# Prehistoric Ceramic Analysis of the Phase 2 assemblage from Lanton Quarry


A rim fragment of modified Carinated Bowl with an example of a lug situated on a slack shoulder. Approx. date: 3800 cal BC.

**ARS Ltd Report No. 2009/31**
April 2009

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## Introduction

The corpus of ceramic material recovered from the Phase 2 excavation at Lanton Quarry comprises a substantial assemblage of prehistoric pottery numbering approximately 552 sherds in total, with a combined weight of just over 5 kg. It represents a minimum of 32 vessels, based upon consideration of profile, fabric and depositional context as well as slightly less reliable indicators such as colour and wall thickness. The majority of this assemblage, numbering some 491 sherds and weighing just under 5 kilos, relate to approximately 22 vessels or more can be classified as Early Neolithic Carinated Bowl and were recovered primarily from a small number of pit features scattered across the site. A smaller number of sherds, 61 in total with a weight of 0.37 kg, have been identified as Middle Bronze Age Flat Rimmed Ware and represent the remains of approximately 10 vessels. This material was recovered from a series of postholes attributable to various post-built structures including the remains of a probable roundhouse.

While the assemblage is more restricted than that from the larger Phase 1 area it clearly compliments this assemblage and relates to similar phases of occupation across the wider site. It may also be compared with further assemblages recovered from neighbouring sites such as those from Coupland (Passmore and Waddington 2009), Cheviot Quarry (Johnson and Waddington in press), and Thirlings (Miket *et al.* in press). In this respect it forms a substantial and significant addition to the local and regional pottery sequence.

## Neolithic Pottery

### Early Neolithic Ceramics

The term Carinated Bowl is used here generically to describe the full range of Early Neolithic shouldered, S-profiled and bag-shaped bowls and plain wares that comprise the tradition as defined by Sheridan (2007) and as described in the ceramics report for the Phase 1 area of the site.

The assemblage of Carinated Bowls is fairly typical of the tradition displaying a series of outwardly flared or rolled rims together with a series of upright, globular and flared body forms, demonstrating a complete absence of decoration and executed in a well-fired fabric with a highly burnished, or at least well smoothed, external and sometimes internal surface. A single example of an un-shouldered simple vertical rimmed bowl or cup can also be identified but is not an uncommon feature of such an assemblage. In this regard the corpus aligns well with the material recovered from Phase 1 at Lanton Quarry and similar assemblages elsewhere in the Milfield Basin, such as those from Cheviot Quarry (Waddington in Johnson and Waddington in press), Coupland (Waddington in Passmore and Waddington 2009) and Thirlings (Miket *et al.* in press).

#### *Fabric*

The Early Neolithic fabric types identified in the Phase 2 assemblage are summarised in Table 1. The fabrics are largely well fired and contain variable quantities of crushed stone

temper, of either limestone or sandstone, presumably derived from upland sources to the east and north of the Milfield plain. The inclusions are generally well sorted with an average size of between 0.20-0.40 mm and are fairly evenly distributed throughout the fabric. The common practice of treating the external and sometimes internal surface by means of burnishing often masks the presence of the inclusions across the surface of the vessels unlike in later ceramic forms such as Impressed Wares where the surfaces are less well smoothed and inclusions frequently erupt at the surface. Where the surfaces have not been burnished, predominantly across the interior of a vessel, inclusions can be evident.

Surface colouration can vary considerably, even within a single vessel, as is usual with ceramics fired under a bonfire and repeatedly exposed to smoke discolouration, heat and differential oxygen supply. On the whole they tend to be light pinkish brown in colour varying in some cases to dark grey brown or even black across the core and internal surface. On the whole, however, the pottery is well fired with a fairly even and uniform colouration throughout indicative of a good control of the firing process.

All fabrics were examined by using a x10 hand held magnifying glass and grouped according to those inclusions that appeared deliberately to have been added as an opening agent during the vessel building process.

| Fabric Code | Description | Sherd Count | Minimum Vessel Count | Total Weight (grams) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| NS1 | No or very rare (<1%) stone inclusions, angular to sub-angular in shape, 0.2-0.4 cm in size. | 9 | 3 | 42.46 |
| St 1 | Rare (>3%) stone inclusions, generally well sorted, angular to sub-angular in shape, 0.2cm-0.4cm in size | 302 | 7 | 1676.81 |
| St 2 | Occasional (>10%) stone inclusions, generally well sorted, angular to sub-angular in shape, 0.2-0.4 cm in size. | 168 | 9 | 2850.28 |
| St 3 | Common (>15%) stone inclusions, moderately well sorted, angular to sub-angular in shape, 0.1-0.4 cm in size. | 6 | 1 | 51.9 |
| St 4 | Abundant (>20%) stone inclusions, well sorted, angular to sub-angular in shape, 0.1-0.2 cm in size | 6 | 2 | 142.76 |
| Total | | 491 | 22 | 4763.21 |

Table 1. Fabric groups from the Phase 2 area at Lanton Quarry comprising Early Neolithic and Bronze Age material.

### *Form*

A summary of the form of individual vessels is provided in Table 2 with descriptive nomenclature following the criteria advanced by Cleal (1992).

Overall vessel forms tend to be simple or inflected and neutral in character, with only one example of a vessel (9) that may be potentially described as a closed and composite vessel. Body shapes are mostly shallow and hemispherical in shape, although several examples of flat sections of wall also exist which may indicate the further presence of upright carinated forms such as those featured in Gibson (2002, figure 26). Alternatively the flat wall sections may indicate the presence of closed, slack shouldered vessels with an elongated upper body and vertical rim similar to those recovered from the Coupland site (Passmore and Waddington 2009). Shoulders tend to be slack and rounded in shape,

as typified by vessel 21, although several sherds, for example small find 856 linked potentially with either vessel 14 or 15, together with the presence of upright rims may hint at the presence of a more sharply defined carination.

Vessel 21 provides a good example of a lugged vessel indicating the presence of modified Carinated Bowl types in the assemblage, possessing at least two, while a sherd from a separate vessel (small find 1008) may indicate the presence of a further lug that has since broken away from the surface.

The majority of rims tend to be outwardly angled and flared, although in many cases they are rather short and thick in profile and may either be pinched to a point or rounded at the edge. In two instances, vessel 11 and 13, the rim takes on an outward near horizontal flattened profile similar to material described in Phase 1 which again testifies to a modified Carinated Bowl component in the assemblage. Vessels 1, 6 and 16 display a rolled rim in which the edge has been rolled over to form a slightly bulbous termination. Two examples, vessels 2 and 14, display a simple vertical rim and in the case of the former derive from a simple un-shouldered neutral or open, round-bottomed cup or small bowl. These have been described in relation to similar material from Cheviot Quarry defined in that report as Carinated Bowl-related Plain Wares.

Few vessels are adequately represented to allow vessel reconstruction yet the range of rim diameters indicate a wide variety of vessel sizes. These vary from the small simple cup of vessel 2, with a rim diameter of approximately 120 mm, and the equally small bowl of vessel 4, approximately 100 mm in diameter, to the large cooking vessels 5 and 9 which have diameters of approximately 300 mm and 340 mm respectively. A number of mid-range vessels exist with sizes varying between 200 mm and 240 mm. In a limited number of cases a projected profile has been possible and it is recommended that at some point these could be used as the basis for volumetric analysis via the conic frustra method in order to better understand ceramic diversity and development through the ages.

### *Numbers*

A total of 491 sherds were recovered which represent a minimum of 21 vessels. The majority of this material, 412 sherds representing a minimum of 17 vessels, was recovered from the fill of a single midden pit (context 1882). The majority of plain body sherds from this context could therefore not be attributed to specific vessels except in the case where refits were established. Several sherds were also recovered from a posthole fill in close physical proximity to pit 1882 and were found to join in one case with sherds from vessel 11 from the pit fill of 1882. The next most productive feature, yielding approximately 56 sherds all probably deriving from the same vessel (pot 21), were recovered from the fill of a posthole F1556. The remaining sherds were scattered between a series of further small pits and isolated postholes.

In terms of the minimum number of vessels represented, estimations were based upon an assessment of the number of rim forms present as well as divisions according to fabric and context. Where plain body sherds of a similar thickness and colour were identified in the same fabric they were provisionally grouped together. In a number of cases it was possible to define a number of adjoining pieces confirming their association, however, given the similarity in fabrics and the fact that much of the pottery was derived from a single pit feature, it must be stated that such groupings are provisional and may be subject to change. Besides the material from vessel 11, found to be deposited in

posthole 1886 and pit 1882, no other cross contextual fits could be located, although further analysis of the wider assemblage from the Phase 1 and 2 areas may produce further refits between ceramics from different pits.

| Vessel Number | Small Find Number | Fabric Group | Context Number | Description | Weight (grams) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 864, 982 | St4 | 1882 | Light pinkish colour, hard well fired fabric >0.7cm thick. Small shoulder-less hemispherical simple/neutral bowl . Rolled rim. | 16 |
| 2 | 1142,952,961, 973,978,992 | St3 | 1882 | Light pinkish brown, hard well fired fabric >0.8cm thick. A simple vertical rim of a small simple/neutral or open cup or bowl >12cm diameter | 51.9 |
| 3 | 920,939,852, 1139 | St4 | 1882 | Plain body sherds, light pinkish brown external surface, medium grey core and interior surface >1.4cm thick | 126.76 |
| 4 | 994, 985 | NS1 | 1882 | Light brown, hard well fired fabric >0.6cm thick. Small hemispherical shouldered neutral/inflected bowl. Short flared rim >10cm diameter | 13.9 |
| 5 * | 1135, 914 | St1 | 1882 | Medium dark grey brown throughout >1cm thick. Smoothed internal and external surface. A neutral/inflected bowl with a high slack shoulder and a short flared rim. >30 cm diameter. | 91.85 |
| 6 | 1009,1015, 899,904,916, 906,953,903, 858,900,904, 1138 | St1 | 1882 | Medium brown external surface, dark grey brown core and interior. Hard well fired fabric >1-1.2 cm thick. Rolled rim with flat wall sections probably indicative of a carinated or bag shaped vessel. > 40cm in diameter. | 320.81 |
| 7 | 908 | NS1 | 1882 | Light medium brown, hard well fired fabric >0.6cm thick. Smoothed surface. Small bowl with rolled over rim. Approximately 20cm diameter | 8.38 |
| 8 | 887 | St1 | 1882 | Medium brown, hard well fired fabric >0.5cm thick. Flared rim but rounded edge giving a bulbous profile. | 3.16 |
| 9 * | 917,868,919, 912,913,850, 901,930,100, 885,895,896, 905,894 | St1 | 1882 | Medium brown, hard well fired fabric >1.1cm thick. A closed composite vessel with possible thumb groove profile and a short thick | 445.27 |

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| | | | | flared rim >32cm diameter | |
| 10 | 970,888,999 802 | St1 | 1882 | Medium pinkish brown external surface, medium grey core and internal surface, hard well fired fabric >1cm thick | 24.94 |
| 11 | 933,932,1011 1014 | St2 | 1882, 1886 | Medium to light pinkish brown, hard well fired fabric >1.1cm thick. A neutral/inflected vessel with slack rounded shoulder and an outwardly flared, almost horizontal, short thick rim | 357.76 |
| 12 | 851 | St2 | 1882 | Medium pinkish brown exterior surface, medium grey brown core and internal surface, hard well fired fabric >1.1cm thick. Flared rim of a probable open/inflected vessel. | 28.15 |
| 13 | 998 | St2 | 1882 | Medium to light pinkish brown surface and grey core, hard well fired fabric >0.9cm thick. Two conjoined sherds of a flared rim probable 16cm diameter | 7.5 |
| 14 | 865 | St2 | 1882 | Medium grey external surface and core, medium pinkish internal surface, hard well fired fabric >0.9cm thick. Near vertical rim with an uncertain body form. | 11.1 |
| 15 | 969,875,935 | St2 | 1882 | Pinkish brown, hard well fired fabric >1cm thick. Two conjoined rim sherds of a flared rim approximately 20cm diameter | 25.5 |
| 16 | 928,957,966 | St2 | 1882 | Medium grey surface, medium pinkish core and interior. Smoothed external surface, rough internal. 0.8-0.9cm thick. A vertical rolled over rim, probably of a neutral/simple or neutral/inflected vessel. | 47.15 |
| 17 | 861 | St2 | 1882 | Light pinkish broen core and darker surface, hard well fired fabric, >1.2cm thick. A flared although slightly rolled rim, little to indicate body form. | 9.14 |
| 18 * | 1078-1081 | NS1 | 1664 | 4 body sherds from a globular vessel. Light yellowish brown external surface and a dark grey brown core and interior, hard well fired fabric >1cm thick. | 278.62 |
| 19 | 1124,1125 + 1 | St1 | 1927 | Medium grey course fabric >0.7cm thick. 1124 may | 16.87 |

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| | | | | derive from the shoulder of a baggy vessel. | |
| 20 | 1068 | St1 | 1518 | Medium grey brown, hard well fired fabric >0.9cm thick. | 16.87 |
| 21 | 1050,1025 1048,1047 1063,1045 1024 (total of 47 sherds from this context) | St2 | 1556 | Variable external surface colour from medium grey brown to light pinkish brown, hard fairly well fired fabric 0.8-1.2cm thick. All sherds, despite variability in profile, colour and thickness appear to be from the same vessel and a number of refits are possible. The rim is a flared but short and thick, the shoulder slack and rounded, the body that of a closed/composite independently restricted hemispherical bowl. Two lugs are visible but there may easily have been more. 23cm diameter rim. | 970.77 |
| Un-attributable | 874,881,973 988 | NS1 | 1882 | 5 plain body sherds, light orange brown, hard well fired fabric >0.8cm thick. | 20.15 |
| Un-attributable * | 923,956,880, 976,990 1004,1140, 882,944, 968,1013,959 918 | St1 | 1882 | 17 body sherds, light brown external surface, with a medium grey to black core, fairly well fired 0.9-1.2cm thick. | 157.24 |
| Un-attributable * | 879,870,924, 877,927,871, 1008,929,947, 991 | St1 | 1882 | 15 body sherds, medium brown exterior, medium grey brown core and interior, moderately well fired. Missing surfaces 1-1.1cm thick. | 169.26 |
| Un-attributable | Marked as Bulk | St1 | 1882 | Variable colour and thickness. | 421.36 |
| Un-attributable | 989,921,948, 971,942, 892,951,943, 1001,963,860, 884 | St2 | 1882 | 14 body sherds, pinkish surface, hard fairly well fired fabric 0.7-1cm thick. May belong to vessels 12 or 13 | 141.09 |
| Un-attributable | 937,853,872, 956,863,972, 950,965,859, 856,867,866, 962,998,851 | St2 | 1882 | 14 body sherds, medium to light pinkish surface and a medium grey core, smoothed surface > 1cm thick. May belong to vessels 12 or 13. | 205.21 |
| Un-attributable * | 983,980,954, 890,911, 934,946,878, 967,1012, 937,979,949, 941,869 | St2 | 1882 | 18 body sherds, several conjoining, light to medium pinkish exterior with a medium grey core and interior, hard well fired fabric >1.5cm thick. Thickness of sherds may indicate a separate vessel | 513.72 |

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| | | | | from rim sherds, alternatively they may derive from the base of a vessel already represented. | |
| Un-attributable * | 1005,1007, 945 | St2 | 1882 | 3 body sherds, light brown external surface, medium grey brown core and interior >1.2cm thick | 60.53 |
| Un-attributable | 931,993,1000 | St2 | 1882 | 3 body sherds, dark grey/black smoothed external surface, light pinkish brown interior, >0.6-0.7cm thick | 14.2 |
| Un-attributable | 936 | St2 | 1882 | 1 body sherd of pinkish/orangy brown, hard well fired fabric >1.2cm thick | 16.07 |
| Un-attributable | 876,897,910, 915,923 938,964,975, 977,986, 960,996,1006 1010,1016 | St2 | 1882 | 24 body sherds and fragments, variable colour. Many have 1 or more surfaces missing. | 130.2 |

Table 2. summary of sherd groups and vessel descriptions relating to the Early Neolithic assemblage from Phase 1 Lanton. * denotes presence of possible residues adhering to the surface of individual sherds.

## Bronze Age

### Flat Rimmed Ware

The term Flat-Rimmed Ware is used here to describe the same kind of ceramics as that described in the ceramic report for the Phase 1 area. Three rim forms and associated sherds can be identified positively as Flat Rimmed Ware, the remaining assemblage comprising entirely plain body sherds of the same fabric, surface colourations and vessel form from associated contexts. In several instances such sherds have been recovered from the same contexts as those of identifiable Flat-Rimmed Ware vessels or from features within post-built structures believed to be Bronze Age in date. In any case the fabric of the plain sherds appears almost identical to that of the diagnostic material and while this has been conflated into the NS1 category for Early Neolithic fabrics, the pottery is less well fired than the Neolithic types, and certainly does not bear the same workmanship in terms of producing a thin, hard fabric with highly burnished finish.

Almost half the assemblage derives from the various fills (1824, 1927, 1930) of one large fire pit (F1825), while the remaining assemblage is split between several other pit features and a series of posthole fills relating to a number of post-built structures including a roundhouse (post-built structure 21).

#### *Fabric*

All sherds defined as Flat-Rimmed Ware may be assigned to the fabric group NS1 and as such contain no or very rare inclusions of crushed stone. In this respect they differ slightly from the fabric noted in relation to Flat-Rimmed Ware recovered in Phase 1 at Lanton Quarry where variable quantities of crushed stone were visible erupting from the surface of the pottery. In the instance of vessel 1 slight voids were apparent in section

and may indicate the use of an organic temper that has either been burnt or leached out of the fabric. Similar fabrics were also noted in relation to the Phase 1 assemblage. On the whole the fabrics appear well fired, although the fabric of vessel 1 appears slightly friable and in poor condition, perhaps indicative of an inadequate firing. The colour tends to vary from a light brown exterior, largely smoothed and predominantly plain, to a dark grey or black core. The thickness of the fabric varies from vessel to vessel between 7 mm and 13 mm.

***Form***

Only three vessels have been identified that posses a rim profile; vessels 1, 3 and 9. All demonstrate a flat upper rim surface that has been inverted. The profile of the body appears to be one of a vertical sided, flat-bottomed tub-shaped vessel, with a weak, vestigial shoulder and neck which no doubt derives, typologically, from Urns of the Early Bronze Age.

Size ranges appear to indicate small to medium vessels vessel 1 providing a rim diameter of approximately 100 mm. Vessel 9 appears to be of a similar size while vessel 3 appears slightly smaller although little of the rim has survived.

A simple vertical rim, with a rounded edge, was also recovered from the fill of a posthole (1578), and while this presents a contrast to the other representative profiles it may also be included with the Flat Rimmed Ware. This is significant in that it derives from a posthole apparently associated with the remains of a round house, post-built structure 21.

***Decoration***

The overwhelming majority of the corpus has received no surface treatment beyond burnishing to produce a smoothed finish. However, a short section of a single, very fine, cord impression can be observed upon a single sherd, small find number 1084. The isolation of this impression and the ephemeral nature of its execution may suggest that this impression was made accidentally and it certainly stands apart from the remainder of the assemblage as well as that recovered from Phase 1. In one other instance, small find 1130, several parallel striations are also evident and may indicate at least rudimentary decoration. Alternatively, the striations may derive from attempts by the potter to smooth the surface by wiping it with grass.

***Numbers***

The assemblage comprises a total of 61 sherds with a total weight of 0.37 kg. Based upon differences in wall thickness, surface colour and the context of deposition the assemblage represents approximately 10 vessels in all, although such indicators are less than reliable and the number may be less.

A large proportion of the assemblage derived from the fills of a single fire pit F1825 (see above). In all 28 sherds, with a combined weight of 0.14 kg, were recovered from this context, representing a minimum of two vessels, as indicated by the presence of distinct rim sherds, and up to five vessels based upon other criteria. A single sherd was recovered from a second, smaller pit feature (F1518), although the presence of a more heavily stone-tempered sherd could suggest it is residual from earlier activity on the site, but on

balance this is unlikely as crushed stone grits can be found in both Early Bronze Age and Middle Bronze Age pottery from the area, as in the case of the material from Cheviot Quarry. The remaining sherds were recovered from a series of postholes associated with several different post-built structures. Posthole fill 1578, as mentioned above, produced a single rim sherd and two probably associated plain body sherds which forms part of the remains of roundhouse, post-built structure 21. Two posthole fills, 1722 and 1724, form part of a triangular-shape post-built structure (24) which produced four and 16 sherds respectively. Twelve sherds were recovered from posthole fill 1734, associated with post-built structure 22 which is a small regular rectangular structure, while a single sherd came from fill 1944, a posthole within post-built structure 25 which forms part of a further rectangular structure.

| Vessel Number | Small Find Number | Fabric Group | Context Number | Description | Weight (grams) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1114,1115, 1117,1118, 1120,1122, 1123 | NS1 | 1824 | Light brown external surface, black core, medium grey internal surface, slightly friable fabric with some sign of voids and possible organic temper > 0.7cm thick. A flat, inverted rim with a tub shaped body, probable flat base. Weak, vestigial shoulder and neck. 10cm diameter. | 61.65 |
| 2 | 1116 | NS1 | 1824 | 1 plain body sherd, medium brown core, black surfaces, smoothed >1cm thick. | 13.9 |
| 3 | 1119,1131 | NS1 | 1930 | Medium grey brown to black, relatively well fired fabric, >0.8cm thick. I small rim section indicates a flat inverted rim, 1 base sherd indicates a flat base and possible tub or conical body. | 17.83 |
| 4 * | 1130,1129 | NS1 | 1930 | 2 body sherds, light brown exterior and core, medium grey brown interior >1cm thick. 1130 has several vertical striations. | 22.71 |
| 5 * | 1126,1127 | St1 | 1930 | Light pinkish external surface, medium grey core and interior >1.2cm thick. 1127 indicates a flat base. | 20.58 |
| 6 | 1134 | NS1 | 1578 | Medium pinkish brown exterior and a light grey interior, fairly well fired fabric >0.9cm thick. A simple vertical rim with rounded edge. | 12.27 |
| 7 | 1143 | NS1 | 1944 | Light pinkish brown exterior and a greyer core and interior, fairly well fired >1.3cm thick | 25.3 |
| 8 | 223 | NS1 | 1518 | 1 body sherd, pink exterior grey interior, fairly well fired fabric 0.7cm thick | 2.68 |
| 9 * | 1098,1108, 1109, 1095-7, 1099-1108,1110 | NS1 | 1724 | Light pinkish brown exterior , a greyer interior and core, fairly well fired fabric >1cm thick. 1098 is a flat inverted rim, base sherds 1108/9 indicate a flat base and conical or tub shaped body. | 108.15 |
| 10 | 1082-1094 | NS1 | 1734 | 12 body sherds, light pinkish brown exterior, greyer core and interior, hard well fired fabric >0.8-1.2cm thick. 1084 has a section of vertical fine cord impression. | 68.16 |
| Un-attributable | 1128 | NS1 | 1930 | 2 body sherds, light brown throughout, smooth internal and external surface >0.7cm thick | 4.32 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Un-attributable | 1111/1112 | NS1 | 1722 | Light pinkish brown exterior, medium grey interior and core, hard well fired fabric >0.9cm thick. | 12.7 |

Table 3. The breakdown of Bronze Age pottery by vessel group and context. Fabric groups follow those established in relation to the Early Neolithic assemblage. * denotes the presence of possible organic residue.

**Discussion**

While the assemblage of ceramic material from Phase 2 is not as large as that from Phase 1 it provides a significant and complimentary addition to the overall ceramic assemblage from Lanton Quarry.

The Early Neolithic material includes traditional and modified Carinated Bowl forms typical of other Early Neolithic settlement and midden pit sites across the sand and gravel terraces of the Milfield Basin. While few if any examples of the sharply carinated types identified within the Phase 2 assemblage the majority of profiles fit well with typical slack-shouldered, neutral and inflected round-based bowls with flared, although in the majority of cases short and thick, rims with occasional vertical and rolled over forms. A single example of a vertical-rimmed bowl or cup is also represented. The size range of the vessels can not be fully established given the fragmentary nature of the constituent vessels but a crude indication afforded by the diameter of the vessels would suggest a fairly wide range of forms from large cooking vessels to smaller service vessels. All are executed in a fabric with varying quantities of crushed stone, probably sandstone, or in a few cases limestone, and the majority have been well fired. The surfaces tend to have been well burnished and are entirely devoid of decoration. The vast majority of the assemblage derived from the fill of a single large pit although some sherds were retrieved from other pit features and several isolated potholes.

The assemblage of Bronze Age pottery recovered from the site consists largely of plain body sherds although three vessels are represented by a series of flat-topped and inverted rims. Taken together with a wider profile indicative of plain tub-shaped vessels with vestigial shoulder and neck would align the material with the pottery group defined as Flat-Rimmed Ware, although some of the material could relate to Early Bronze Age precursors. The pottery tends to be fairly well fired, although perhaps less so than the Early Neolithic wares, and appears largely devoid of stone inclusions. Rare crushed stone may occur while slight voiding in the section of vessel 1 may also indicate the use of an organic temper. The use of an organic temper was noted in relation to the Phase 1 material although a larger proportion of crushed stone appeared to characterise this material. Two body sherds may carry evidence for the restrained use of decoration although in both cases this may be equivocal. A large proportion of the assemblage was recovered from a single pit context while smaller groups of sherds were recovered from various posthole fills associated with a number of post-built structures, one of which was a roundhouse.

The presence of organic residues identified on a number of sherd surfaces as well as the recovery of single entity charcoal samples from a number of the associated posthole and pit fills should add provide more accurate dating control on the assemblage. It will also enable the assemblage to be compared directly with that from the Phase 1 area and the wider corpus of material from the region. The prehistoric ceramics from Lanton Quarry provide an important opportunity for improving understanding of the ceramic sequence

of the region, lifestyles and diet, and given the presence of datable burnt material samples for most of the pottery assemblage it presents a rare chance to provide dating control on poorly understood questions such as the dates when modified Carinated Bowl forms emerge and the date range for domestic Bronze Age ceramic forms such as Flat Rimmed Ware.

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