

4.1 The later prehistoric pottery

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4.1.9 Introduction

What follows are detailed trench by trench descriptions of the pottery, complementing the discussions in the Alfred's Castle monograph. Figure and page numbers refer to the main text.

4.1.10 Finds by trench

Trench 1

Relatively little Iron Age pottery (259 sherds representing a maximum of 203 vessels/2877g) was recovered from deposits exposed in Trench 1. Much of this group was residual in Roman features. The only significant Iron Age collection came from a single pit [1034] that lay just inside the rampart. The average sherd weight of 11g for the trench assemblage increased from a mere 7g on the basis of relatively large, fresh sherds recovered from the pit. Excluding the pit group, a full 86% of sherds were recorded as highly abraded.

Residual pottery

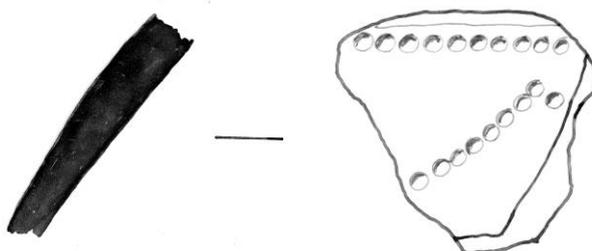


Figure 4.38 Sherd from context (1000) which should have appeared in book as Figure 4.8, no. 56, on page 94, which is discussed below. Same scale as Figure 4.8, page 94. Drawn by Alison Wilkins.

A small, well-smoothed Iron Age sherd in fabric Q5, which contains flint, came from the topsoil (1000) is shown in Figure 4.38. It is a fragment of a bowl or jar with a rounded profile decorated with shallow-impressed dots in a pendant swag arrangement which resembles ceramics of the St. Catharine's Hill - Worthy Down tradition of the Hampshire region (Cunliffe 2005, 104). A spread of dark soil (1011) just inside the rampart produced a shell-tempered jar rim (JB1/2), the lower neck decorated with finger-nail impressions. This decorative technique was common in

Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age England, but persisted into the 3rd century BC in the Oxfordshire/Berkshire/Bedfordshire region.

Ditch [1004]

The ditch fills (1023, 1032, 1036, 1092, 1094, 1098, 1099) produced 88 sherds (620g) representing 26 individual vessels. Fabric SH1 dominates this group, and a large, flat jar base in this fabric lay shattered within fill (1099). Small fragments of three other bases in fabrics Q1, Q3, SH1 were recovered from fills (1023, 1036, 1098). Another shattered base of a large jar, this one in a very uncommon limestone-tempered fabric (L1), was found in fill (1032). Two small burnished body sherds in fabric F1 from fill (1036) are of typical Middle Iron Age type. It is notable that basal sherds from five vessels, but no rims, were present in the ditch fill. This may indicate deliberate selection of basal sherds for deposition or a sorting of vessel parts prior to disposal, but the evidence is tenuous as the feature was only partly excavated.

Roman Ditch [1127]

Fill (1125) of the ditch yielded 16 highly abraded sherds (116g) belonging to nine Iron Age vessels. This small, mostly shell-tempered assemblage is undoubtedly residual, as it was associated with Roman pottery.

Roman Slot [1018]

Only 26 sherds (142g) of abraded prehistoric pottery were recovered from fill (1008). The average weight is only 5g, and the pottery is clearly residual in this Roman ditch. Most fragments are shell-tempered, but five sandy sherds were also identified.

Pit [1034]

Pit [1034] yielded 107 sherds (1766g), representing a maximum of 87 vessels. The pottery is in variable condition, with a relatively high average sherd weight of 17g. Shell-tempered fabrics dominate the group, accounting for roughly two-thirds of the total.

Fill (1035) produced only four sherds (173g) including a form JB1/2 jar in SH1. Fill (1038) yielded a single 15g SH1 body sherd. Fill (1059) produced 11 sherds (209g), including a simple base in fabric SH1. Conjoining sherds in fabric SH1 from fills

(1060) and (1091) represent a JB3 shouldered jar with a sooted exterior (Figure 4.1, no. 1, page 87).

The most productive fill (1039) yielded 1015g of pottery representing 66 vessels, with an average sherd weight of 15g. Some of the vessels from this deposit are distinctive Middle Iron Age types, but they were associated with fragments of shelly upright-rim jars and a haematite-slipped bowl, which have an Early Iron Age origin. Classifiable forms include an ovoid jar (JC1.1) in SH1 and two JB2 jars, one in fabric SH1, the other in a smooth clay resembling S2, but almost certainly of local manufacture (Figure 4.1, no.2, page 87). Small fragments of an S-profile jar (JD2) have the rounded shape, typical of Middle Iron Age forms in central and eastern southern England. The fine glauconitic clays used in the manufacture of BB1 type haematite-slipped bowls may come from non-local source, possibly in the Wiltshire region. The base of one such bowl in fabric S1 is of particularly fine and glossy appearance (Figure 4.1, no. 3, page 87). Three sherds of a second bowl in the same fabric, but burnished and black rather than slipped, were found in adjacent fill (1040), along with body sherds in fabrics L1, S2, Q3, and SH1.

The character and distribution of the pottery from this pit, and the size of some sherds demonstrate that deliberately selected fragments were placed in the lower fills. The shouldered jar fragment from basal layer (1060/1091) (Figure 4.1, no. 1) was shattered post-deposition, but had been placed as a single large fragment and subsequently crushed by the weight of overlying deposits.

Trench 2

A total of 2311 prehistoric sherds weighing 46824g, representing a maximum of 2074 vessels, were recovered from Trench 2, the largest trench assemblage from the site. A single 7g sandstone-tempered (SS1) body sherd was recovered from a natural feature [2106]. This could not be specifically dated but is dissimilar to the rest of the assemblage and is likely to be earlier prehistoric. Almost 80% of the pottery came from a group of Iron Age pits underlying the Roman stone building. Most of the remainder (13%) was residual, in deposits associated with the occupation and destruction of the building.

The average sherd weight of 20g is relatively high for the site, but a full 68% of sherds are heavily abraded (factor 3), so the general condition of the assemblage from Trench 2 is moderate to poor at best. Although Iron Age pits often yield well-preserved pottery groups with low levels of fragmentation, the 63% proportion of abraded pottery from the Trench 2 pits is just a little lower than the trench total. The ASW of prehistoric sherds from layers is only 6g, and some 84% of the 331 sherds (2146g) is highly abraded, a very common characteristic of pottery assemblages found in spread layers.

Iron Age pottery from Roman deposits

The residual pottery from layers associated with the Roman structure offer only limited information, as most of the group is made up of abraded body sherds, predominantly in glauconitic sandy fabrics Q1 and Q2. The only notable fragments are a fingertip-decorated situlate jar rim (JB1) in fabric Q2 from layer (2090), and a burnished straight-sided pot in fabric Q1 from the 3rd century destruction layer (2006) (Figure 4.8, no. 54, page 94). This form (PB) is rare for the Alfred's Castle assemblage, and this example is one of a total of just six. On the basis of the fabric, it may be an import from the Wiltshire region.

Pit groups

Several of the pits lay directly below wall footings, floor levels and destruction layers associated with the Roman structure, with the result that upper fills suffered varying degrees of disturbance. Those truncated by walls were pits: [2189, 2252, 2141, 2265, 2272, 2275, 2133, 2118].

Pit [2104] (Figure 3.26, page 45)

Pit [2104] produced 146 sherds (1334g) of pottery, all single, non-joining fragments. The ASW is 9g, and over 80% of the group is highly abraded. The fabric range is relatively broad: fabric F1 (1 sherd/3g), Q1 (26 sherds/166g), Q2 (3 sherds/31g), S1 (8 sherds/76g), S2 (15 sherds/77g), and the predominant shelly ware SH1 (93 sherds/981g), which takes 64% by count/74% by weight of the total.

The only diagnostic sherds are a plain rim of an upright-walled vessel (PA) in fabric S1, a type JB2/3 jar rim in fabric SH1, both from the main fill (2105), and a flat,

simple base rim in SH1 from basal fill (2113). A thin-walled (basal?) sherd in shelly ware from fill (2105) may be briquetage rather than pottery.

Pit [2104] produced, in addition to the rather unremarkable pottery assemblage, an interesting collection of other artefacts, including a perforated human skull fragment, bone tools (some burnt), a ceramic loomweight, a bronze lace-tag and a La Tène fibula brooch (SF487). The backfill represented a deliberate deposit of soil, incorporating charcoal, fuel ash slag and small fragments of pottery. The brooch is from lower fill (2113), and so provides a *terminus post quem* for the backfilling event. The pottery was considered in the light of this material, but there is no evidence that the sherds were specifically selected for deposition or that they were deliberately placed in association with other finds. It may be that a midden or accumulation of industrial or hearth debris was quarried for backfilling material and that some or all of the components were coincidentally incorporated. The presence of the brooch, however, does suggest a degree of selection, unless it was simply lost.

Pit [2123] (Figure 3.27, page 46)

Pit [2123] lay immediately to the southeast of pit [2178] and its size, fill sequence and character were similar. The 135 sherds (4487g) of pottery from this pit derived from a maximum of 90 vessels, and many conjoining fragments of nearly complete vessels were identified. The high ASW of 31g reflects the very good state of preservation of much of this group, with half the sherds representing eight vessels recorded as unabraded.

Only three major fills were distinguished in pit [2123], all of them pottery rich. Joining sherds of two nearly complete jars (Figure 4.2, nos. 5 and 6, page 87) were assigned context numbers from the two lower fills (2130/2150 and 2135/2167). This means either that the vessels were broken up before deposition, or that they lay on the interface between the two fills and the integrity of the pots was not recognised during recovery. The site records do not clarify this issue, but point out that fill (2130) included "large pieces of pot and patches of burnt material and charcoal, burnt bone." The description of fill (2135) indicates that it was "overlain directly by large sarsens and large pieces of pot".

The range of fabrics represented is indistinguishable from that of the less impressive pit assemblages, with roughly equal numbers of fabrics SH1, Q1, and smooth wares S1 and S2. Coarseware jars, some of them very large, dominated the classifiable form range. A wide-mouthed expanded-rim bipartite jar, often with finger-impressed shoulder and sometimes referred to as a 'cauldron' (Figure 4.2, no. 4) has a long pedigree in Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age Wessex, but is a recognised component of the regional Oxfordshire assemblage broadly dated to the c. 5th – 3rd centuries BC (Myres 1937, Figure 7). A shell-tempered fabric is commonplace for this form, and a well-preserved example of uncertain date was recently discovered during the 2011 excavations at Marcham/Frilford (Gosden and Lock forthcoming). A small fingernail impressed, expanded rim (Figure 4.2, no. 9) may have belonged to a similar vessel.

The fabrics used in the manufacture of two lug-handled jars with similar profiles (Figure 4.2, nos. 7 and 8) are different (Q1 and S1). Notably, the 'mortise and tenon' process by which the lug was applied is clearly visible in the case of no. 8, where the lug has separated from the vessel wall.

Sherds of a complete jar (Figure 4.2, no. 6) were recorded from contiguous fills (2130) and (2135). However, it is unclear from the records whether the jar was placed complete in or on basal fill (2130) and covered by (2135), subsequently shattered by the weight of overburden, or whether fragments were scattered within the two deposits, i.e. whether the pot was broken prior to deposition.

The only bowl form represented in this assemblage was a small sherd of a type BA2, oxidised and with a very high burnish, producing the effect of red-finishing (Figure 4.2, no. 10). Despite the care taken in treating the surface, the bowl, in slightly shelly fabric S2 and with relatively thick walls, is a local copy of the Wiltshire-based fineware production centres, consistent with the 'Long Wittenham - Allen's Pit' tradition of the 5th-3rd centuries BC (Cunliffe 2005, 101; Figure A:11).

In common with pit [2178], the pit produced manganese stained human skull fragments, bone and metal artefacts, and ceramic loomweights buried in industrial debris of FAS and charcoal, most of this material concentrated in the first two fills. This is highly unlikely to be coincidental, especially considering the presence of wild bird bone in the upper fill, and it is practical to conclude that the two pits were filled

at the same time with material originating from the same event – a ceremony of some sort.

Pit [2133] (Figure 3.28, page 46)

This large cylindrical pit produced very little pottery (33 sherds, weighing 355g), all from the upper two fills of sarsen capping (2220, 2204). The average sherd weight of the group is 7g, and about half of the sherds are highly abraded. This, and an absence of conjoining sherds, point to a post-use history that included movement from the original point of breakage, and exposure to the elements.

Considering the quantity of domestic debris, including animal bone and bone artefacts recovered from both the lower and upper fills of the pit, the paucity of pottery is notable, as pottery is generally a common component of Iron Age domestic assemblages in southern England. It suggests either that pottery was deliberately rejected as a backfill element or that it simply was not present in the available or selected material used for filling this pit.

Only three fabrics were present (SH1, Q1 and Q2), and three sherds diagnostic of form. Two jar rims in fabric Q2, one each from fills (2204) and (2220), are too small to classify further. A very small sherd (2g) in highly burnished fabric Q1 probably belonged to a small bowl. Part of a burnt bone comb from upper fill (2204) joined a fragment from pit [2178], suggesting that both were discarded at the same time with material deriving from the same source.

Pit [2143] (Figure 3.29, page 47)

Pit [2143] yielded an exceptionally large assemblage of 699 sherds, weighing 9606g. A few small fragments of Roman pottery were present in upper fill (2144), so this deposit clearly entered the pit later than the rest. This upper fill was particularly productive, containing 249 sherds (1509g). The uppermost fills of pits are frequently not associated with the main backfilling event/s, whether they are deliberate or not, and represent the subsequent filling or levelling off of a subsidence hollow formed in the top of a pit after the original fill/s have settled.

That the character of this particular upper fill assemblage is distinct from the underlying groups suggests that this may have been the case with pit [2143], and that the deposit was made during the Roman period, incorporating material representing several periods and provenances. Amongst a group of coarseware jar fragments that were indistinguishable in style from the lower fill vessels, was a fine, burnished flint-tempered (F1) body sherd that closely resembles the fabric used in the manufacture of "saucepan pots" and related Middle Iron Age vessels in the Hampshire/West Sussex regions. This fabric is so rare at Alfred's Castle that the sherd must be regarded as an import. Also from this fill came a shallow-tooled decorated body sherd (Figure 4.4, no. 26, page 91), the only example of fabric Q8 from the site, a glauconitic sandy ware that incorporated chalk inclusions. The decoration resembles that seen in two stylistic traditions: the St. Catherine's Hill – Worthy Down repertoire and the more local Hawk's Hill - West Clandon style, both generally dated to the 3rd – 1st centuries BC (Cunliffe 2005, Figures A:16 and A:18), but arguably originating a little earlier. It is typical of later Middle Iron Age vessels found at Danebury (e.g. Brown 1991, Figure 6.29, no. 1444), and may be an import from that area.

Also from fill (2144) are a few sherds belonging to a highly unusual vessel, a handled jar in glauconitic ware Q1, with extremely crudely executed scratched chevron-type decoration, degrading to an unstructured scrawl. It was applied after firing, perhaps even after its initial use, and was applied with a sharp, pointed implement (Figure 4.4, no. 25). Notably, substantial parts of this vessel were found in underlying fills (2227, 2226, 2236 and 2250). This raises the possibility that the fragments from (2144) were actually found at the interface with (2227) and is more properly attributable to the pre-Roman backfilling activity, but also places the backfill events represented by all of these contexts within a very short or single episode.

There are two possible pedigrees for the design on this pot. On the one hand, it resembles the scratched decoration applied to (often) red-finished cordoned bowls of Wiltshire origin, an element of the All Cannings Cross - Meon Hill group, generally dated to the 5th – 3rd centuries BC (e.g. Cunliffe 2005, Figure A:8, 8). An alternative influence, closer to hand, is the Chinnor - Wandlebury style, which includes a scratched chevron motif, often quite irregular in application. Whatever the influence, the quality of the Alfred's Castle pot suggests an untutored attempt to copy a pattern

that was recognised, if not traditionally used, in the area. This argues for local or near-local production, as seen in other elements of the Alfred's Castle assemblage. The fills immediately underlying (2144) produced relatively little pottery. Fills (2226) and (2227) each yielded sherds that belonged to vessel no. 25 (above). Otherwise, the pottery from (2226) was all undecorated body sherds in sandy and shelly fabrics. Context (2227) produced two small bowl fragments in smooth wares S1 and S3; including a highly burnished flaring rim (Figure 4.4, no. 22). Context (2282) produced, in addition to a sandy ware scrap, two joining shell-tempered jar fragments. Immediately below fill (2282), a minor fill (2241) produced a burnt bone comb (SF1500) and animal bones, but very little pottery (216g), none of it very distinctive. Fill (2253) also yielded a small and largely undistinguished collection of body sherds, but also several sherds (324g) belonging to a shelly coarseware jar. The character of the assemblages from these fills does not give the impression of having been carefully selected for deliberate deposition but rather of incidental inclusion along with other domestic debris.

However, two underlying fills (2236) and (2250), about midway up the pit, were more productive. Both contained several sherds belonging to no. 25. Fill (2236) produced over 2kg (171 sherds) of pottery, amongst which were substantial parts of coarseware jars no. 56 and 57. Additional parts of both of these jars were present in fill (2250), making up near complete vessels that must have been deposited with some level of deliberation. An interesting biconical jar with a sooted, fingertipped rim (Figure 4.4, no. 19) was also found in (2250). The incorporation of other artefacts, including a loomweight, several burnt bone tools and fuel ash slag in these contexts suggests that they were associated with a burning event, possibly deliberate, the products of which were subsequently placed in the pit. A cattle bone from (2250) provided a radiocarbon date of 380-230 cal BC (OxA-20349), so a 4th – 3rd centuries date for the filling event can be assumed.

The basal fill (2269) yielded 24 sherds (163g) of generally small and abraded sherds, including body sherds of three small bowls in sandy and smooth fabrics, two with a haematite slip, and a small jar or bowl, also in smooth fabric (Figure 4.4, no. 21). Notably, haematite-coated bowl sherds occurred only in this lower deposit and, although only small fragments, they may have been selected as basal deposits, as this particular, attractive finish is quite rare in the Alfred's Castle assemblage.

Pit [2177] (Figure 3.30, page 48)

Some 187 sherds, weighing 1626g, were recovered from pit [2177], which lay below Room 3 of the Roman structure. The low average sherd weight of 9g reflects the fragmentary condition of this small group, and a high abrasion level was observed. Only four fills were distinguished, of which the uppermost (2172) produced the bulk of the pottery, 116 sherds (354g). Only four fabrics were represented in this deposit: Q1, Q2, Q4 and SH1, and the only three vessels identified were a form PA jar fragment in shell-tempered ware and fragments of two jar rims in sandy ware Q2. One of these (Figure 4.3, no 11, page 88) belonged to a large jar with a roughly brushed surface.

The underlying fill (2209) produced only 33 sherds (354g), again mostly small and abraded. In a reasonable state of preservation, however, are two type JB2/3 jar rims in crudely treated smooth ware S1 (Figure 4.3, nos. 13 and 14). Several body sherds of a shell-tempered jar were also present, along with a handful of sandy ware sherds. Material from fill (2209) was radiocarbon dated to 360-273 cal BC (56%), providing a broad date range for the deposition event. Below this fill, deposit (2216) contained only 20 abraded body sherds (172g) in a range of shelly, sandy and smooth fabrics.

The assemblage from basal fill (2221) is small (20 sherds, weighing 193g) but includes a larger number of distinctive fragments, none of them badly abraded. These included several sherds belonging to a haematite-slipped flaring rim cordoned bowl (Figure 4.3, no. 16) and the rim of a similar bowl, both in fabric Q1. A more crudely finished bowl or cup (Figure 4.3, no. 15) was made from the same fabric. Another distinctive vessel was found in this deposit, sherds belonging to a miniature jar with a kicked-out base (Figure 4.3, no. 12), also in fabric Q1. The presence of this unusual collection of vessels, including a rare red-finished bowl, on the base of the pit is unlikely to have been a result of chance rather than choice, particularly bearing in mind the haematite-coated bowl fragment at the base of pit [2143].

Pit [2178] (Figure 3.31, page 48)

Pit [2178] post-dated pit [2230], which it cut on its southern edge. The earlier feature produced 324g of highly abraded sherds of shell-tempered and sandy wares, which were not chronologically or stylistically distinct from the pit assemblage.

The southern side of pit [2178] was recut or cut into by a posthole [2290] and contained a single fill (2179), which yielded 34 sherds (156g) of pottery. This group included a Roman orange ware sherd, so the associated Iron Age pottery must have been residual. A distinctive fragment of a carinated bowl in fabric S2 (Figure 4.5, no. 39, page 92) was lightly incised with a scrawled chevron style pattern similar to that seen on the handled jar from pit [2143] (Figure 4.4, no. 25). In this otherwise relatively sterile fill was the bone of a wild bird.

The original pit was not particularly deep and its back-filling appears to represent a single event. The pottery assemblage from its fills (2222) and (2229) amounted to 77 sherds (2853g). The unusually high ASW sherd weight of 37g testifies to the complete and nearly complete state of several vessels found in the basal fill (2229) and on its interface with overlying layer (2222). It is possible that most of the vessels were placed within or on the surface of basal fill (2229) and then covered with (2222), but the records are not clear on this point.

A radiocarbon determination of 380-230 cal BC was obtained on a sheep mandible from the secondary fill (2222). In view of this, a 5th century BC La Tène I type fibula from the same fill must be residual. On the basis that residual or curated metalwork is present in the pit, this should serve as a caveat for the other artefacts, including pottery. Deposition of curated or heirloom objects in such circumstances is well-attested.

The range of fabrics represented in this pit group is not unusual and was probably largely locally sourced. Glauconitic sandy wares Q1 and Q2 and fabric SH1 were present in broadly similar proportions, but smooth wares S1 and S2 were less common. However, amongst a collection of vessels that shared attributes with the mainstream of the Alfred's Castle assemblage are some very unusual forms. Considering first the common range, a number of bowl fragments in sandy and smooth fabrics were identified (Figure 4.5, nos. 37 and 40, page 92). These are all typical of bowls found in both the Long Wittenham - Allen's pit and Chinnor - Wandlebury groups, though all are fired within the red/orange rather than grey/black range. The shouldered coarseware jars in sandy and shelly fabrics (e.g. Figure 4.5, nos. 27 and 28) are also typical of local styles of the 5th – 3rd centuries BC. However, a strap-handled jar from fill (2222) (Figure 4.5, no. 35) in fabric Q1 has a slack, ovoid

profile, indicating a progression from the more defined shoulders typical of Early Iron Age form. Another ovoid vessel from basal fill (2229), this one lacking both rim and base, has affinities with the Middle Iron Age Wessex tradition of highly burnished glauconitic jars (Figure 4.5, no. 34) and would be consistent with the 3rd century radiocarbon date.

Notable components of this pit group are three miniature vessels; all in different fabrics and all from fills (2229) or (2222/2229). Figure 4.5, no. 31 is a complete jar in glauconitic fabric Q1, very crudely executed, with a wavy rim and brushed surface. Another small jar (Figure 4.5, no. 32), in glauconitic fabric Q2, was shaped by pinching up the clay, as was 'pinch pot' Figure 4.5, no. 33, in shelly ware SH1. Although these resemble prehistoric crucibles in some respects, they must be considered in the light of the other crudely made miniature vessels in this assemblage, perhaps even regarded as a child's set made by an unskilled hand.

A biconical bowl (Figure 4.5, no. 36), in fabric SH1, with well-smoothed surfaces lay in fill (2222). This form, unique to the site, may have had a pedestal base. Yet another unusual vessel is a complete bowl (Figure 4.5, no. 30) in fabric Q1, incorporating the odd inclusion of burnt flint. Although broadly in the tradition of Iron Age bowls with everted or flaring rims, this vessel is very poorly formed, with sagging walls, under-fired and with a roughly smoothed finish. It is clearly an apprentice piece or at least made by an unskilled person or not habituated to potting, again conceivably a child. As such it represents a deviant product of aberrant production. It was recovered from (2229), associated with other artefacts and domestic or industrial material.

Manganese stained human bone fragments, bone artefacts, ceramic loomweights and metalwork, as well as other pots, were arranged amongst the detritus of domestic and industrial activity (fuel ash slag and charcoal) found in this pit. The evidence points to a process of considered selection of materials and artefacts for deliberate placement in the context of a backfilling event, quite possibly involving a congregation of people.

The variety of artefacts and materials in this pit, their arrangement and the conspicuous nature of their deposition links them to pit [2123] (below).

Pit [2189] (Figure 3.33, page 49)

A small collection of 169 sherds, weighing 1338g, was recovered from this pit. The southwest edge of the pit was slighted by Roman wall [2009] accounting for the presence of Roman pottery in fills (2239) and (2171). The ASW of this assemblage is 8g and almost all sherds are heavily abraded, some barely above crumb size. Two radiocarbon determinations were obtained on animal bone from this pit. Sample 21918 from fill (2208) produced the best resolution at 396-350 cal BC. The second date, Sample 21919 from fill (2171), is broad: 369-199 cal BC. This is clearly a disturbed deposit as it represented the top fill of the pit and contained Roman pottery.

The predominant fabric is Q1 (71 sherds/456g), with Q2 following (66 sherds/522g); these two sandy wares forming over 80% by count of the total. Shell-tempered ware SH1 was represented by 26 sherds/335g. Only 2 sherds/12g of smooth fabric S2 were present and 4 sherds/14g of uncommon oolitic limestone ware L1 probably belonged to one vessel. The few diagnostic sherds included the plain rims of two very small 'miniature' pots in fabric Q2 from fills (2171) and (2267) may have belonged to crucibles or pinch-pots resembling that from pit [2178] (Figure 4.5, no. 32). Fills (2208, 2267, 2271) each produced a jar rim in fabric Q2, and a PA type pot in Q1 was also found in (2267). A good quality haematite slip was preserved on a 4g bowl fragment in smooth ware S2 from fill (2176).

Pit [2252]

A total of 88 sherds (1633g) representing a maximum of 79 vessels was recovered from fills (2148, 2248, 2254). The pit lay directly below Roman wall [2009] accounting for the presence of a few Roman sherds in the uppermost fill (2148). The ASW of this group is relatively high at 19g, and several vessels were represented by joining sherds. Joins of shell-tempered sherds were identified across fills (2148) and (2248). About half of the fragments were highly abraded.

The range of fabrics, Q1, Q2, S2, SH1 and SH2, resembles that from several other Trench 2 pits, including [2104] and [2133]. Fabric SH1 accounts for half the assemblage and only a single sherd in fabric S2 was present.

The only diagnostic forms lay in the lower fill (2154). With the exception of a thick, coarsely finished flat base of a jar (180mm diameter) in fabric SH1, all other classifiable forms are bowls. One is in fabric S2; the other three highly burnished body fragments are in fabric Q1. The latter are sufficiently distinct to specify that they did not belong to a single vessel. Two of the bowls are decorated with scratched chevron motifs of the Chinnor - Wandlebury tradition (Cunliffe 2005, 101, Figure A: 12), commonly dated to the 5th – 3rd centuries BC.

Trench 3

A total of 100 sherds (788g) of Iron Age pottery were found in deposits in Trench 3B. The only notable group came from rampart ditch [3516] (Figure 3.57, page 70) and shallow tree-throw [3521] (Figure 3.58, page 71), which lay just within the enclosure.

The ditch fills produced 13 highly abraded sherds (156g) of prehistoric pottery. A small jar rim, possibly of type JB2 in fabric SH2, along with two body sherds in Q3 and S2, were found in the basal fill (3533). These could not be precisely dated, but are typologically consistent with Middle Iron Age pottery from the site. The overlying fill (3532) produced two small burnished carinated bowl fragments in fabric Q1. Fill (3520), which was the basal fill in a recut of ditch [3516] which was only identified in post-ex, yielded a small rim fragment in fabric S2, impressed with small circles, probably belonging to a Chinnor - Wandlebury style bowl. Only a tiny flint-tempered sherd was recovered from fill (3509), which was not strictly speaking ditch fill, rather a deposit that accumulated in the subsidence hollow above the ditch.

Romano-British pottery from shallow tree-throw [3521] dated the filling event, but the fill also yielded 81 sherds (603g) of residual prehistoric pottery. Two shell-tempered jar rims, one fingernail-impressed, and a considerable part of a Chinnor - Wandlebury type bowl in fabric S1 was recovered from (3522) (Figure 4.8, no. 53, page 94).

Despite its small size, the Trench 3 assemblage provides a Middle Iron Age date for the primary period of ditch fill, and the residual bowl from feature [3521] attests to further evidence for activity of this date in this area of the site.

Trench 4

Trench 4 yielded a relatively large assemblage of 554 sherds (7214g) of prehistoric pottery, representing a maximum of 512 vessels when joining sherds are taken into account. Almost half of the pottery came from rampart make-up, the remainder from pre-rampart soils, pits [4073, 4063], postholes [4052, 4054, 4065] and stakehole [4013].

Pre-rampart deposits (Figure 3.21, pages 40-41)

An old ground surface (4060) below the rampart produced 31 sherds (229g), with an average sherd size of 7g. Although fragmented, the pottery was only moderately abraded, suggesting that the deposition history of the sherds was not intensive. Two flint-tempered sherds, uncommon at Alfred's Castle, were recovered. Four sherds (37g) of the even rarer oolite-tempered ware L1 included a type JB1 jar rim with fingertipped decoration on the rim. A second jar of undecorated form JB2/3 is in shell-tempered ware S2. Ten sherds in fabric SH1 are heavily abraded, probably because this friable fabric is more susceptible to attrition than others. The relatively high proportions of limestone, shell and flint-tempered wares, as against only two quartz-tempered sherds, is indicative of an Early Iron Age date for this horizon, but the ceramic evidence is obviously slight.

The Rampart sequence, contexts (4002, 4025, 4027, 4033, 4035, 4037, 4038, 4042, 4044, 4045, 4049, 4050, 4051) (Figures 3.21 and 3.22, pages 40-41)

Deposits associated with the sarsen-built rampart in Trench 4 produced altogether 262 body sherds (1238g) of prehistoric pottery. Quite a wide range of fabrics was represented (F2, S1, S2, SH1, L1), but none was diagnostic of form. The condition of this group was poor, most sherds highly abraded and the degree of fragmentation reflected in the average sherd weight of under 5g.

The pottery from the rampart make-up is likely to have been accidentally incorporated in soils derived from previously exposed and reworked deposits, so much of it being undoubtedly residual. The small collection is therefore of little practical use in refining a chronological sequence for the construction, modification and dereliction of the earthwork. The pottery can be dated only broadly to the Early-Middle Iron Age, as the manufacture and fabrics correspond to Iron Age forms recovered elsewhere on the site. However, a radiocarbon date of 401-353 cal BC

obtained on material from an aceramic deposit of sarsen cobbles (4045), about halfway up the sequence, provides a *terminus ante quem* for pottery-bearing layers (4050, 4051) and for the pre-rampart soil (4060).

Pit [4063] (Figure 3.23, page 42; Figure 3.24, page 43)

Pits [4063] and adjacent pit [4073] (a recut of pit [4131]) were sealed beneath an occupation accumulation (4062). This deposit produced only half-a-dozen abraded Iron Age sherds, and so any mixing of pit-derived materials during excavation would not have caused significant confusion.

Pit [4063] cut old ground surface (4060). The 13 recorded fills produced a total assemblage of 152 sherds weighing 1360g. However, this total includes pottery from the top fill (4069) of the pit, which is likely to represent an accumulation or deliberate levelling material in a hollow that formed after the original pit fill subsided. To complicate matters further, some cross-contamination between (4069) and (4074) - the fill of a later, intercutting pit [4073] - may have occurred during excavation.

A radiocarbon date of 356-107 cal BC was obtained on material from (4069), providing a *terminus ante quem* for the filling of the pit. Some 26 sherds (196g) recorded from this deposit include fragments of four carinated bowls, one with a haematite slip, and a type PA pot in fabric S1 with finger-tipped rim. Because this ceramic group was incorporated in soils that may have post-dated the main backfilling event of the pit, and because some of it may belong more properly to the later pit [4073], it is wise to consider it separately to the main fill assemblage.

Fill (4069) sealed three deposits, (4070, 4071, 4072). Only (4072) can be regarded as genuine pit fill, and is discussed below. Deposit (4071), which is a soft, loose organic soil, can be written off as an animal burrow (see Figure 3.24, which clearly shows this), so the few sherds it produced are irrelevant. A circular patch of chalky soil, (4070) probably represents trample in the subsidence hollow, contemporary with the upper fill (4074) of pit [4131/4073], as cross joins were found between sherds from the two deposits. The small patch of trample incorporated 34 sherds (334g), amongst which are three fineware bowl sherds, a PA type pot, a JB2/3 jar rim and a bowl fragment in an unusual calcite-gritted fabric (C1), decorated with

impressed dots infilled with white paste. Punched dot decoration of this type is a feature of Early-Middle Iron Age pottery of the Berkshire/Oxfordshire regions, but also of the earlier All Cannings Cross tradition, from which they may have derived. Bearing in mind the unusual fabric, this sherd may be an import from the Dorset or Wiltshire area. However, too much emphasis cannot be placed on this 2g fragment. Fill (4072) produced 32 sherds (203g), of which four very small fragments belonged to bowls, again in fabrics S1, S2 and Q1, along with another calcite-tempered sherd, which may have been part of the decorated vessel.

A thick deposit (4077 and 4078), was a dump of occupation debris that filled most of the central part of the pit and incorporated 38 sherds (323g). This collection includes three carinated bowl fragments in fabrics S1, S2 and Q1, along with a small rim fragment, probably from a type JB2/3 jar in fabric S2. All sherds are small and many are much abraded. The tertiary fill (4116) contained only 21 sherds (280g), most of them abraded, including a carinated bowl and a round-bodied bowl with flaring rim, both in fabric S1. The pottery is not closely dateable, but a radiocarbon date of 320 - 207 cal BC (67.3%) obtained on carbonised material from this fill provides a 3rd century BC date for the backfilling event, although the pottery may have been residual.

The general character of the ceramic assemblage from this pit, a generally fragmentary and moderately to heavily abraded collection of sherds incorporated in domestic refuse that included iron slag, animal bone, and worked bone objects, suggests that the pottery was fortuitously included in the soils and domestic debris used to fill the pit. The sherds may have had a long and complex history of fragmentation, redistribution and exposure to the elements prior to their eventual incorporation in the backfill. There is no evidence in this case for deliberate selection or placement of particular sherds to acknowledge or to date the decommissioning of the pit.

Pit [4131]/Pit [4073] (Figure 3.22, page 41; Figure 3.24, page 43)

Pit [4131] was located near the rampart entrance, just inside the hillfort. This pit and its recut, pit [4073], were only partly exposed in the trench.

Two fills (4127) and (4128), were attributed to pit [4131]. These yielded a total of 43 sherds weighing 3228g, representing seven vessels, including a substantially complete JB2.2 type jar in fabric SH1 (Figure 4.8, no. 51). The vessel had been placed close to the western edge of the pit, subsequent to the formation of a primary erosion layer (4128) which contained no pottery. The jar is an undecorated shouldered jar with upright rim, fired to an orange colour, with a roughly brushed surface. It shattered under the weight of the overlying soil, but had obviously been deposited complete as a deliberate act.

The shattered base of a large jar, also in fabric SH1, had also been placed in the pit, although its position was not recorded. The base is 280mm in diameter and weighs 1936g, designed to support a massive vessel. The deliberate selection of basal sherds, sometimes carefully trimmed, and the lower portions of vessels for deposition in pits has been observed on other Iron Age sites, including Danebury and Environs (Poole 1995, 261).

Fill (4127) also produced a fragment of a form JB1 jar decorated with fingertip impressions on the shoulder and a 13g sherd of a relatively coarse carinated bowl in fabric Q7. Whether these were deliberately selected or placed is uncertain, but the presence of a juvenile human bone, albeit in association with a range of animal bones, and the large vessel parts, signals conscious choice rather than arbitrary behaviour.

Fill (4074) of recut pit [4073] contained 17 sherds (479g), including several fragments of an upright-rim jar (JB2/3) in fabric S2, which joined a fragment from fill (4070) of pit [4063], demonstrating that there has been some mixing of the top fills of these two features, either in antiquity or during excavation.

The jars from pits [4131] and [4073] are not closely dateable. The form was current in southern Britain from as early as the 6th – 5th centuries BC, but continued to be produced and used alongside more distinctive, developed forms well into the Middle Iron Age.

Postholes at the back of the rampart

Two postholes at the back of the rampart produced pottery. Amongst the seven sherds from posthole [4052] was a rim fragment of a type JB2/3 jar in fabric S2. Posthole [4054] produced two very fresh looking sherds: a JA1 type jar and a carinated bowl sherd in fabric Q1. The jar resembles examples attributed to the Long Wittenham - Allen's Pit tradition, dated by Cunliffe to the 5th – 3rd centuries BC (2005, 101). A close parallel is found at Mount Farm (Myres 1937, 31 and Fig. 7), although the Alfred's Castle vessel is not fingertip decorated. Posthole [4013] produced part of a carinated bowl in fabric S1, broken into 27 sherds (184g).

Trench 5

The quantity of prehistoric pottery from Trench 5 is only marginally smaller than that from Trench 2, amounting to 2,248 sherds weighing 16168g. However, the ASW of just 7g is a considerable contrast to the Trench 2 ASW of 20g. This reflects both the high proportion of prehistoric pottery redeposited in Roman contexts, and the generally more fragmentary state of the pit assemblages in this part of the site. Just less than 40% (50% by weight) of the pottery was recovered from 13 prehistoric pits investigated in this trench. Some 44 sherds (414g) came from hollows [5244] and [5378], and a few sherds were present in the fills of postholes. Most of the remainder was residual in deposits associated with the Roman stone building. This material is essentially unstratified, but has some limited value for characterising the Iron Age pottery from this part of the site.

Residual pottery associated with the Stone Building

Some 1282 sherds weighing 7354g were recovered from deposits associated with the occupation and abandonment phases of the Roman period stone structure. Since this redeposited material accounts for 57% by count (45% by weight) of all prehistoric pottery from Trench 5, it was fully recorded.

The usual range of prehistoric fabrics was represented in this group, and fabrics Q1, Q2, Q4, S1, S2 and SH1 were most common. A few flint-tempered body sherds and a single sherd, each of fabric C1 and L1, were present. Only ten sherds were classifiable by form, two BA1/2 bowl forms, a fingertip-decorated JB1 jar, three JB2/3 jars, two vessels tenuously identified as PA type pots. Most sherds are much abraded and the ASW for this group is below 6g.

Two sherds from layer (5002) are illustrated. Figure 4.7, no. 46, page 93 is a small pot in smooth clay (S2), with an incurving rim (type PA). It is decorated near the rim with a design pricked by a small point, unique to the Alfred's Castle assemblage. Figure 4.7, no. 47 is from a carinated bowl in fabric S1, decorated with incised diagonal tooling characteristic of the Chinnor - Wandlebury style.

Pit Groups

In contrast to the pit groups in Trench 2, most of those in Trench 5 yielded relatively little pottery. Pits [5022, 5119, 5257] were exceptional in producing large assemblages. Otherwise, groups of fewer than 20-30 sherds were the norm. Pits [5472] (19 sherds/98g), [5066] (16 sherds/149 g), [5371] (8 sherds/54g), [5152] (3 sherds/13g) and [5298] (3 sherds/5g) produced only abraded body sherds in the common range of local fabrics. The assemblages from pits [5028] (20 sherds/110g) and [5111] (19 sherds/157g) were also unremarkable except that each contained a small fragment of a bowl with haematite slip, along with a rim sherd of a JB type jar.

Pit [5022] (Figure 3.53, page 67)

Pit [5022] produced the largest assemblage of prehistoric pottery from Trench 5, some 383 sherds (3526g). A high proportion of fresh or only moderately abraded sherds were identified, although the ASW was only 8g. Another 44 sherds (314g) of prehistoric pottery (along with some Roman sherds) came from the fill of the subsidence hollow [5073] of the pit.

The lower fills (5574, 5527) incorporated only 25 body sherds in a variety of fabrics, some of them unabraded. The overlying deposit (5481) produced 796g (90 sherds) of pottery, including fragments of two carinated bowls in fabric S1, a haematite-coated sherd in fabric Q1 and a shell-tempered shouldered jar. A pedestal base in smooth ware S1 had a high burnish. Fill (5247) also produced a fragment of a burnished pedestal base, in fabric Q1, along with another shouldered jar rim. A third shouldered jar rim, a lug handle fragment in fabric S1 and a fingernail-impressed shell-tempered sherd came from fill (5022). Rims of two more JB2/3 jars were the only diagnostic sherds from the overlying fills (5183) and (5156).

A large group of pottery (149 sherds) came from the layer (5051), the uppermost fill of the pit, which may have accumulated during the Roman period. Sherds belonging to seven carinated bowls (Figure 4.7, no. 48, page 93) were identified, one haematite-coated and four shouldered jars, one of them in atypical fabric C1 (Figure 4.7, no. 49) along with two simple incurving pot rims. A fragment of an ovoid jar in fine flint-tempered ware (F1) resembles that found in pit [5119], although the fabric is slightly different.

Pit [5119] (Figure 3.51, page 66)

Some 113 sherds (458g) of prehistoric pottery were recovered from the three fills of this pit. The basal fill (5256) yielded tiny scraps of two carinated bowls, with highly burnished surfaces, and the central fill (5245) produced only seven small body sherds. The bulk of the assemblage lay within the upper fill (5120). This group is also very fragmented, but rims of a JB2 jar and a haematite-coated carinated bowl were identified, along with three pots with incurving rims (PA). A small rim sherd probably belonging to an ovoid jar (JC2) in fine flint-gritted ware Q4 is a typical Middle Iron Age form.

Pit [5257] (Figure 3.52, page 67)

This pit produced 88 sherds weighing 1950g. It cut pit [5066] on its western side. The earlier feature contained only 15 sherds/145g of pottery, all moderately to heavily worn body sherds in a range of local fabrics.

The pit [5257] assemblage includes the typical range of sandy, fine, smooth and shelly wares, but additionally three sherds of the rarer flint-tempered ware, and two of the only eight sherds of limestone-tempered ware L1 from the site. These less common examples are all body sherds and distributed across four fills, so nothing can usefully be deduced of their date or style. Layer (5404=5550=5596) produced 46 sherds (477g), including small sherds of three carinated bowls and a basal fragment in glauconitic sandy ware along with a small rim fragment of a shouldered jar in fabric S2.

Otherwise, all diagnostic sherds, including rims of three shouldered jars (e.g. SF 579, Figure 4.7, no. 50), came from the upper fill (5258), which also contained four Roman sherds amongst the Iron Age assemblage of 29 sherds (1202g). This deposit

was very prolific of artefacts in general and may represent a redeposited occupation soil, bearing in mind the presence of Roman material. Finds included three clay loomweights, a stone spindle whorl and an iron nail, 29 sherds and fired clay (mostly oven or hearth fragments), 112 animal bones and a human scapula fragment.

Pit [5073]

The single fill (5074) of this pit contained 44 sherds (314g), most of them body sherds in a very fragmentary and abraded condition. The fabric range includes glauconitic sandy wares Q1 and Q2, shell-tempered ware SH1, smooth finewares S1 and S2, and a rare sherd of calcite-tempered ware C1. A single 3g bowl sherd in fabric Q2 is diagnostic of form.

Pit [5013]

Only 27 sherds/243g of prehistoric pottery were recovered from fill (5069) of this pit. Fragments of three carinated bowls in finewares S1 and S2 included one particularly well-made example weighing only 9g, and a red-finished scrap weighing 3g. Some 413g of shelly ware body sherds were also recovered.

Pottery from hollows

Feature [5244]

This feature produced 28 sherds weighing 218g. The only sherd diagnostic of form is a 6g bowl fragment in fabric Q1. Body sherds were in a range of fabrics: SH1, Q2, F2 and S2. The entirely abraded state of this group tends to suggest accidental incorporation in this feature.

Feature [5378]

All of the 22 sherds (196g) of abraded pottery recovered from this feature are body sherds in fabrics SH1 and Q2.

Trench 6

Only 25 sherds (173g) of prehistoric pottery (some joining) were recovered from Trench 6. All are in a highly abraded and fragmentary condition, and the fabric range is restricted to sandy wares (Q) and two sherds in smooth clay (S). No sherds diagnostic of form were found, but the fabrics correspond to those from Trenches 2

and 5. The topsoil (6000) in Trench 6A contained 4 sherds (15g), and six crumb-size fragments in fabric Q1 came from the fill of ditch [6006]. Trench 6B produced slightly more material (15 sherds), a few abraded fragments from the subsoil (6301), fill of ditch [6304] and the top fill of ditch [6310]. This small, abraded group of sherds signals a low level of activity in this area of the hilltop during the Iron Age.

Trench 8

A small collection of 21 sherds (154g) of prehistoric pottery was recovered from ditch [8003]. Some 18 body sherds (140g), in fabrics Q1, Q2, Q6 and S1, are attributed to the ditch cut number [8003]. Fill (8004) of the ditch contained 3 body sherds (14g) in fabrics Q6 and S1. All of the pottery is heavily abraded and all that can be gleaned from this material is that there was some limited prehistoric activity in this area of the ditch when it was open.

Trench 10

Some 26 body sherds (139g) of heavily worn later prehistoric pottery were recovered from enclosure ditches [10003] and [10020]. Four well-smoothed sherds in S1 from ditch [10020] belonged to fineware bowls probably dating to the 5th – 3rd centuries BC. The assemblage otherwise consisted of handmade sandy wares of Middle-Late Iron Age date. Very little can be deduced from this small collection, apart from observing that, like in Trench 8, the paucity of pottery suggests low levels of domestic activity occurred in the vicinity of the ditches as they were filling.

Trench 12

Only 152 highly abraded prehistoric sherds (1315g) were recovered from Trench 12. The average sherd weight of just less than 9g for this group testifies to the high levels of fragmentation. Just over 40% by count and weight is in shelly ware SH1, whilst flint-tempered fabrics F1 and F2 contribute 31 sherds (227g), sandy wares Q1, Q2 and Q4 contribute 20 sherds (212g) and smooth clays S1 and S2, 37 sherds (336g). The wide fabric range may indicate that the pottery arrived at this location as residual material over a prolonged period, and/or from several parts of the Iron Age settlement.

The great majority (100 sherds/839g) came from the topsoil (12000), including a shouldered, upright jar (JB2) in fabric S2, one of only two diagnostic sherds found in

this trench. Much of the rest of the pottery was residual within Roman deposits. Destruction level (12014) produced 12 Iron Age sherds (171g) and layers (12017) and (12026), associated with sarsen structure [12007], yielded 24 sherds (204g). Of the mere eight sherds (47g) from a 2nd century Roman deposit, one is from another type JB2 jar rim.

Trench 13

The only Iron Age pottery from Trench 13 was recovered from the topsoil (13000). This amounted to 177 sherds (170 taking into account refits), weighing 1357g. The average sherd weight of the group is only 7.6g and extreme abrasion is the norm. The fabric range includes flint-tempered wares F1 and F2 (10 sherds/92g), sandy wares Q1 (60 sherds/321g) and Q2 (31 sherds/212g), smooth clay S2 (4 sherds/70g), shelly ware SH1 (71/650g) and a single sherd (12g) in fabric L1.

A small but conspicuous component of this (unstratified) group is a collection of fragments of straight-sided pots in glauconitic sandy wares. They are a perfect match to saucepan pots of the Middle Iron Age Yarnbury - Highfield tradition, originating in the Wiltshire region (Cunliffe 2005, 104; Figure A:17) and common in parts of Hampshire, including Danebury and its environs (Brown 1984, 308; 1991, 288; Williams and Mandibba 1984, Fiche 8: D13-E3). The shallow-tooled arc device preferred by the potters of this tradition is apparent on one of the rims (Figure 4.8, no. 55, page 94). These vessels were probably imported from the Wiltshire region during 3rd – 2nd centuries BC, but it is unclear how the remnants ended up in the topsoil in this part of the site. They may have lain in the top fills of some of the unexcavated pits in the trench.

Trench 14

Most of the 84 (782g) abraded prehistoric sherds from Trench 14 were recovered from the topsoil (14000). This unstratified assemblage included a globular jar fragment (JC1) in fabric Q5, possibly a Hampshire import, and a long-necked jar fragment (JB2) in fabric Q2, along with a jar fragment in rare oolitic clay L1. Pit [14013] produced a mere 3 body sherds (43g) in fabric Q3 and the top fill of unexcavated feature [14015] yielded 8 body sherds (44g) in fabrics Q2 and SH1.

Trench 15

Few archaeological deposits were exposed in Trench 15. A few residual prehistoric sherds (79 sherds/574g) were present in Roman layers (15002) and (15003.) A rare flint-tempered body sherd came from (15003) and a fragment of a crudely finished upright rim jar (JB2) in fabric Q2 came from (15002).

Trench 17

Roman destruction layers (17005) and (17008) in Trench 17 incorporated small quantities of residual Iron Age pottery, amounting to only 14 sherds (206g), in a range of fabrics including shelly, sandy and smooth finewares. The only diagnostic sherd is a fairly well-finished rim fragment of a type JB2 jar in fabric S2.

Trench 20

Trench 20 produced 229 sherds, weighing 5454g and representing a maximum of 58 vessels, taking into account conjoining sherds. Most of the prehistoric pottery was recovered from ditches [20001, 20803, 20882, 20502 = 20505], enclosure ditch [20823] and outer ditch [20862]. Three Iron Age pits [20752, 20753, 20754] yielded together only 13 sherds. Single sherds were recovered from one posthole [20511] and the topsoil (20000).

All three pits had single fills, together yielding 188g of pottery in a generally fragmented and abraded condition. In most cases only body sherds in a range of fabric groups Q, S and SH were present. Pit [20754] produced the largest assemblage of only six sherds (93g), which included a footring base fragment in fabric S, probably belonging to a fineware bowl, along with a lug in shell-tempered fabric.

The pottery from the ditches was also much abraded. A sandy ware (Q4) rim fragment, probably from a saucepan pot (PB1), came from the upper fill of enclosure ditch [20001]. Ditch [20502 = 20505] was the most prolific. Nine sherds belonging to a shell-tempered type JB2 jar came from its top fill (20503), along with a small sandy ware rim fragment of a type JC1. A near complete ovoid jar (JC2) in sandy ware Q2, also in fill (20503), was either broken immediately prior to deposition, or had been placed whole and subsequently collapsed under the weight of overburden

(Figure 4.8, no. 52, page 94). Whatever the case, it is clear that the large fragments were deliberately placed in the ditch fill, although not in the terminal.

Three conjoining shell-tempered body sherds (193g) from posthole [20511] belonged to the wall of a large jar, and may simply represent a convenient addition to the chalk packing material.

The chronological signature of the prehistoric pottery from this trench is essentially Middle-Late Iron Age, although the JB2 jar from ditch [20502] has an earlier stylistic derivation. The complete ovoid jar from the same ditch could have been produced into the Late Iron Age.

Trench 21

Only 12 prehistoric abraded, undiagnostic body sherds (40g) were recovered from Trench 21. The fill of pit [21109] produced a 4g fragment of shell-tempered ware (SH1) and ditch [21111] yielded a 3g sherd in the same fabric, along with 10 sherds (33g) in fabric S1.

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