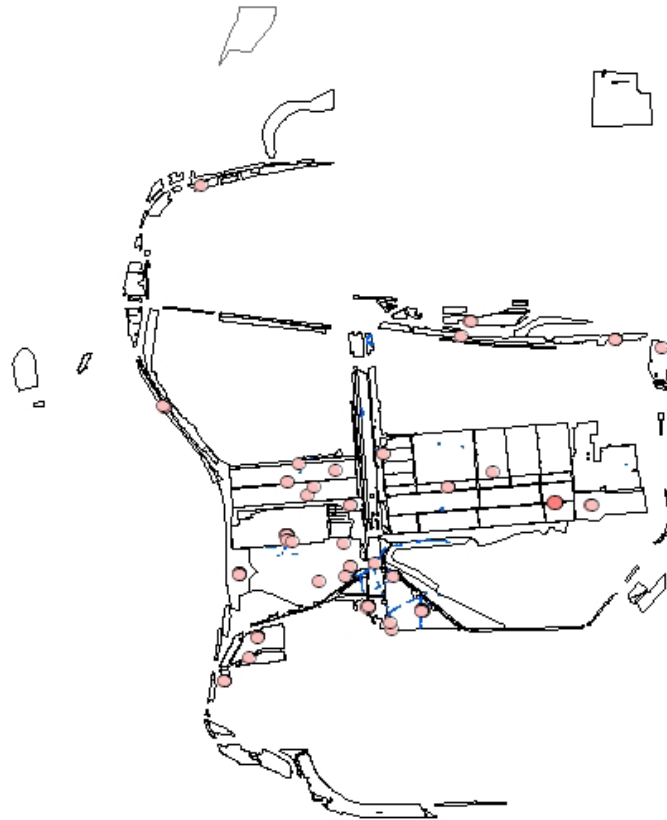
In this light, the Heathrow material could be regarded as typical deliberate deposits within isolated features. On the other hand, the fair to heavy abrasion on some sherd groups could be indicative of pre-depositional use or post-depositional movement, with the more fragmented vessels perhaps entering the pits as a result of erosion of the surrounding topsoil.

### ***Early Bronze Age***

Early Bronze Age pottery remains elusive, with only 156 sherds weighing 846g identified (still predominantly on the grounds of fabric alone). All sherds are grog-tempered, and have been assigned to two fabric types (GR1 and GR9). While the fabrics are visually very similar to the Grooved Ware fabric GR2, sherds in GR1 and GR9 are invariably oxidised, at least externally, and the few recognisable sherds are characteristic of Early Bronze Age ceramic traditions. Diagnostic sherds include rim and collar fragments from Collared Urns, and rims and comb-impressed body sherds from Beakers. The remaining sherds are all plain body sherds; some are tentatively identified as Beaker or Collared Urn where they are visually identical to diagnostic sherds.

Sherds are widely scattered across the site, usually in very small quantities (Fig. 4). Condition overall is poor: with the exception of the material from pit 707016 sherds

are very small and abraded with a mean sherd weight of only 2.99g and only one context producing more than 30g of pottery.



**Figure 4: Early Bronze Age ceramic distribution by weight. Contemporary features shown in blue.**

The diagnostic Beaker sherds came from a primary ditch fill (ditch recut 105009), from pit 588271 (dated to the Early Bronze Age), and from a ring ditch (possibly a round barrow) 544182. Collared Urn was recovered from the same ring ditch, and also from ditch 511058, tree-throw 570144, in Middle Bronze Age waterhole 544085, and in Neolithic pit 527124.

In all these contexts sherds can be regarded as residual finds, with the exception of the single sherd from the upper fill of the Stanwell Cursus ditch, eight sherds from ditch 511188, ten from 588271 and six from ditch 594103. The Beaker and Collared Urn sherds (six sherds; 12g) from ring ditch 544182 and pit 588271 are highly abraded and unlikely to be *in situ*, although the occurrence in 544182 of these otherwise-rare ceramic types in association with at least one contemporary lithic tool does seem to

point to contemporary activity in the vicinity, which may have been associated with this putative barrow.

On TEC05 the situation is rather different. Only one context contained Early Bronze Age ceramics (pit 707016), but the group consisted of 51 sherds weighing 509g, all from a single large Collared Urn. This group appears to have been *in situ*, and probably represents discard of a broken vessel.

### *Discussion*

Little can be made of such a small assemblage, which (with the exception of TEC05) would appear to be largely residual. The dearth of data from this period is consistent with the wider pattern in west London, where Early Bronze Age ceramics are noticeably absent, although a collection of Beaker and Collared Urn sherds was found at Runnymede (Needham 2000, 71-2 and fig. 3.5) and a miniature Collared Urn was recovered from a funerary context at Imperial College Sports Ground, Harlington (Wessex Archaeology 2000).

### ***Middle Bronze Age***

A substantial quantity of Middle Bronze Age ceramics was recovered (3,858 sherds weighing 50,117g). The assemblage can be divided into two basic vessel types, which correspond to the standard division of Deverel-Rimbury ceramics into coarser Bucket-shaped and finer Globular vessels. At Heathrow T5 all of the Deverel-Rimbury ceramics were deposited in non-funerary contexts and were not consequently urns, despite the usual nomenclature; functionally neutral terms such as *jar* or *vessel* are therefore preferred.

*Bucket-shaped jars* tend to have the thickest walls and to be most coarsely tempered. Surfaces can be slipped, smoothed, wiped, or – very rarely – burnished, but are more often left rough, with temper protruding through the surface even on many of the better-finished examples. Walls are usually straight, but a few are convex-profiled (ILL. 47). Body sherds can have fingertip impressions on the shoulder, below the rim or elsewhere; fingernail impressions on the foot; raised bosses; and pinched-up or applied cordons (some of which are decorated with fingertip, fingernail or other impressions) applied around the shoulder and occasionally in ‘horseshoe’ arcs below

the rim (e.g. **ILL. 48, 49** and **59**). Some vessels have pre-firing perforations (usually below the rim) which may be considered decorative (**ILL. 50**).

Rims are generally simple and upright, with rounded and flattened forms present (e.g. **ILL. 51**). More elaborate forms are scarce, but include rims with a slight bevel, thickened forms and closed pointed types. Decoration on the tops of rims is limited to either fingertip or nail impressions, or deep diagonal lateral incisions (**ILL. 50**).

Bases are flat in every discernible instance, and feet at the base/wall angle slight or lacking. The vessels sometimes display the ‘gritty bottoms’ that presumably result from their construction and/or drying on surfaces covered with crushed, calcined flint (this trait is usually more common on Late Bronze Age ceramics, and it may be that the Middle Bronze Age vessels with this gritting are late in the sequence). A technological detail of construction visible in a number of base sherds is the application of a second layer of clay inside the wall/base junction, strengthening the angle. This second layer is invariably concave, giving the interior of the angle a smooth profile.

One exceptional vessel from 554073 has a small horseshoe cordon below the rim, an applied boss, a very gritty bottom, and has the inside of the base covered with neat finger-nail impressions (**ILL. 49**).

Where there is any evidence, indications are in favour of coil-building, although a small number of larger vessels have fractured into fairly regular rectilinear sherds which may indicate slab-building.

*Globular vessels* generally represent the fineware component of the Deverel-Rimbury tradition, distinguished by an overall higher investment of labour in temper preparation, vessel forming and surface treatment – typically these are thinner-walled vessels in better-sorted fabrics, with a smoothed or burnished surface finish. Decoration consists mainly of incised lines (**ILL. 58**), tooling (**ILL. 52**) or shallow impressions.

Rims are predominantly simple, upright and flat, some slightly everted. Two have lug handles (**ILLS 53** and **54**) and a third has applied bosses. Post-firing perforations are likely to be for repair (e.g. **ILL. 55**).

The third element of the standard Deverel-Rimbury repertoire – the *Barrel-shaped jars* (as defined by Calkin 1962, 19-24) - do not appear to be represented here, which fits the general pattern in the Lower Thames Valley (Ellison 1975).

In addition to these basic types there are a small number of anomalous sherds belonging to different forms. One almost complete small vessel in FL25 has a rim diameter of only 90mm (**ILL. 56**) and is an example of the ‘knobbed cups’ known in Surrey and from the London Thames (Needham 1987, 111). The cup is slightly convex-sided (almost drum-shaped) and has a flat base. There are four lugs at approximately 90° to each other; one opposed pair is perforated with a very fine perforation. The vessel is decorated with fine vertical impressions running from the base of each lug upwards in a clockwise direction to the top of the next lug. A single sherd in this same fabric appears to derive from a similar vessel. In terms of size, these vessels are comparable to vessel 16 from the Friends’ Burial Ground site, Staines (Barrett 1984, fig. 18); both the form and size are broadly paralleled by the knobbed cup from Coombe Warren, Kingston Hill, Surrey (Field and Needham 1986, 135 fig. 4 no 21). Field and Needham state that this vessel is of Late Bronze Age date, but a survival from the Deverel-Rimbury tradition (*ibid.*, 138). At Stansted, Essex, similar vessels emerged in Ceramic Period 3 (1400 – 1100 cal BC) along with the earliest post-Deverel-Rimbury forms (Leivers 2008). Two joining sherds in FL3 seem to belong to a small lug handle from a vessel of unknown form (**ILL. 57**).

With the exception of a single vessel in grog-tempered fabric GR6, the fabrics are exclusively flint-tempered. Seven types were identified (FL2, FL3, FL10, FL24, FL25 and FL26 and GR6), with the bucket-shaped forms occurring in coarser variants FL2, FL10 and GR6 and finer variants FL24 and FL25, with fine variant FL26 used exclusively for the globular vessels. Intermediate fabrics FL3 and FL25 occur as both thicker, less well-finished buckets and finer, better-finished vessels (including the small cups). Such blurring of the standard fabric divisions along the same lines as vessel form is also seen at Wood Lane, Osterley (Cotton 1981), and further afield. All of the fabrics can be considered locally-manufactured: the standard tempering agents neither prove nor preclude this, but the absence of non-local materials indicates a local clay source possible, and petrological studies of other ceramics from the area have shown similar fabrics (Williams 1993).

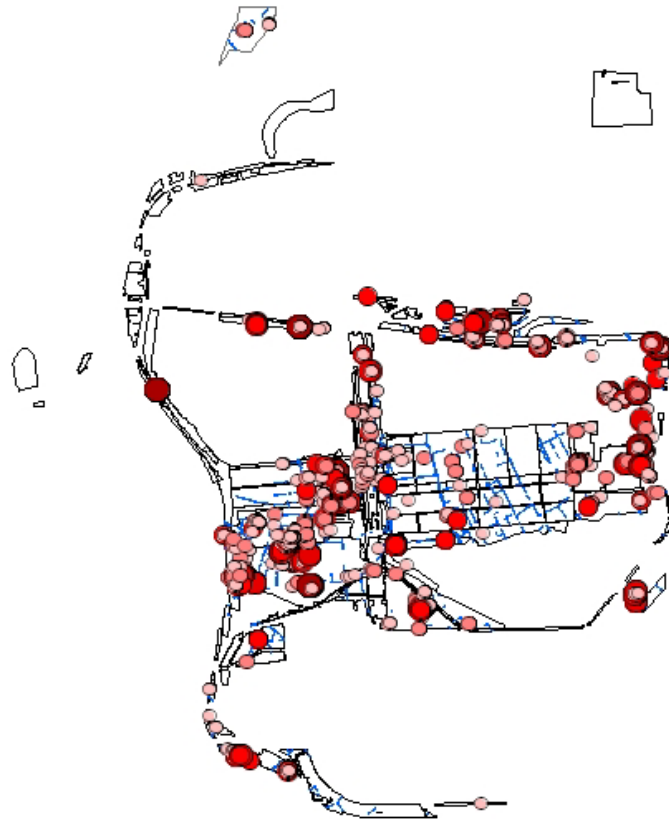


*Distribution*

Although present across almost the whole of the Heathrow T5 excavations, there are a number of significant concentrations of Middle Bronze Age ceramics (Fig. 5). The largest single deposit (221 sherds of a FL2 bucket-shaped jar) came from field system ditch 525055, not immediately associated with a settlement. Large quantities of Middle Bronze Age pottery cluster quite markedly in three locations in the south-west, centre and north-east of the field-systems and enclosures on the western side of the excavations (in WPR 98, POK 96 and PSH 02), and the northern-most two at least may mark the locations of contemporary settlements. Notable individual instances from PSH 02 include large portions of bucket-shaped vessels in waterholes 568092 and 521026. The vessels in the former appeared to have been deliberately placed in an upright position within the feature – only the lower part of the vessel survived through subsequent truncation. The ceramics from these features – while probably representing rubbish disposal – have certain traits suggesting that they may have been more overtly meaningful to the Middle Bronze Age inhabitants of Heathrow. While not necessarily the foci for large-scale acts involving highly structured deposition of large quantities of pottery as seen on other Middle Bronze Age settlements, the locations of substantial sherds in the upper fills of features formed after they had gone out of use as waterholes may indicate instances of activity that Woodward typifies as symbolic sealing deposits (1998-1999, 6). One other example from PSH 02 requires comment. This is the complete knobbed cup (**ILL. 56**) from pit 579172. This vessel is unusual in terms of its form, fabric and decoration, and is matched in each only by a single sherd from well 543201 19m to the north-west (the only sherd from that feature except for a single piece of Grooved Ware). 579172 appears to have been newly-dug when the cup was placed upright on its base, in a gravelly backfill. It is difficult to interpret this as anything other than an intentional placement – it is highly unlikely that a complete vessel would be casually discarded, and chance loss does not seem probable. The contents of higher layers indicate that meaningful deposition of materials took place throughout the period in which the pit remained open, and there are indications that some of this deposition was highly structured. The possibilities for the meaningful treatment of waste on Middle Bronze Age settlements have been discussed elsewhere (Leivers 2008).

Another dispersed series of concentrations occur on the eastern side of the excavations: in GAA 00, large portions of several bucket-shaped jars came from the ditches of a small enclosure with associated structural evidence; on TEC 05 two pits 300m apart contained substantial deposits of Middle Bronze Age pottery, with significant quantities from adjacent field-system ditches and trackways. The most convincing settlement evidence in terms of structures occurs on GAI 99, where significant quantities of ceramics were recovered from field system ditches, trackways, pits and structural features. To the west, on PSH 02, a substantial number of sherds from at least two coarse jars came from an isolated field system ditch.

The majority of the *in situ* assemblage appears to be domestic rubbish, either being deposited expediently in contemporary features in deliberate, unstructured waste disposal, or entering features and layers through processes such as manuring of fields. Middle Bronze Age pottery was recovered from a wide variety of feature types, but most of the material that can be considered as *in situ* was recovered from ditches, pits, wells/waterholes and post-holes. Site-wide, there is no immediately obvious patterning to the distribution of vessels types. When examined in detail, however, the distribution of the bucket-shaped and Globular vessels shows some evidence of differential deposition in and around the settlement(s) and into the surrounding field system. This issue is discussed in detail elsewhere.



*Figure 5: Middle Bronze Age ceramic distribution by weight. Contemporary features shown in blue.*

### *Discussion*

The range of fabrics and forms is typical of Deverel-Rimbury assemblages of the middle and lower Thames, and there are numerous parallels in the west London area and beyond. In the immediate Heathrow area, for example, assemblages have been recovered from Wall Garden Farm, Sipson (MoLAS 1993), Imperial College Sports Ground, Harlington (Wessex Archaeology 2004) and Prospect Park, Harmondsworth (Laidlaw and Mephram 1996), although these last two assemblages are largely funerary, relating to cremation cemeteries, as are others within the west London area (Gardner 1924; Barrett 1973).

There is nothing to suggest that the Heathrow T5 assemblage had anything other than a domestic origin. Domestic assemblages in the locality have been identified nearby at Stanwell (O'Connell 1990), Mayfield Farm, East Bedfont (Jefferson 2003), at Staines (Barrett 1984), Sipson and Iver (Cotton *et al.* 1986), Yeoveney Lodge (Robertson

Mackay 1987), Osterley (Cotton 1981), in Harefield Road, Uxbridge (Barclay *et al.* 1995) and further east at Isleworth (Hull 1998).

In general there is no distinction between vessels occurring on settlement sites and those recovered from cemeteries. The same kinds of bucket-shaped and Globular vessels occur in both, in the same fabrics, and decorated in the same manner. The cemeteries manifest a selection from the available ceramic repertoire, of which the Heathrow T5 assemblage appears to represent the entire range typical of the area. However, the relative proportions of vessel types within different assemblages are not consistent locally. Globular vessels particularly are present in domestic assemblages in very varied proportions: when Barrett presented his summary these finewares were considered by him to be “fairly rare” (Barrett 1973) on the basis of then-known assemblages, and while this remains true of many sites, at others (Isleworth for instance (Hull 1998, 5)) Globular vessels can be very numerous (up to approximately 40% of the total). At Heathrow T5, Globular vessels account for approximately 4.75% of the recognisable forms by weight, which is more normal in the Lower Thames Valley group where they tend to be the smaller fraction of the ceramic sequence (Ellison 1975).

Radiocarbon samples were taken from seventeen features dated by pottery to the Middle Bronze Age (**Table 1**). The dates for these features lie primarily within the range from 1450 – 1200 cal BC at two sigma, suggesting that – while activity may have occurred to some degree throughout the Middle Bronze Age – a *floruit* of activity can be identified in the middle centuries of the period.

### ***Late Bronze – Early Iron Age***

7,242 sherds weighing 66,972g have been identified as broadly Late Bronze – Early Iron Age. There is at present no absolutely certain means of distinguishing ceramics that lie at the end of the Middle Bronze Age sequence from those that belong to fully Late Bronze Age traditions, and it may be that such definition will remain impossible. Recent work on Middle and Late Bronze Age ceramics in south-east England (Morris forthcoming; Leivers 2008) suggests that the so-called Deverel-Rimbury and post-Deverel-Rimbury traditions do not have a straightforward relationship of succession and replacement. Unfortunately, the radiocarbon programme at Heathrow T5 did not

provide sufficient detail to allow elucidation of the chronological relationships between supposedly Middle and Late Bronze Age types; however, on the basis of dated features it can no longer be argued that there is an emphasis on the early part of the period, as there are now a number of well-dated groups of Late Bronze Age - Early Iron Age ceramics. While the distinctions between the latest Bronze Age and earliest Iron Age ceramics are not entirely clear-cut, the emergence of a number of diagnostic form traits at this time enable the assignation of certain vessels (and by extension certain sherd groups) to one or other period with some degree of certainty.

### *Fabrics*

Sixteen fabric types have been defined, eight flint-tempered (FL1, FL5, FL9, FL11, FL12, FL13, FL14, FL27), five sandy (QU8, QU12, QU15, QU18, QU19) and three vesicular (IV1, probably shell-tempered, SH2 and SH4). Within the flint-tempered group there is a wide range of coarseness, and a very broad distinction between finewares - defined here on the basis of a combination of fabric type (FL5 has finer, better-sorted inclusions), surface treatment (e.g. smoothing, burnishing, coating with surface slip or slurry to disguise inclusions) and the presence of decoration (which is rare) - and coarsewares. Finewares are typified by fabrics FL5 and FL12, with FL1, FL9, FL14 and FL27 coarsewares. FL11 and FL13 are used for both coarse and finewares. All sandy wares are fine, except QU18 and QU19, which are coarse. The vesicular fabrics are harder to typify, falling somewhere between the two.

The range of inclusion types is consistent with a local source of raw materials, although some variation in the presence and frequency of naturally occurring inclusions such as iron oxides suggests that different clay sources were exploited within this local area. FL27 is particularly distinctive in this respect, containing very large inclusions of a (possibly heat-altered) iron compound. It should be noted that in some cases the distinction between fabric FL1 and the Middle Bronze Age fabric FL2 is not always clear-cut.

It is not possible to distinguish between Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age ceramics entirely successfully on fabric grounds, and it is likely that there was no radical alteration in potting at this time. As a general trend, the sandy fabrics which emerge in the Late Bronze Age become predominant by the Early Iron Age (a phenomenon noted throughout the Thames Valley by Longley (1991, 163), who also

noted an associated thickening of vessel walls). Consequently, some of the sherds and groups discussed here are could be either Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age. As noted above, a small number of vessels can be considered as Early Iron Age on the basis of a limited number of morphological traits, and these are noted in the text.

### *Vessel Forms*

A range of vessel forms can be identified, including jars, bowls and cups. Both coarseware and fineware forms are represented, covering Barrett's five vessel classes (1980, 302-3).

#### Jars

1. Jar (unspecified form; **ILLS 60** and **86**)
2. **[sbj]**Bucket-shaped jar (Barrett's Class I; **ILLS 61** and **62**)
3. **[hrj]**Hooked rim jar (Class I)
4. **[shj]**Short-necked, shouldered jar of medium to large size; occasionally decorated with finger impressions on rims and/or shoulders (Class I/II: **ILLS 63-9, 87-9** and **92-96**)
5. **[lnj]**Long-necked, shouldered jar of medium to large size; occasionally decorated with finger impressions on rims and/or shoulders (Class I/II)

There are few reconstructable jar profiles but forms are likely to have been mainly bipartite. One complete profile came from 660033 (**ILL. 96**); this is a small, thin-walled vessel with a slightly everted rim and coarse finger-tip impressions below the shoulder. The small size of this vessel (with a rim diameter of only 85mm) makes it something of an anomaly in the Heathrow T5 assemblage: a more typical example came from the base of a pit (**ILL. 65**); this is a large but relatively thin-walled, bipartite jar with a plain rim, shallow finger impressions on the exterior, possibly the remnants of coil-pinch thumbing, and an external burnt residue around the upper part of the vessel, particularly around the rim and neck. Variations on the short-necked jar form are the most common, with 28 additional examples identified. Less common are jars of similar form but with longer necks (3 examples), and jars with inturned or 'hooked' rims (3 examples); again, these are likely to have been bipartite. One jar has a very short neck, a pinched rim, and a weakly-shouldered, almost globular body with a very rough applied cordon around the thickest point (**ILL. 95**). There is one example of a medium-sized, bucket-shaped vessel (**ILL. 60**), similar to Middle Bronze Age forms. Jars do not invariably occur in coarseware fabrics (Barrett's Class

I) also occurring in fineware fabrics (Barrett's Class II), while other examples fall between the two.

### Bowls

1. Bowl (unspecified form)
2. **[flb]** Flared bowl (Class III)
3. **[fbu]** Fineware bowl, profile uncertain (Class IV; **ILL. 70**)
4. **[nbl]** Rounded fineware bowl (Class IV; **ILLS 71-2** and **90**)
5. **[car/fbc]** Carinated fineware bowl, short-necked (Class IV: **ILLS 72-7** and **97**)
6. **[fbr]** Shouldered fineware bowl, short-necked (Class IV: **ILLS 78-81**)
7. **[fbl]** Long-necked fineware bowl (Class IV: **ILL. 82**)

Fineware bowls (Barrett's Class IV) occur with short upright or everted rims and rounded or carinated shoulders, in finer fabrics (FL5, FL11, finer examples of FL13) and with well finished surfaces. One group of such vessels came from an apparently isolated pit (146048; **ILLS 74** and **78-80**), associated with jars in the same fineware fabrics (FL5, FL13), some with finger-impressed shoulders (**ILL. 87**); the significance of this group, which included a significant proportion of burnt/overfired sherds, will be discussed further below. A similar deposit of fine bowls and jars – again burnt/overfired – came from waterhole 517310 (**ILLS 77, 81** and **88-9**).

One carinated bowl formed part of a deliberate deposit at the base of waterhole 136194 (**ILL. 82**) together with two carinated drinking vessels (Barrett's Class V; **ILLS 83** and **84**). All three of the vessels within this deposit had been partially burnt, with localised 'blistering' and refiring of exterior surfaces in each case, and the bowl has what appears to be a large post-firing perforation in the base (perhaps a deliberate 'killing' of the vessel?). This group is likely to belong to the Early Iron Age. A further carinated bowl was recovered from waterhole 838004. This sharply carinated vessel had an omphalos base, a short neck, and a short flaring pointed rim; there was internal burnish, external smoothing, and traces of a slip above the carination (**ILL. 100**). Again, this vessel is perhaps Early Iron Age, although the short neck is not typical of bowls of that period in the immediate area. While the majority of fineware bowls have these short necks - typical of the Late Bronze Age - there is at least one example of a long-necked form, decorated with incised motifs (**ILL. 76**).

## CUPS

### 1. Carinated cup (Class V: **ILLS 83-5**)

The two carinated drinking vessels from waterhole 136194 have no known direct parallels in Thames Valley assemblages, although the profile of the form echoes exactly that of the accompanying bowl form – both forms have convex neck profiles and omphalos bases, and these three vessels were almost certainly made at the same time as a ‘matching set’. The two drinking vessels both have simple linear decoration around neck and carination.

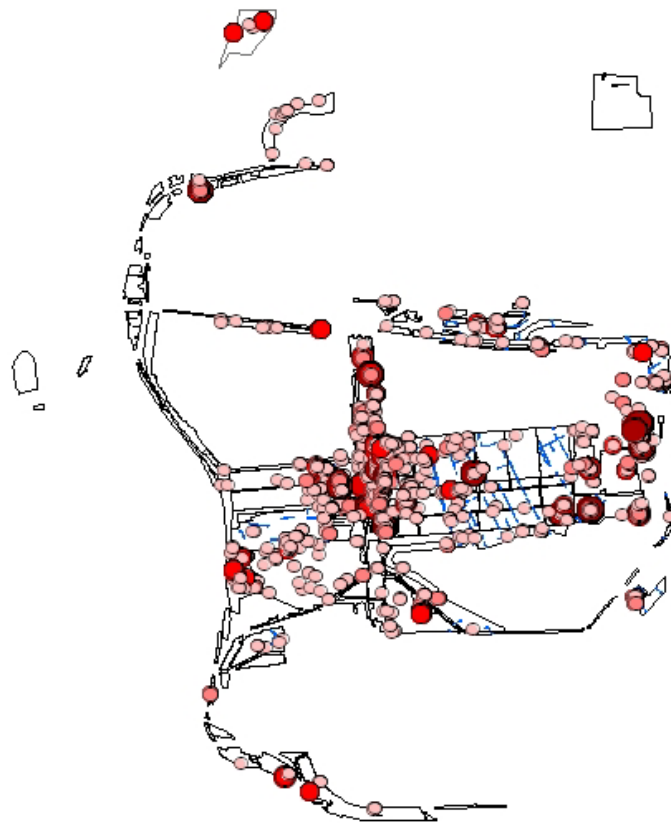
#### *Decoration*

As a whole, the incidence of decoration within the assemblage is low, and is restricted largely to fingertip or fingernail impression on jar rims and shoulders (**ILLS 60-61, 64, 67, 87-8, 93 and 96**). Other less common motifs on coarsewares include multiple finger impressions, probably on the shoulder of the vessel (**ILL. 91**); diagonal slashes on rims and shoulders (**ILLS 66 and 95**); applied cordons, either plain (**ILL. 92**) or decorated with finger impressions (**ILLS 69 and 97**); applied lugs (**ILL. 90**) and finger fluting (**ILLS 92 and 97**). The fineware bowls occasionally have tooled or incised lines around neck or shoulder (**ILLS. 75, 85 and 100**), as do the two drinking vessels from waterhole 136194, but otherwise the bowls are almost entirely plain; there are only three examples with more elaborate decoration, of which one is a long-necked form (see above: **ILL. 76**) and a second has small deep circular impressions (**ILL. 99**).

#### *Distribution*

Late Bronze and Early Iron Age pottery was recovered from a wide variety of feature types - ditches, pits, wells/waterholes, postholes, ring ditches - with a distribution extending across the excavated area (Fig. 6), but clustering very strongly around the centre of the excavations in the Twin Rivers transect of PSH 02. The distribution is broadly similar to that in the Middle Bronze Age, with intensification of activity in the centre of the site and also on the east limits on the excavation.





*Figure 6: Late Bronze-Early Iron Age ceramic distribution by weight. Contemporary features shown in blue.*

In this period pottery is found widely in field system ditches, primarily in secondary fills having entered the ditches after the initial period of silting. Deposition within field system ditches declines in the tertiary fills, presumably as the ditches silted up and/or activity declined or moved elsewhere. The mean sherd weight for Late Bronze Age pottery from ditches is 9.11g, suggesting that much of this material may have been incorporated as primary refuse, or in certain instances as placed deposits.

Approximately twice as much Late Bronze Age pottery derived from pits (2418 sherds weighing 23,812g compared to 1400 sherds weighing 12,760g from ditches). Mean sherd weight for pottery from pits is 9.84g, slightly higher than the overall mean weight (9.25g). Again, these sherds are likely to have been incorporated in pits as primary refuse, with more examples of deliberate deposition of whole pots.

*Significant deposits*

Deliberate and structured deposition is most obvious in three features – the careful placing of a ‘matching set’ of carinated bowl and two carinated cups, all finewares, at the base of pit 136194 (**ILLS 76** and **83-4**) and the deposition of a complete coarseware bipartite jar with evidence of use in the form of an external burnt residue over the rim and upper part of the vessel at the base of nearby waterhole 103038 (**ILL. 65**); and a substantially-complete fineware carinated bowl towards the top of the fill sequence in waterhole 833123 (**ILL. 100**).

In the first two instances the vessels can be seen as symbolic ‘foundation deposits’ made at the beginning of the lives of these features, perhaps akin to the communal ‘feasting sets’ identified by Anne Woodward (1998-99) from the Neolithic onwards. For the Late Bronze Age, she defines these ‘sets’ as consisting of a single large, often thin-walled, vessel, one or more medium-sized jars, and one or more drinking vessels. If the two adjacent pit/waterhole deposits are combined the four vessels could conceivably be seen as one such ‘set’. The third instance on the other hand is more like the ‘sealing deposits’ of wooden and other artefacts seen in other waterholes, although there are no other examples of whole or near-complete vessels in sealing deposits. Other sherds from lower levels in this feature are predominantly rims or decorated upper body sherds, and this point is worthy of note as it highlights a repeated distinction: while ditches tend to contain bases and lower body sherds, seldom decorated (even in instances such as 813023/813024 on TEC05, with 3.5kg of pottery), waterholes (and to a lesser extent, pits) are more likely to contain complete or near complete vessels or decorated fragments, often rims.

A fourth feature which warrants comment is pit 146048, which contained a substantial ceramic assemblage (927 sherds; 9841g) consisting largely of fineware bowls (13 vessels maximum; **ILLS 74** and **78-80**), with a smaller number of medium-sized coarseware jars (seven vessels maximum; **ILL. 87**). All sherds are flint-tempered, and the finewares show sufficient similarity in the size and frequency of the flint inclusions to be variants of a single fabric type (the distinction between fabrics FL5 and FL13 was in this instance not always clear-cut). A significant proportion of the assemblage shows clear signs of having been burnt or overfired to varying degrees (but generally to a higher degree than the whole Early Iron Age vessels from waterhole 136194, see below) – sherds have a friable, powdery texture and have

frequently (re)fired to a pale grey colour. Some examples have slightly blistered surfaces, and some show evidence of surface spalling.

A second similar instance occurred in waterhole 517310. Basal fill 517298 contained 117 sherds from six vessels, including a short-necked jar in fineware FL11 (**ILL. 88**), and a biconical bowl (**ILL. 77**), a shouldered bowl (**ILL. 81**), and an extremely large shouldered fineware bowl or jar (**ILL. 89**). Several sherds from at least three vessels show signs of over- or re-firing, and two vessels have surface spalling. The deposit is clearly different in intention to the ceramics in the higher fills of the same feature, which appear to result from unstructured rubbish disposal.

Taken together, the similarities in fabric type, the limited range of vessel forms represented in 146048, and the possible signs of overfiring are suggestive of groups of waster material from pottery production. Such evidence is extremely rare for the prehistoric period, when any physical traces of pottery production (in bonfire or simple clamp kilns) would necessarily have been quite ephemeral. There is no evidence for *in situ* firing, and if these are wasters, they appear to have been deposited from sources elsewhere. Alternatively (and more likely for the material from 517310) it is possible that the groups represent the results of house or other fires, such as was suggested for the slightly later material from Longbridge Deverill Cow Down (Hawkes 1994). At Heathrow T5 however, the features are not located amongst any obvious settlement features, being rather amongst field systems, removed from the main distributions of contemporary pottery.

Further notable ceramic deposits were recovered from around the large D-shaped Bronze Age enclosure on PSH 02. One terminal of ditch 636112 (a portion of a small horse-shoe shaped enclosure immediately outside the D-shaped enclosure's entrance) contained substantial portions of three very different vessels: a coarse jar of unusual form (**ILL. 97**); a fine biconical bowl (**ILL. 98**); and a substantially complete small short-necked jar with a rim diameter of only 85mm (**ILL. 96**). Boundary ditch 636123 20m to the south contained 95 sherds (4,173g) from a large short-necked jar (**ILL. 92**), while pit 662035 (35m south of that ditch) contained two large sherds of a coarse vessel, along with 135 sherds (1,889g) from a very large bowl or short-necked jar (**ILL. 69**) in an unusual vesicular fabric. The majority of the surviving sherds derived from the rim (almost complete; flat and generally everted, but highly variable around the 440mm diameter), neck and shoulder, with only nine base sherds present (the base

diameter was perhaps in the region of 160-190mm). The neck had an applied cordon decorated with finger impressions and the shoulder had occasional shallow vertical impressions, possibly finger-nail. The surface is slipped, but survival is highly variable with some sherds very badly pitted and others surviving in good condition. The best parallels for the form of this unusual vessel come from Canham's Site K (1978, 27 fig. 17 no 65 especially) although the size and vesicular fabric are best matched in a very large shouldered jar from Caesar's Camp (Grimes and Close-Brooks 1993, 345-6 fig. 30 no 87).

The occurrence of these three notable groups of pottery in proximity suggest either the location of a contemporary settlement, or some other focus for deliberate deposition, both perhaps most likely to be associated with the D-shaped enclosure.

### *Discussion*

Parallels for the Later Bronze/Early Iron Age assemblage from Heathrow T5 are numerous within the west London area, but there are also interesting contrasts with other assemblages. For instance, that from Runnymede Bridge, Egham, includes a higher proportion of decorated vessels (Longley 1991), while the assemblage from Petters Sports Field, Egham, contained a higher proportion of both decorated and sandy wares (O'Connell 1986), generally a later development within the sequence extending into the Early Iron Age. In terms of immediately local parallels, the Heathrow T5 assemblage is most similar to the material recovered from Caesar's Camp, 3km to the east, which has a similar emphasis on coarseware jars and short-necked fineware bowls (Grimes and Close-Brooks 1993). In contrast, the assemblage from the west end of Runway 1 (site K), only 200m to the north of GAI 99, contains similar jars but accompanied by fineware bowls with consistently tall necks (Canham 1978); although there are a number of reasonably close parallels between the Heathrow T5 and Site K jar forms, the bowls are for the most part obviously different. The Caesar's Camp assemblage has been considered as dating to the 9<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> centuries BC, that from site K as been placed on typological grounds at the end of the sequence, in the 7<sup>th</sup> - 6th centuries BC (Grimes and Close-Brooks 1993, 355); in terms of the date ranges provided by these two sites, it is most likely that inhabitation at Heathrow T5 was longer-lived than at either, and overlapped with both, beginning prior to that at Caesar's Camp and continuing into the period of Site K's occupation.

Within Barrett's sequence for the post-Deverel-Rimbury ceramic tradition (1980), simple, largely undecorated jars and bowls, developing directly from Middle Bronze Age forms at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BC, are succeeded by 'plainware' assemblages with a greater variety of forms, and finally, around the 8<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> century BC, by 'decorated' assemblages. Needham's more recent reappraisal of Bronze Age chronology places the emergence of Late Bronze Age forms around 1,200 BC, with the decorated phase beginning at perhaps 750BC, making it an Early Iron Age innovation (Needham 1996).

On morphological grounds, the Heathrow T5 material seems to span the Late Bronze Age, with the bulk of the assemblage (typified by a limited range of predominantly medium to large coarseware jars and fineware bowls) perhaps falling towards the end of the plainware sequence around the 9<sup>th</sup> century BC. Radiocarbon dating is of limited use in refining the sequence, as only two groups produced reliable dates. Charcoal from pit 125233 (containing a finger-impressed jar (**ILL. 60**) amongst potentially later forms (**ILLS 63, 71-72** and **86**) dated to 850 – 410 cal BC, which is a comfortable date for the ceramics; wood from waterhole 517310 (including a burnished fineware biconical bowl (**ILL. 77**), a shouldered bowl (**ILL. 81**) and two fineware short-necked jars (**ILLS 88-9**) among a larger assemblage of sherds) produced a date of 1130 - 930 cal BC.

The distinctive group of vessels from pit 136194 is associated with an anomalously early date of 1620 – 1370 cal BC, but is likely to fall at the end of the Heathrow T5 sequence on the basis of morphology. Indeed, a larger group of fineware vessels, including some direct parallels for the two cups and bowl, was recovered from a fire-destroyed roundhouse at Longbridge Deverill Cow Down, and dated to the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC (Hawkes 1994, fig. 5). From a layer above the three complete vessels at Heathrow came the only example of a long-necked fineware bowl with incised decoration (**ILL. 76**), a form which has been shown to be Early Iron Age elsewhere in the locality (Grimes and Close-Brooks 1993). Material diagnostic of this later period is notably scarce at Heathrow T5, and while it may be that there is a break in the ceramic sequence (or at least a decline in pottery deposition) around the 7<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> centuries BC, the evidence from Site K (Canham 1978) demonstrates beyond doubt that settlement continued in this period. Given this (and the continuation of shouldered jar forms at Site K) two possibilities present themselves: firstly, some

portion of the ceramic sequence at Heathrow T5 identified as Late Bronze Age may be more properly Early Iron Age, but undetected due to the absence of associated long-necked bowl forms; secondly, as Canham argued, “the nucleus of settlement may have drifted somewhat over the years” (1978, 17). Both are in fact likely to be true. While Late Bronze Age ceramics are widespread, demonstrably Early Iron Age features occur on TEC05 on the eastern side of the excavated area, in the centre of the excavations on WPR98/PSH02 and to the north on Canham’s Site K.

What is also apparent from the evidence of these sites, and others within the area dated to the same period, is that there is a wide range of variation in vessel forms and proportion of decoration which cannot be entirely explained by chronological factors. Each assemblage appears to have a different character or specialisation, reinforced by the evidence for local production (it is likely that each settlement produced its own pottery). Runnymede Bridge has a high proportion of decorated wares (and a much wider range of forms than most other sites); Caesar’s Camp has a predominance of specific coarseware jar and fineware bowl forms; St Mary’s Hospital, Carshalton, includes an unusual number of handled jars (Adkins and Needham 1985), while a small assemblage from Coombe Warren, Kingston Hill comprises a range of noticeably small vessels (Field and Needham 1986). Explanations for such variation should be sought not only in a consideration of vessel (and therefore site) function but also in the way in which social patterning might be embodied in and reinforced by the use and deposition of specific vessel forms.

### ***Middle Iron Age***

*Rachel Every and Lorraine Mephram with Matt Leivers*

Whether or not ceramic discontinuity or decline took place around the 7<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> century BC, a substantial Middle Iron Age assemblage (4,442 sherds weighing 33,699g) attests to renewed (or continued) activity on the site after this time. Nine fabrics were identified, one flint-tempered (FL6) and eight sandy (QU1, QU2, QU3, QU4, QU5, QU7, QU9 and QU22).

Vessel forms consist mainly of a range of small to medium jars and bowls. Very few reconstructable profiles are present amongst the masses of featureless body sherds dominating the assemblage. **Table 3** correlates vessel form and fabric type.

1. Jar, uncertain form
2. Shouldered jar (**ILL. 114**)
3. Rounded jar with short everted or upright rim (**ILLS 105, 106, 110, 112**)
4. As above, but miniature form (**ILLS 102, 109**)
5. Slack-shouldered vessel with short everted or upright rim
6. Rounded jar with 'proto-bead' rim (**ILL. 104**)
7. Convex jar with thickened and flattened rim (**ILL. 107**)
8. Bowl (or saucepan pot), uncertain form
9. Saucepan pot (**ILLS 101, 103, 108, 111**)
10. Shallow dish or lid

**Table 3: MIA vessel forms by fabric type (number of rim sherds)**

<b>Vessel form</b>	<b>FL6</b>	<b>QU1</b>	<b>QU2</b>	<b>QU5</b>	<b>QU7</b>	<b>QU9</b>
Jar, uncertain form		12		1	2	
Shouldered jar		2		1	1	
Rounded jar		9	2	1	2	3
Miniature jar		2				
Slack-shouldered jar		1		1	1	
Proto-bead rim jar		2	3	4	2	
Convex jar, thickened rim		0		2		
Saucepan pot		2	1		1	
Bowl	1	4	2			
Dish/lid		1				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>

Amongst the jars are a handful of shouldered forms which may be earlier (**ILL. 114**). Otherwise the vessels seen here have rounded or convex profiles which mark a distinct development from the earlier, more angular profiles. There are three handle fragments from vessels of uncertain form (**ILL. 101**). Bases are generally simple, but the presence of one pedestal base (fabric QU1), one well-finished footring base (fabric QU1) and three bases close to footring forms (fabrics QU1 and QU7) may be noted.

Surfaces can be wiped, smoothed or burnished. Decoration is extremely scarce and is largely confined to simple horizontal tooling and grooving. This is used below the rims of saucepan pots, and in a few cases above bases or on shoulder/neck zones, giving an effect close to the Late Iron Age cordoned forms. One jar has finger

impressions on the rim with horizontal grooving on the shoulder and vertical grooving below (**ILL. 113**). Impressed decoration (fingertip or nail) is still occasionally found on rims and shoulders (fourteen examples).

### *Distribution*

Middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from a wide range of feature types - from ditches, pits, postholes, roundhouse ring ditches/ring gullies and wells/waterholes (Fig. 7).



**Figure 7: Middle Iron Age ceramic distribution by weight. Contemporary features shown in blue.**

Middle Iron Age pottery was concentrated in features within the central excavated area, broadly congruent with the main concentration of Late Bronze/Early Iron Age pottery. Within this area, pottery was mainly recovered from ring gullies, with much less from ditches – by this period pottery was not being deposited in the field system ditches, either because of changing patterns of refuse discard or because those ditches



had by this period largely silted up and gone out of use. Ring gullies which appear to have been constructed during this period include 130097/149108/526451 (MIA Ring Gully 5), 107100/107101 (MIA Ring Gully 12), 108014 (MIA Ring Gully 3), 128138 (MIA Ring Gully 10), 128352, 134170 (MIA Ring Gully 11), 140112, 146272 (MIA Ring Gully 4), 155095 (MIA Ring Gully 15), 158143 (MIA Ring Gully 16), 158163 (MIA Ring Gully 17), 166101/166112, 167037 and 172032 (MIA Ring Gully 9) and 160254/523193 (MIA Ring Gully 2). The large irregular enclosure to the south (119259; MIA Ditch 27) produced a handful of sherds, as did the smaller enclosure to the north-east of this (107102; MIA Gully 7) and possible industrial structure 614227.

In terms of quantities, only 19 features produced more than ten sherds. To this can be added the ditches of the Romano-British 'ladder system', which contained a significant quantity of residual Middle Iron Age pottery, presumably resulting from the reworking of earlier deposits in this area. Of these 19 features, five are ring gullies (107100/107101, 128352, 140112, 155095 and 166101/166112). In all instances pottery was concentrated within one of the gully terminals, either north or south, a depositional pattern well known from later prehistoric roundhouses (and indeed other structures). Only one ring gully (155095) produced more than 30 sherds. Ring gully 166101 was located just to the south of three pits (141138: >10 sherds; 141212: >20 sherds; and 141216: >50 sherds). Three other pits contained between 10 and 20 sherds – 137114 (sherds residual within Romano-British pit), 178015, and 163005 (outlying pit to the east). Amongst the ring gullies in the central area is 113117 which produced between 60 and 70 sherds. The largest deposits of Middle Iron Age pottery, however, came from pits 161089 and 148303, each containing more than 100 sherds.

### *Discussion*

The range of fabrics and forms from Heathrow T5 is closely paralleled by the assemblage from Caesar's Camp, which is dated c.400-100/50 BC on typological grounds (Grimes and Close Brooks 1993). Also broadly comparable is the 'Iron Age B' assemblage from Brooklands, Weybridge (Hanworth and Tomalin 1977), and the more recently excavated assemblage from the same site (SCAU; Phil Jones info). The substantial unpublished assemblage from Stockley Park, Dawley, largely dating to the early part of the Middle Iron Age, is also likely to yield comparable material (MoLAS 1993, 36-7).

Both the Heathrow T5 and Caesar's Camp assemblages lack the distinctive features which might place them more closely within the regional ceramic sequence. There are none of the decorated wares typical of the ceramic styles of the Middle Thames or Wessex, nor the well finished saucepan pots of the Hampshire/Berkshire area, for which production and distribution on a regional scale has been suggested (e.g. Morris 1994). Heathrow lies at the edge of Cunliffe's 'saucepan pot continuum' (1991, fig. 4.6); a few examples were recorded from Imperial College Sports Ground, Harlington (Wessex Archaeology 2000), and from Brooklands, Weybridge (Close-Brooks 1977, 41), but otherwise examples from Surrey are uncommon. At Caesar's Camp one such vessel is suggested as a possible import to the site (Grimes and Close-Brooks 1993, 356), although the fabric, described as 'flint-gritted' need not necessarily be the distinctive, well sorted variant used for the Hampshire/Berkshire vessels. The Heathrow T5 examples are all in the sandy fabrics, presumably locally produced, which are also used for the more common jar forms. The presence of saucepan pots at Caesar's Camp is used to support a date for at least some of the occupation later in the Middle Iron Age sequence, following the radiocarbon dated ceramic sequence from Danebury (*ibid.*, 356-7). If the T5 saucepan pots can be similarly dated this could push the sequence as late as the turn of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC, but the evidence is extremely slight, and there is still no certainty as to whether the Middle Iron Age sequence is continuous, intermittent or short-lived, or whether a continuation beyond c.100 BC can be demonstrated. The near absence of decorated wares, noted above, could also have some chronological significance. Decorated bowls in fine sandy fabrics were found at Holloway Lane, Harmondsworth and Wall Garden Farm, Sipson, where they seem to be slightly earlier in date than the grog-tempered wares of Late Iron Age character (Lewis and Mason n.d. subsection 4.3.2.3).

## List of illustrated vessels

### *Early Neolithic (Fig. 8)*

1. Plain rim; fabric FL4. PRN [Pottery Record Number] WA-?, PSH02, context 561288, pit 561277 (secondary fill).
2. Plain rim; fabric FL4. PRN WA-38, PSH02, context 589314, pit 561277 (secondary fill).
3. Plain rim; fabric FL15. PRN WA-?, PSH02, context 602086, ditch 602079 (secondary fill).
4. Pointed rim; fabric FL18. PRN WA-26, PSH02, context 552226, intervention 522226.
5. Rolled over rim; fabric FL4. PRN 3136, WPR 98, context 148109, tree throw 156191.
6. Rolled over rim; fabric QU17. PRN WA-?, PSH02, context 526017, ditch 526018 (secondary fill).
7. Rolled over rim; fabric FL4. PRN WA-9, PSH02, context 558059, tree throw 558057.
8. Rolled over rim; fabric FL16. PRN WA-7, PSH02, context 558059, tree throw 558057.
9. Rolled over rim; fabric FL16. PRN WA-??, PSH02, context 562188, ditch 562185 (secondary fill).
10. Rolled over rim; fabric FL4. PRN WA-19, PSH02, context 579137, pit 579136 (primary fill).
11. Rolled over rim; fabric QU17. PRN WA-?, PSH02, context 592199, ditch 592200 (deliberate backfill).
12. Rolled over rim; fabric FL15. PRN WA-?, PSH02, context 641034, ?.
13. Rolled over rim; fabric FL16. PRN WA-?, PSH02, context 656036, ?.
14. Externally thickened rim; fabric FL4. PRN 3135, WPR 98, context 148109, tree throw 156191.
15. Externally thickened rim; fabric FL4. PRN 3139, WPR 98, context 148109, tree throw 156191.
16. Externally thickened rim; fabric FL4. PRN 1769, context 148109, tree throw 156191.
17. Externally thickened rim; impressed decoration; fabric FL4. PRN 1766, context 148109, tree throw 156191.
18. Expanded rim; fabric FL4. PRN 1740, WPR 98, context 148109, tree throw 156191.
19. Expanded rim; fabric FL4. PRN 3137, WPR 98, context 148109, tree throw 156191.
20. Expanded rim with pre-firing perforations; fabric FL4. PRN 2927, POK 96, context 961734, ditch 961508 (secondary fill).
21. 'T'-sectioned rim; fabric FL4. PRN 3138, context WPR 98, 148109, tree throw 156191.
22. 'T'-sectioned rim, fabric FL15. PRN WA-?, PSH02, context 602086, ditch 602079 (secondary fill).
23. Angular rim; fabric FL4. PRN 3140, WPR 98, context 148109, tree throw 156191.

24. Body sherd from just below rim, with pre-firing perforation; fabric FL4. PRN 1753, WPR 98, context 148109, tree throw 156191.
25. Body sherd; fabric FL4. PRN WA-22, PSH02, context 558059, tree throw 558057.
26. Body sherd; fabric FL4. PRN WA-40, PSH02, context 589314, pit 561227 (secondary fill).
27. Body sherd; fabric FL15. PRN WA-?, context 659083, ?.
28. Expanded rim; fabric FL18. PRN WA-2, 3 & 4, TEC05, context 836047, pit 836044.

***Middle Neolithic (Fig. 9)***

29. Ebbsfleet bowl; fabric FL23. PRN WA-?, PSH02, context 555930, pit 555922 (deliberate backfill).
30. Body sherd; fabric FL20. PRN WA-345, PSH02, context 585009, Stanwell Cursus (secondary fill).
31. Shoulder sherd; fabric FL20. PRN WA-312, PSH02, context 527113, pit 527124 (secondary fill).
32. Rim; fabric FL21. PRN WA-325, PSH02, context 527114, pit 527124 (secondary fill).
33. Mortlake bowl; fabric FL22. PRN WA-320 and 321, PSH02, context 527113, pit 527124 (secondary fill).
34. Body sherd; fabric FL22. PRN WA-455, PSH02, context 594273, waterhole 559665 (secondary fill).

***Late Neolithic (Fig. 10)***

35. Rim; fabric GR5. PRN WA-579 and 580, PSH02, context 531013, pit 531011 (deliberate backfill).
36. Rim; fabric GR5. PRN WA-582, PSH02, context 531015, pit 531011 (deliberate backfill).
37. Rim; fabric GR5. PRN WA-588, PSH02, context 531022, pit 531011 (placed deposit).
38. Grooved Ware rim; fabric GR2. PRN 2709, GAI99, context 216120, pit 216009/216118.
39. Rim; fabric GR2. PRN WA-590, PSH02, context 559505, ditch 559506 (secondary fill).
40. Rim; fabric GR2. PRN WA-575 and 576, PSH02, context 517174, ditch 517173 (secondary fill).
41. Grooved Ware vessel; fabric GR2. PRN WA-591 and 592, PSH02, context 561105, pit 561104 (secondary fill).
42. Grooved Ware vessel; fabric GR5. PRN WA-4291, TEC05, context 708008, pit 708007 (fill).
43. Rim; fabric GR2. PRN WA-597. PSH02, context 580311, pit 580310 (secondary fill).
44. Rim; fabric GR2. PRN WA-596. PSH02, context 580311, pit 580310 (secondary fill).
45. Body sherd; fabric GR2. PRN WA-600, PSH02, context 615116, ditch 615115 (secondary fill).
46. Grooved Ware vessel; fabric GR5. PRN WA-35, 36 and 37, TEC05, context 836010, pit 836009.

***Middle Bronze Age (Fig. 11)***

47. Rim from convex-profiled bucket with horizontal cordon; fabric FL2. PRN WA-956, PSH02, context 675020, ?.
48. Rim from bucket with part of applied horseshoe cordon; fabric FL2. PRNs 509/510, WPR 98, context 103016, ditch 103024 (secondary fill).
49. Vessel with horseshoe cordon, raised boss and gritty fingernail impressed bottom; fabric FL2. PRN WA-1200, 1222 and 1239, PSH02, context 544073, waterhole 544072 (secondary fill).
50. Rim of bucket with pre-firing perforations; fabric FL2. PRN WA-1092, PSH02, context 594274, waterhole 559665 (secondary fill).
51. Rim of bucket; fabric FL2. PRN 1207, WPR 98, context 155027, waterhole 135071 (secondary fill).
52. Rim of globular; fabric FL26. PRN WA-1116, PSH02, context 581037, ditch 581025 (secondary fill).
53. Lug handle from globular; fabric FL3. PRN 471, WPR 98, context 135040, water hole 135071 (secondary fill).
54. Handle; fabric FL13. PRN WA-950, PSH02, context 515192, posthole 515191.
55. Globular; fabric FL13. PRN WA-942 and 943, PSH02, context 515173, ditch 515172 (secondary fill).
56. Cup; fabric FL25. PRN WA-953, PSH02, context 579186, pit 579172 (other fill).
57. Handle; fabric FL2. PRN WA-?, PSH02, context 663196, ?.
58. Rim of globular with horizontal band of tooled decoration; fabric FL3. PRN 1493, WPR 98, context 178111, pit 178108 (secondary fill).
59. Body sherds from bucket with finger impressed cordon; fabric FL2. PRN WA-955, PSH02, context 521027, pit 521026 (other fill).

***Late Bronze Age (Fig. 12)***

60. Rim/shoulder of short-necked jar with finger-impressed shoulder; fabric FL1. PRNs 585/577, context 125228, pit 125233.
61. Rim of short-necked jar with finger-impressed decoration on rim; fabric FL1. PRN 1491, WPR 98, context 178140, pit 178139 (secondary fill).
62. Rim of bucket-shaped jar; fabric FL9. PRN 1483, WPR 98, context 178111, pit 178108 (secondary fill).

63. Rim of short-necked jar; fabric FL1. PRN 584, WPR 98, context 125228, pit 125233.
64. Rim of short-necked jar, finger-impressed; fabric FL9. PRN 468, context 136185
65. Partial profile of large, thin-walled, short-necked jar with finger-pinched coil marks; fabric FL13. PRN 2769, Obj No 2422, WPR 98, context 112062, water hole 103038 (primary fill).
66. Partial profile of short-necked jar with diagonal slashes on the rim and shoulder; fabric FL1. PSH02, PRN WA-1712, context 510128, pit 510127 (deliberate backfill).
67. Partial profile of large short-necked jar with finger impressions on the shoulder and faint horizontal impressions below; cabling on the rim; fabric FL1. PSH02, PRN WA-1334 – 1337, context 559517, pit 559516 (deliberate backfill).
68. Partial profile of a short-necked jar; fabric FL13. PSH02, PRN WA-1338 – 1340, context 559517, pit 559516 (deliberate backfill).
69. Partial profile of a very large short-necked jar with shallow impressions on shoulder, applied finger impressed cordon in neck; fabric IV1. PSH02, PRN WA-1421 – 1427, contexts 662036 and 662037, ?.
70. Rim of fineware bowl, unknown form; fabric FL5. PRN 1861, context 156017, well 156031 (secondary fill).
71. Partial profile of rounded fineware bowl; fabric FL5. PRN 581, WPR 98, context 125228, pit 125233.
72. Rim of rounded fineware bowl; fabric FL5. PRN 553, WPR 98, context 125228, pit 125233.
73. Partial profile of carinated fineware bowl; fabric FL5. PRN 1856, context 156017, well 156031 (secondary fill).
74. Rim of carinated fineware bowl; fabric FL5. PRN 1461, WPR 98, context 146053, pit 146048 (secondary fill).
75. Partial profile of carinated fineware bowl; fabric FL5. PRNs 2123, WPR 98, context 155193, well 156031 (secondary fill).
76. Rim of long-necked fineware bowl with incised decoration; fabric FL5. PRN 464, WPR 98, context 136188, pit 136194 (secondary fill).
77. Partial profile of biconical fineware bowl; fabric FL5. PSH02, PRN WA-1669 – 1671, context 517298, waterhole 517310 (other fill).
78. Partial profile of shouldered fineware bowl; fabric FL5. PRN 1441, WPR 98, context 146053, pit 146048 (secondary fill).
79. Partial profile of shouldered fineware bowl; fabric FL5. PRN 1430, WPR 98, context 146053, pit 146048 (secondary fill).

80. Partial profile of shouldered fineware bowl; fabric FL5. PRN 1481, WPR 98, context 146053, pit 146048 (secondary fill).
81. Small shouldered bowl; fabric FL11. PSH02, PRN WA-1676 – 1679, context 517298, waterhole 517310 (other fill).
82. Carinated fineware bowl; fabric FL5. PRN 709, Obj No 460, WPR 98, context 136190, pit 136194 (placed deposit).
83. Fineware carinated cup; fabric FL5. PRN 1070, Obj No 459, WPR 98, context 136189, pit 136194 (placed deposit).
84. Fineware carinated cup; fabric FL5. PRN 1071, Obj No 3090, WPR 98, context 136189, pit 136194 (placed deposit).
85. Partial profile of fineware carinated cup; fabric FL13. PSH02, PRN WA- 1739 – 1743, context 551375, feature 544210.
86. Rim of jar, unknown form; fabric FL1. PRN 582, WPR98, context 125228, pit 125233.
87. Rim of shouldered jar with finger-impressed shoulder; fabric FL5. PRN 1442, WPR 98, context 146053, pit 146048 (secondary fill).
88. Partial profile of short-necked jar, finger impressions on shoulder; fabric FL11. PSH02, PRN WA-1683, context 517298, waterhole 517310 (other fill).
89. Partial profile of very large short-necked jar; fabric FL9. PSH02, PRN WA-1680 – 1682, context 517298, waterhole 517310 (other fill).
90. Rounded fineware bowl with lugs; fabric FL9. PSH02, PRN WA-1474, context 558003, pit 558001 (placed deposit).
91. Body sherd with multiple impressed circles; fabric FL13. PRN 963, Obj No 2431, WPR 98, context 141150, pit 141151.
92. Partial profile of short-necked jar with applied cordon and vertical finger fluting below; finger impressed rim; fabric FL9. PSH02, PRN WA-1430 – 1432, context 660039, ?.
93. Partial profile of short-necked shouldered jar, finger-impressed rim and shoulder; fabric FL1. PSH02, PRN WA-1637 – 1638, context 609019, pit 609020.
94. Partial profile of short-necked shoulder jar; fabric FL9. PSH02 PRN WA-1768 – 70, contexts 581169 – 70, waterhole 581168 (secondary fill & deliberate backfill).
95. Partial profile of bipartite short-necked jar with marked angular shoulder, long diagonal slashes on rim and shoulder; fabric FL1. PSH02, PRN WA-1772, contexts 581169 – 70, waterhole 581168 (secondary fill & deliberate backfill).
96. Small short-necked jar, finger-impressed below shoulder; fabric FL11. PSH02, PRN WA-1662 – 1665, context 660033, ?.

97. Partial profile of indeterminate shouldered/carinated bowl; fabric FL5. PSH02, PRN WA-1660 – 61, context 660033, ?.
98. Large convex-bodied jar, pinched rim and cordon, vertical finger fluting all over; fabric FL9. PSH02, PRN WA-1655 – 9, context 660033, ?.
99. Body sherd with small deep circular impressions; fabric FL11. PSH02, PRN WA-1514, context 661144, ?.
100. Carinated bowl; fabric QU15, TEC05, PRN WA-170, context 838027, waterhole 838004.

***Middle Iron Age (Fig. 13)***

101. Handle; fabric QU2. PRN 2051, context 185054.
102. Rim of saucepan pot; fabric QU1. PRN 1845, context 156074, ring ditch 155095 (MIA Ring Gully 15, secondary fill).
103. Partial profile of small jar; fabric QU1. PRN 1033, context 141127, pit 141128.
104. Rim of saucepan pot; fabric QU7. PRN 737, context 137099, ring ditch 155095 (MIA Ring Gully 15, secondary fill).
105. Partial profile of large jar with proto-bead rim; fabric QU5. PRN 411, context 130087, ditch 130106 (MIA Ditch 11, secondary fill).
106. Rim of rounded jar; fabric QU1. PRN 1096, context 148298, pit 148303 (tertiary fill).
107. Rim of rounded jar; fabric QU6. PRN 352, Obj No 2788, context 126178, ring ditch 113114 (MIA Ring Gully 8, secondary fill).
108. Rim of rounded jar with thickened rim; fabric QU5. PRN 328, Obj No 2577, context 126178, ring ditch 113114 (MIA Ring Gully 8, secondary fill).
109. Rim of saucepan pot; fabric QU7. Obj No 1069, context 141133, pit 141212 (deliberate backfill).
110. Miniature vessel; fabric QU1. PRN 1073, Obj No 175, context 141175, pit 141202.
111. Rim of rounded jar; fabric QU5. PRN 617, Obj No 1161, context 125129, ring ditch 113114 (MIA Ring Gully 8, secondary fill).
112. Small saucepan pot; fabric QU2. PRN 474, Obj No 1, context 136005, ditch 136046 (secondary fill).
113. Rounded jar; fabric QU9. PSH02, PRN WA-2109 – 2111, context 656065, ?.
114. Shouldered jar; fabric QU1. PSH02, PRN WA-4522, context 593160, ?



## Appendix 1: Fabric Descriptions

FL1	moderate to frequent fine and coarse flint with sparse fine quartz, mica, iron oxides and rare unidentified rock fragments [LBA/EIA]
FL2	coarse frequent flint, sparse quartz and mica [MBA]
FL3	fine frequent flint with sparse mica, well finished [MBA]
FL4	coarse flint, sparse mica, organic and quartz [EN]
FL5	moderate to fine flint with sparse organic, mica and rare quartz, rare iron pellets [LBA/EIA]
FL6	frequent flint, sparse quartz, mica and iron oxides [E-MIA]
FL7	frequent moderate to coarse flint, frequent organic, sparse mica and quartz [LBA/EIA]
FL8	coarse flint, sparse mica, organic and quartz with rare large Gabbro fragments [EN]
FL9	poorly sorted moderate to coarse flint, sparse quartz and mica [LBA/EIA]
FL10	frequent coarse flint [MBA]
FL11	frequent fine flint, sparse mica and iron oxides, well finished [LBA/EIA]
FL12	very light fabric; sparse quartz and mica with clay pellets in fine alluvial clay (fine white plate-like matrix with no HCL reaction); sparse fine calcined flint [LBA/EIA]
FL13	moderate to frequent fine flint with sparse fine quartz, mica and iron oxides [LBA/EIA]
FL14	moderate to frequent coarse flint with sparse fine quartz, mica and iron oxides [LBA/EIA]
FL15	soft, sparse to moderate poorly-sorted sub-angular fine to very coarse calcined flint; sparse mica probably naturally-occurring [EN]
FL16	hard, sparse to moderate poorly-sorted sub-angular fine to very coarse calcined flint; sparse mica, quartz sand, iron minerals and organics probably naturally-occurring [EN]
FL17	soft, moderate to common poorly-sorted sub-angular to angular fine to very coarse calcined flint; sparse mica, quartz sand and rock fragments all probably natural [EN]
FL18	hard, moderate well-sorted sub-angular to angular fine to coarse calcined flint; sparse mica and quartz probably natural [EN]
FL19	sparse fine to very coarse poorly-sorted angular calcined flint; sparse quartz sand, mica and red iron minerals probably natural [MN]
FL20	moderate fine to very coarse moderately well-sorted sub-angular to angular calcined flint; sparse mica and quartz sand probably natural [MN]
FL21	moderate coarse to very coarse moderately well-sorted calcined flint; sparse quartz sand and mica probably natural [MN]

FL22	sparse fine to very coarse poorly-sorted calcined flint; sparse organics; very sparse quartz sand and mica probably natural [MN]
FL23	moderate coarse to very coarse moderately well-sorted angular calcined flint; sparse mica probably natural [MN]
FL24	common fine to coarse moderately well-sorted angular calcined flint; sparse mica and iron minerals probably natural [MBA]
FL25	sparse fine to coarse calcined flint, sparse organics and mica [MBA]
FL26	common fine to medium well-sorted calcined flint; sparse mica [MBA]
FL27	moderate calcined flint; moderate large iron minerals; sparse quartz sand and mica [LBA]
FL99	unidentified flint-tempered
GR1	frequent grog, fairly frequent quartz and mica, sparse small flint [EBA]
GR2	frequent fine grog, sparse mica, quartz, organic and rare flint [LN]
GR5	common grog and voids; rare mica, quartz sand and flint [LN]
GR6	moderate grog or clay pellets and very coarse flint; sparse mica [MBA]
GR99	unidentified grog-tempered
IV1	frequent voids (probably shell); sparse fine calcined flint, mica and quartz sand [LBA]
QU1	fine fabric; rounded quartz; sparse large, sub-angular calcined flint ;sparse linear voids; very rare medium iron oxides; often well finished [MIA]
QU2	quartz with iron oxides, fine and rare sub-angular flint, clay pellets and sparse organic; not always well finished [E-MIA]
QU3	quartz with frequent fine flint, mica and iron oxides; well finished [MIA]
QU4	very light fabric; quartz with mica, iron oxides and frequent voids; not well finished [MIA]
QU5	very light fabric; sparse quartz with clay pellets in fine alluvial clay (fine white plate-like matrix with no HCL reaction) [MIA]
QU7	abundant rounded quartz, sparse mica, rare large and sparse fine flint and organic [M-LIA]
QU8	quartz, frequent fine and sparse coarse flint, medium mica, iron oxides and organic [LBA/EIA]
QU9	quartz, frequent organic, mica and rare small flint [MIA]
QU10	moderate to fine flint with sparse organic, mica and rare quartz, rare iron pellets [LBA/EIA]

- QU12 very light fabric; sparse quartz and mica with clay pellets in fine alluvial clay (fine white plate-like matrix with no HCL reaction); sparse fine calcined flint [LBA/EIA]
- QU13 sparse quartz, mica and organic with rare large flint [EN]
- QU15 abundant quartz, organic and sparse medium flint [LBA]
- QU17 sparse quartz sand and mica; sparse fine to very coarse calcined flint [EN]
- QU18 coarse sandy matrix; sparse mica and natural flint grits [LBA/EIA]
- QU19 coarse sandy matrix; fine to coarse flint grits and sparse mica [LBA/EIA]
- QU99 unidentified quartz-tempered
- 
- SH2 moderate shell and argillaceous matter; very sparse mica [LBA/EIA]
- SH4 [LBA/EIA]

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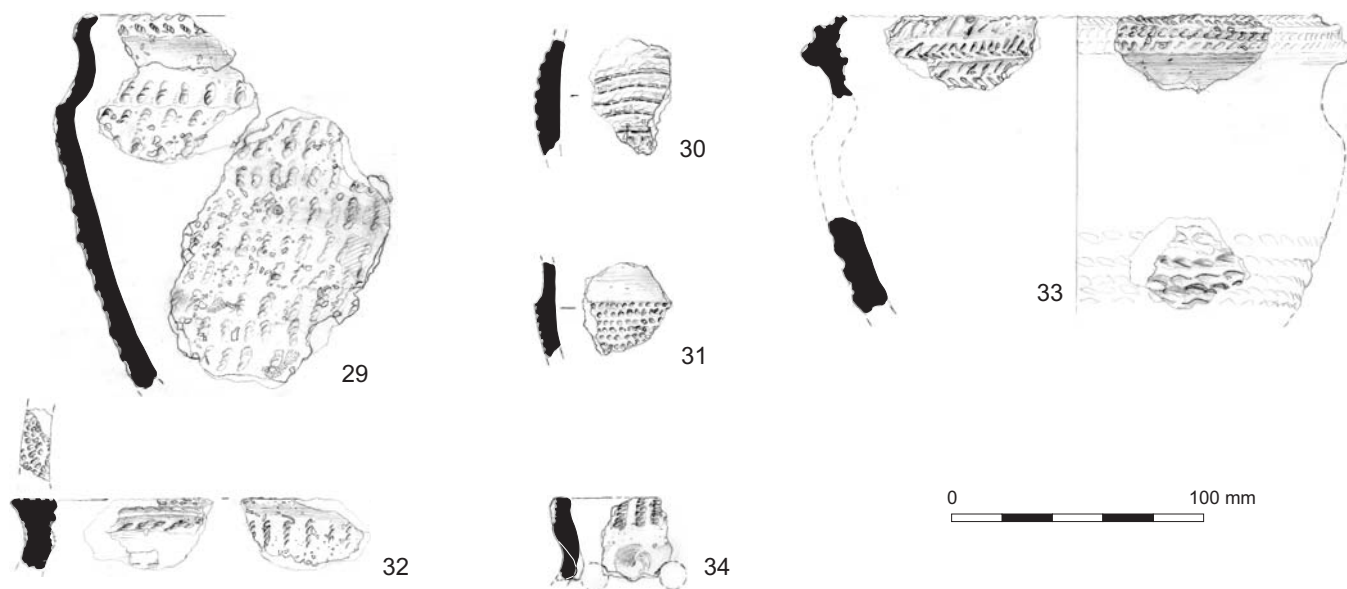
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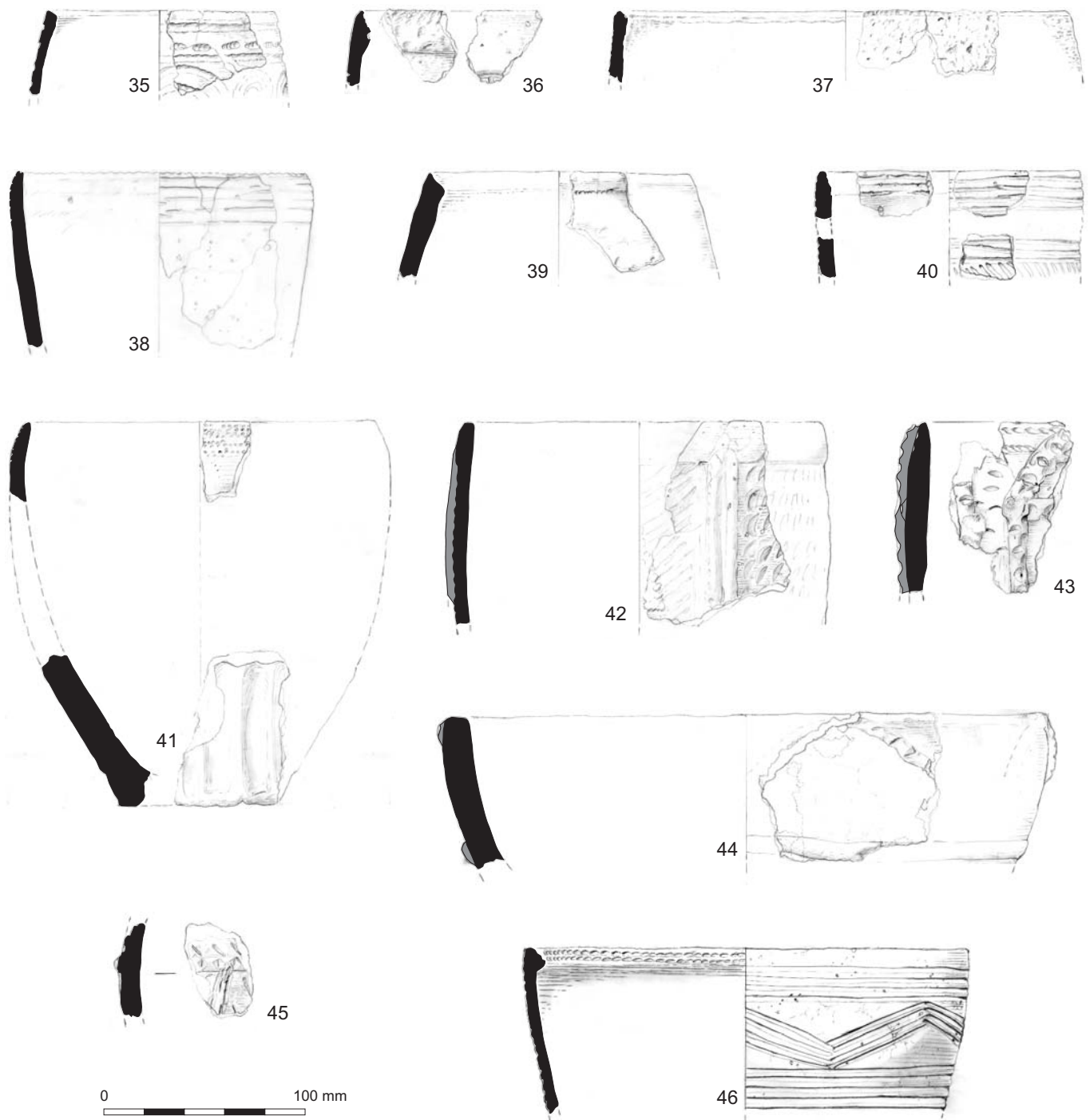


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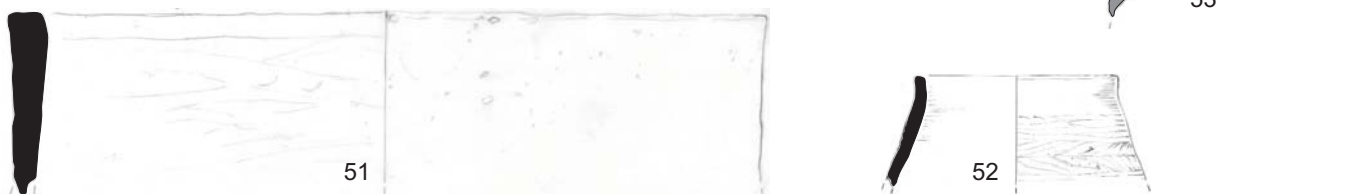
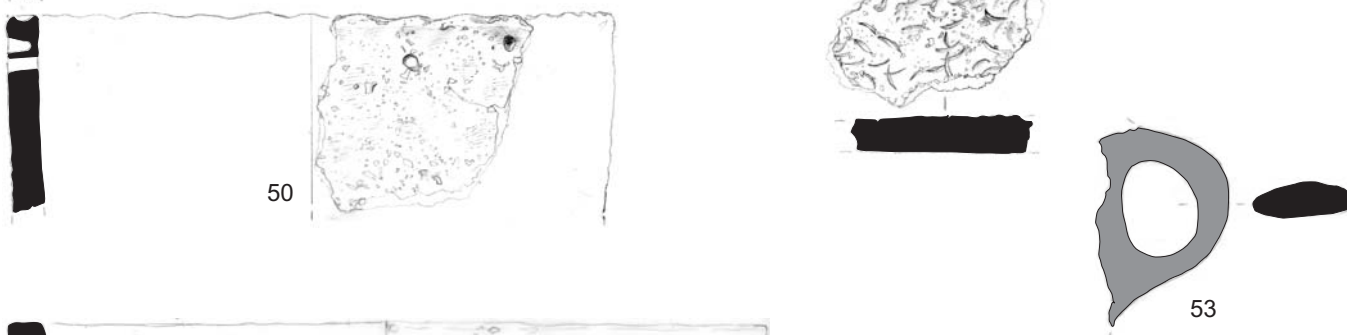
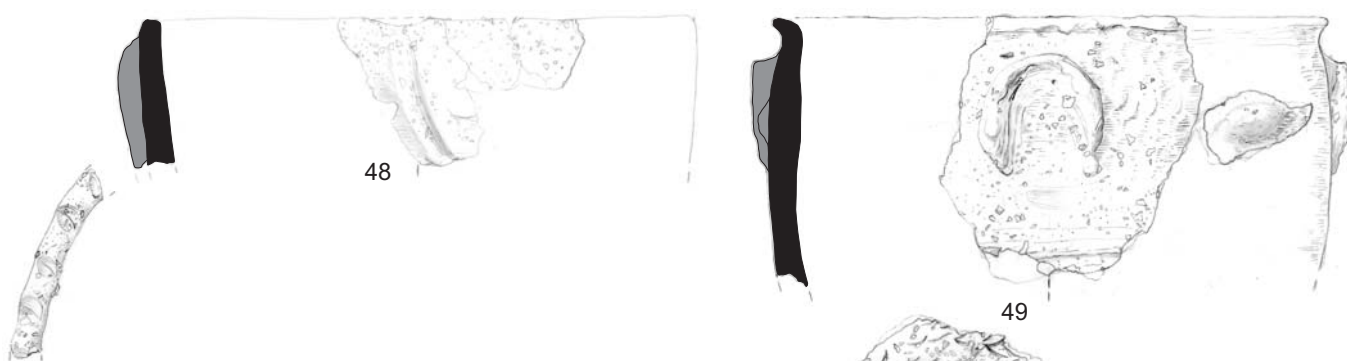
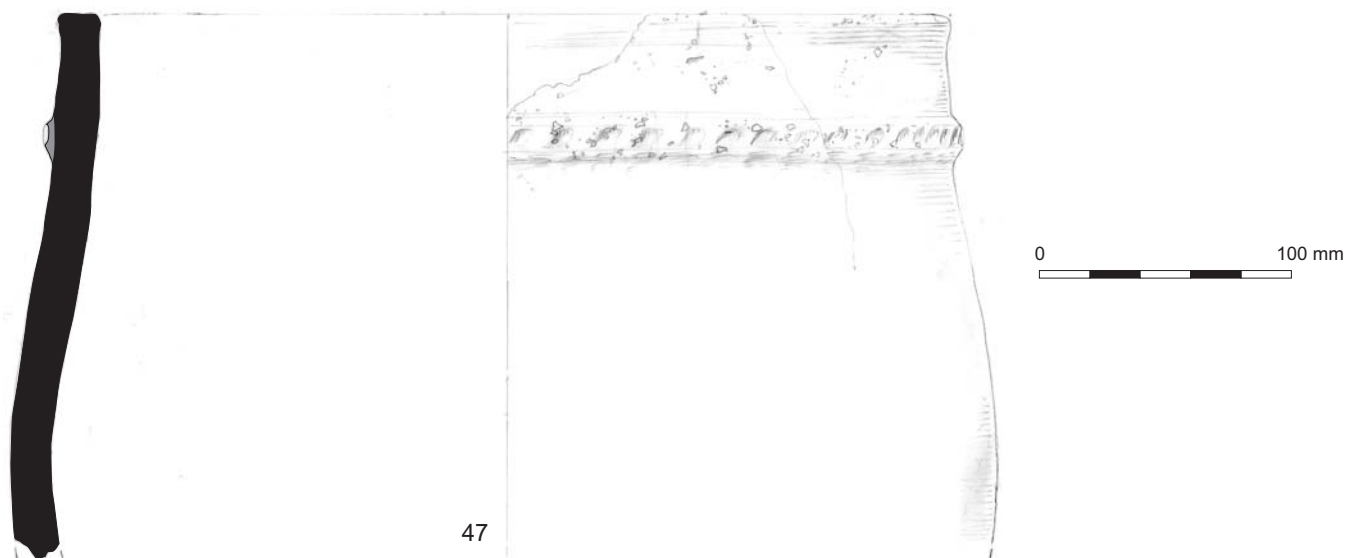




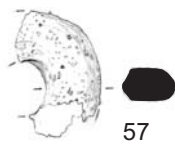
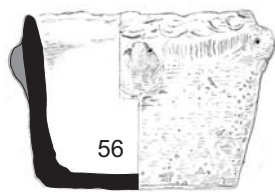
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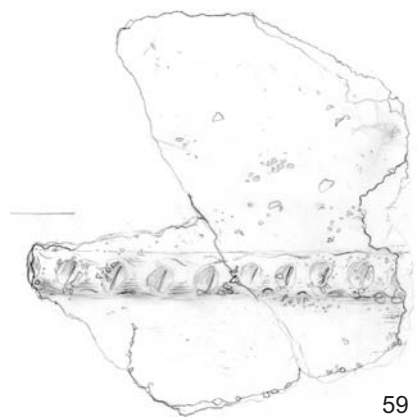
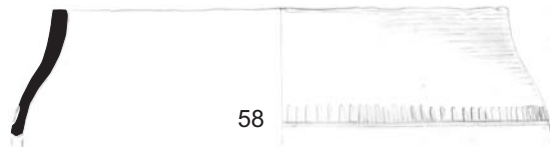
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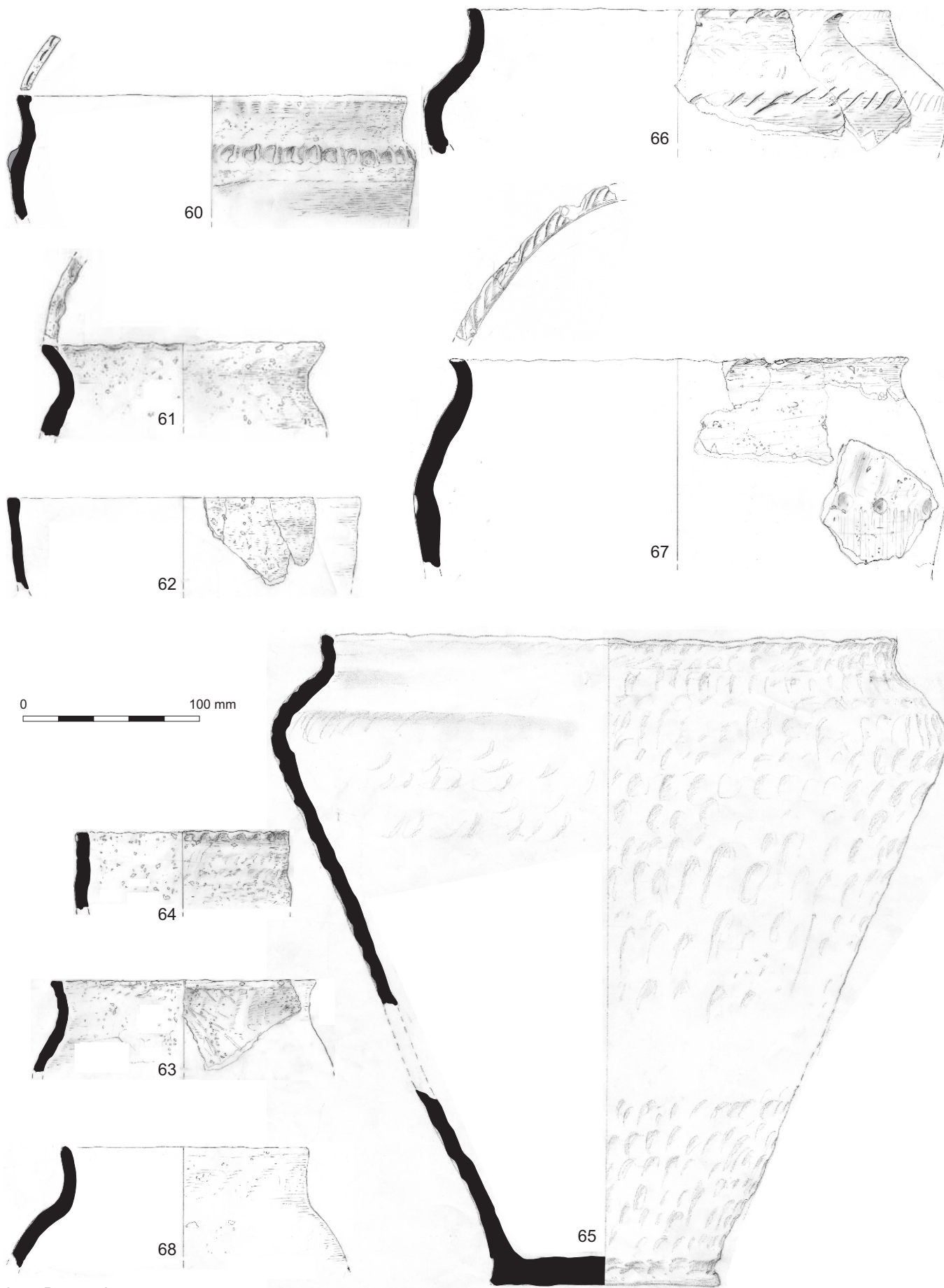


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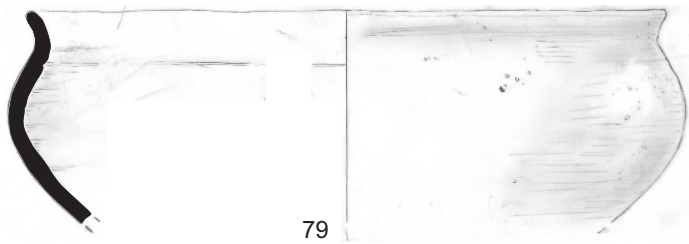


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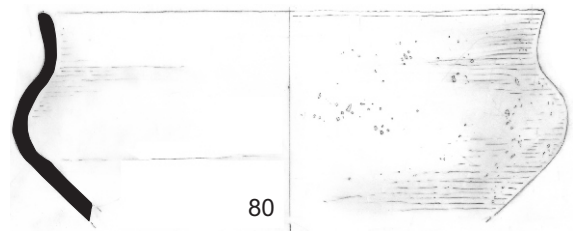


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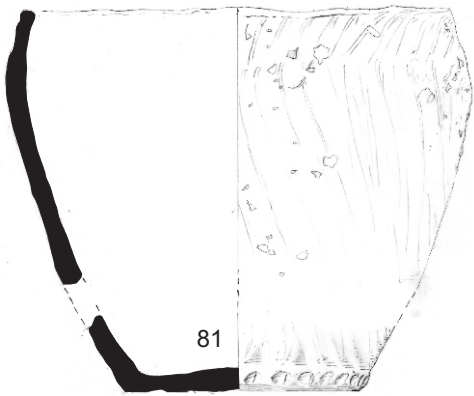




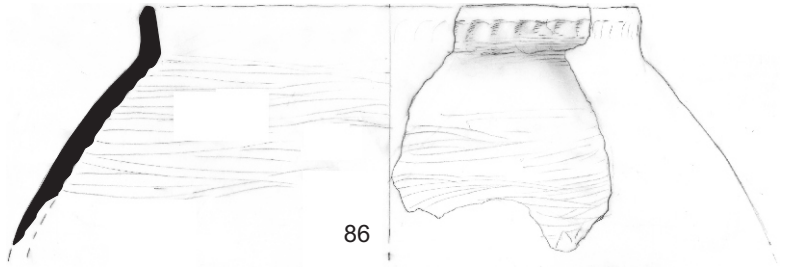
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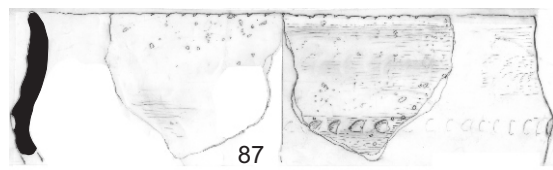
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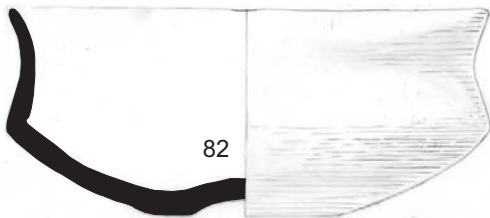
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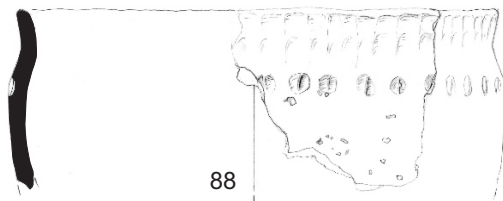
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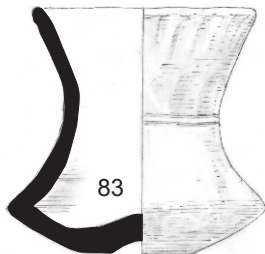
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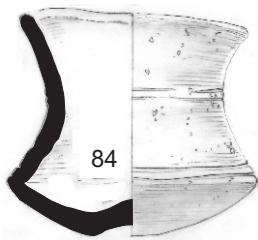
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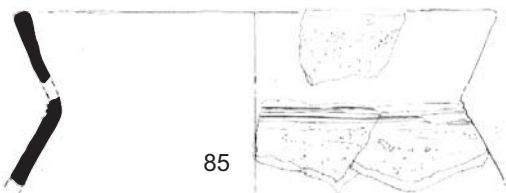
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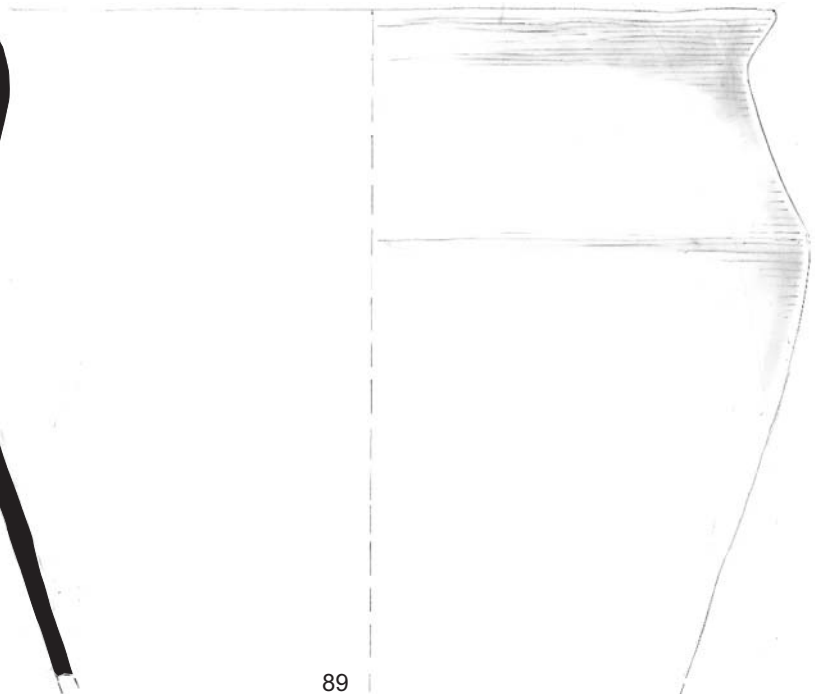
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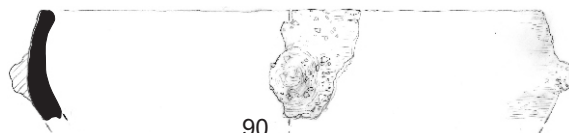
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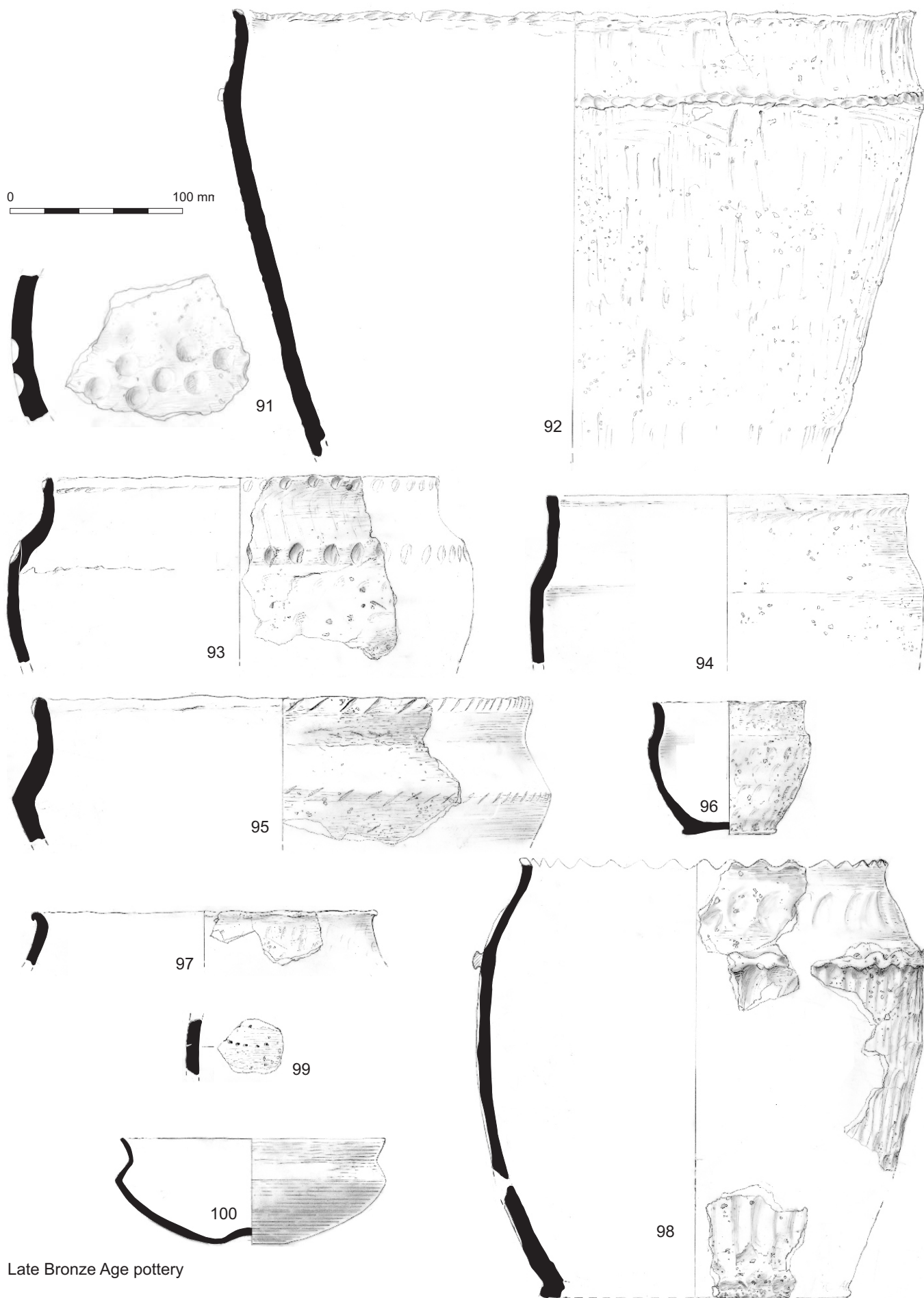
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90



Late Bronze Age pottery



Late Bronze Age pottery





Middle Iron Age pottery

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