Chapter 7: The middle Neolithic

Introduction (Fig. 7.1)

Small quantities of middle Neolithic pottery (Mortlake and Fengate Ware) were recovered from the early Neolithic midden sites in Areas 6 and 10 (these deposits and finds of Ebbsfleet Ware from them are discussed in Chapter 5). Evidence for middle Neolithic activity in these areas was, however, much more limited than that for earlier Neolithic activity. As well as pottery from the fills of the hollows in both areas and an artefact scatter in Area 10, the evidence for middle Neolithic activity included more exceptional elements. In Area 6, two middle Neolithic inhumations, one of an adult female and one of a child, were found, and in Area 10 two cattle burials were uncovered. All of these burials have been dated to the middle Neolithic by radiocarbon dating.

Exceptional finds, including a human skull, a cattle skull and antler, were also recovered from the former Thames channel in a watching brief near to Areas Ex1-3.

Plate 7.1 Burial 5587

In contrast to the earlier Neolithic, however, middle Neolithic activity was evidenced most extensively by finds from pits. Unlike the generally isolated earlier Neolithic pits, the middle Neolithic pits often occur in small groups or pairs. The largest collection of pits, comprising two groups as well as isolated examples, was found at Lake End Road West, but smaller groups were found at Taplow Mill Sites 1 and 2 and Marsh Lane East Site 1. Further possible examples were found in Area 16 and in Area 10. These pits contained varying assemblages of pottery, worked flint, burnt stone, animal bone, charred plant remains, charcoal and fired clay. The substyles of Peterborough Ware to which the pottery could be attributed varied. Most of the pottery at Lake End Road West was Mortlake Ware whilst at Taplow Mill the pottery consisted of Fengate Ware. Both substyles were represented at Marsh Lane East Site 1.

Comparable finds were also recovered from treethrow holes in Areas 6, 10 and 16 and at Taplow Mill Site 1, but such deposits were less numerous than they had been in the earlier Neolithic.

Further evidence of activity in the middle Neolithic is provided by residual finds from trenches around Areas 20 and 24, and, perhaps, by a middle or late Neolithic flint scatter in Area 3.

Area 6: Middle Neolithic inhumations and other evidence

Introduction

The evidence of activity during the middle Neolithic in Area 6 was much less extensive than that for the earlier Neolithic. Apart from the early/middle and middle Neolithic material recovered from the midden deposits and other features discussed above (Chapter 5), two inhumations are the only features which date from this period (Figs 7.2-3).

The inhumations (Fig. 7.3)

The first of the inhumations (5588) was located just over 2m south-east of a later ring ditch by the northern edge of the hollow. The grave measured 1.47m by 0.66m, had rounded ends and was orientated WSW-ENE. It contained the remains (5587) of an adult female of 25-30 years of age, lying on her right side in a crouched position with her head to the west (Plate 7.1). The grave had been slightly truncated by later ploughing. This had caused some damage to the skeleton, but the bone remained in sufficiently good condition for radio-

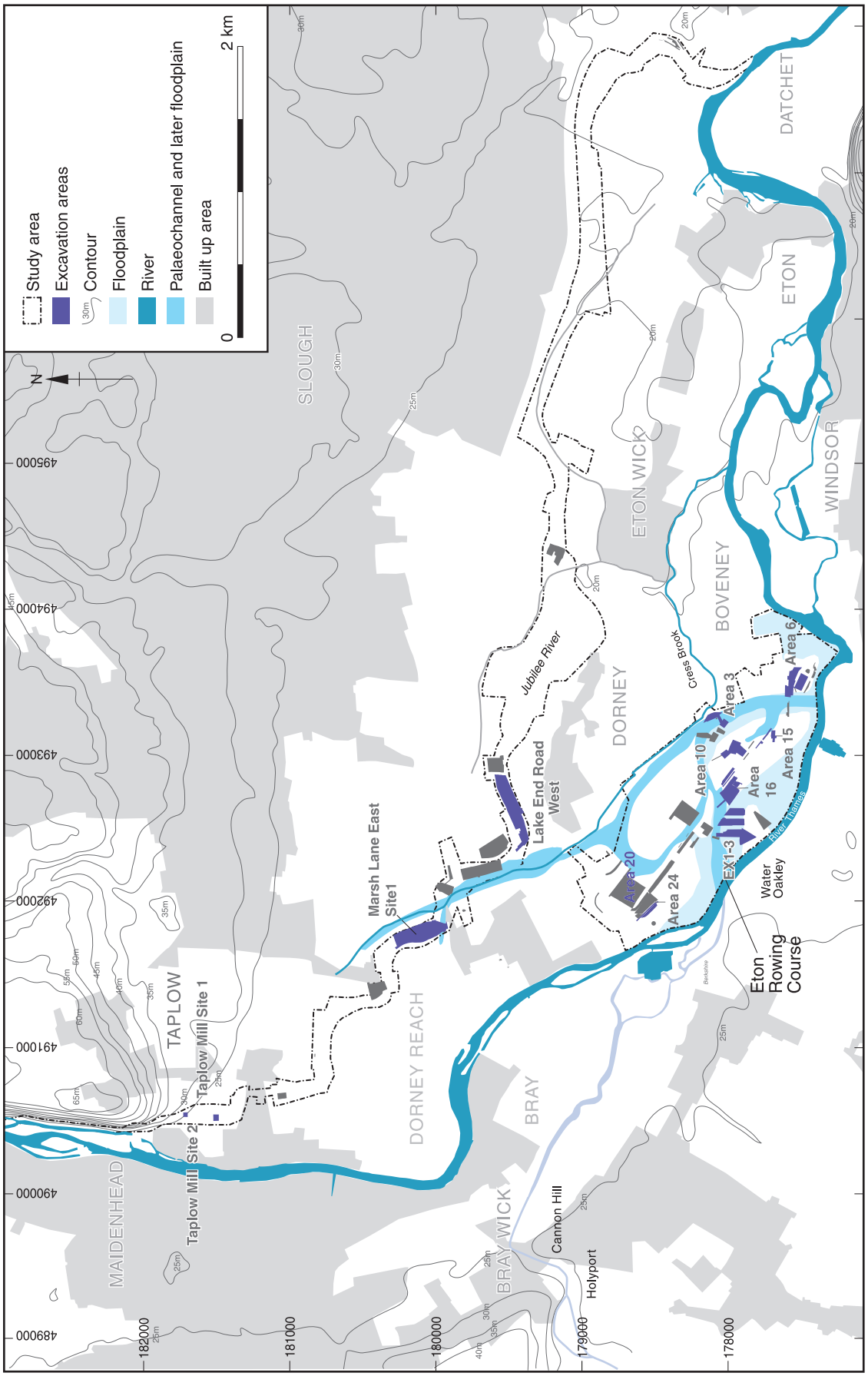


Fig. 7.1 Location of sites discussed in Chapter 7 (Crown copyright 2013 Ordnance Survey 100005569)

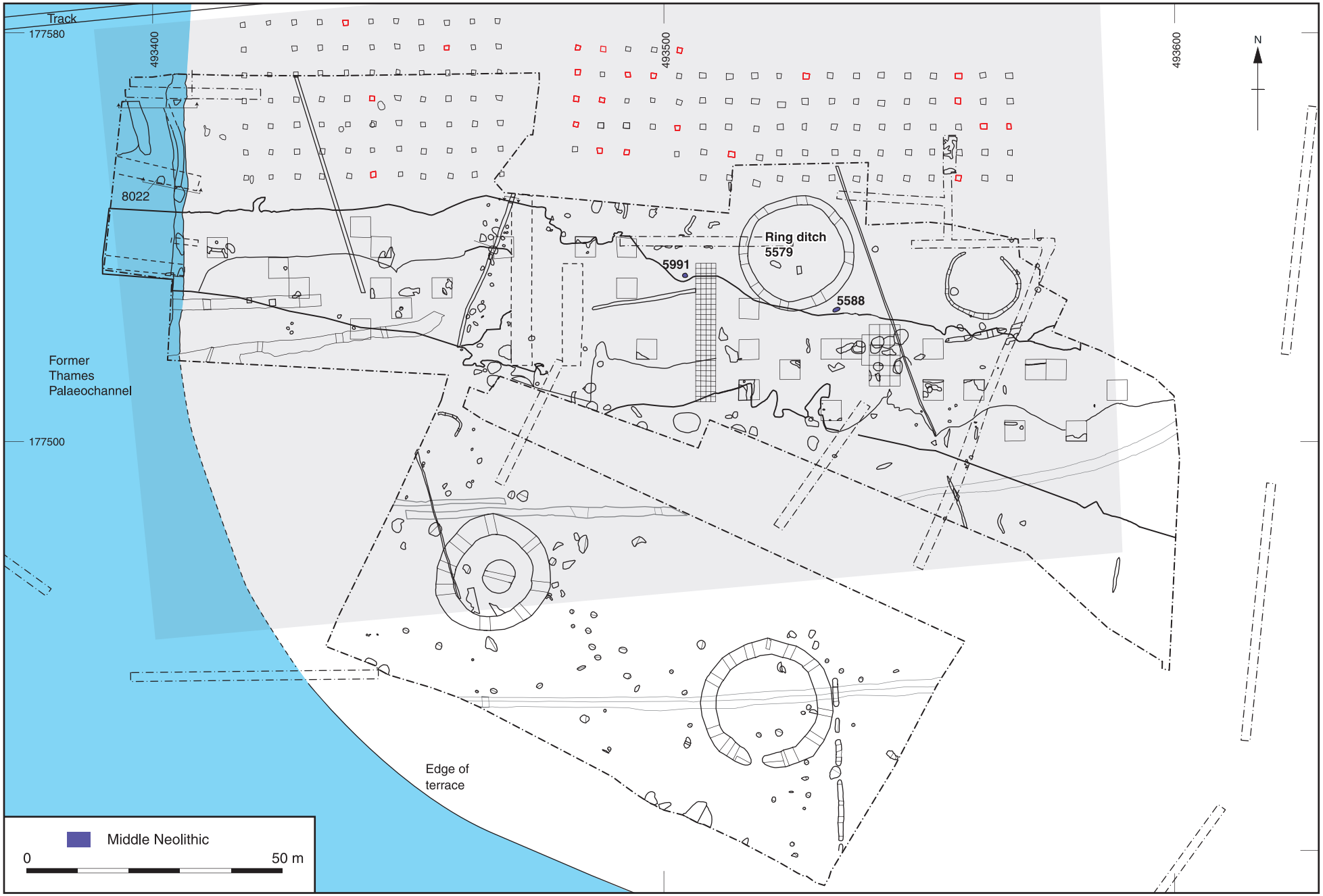


Fig. 7.2 Location of middle Neolithic burials in Area 6

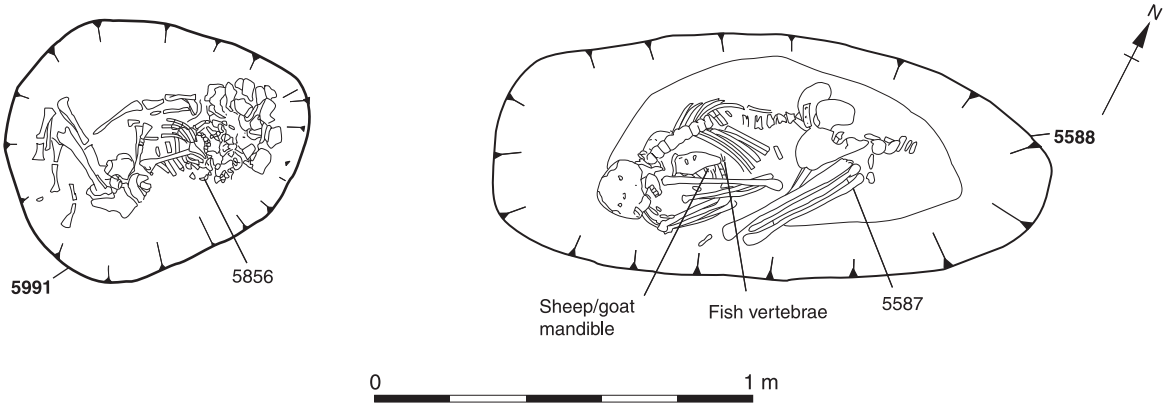


Fig. 7.3 Plans of middle Neolithic burials in Area 6

carbon dating. A middle Neolithic date of 3370-2930 cal BC (BM-3173: 4500±60 BP) was obtained for the inhumation. The grave also contained 5 flint flakes and blades, a sheep/goat mandible, a pike vertebra, and an iron nail. While the nail, found on the edge of the cut, had been introduced by plough disturbance, the animal bones are more likely to have been deliberately placed in the grave as they were found close to the body between the ribs and arms.

The second of the graves (5991) was found around 30m further west, just over 11m to the WSW of the ring ditch. This grave was also cut into Pleistocene deposits within 1m of the northern edge of the hollow. It was also aligned ENE-WSW, but was smaller and more rounded in plan than the first grave, measuring 0.80m by 0.67m across and 0.10m deep. The skeleton (5856) of an infant, around 5 years old, was also crouched and lay on its right side, though the head was at the eastern end of the grave (Plate 7.2). Radiocarbon analysis of a bone from this skeleton yielded a similar date of 3330-2900 cal BC (BM-3170: 4400±50 BP). A single flint flake was the only artefact recovered from grave fill (5992). This deposit consisted of friable, mid yellow brown silty sand with a little gravel very similar to the local substrate.

Plate 7.2 Burial 5856

The middle Neolithic flint from Area 6
by Hugo Anderson-Whymark

A total of six flints were recovered from contexts phased to the middle Neolithic. A further 8 flints were recovered from features possibly of middle Neolithic date (Table 7.1). The flint from the graves was recovered from the backfill and is likely to have been residual rather than representing deliberately deposited grave goods.

In addition to this small assemblage, a number of diagnostic pieces of mid to late Neolithic flint where identified, forming a residual element in later assemblages. The diagnostic flints include the base of an oblique arrowhead and three chisel arrowheads.

Middle Neolithic human remains from Area 6
by Angela Boyle and Peter Hacking

Two burials were located just outside ring ditch 5579. Skeleton 5587 was a crouched adult female aged 25-30 years with radiocarbon date of 3370-2930 cal BC (BM-3173: 4500±60 BP). Skeleton 5856 was a child aged approximately 5 years with a radiocarbon date of 3330-2900 cal BC (BM-3170: 4400±50 BP). The ring ditch itself may have been later in date.

The stature of the adult skeleton was estimated to be 1.57m. It exhibited a soundly united 'parry' fracture of the distal right ulna. Degenerative joint disease affected the coronoid and well as the right first metacarpo-phalangeal joint.

Table 7.1 Struck flint from middle Neolithic, late Neolithic and possibly Neolithic features in Area 6

		Middle Neolithic			*Middle Neolithic?*	*Late Neolithic*	*Neolithic*		*Neolithic?*		*Grand total*
		Grave		*TTH*	*Feature*	*TTH*	*TTH*	*Layer*	*TTH*	*Finds ref.*	
CATEGORY TYPE	*Context*	*5588*		*11244*	*5811*	*5303*	*5296*	*8020*	*11060*	*5566*	
Flake		2	1	10	4	10	2	31	7	32	99
Blade		1		3	1	3	1	2		5	16
Bladelet				1	1	1				2	5
Blade-like		1				1	1	4	2	3	12
Chip		1			2				1	1	5
Irregular waste				1				1			2
Rejuvenation flake core face/edge								3			3
Bipolar blade core				1							1
Tested nodule/bashed lump										1	1
Multiplatform flake core							a			4	4
Levallois/other discoidal flake core						1					1
Leaf arrowhead										1	1
End scraper							1				1
Serrated flake						1				2	3
Retouched flake				1				1		15	17
Hammerstone									1		1
Grand total		5	1		8	17	5	42	11	66	172
Burnt unworked flint (g)		5	0	0	0	0	0	125	220	0	350
Burnt no. (%) (exc. chips)		0	0	0	0	0	1	4 (9.5)	0	0	5
Broken no. (%) (exc. chips)		2	0	0	0	4	1	20 (47.6)	4	20 (30.8)	51
Retouched no. (%) (exc. chips)		0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	18 (27.7)	23

Enamel hypoplasia affected the dentition of skeleton 5587. The condition is a developmental defect in the enamel which can be related to generalised disturbances during the growth period. Although a number of workers have defined methods for estimating the timing of enamel defects (eg Schultz and McHenry 1975; Goodman *et al.* 1980) there are drawbacks and these are discussed elsewhere (Goodman and Rose 1990; Hillson 1996, 172-176). Skeleton 5587 exhibited four episodes of arrested growth between the ages of 2 and 5 years.

Calculus was present on the dentition of skeleton 5587. Calculus is mineralised dental plaque, which accumulates at the base of a living plaque deposit, and is attached to the surface of the tooth. The mineral is deposited from plaque fluid, but ultimately derives from the saliva, and the sites closest to the ducts of the salivary glands – lingual surfaces of anterior teeth and buccal surfaces of molars – show the most abundant calculus formation. It is still unclear how plaque mineralisation is initiated, although bacteria probably have an important role (Hillson 1996, 255-6).

The fifth lumbar vertebra of skeleton 5587 had a separate neural arch, the condition known as spondylolysis. The overall prevalence of spondylolysis in modern populations is 3-7% (Resnick and Niwayama 1981, 2253). The favoured interpretation of the defect is a stress or fatigue fracture that fails to heal (Resnick and Niwayama 1981, 2253). However, it may also be caused by a genetic weakness (Hensinger 1989). There is no doubt that genetic influence is important and there are families in which a quarter of the members have spondylolysis, frequently associated with other congenital abnormalities of the spine such as transitional vertebrae or spina bifida (Shahriaree *et al.* 1979; Fredrickson *et al.* 1984). Clinical and experimental evidence, however, tends to support the view that these lesions are acquired as the result of trauma sustained between infancy and early adult life (Waldron 1991, 64). In his comparison of Roman and Anglo-Saxon groups with the 18th- and 19th-century assemblage from Christ Church, Spitalfields, Waldron (1991, 64) found that the condition was much less prevalent in the latter group and suggested that this may be one indication of a lifestyle that was much less arduous or physically demanding as compared with earlier populations in Britain. There is no evidence for spondylolisthesis which is the term used for displacement of the affected bones.

Area 6, Skeleton 5587, grave 5588

Preservation and completeness: almost complete, condition good
Age: 25-30 y
Sex: F
Stature: 1.57 m

Skeletal pathology: parry fracture
Dental pathology: enamel hypoplasia, calculus
Discontinuous traits: spondylolysis of lv5, left os acromiale
Dentition:

8 7 6 5 4 3 2 X X 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 / / 3 4 5 6 7 8

Skeleton exhibits soundly united 'parry' fracture of the distal right ulna. Enamel hypoplasia of three lower front teeth indicates four episodes of arrested growth between 2 and 5 years, mild to moderate dental calculus.

Area 6, Skeleton 5856, grave 5856

Preservation and completeness: condition fair, largely complete, missing metapodials
Age: 5-6 y
Sex: -
Dentition:

U U
- - - - - - - a b c d e 6 7
- - - - - - - - - c d e 6 7
U U

Middle Neolithic animal bone from Area 6
by Gillian Jones

The assemblage of animal bone from Area 6 which can be dated to the middle Neolithic is small (Table 5.32). Two animal bones were associated with the burial in grave 5588: part of a sheep or goat mandible and a bone from pike (a precaudal vertebral centrum from a fish 0.6 – 0.8m long). The sheep/goat mandible has the first molar at Payne's stage 8A and the second molar at 2A, which suggests an age at death of 10 to 13 months, based on eruption and wear in teeth of modern sheep, including primitive breeds (Jones 2006) or a little older if it was a goat (Deniz and Payne 1982). Assuming a normal spring birth in late March to early May, the animal is likely to have died in the following late winter or spring, which suggests the season when the grave was dug.

Worked antler from Area 6 *by Tim Allen*

A fragment of a perforated antler tool and an antler tine with a worked end were recovered from the layer sealing the hollow (context 11200) containing the early Neolithic midden in Area 6.

The first object consisted of a fragmentary antler-base mattock or macehead formed from the base of a shed red deer antler (Fig. 7.4, 4). Only the base and burr of the antler survives (surviving length 47mm; diameter of burr 79mm). It has been broken across the middle of a probably circular hole some 28-30mm in diameter. The hole is 20mm from the shed base at one side and 34mm from the other. The interior surface of the antler along the side of the hole is worn smooth.

The second object consists of a fragment of an antler beam with an obliquely cut surface at one end (Fig. 7.4, 3). Although only fragmentary, the width of the surviving fragment, and the transverse curve, show that this is part of the beam, not from a tine. The cut surface is flat and worn, but does not extend right across the fragment, indicating either that the object was unfinished, or that wear was uneven across the oblique surface. The even, flat surface may indicate that the fragment was sawn, and so is of late prehistoric or later date, or could be the result of wear.

Few antler mattocks have been found in securely stratified contexts, and the examples from the Eton Rowing Course are no exception. The fragmentary tool from Area 6 came from a layer sealing the *in situ* early Neolithic midden deposits. This layer contained many early Neolithic artefacts but also small quantities of later Neolithic and early Bronze Age pottery.

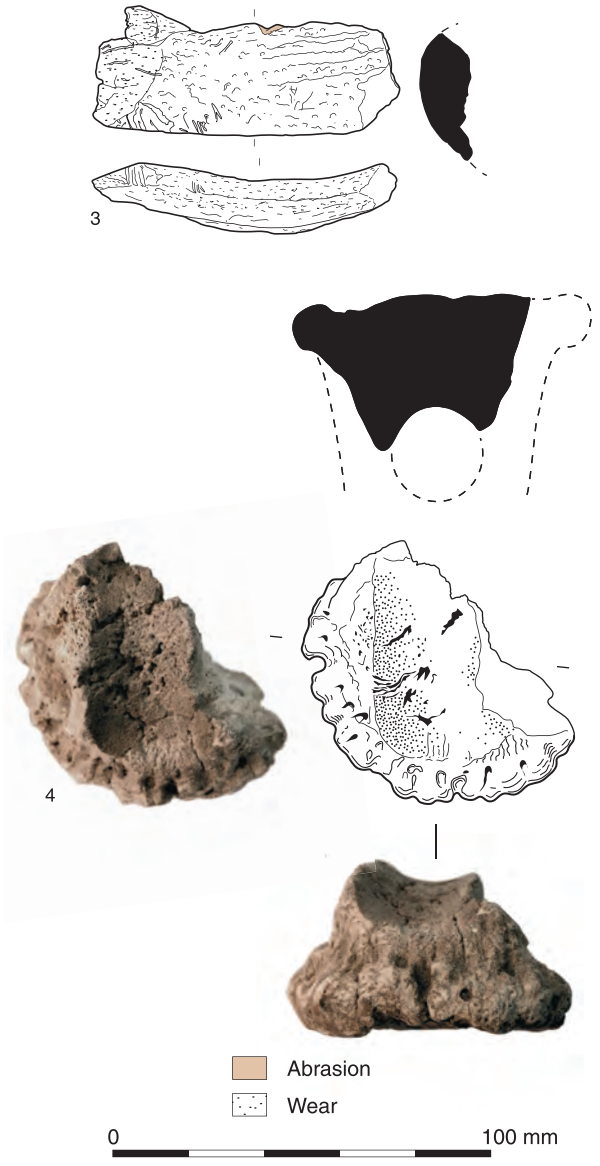


Fig. 7.4 Worked antler objects from Area 6

The dating of these objects is, therefore, not very secure, but such dating evidence as there is fits with the typological framework suggested by AMS dating of antler mattocks in the late 1980s. As has been discussed above, the 10 dated antler mattocks examined by Smith and Bonsall (1990, table 3) fell into two distinct groups, the antler beam mattocks dating to the Mesolithic, while antler-base mattocks were late Neolithic or early Bronze Age. The earliest of the antler-base examples was dated to 2900-2490 cal BC (4140 ± 70 BP) – firmly in the 3rd millennium BC.

It is possible that the antler-base perforated tool was not a mattock but an antler macehead of the 'crown' type discussed and catalogued by Simpson (Simpson 1996). The diameter of the burr of the Eton example, which is estimated to be 240-250mm, falls at the top of the range (160-250mm) indicated by Simpson, and the diameter of the hole is also towards the upper end of the range (18-36mm). The smoothness of the hole would suggest that, like most of this type, the hole was made with a drill. 'Crown' antler maceheads are very strongly concentrated in the Middle and Lower Thames Valley, Windsor representing the uppermost previous limit of the type along the river (Simpson 1996, fig. 3). Most of these come from the river itself. The small number of maceheads from dated contexts around the country are associated with Middle (Peterborough Ware) and Late Neolithic (Grooved Ware) contexts (Simpson 1996, 297-8).

Antler mattocks were presumably attached to roundwood hafts, and may have been used for a variety of purposes, such as digging out roots and tubers and excavating flint from the river bank. All but one of the antler maceheads from dry ground contexts have been from burials (Simpson 1996, 297). The deposition of the possible Eton example may then have been carried out in association with, or with reference to, the Middle Neolithic burials found adjacent to the hollow, as may the fragmentary stone shafthole adze (SF 83500; see Chapter 5) also found within this layer.

Area 10: middle Neolithic cattle burials, artefacts scatters and other evidence *by Tim Allen, Anne Marie Cromarty and Ken Welsh*

The hollow in Area 10 contained a significant number of middle Neolithic finds (Fig. 5.55). Since most of the finds from the hollow were early Neolithic, it is described in Chapter 5. A number of the more clearly defined deposits – an artefact scatter, two cattle burials, and perhaps a pit – can, however, be more certainly dated to the middle Neolithic, and are described here (Fig. 7.5).

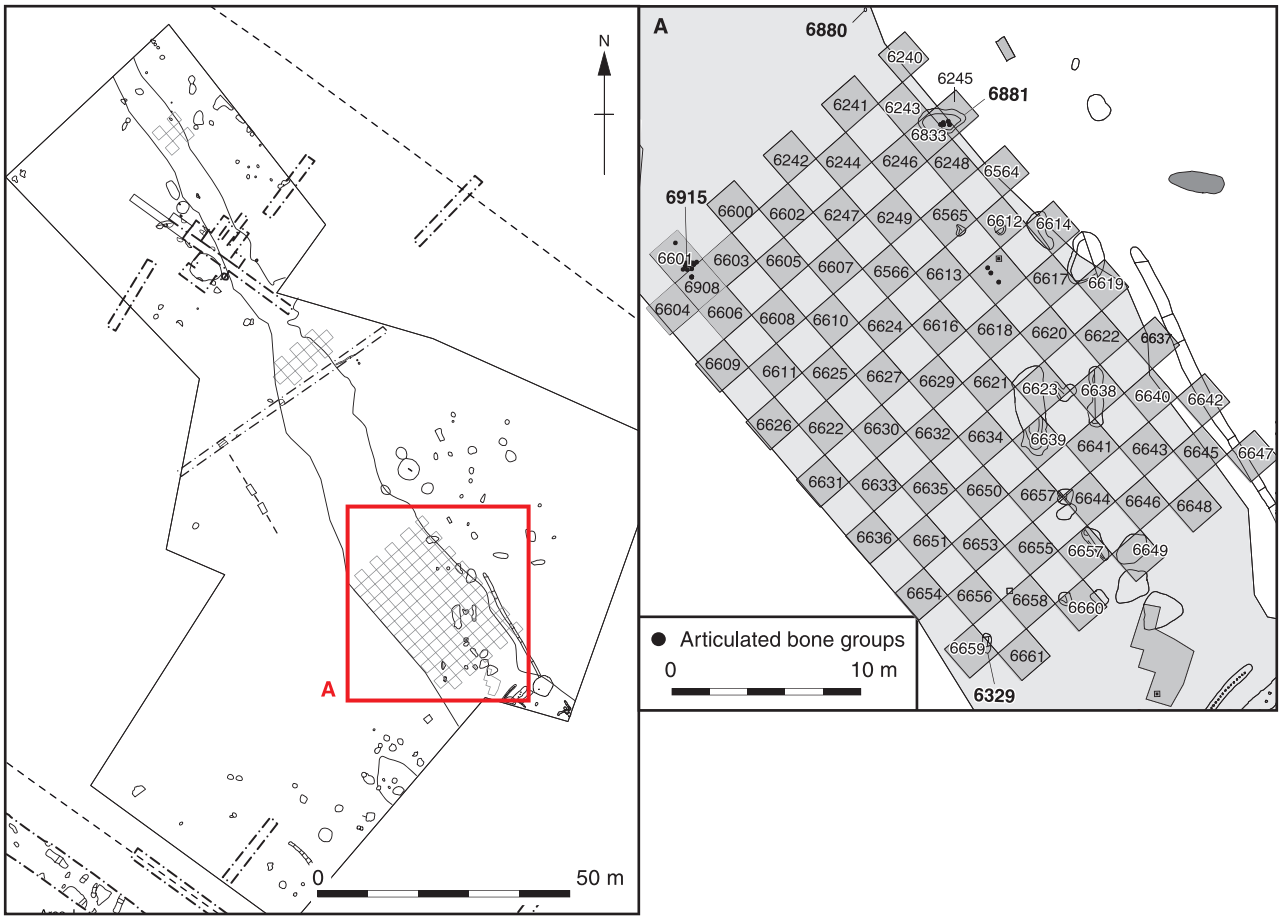


Fig. 7.5 Location of middle Neolithic features and deposits in Area 10

Scatter 6880

An artefact scatter covering an area of roughly 4m^2 was found on the north-eastern edge of the hollow and just north-west of the main area of excavated squares (Fig. 7.5). Here the surface deposits were darker than they were elsewhere in layer 6331. The scatter consisted principally of flint flakes, but also included a number of pottery sherds. A total of 194 pieces of worked flint and 29 pottery sherds were assigned to this context, but this included 6 pot sherds and 44 flints within the lower stratum of deposit 6331, which need not necessarily have been part of the scatter within the top layer of 6331. The 150 flints within this scatter included a few examples of flakes that appeared to have been struck off the same nodule. Refitting was attempted on the whole assemblage and two distinct groups of flint were identified, but only a single knapping refit was located between two flakes; a conjoin was also made on an old break. The scatter is therefore considered either to have had a large number of flakes removed or to represent a dump containing some knapping debris. A middle Neolithic date is suggested for this scatter on the basis of some diagnostic types. This date agrees with that suggested by the potsherds, almost all of which are worn and abraded early Neolithic sherds, but which include one undamaged middle Neolithic sherd (11g). The residue upon one of the potsherds, SF 40929, was dated to 3510-3090 cal BC (OxA-10206: 4565±60 BP).

Animal burials within the hollow

Partial cattle skeletons were found within layer 6331 (skeleton 6915) in squares 6601 and 6908 and within tree-throw hole 6881 (Figs 7.5-7). A radiocarbon dates of 3490-3020 cal BC (BM-3188: 4530±50 BP) was obtained from the skeleton (6915) in layer 6331, placing it in the middle Neolithic. Insufficient collagen survived in the second skeleton for a date to be obtained. Both of these skeletons have been described in more detail with the other animal bone from the hollow in Chapter 5.

A possibly middle Neolithic pit

Middle Neolithic pottery within the hollow was concentrated at its south-eastern end (Fig. 5.55). A small pit, 6329 (Figs 7.5 and 7.7), which was cut into the hollow in this area, contained two middle Neolithic sherds, and may have been a middle Neolithic feature. The only bone from this feature was a beaver scapula, and given the absence of beaver from the former Thames channel within the Eton Rowing Course after the early-middle Bronze Age, this perhaps supports an early date for this feature.

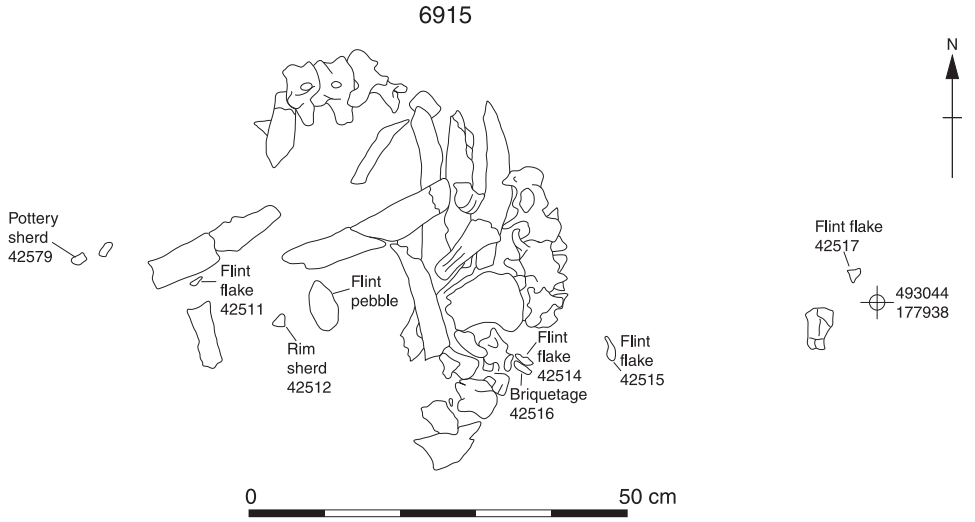


Fig. 7.6 Partial animal skeleton 6915 in Area 10 hollow, square 6601

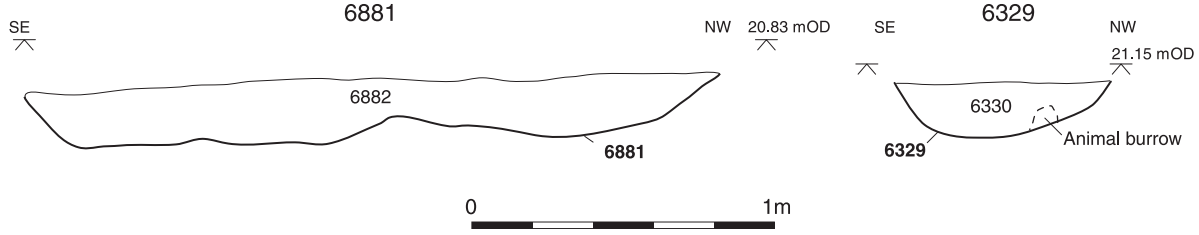


Fig. 7.7 Sections of Neolithic features 6881 and 6329 within the Area 10 hollow

Middle Neolithic pottery from Area 10
by Alistair Barclay

Introduction

In total some 64 sherds (352g) of middle Neolithic pottery was recorded from Area 10, representing a minimum of five vessels, all of which can be assigned to the Mortlake substyle of the Peterborough ware tradition (Plate 7.3). Most of the pottery (81 %) came from layers within the hollow, while almost all of the remainder represented redeposited material recovered from features of later date (Table 7.2). Nine middle Neolithic fabrics were identified (grog-tempered: GA2/MN, GFA2/MN; sand-tempered: AF/MN; and flint-tempered: F2/MN, F3/MN, FA1/MN, FA2/MN, FA3/MN, FG2/MN).

Forms and decoration

A minimum of five vessels are represented by rim sherds, while up to an additional 17 vessels could be represented by decorated body sherds (Figs 7.8, 87-95 and 7.9, 96-108). These vessels can all be placed within the Mortlake substyle and include an internally expanded rim (P87), a T-shaped rim (P90), a group of sherds that form bowl P91, an externally expanded rim (P96) and the group of sherds that form vessel P102. It is possible that many of the remaining illustrated sherds derive from Mortlake style bowls (P88-9, 92-5, 97-101, 103-8) with the possible exception of P104, 106 and 107 that are just as likely to belong to the Ebbsfleet style.

Mortlake Ware assemblages include a variety of vessel forms: dish, cup, bowl and jar shapes. However, most assemblages are dominated by bowl forms that have a rim diameter size range of 100mm to 500mm. Bowl forms tend to be hemisperical, although occasional deeper bowls and true jars (where the height exceeds the rim diameter) occur. Despite the generally fragmentary nature of the Area 10 assemblage it is possible to assign vessel types to some of the material. P91 may have been a

Table 7.2 A breakdown of all the Peterborough Ware pottery from Area 10 by context

CONTEXT	*SF*	*Fabric*	*NoSh*	*WT*	*Cat No*	*Comment*
6244, spit2	32705		3	15g	P87	Includes a decorated rim
6246, spit 2		F	1	3g		Whipped cord maggot imp.
6270		FA	1	16g		
6311		FG2	1	2g		
6330		FA2	1	3g		Twisted cord decoration on interior surface
6349		AF2	1	4g		Incised decoration
6352		F	1	8g		
6368		GA2	1	3g		Whipped cord maggot imp.
6399		GFA2	1	5g		
6414		F2	1	1g		
6425		F	1	10g		Imp. Decorated rim
6565	41599, 31560, 31037, 31246-7, 31559, 31037,31023,	F3, FA2-3	7	35g	P88-9, P90, P92	Includes decorated rim, body and shoulder sherds
6565, spit 2	31241 and 32659		2	17g	P91	
6566	32516 and 32519	FA2	2	12g	P93	Decorated body sherds
6566, spit 2	32492 and 32526	F2	2	13g	P91	Rim and body sherds
6613	32387-8, 32393, 32406 and 32409	FA1-3	5	30	P94-8	Decorated rim and four decorated body sherds
6615	31957, 32335, 32337, 32340, 32376-7, 32380 and 32382-3	F1-2, FA1 and FA3	13	63g	P90, P100-1	Two decorated rims and decorated body sherds
6615, spit 2	32333, 32365, 32841-2, and 32845-7	F2, FA2-3	7	47g	P99, P102	Decorated rim and decorated body sherds
6618, spit 2	32311	FA3	1	6g	P103	Decorated body shed
6621	31654 and 31668	AF2, FA3	2	10g	P104	Decorated body sherds
6621, spit 2	32738	AF2	1	1g		Decoration same as 31654
6639, spit 3	41843	FA3	1	8g	P105	Finger tip imp. Rows
6641, spit 2	42248	FA2	1	3g	P106	Whipped cord maggot imp.
6655, spit 2	41755	FA3	1	3g	P107	Incised
6754	40392 and 40460	AF2, FA2	2	8g		Decorated body sherds
6829		F2	1	2g		Imp. cord maggot
6880	40884	F3	1	11g	P108	Whipped cord maggot imp.
6893, spit 2	42133	F	1	2g		Whipped cord maggot imp.
Total			64	352g		

Plate 7.3 Peterborough Ware sherd from Area 10

relatively shallow bowl of hemispherical form, and it is possible that P88, P90 and P96 belonged to similar vessels. In contrast, P102 was a more substantial vessel, either a deep bowl or jar. Some of the sherds decorated with impressed finger-tipping, line or chord (P94, 98-9, 100, 105) could also come from larger bowls or jars.

Only Vessel P91 deserves addition comment. The design on this vessel is an example of how complex decoration can sometimes be on Mortlake style vessels. It is decorated with a wide variety of techniques. This can be seen in Fig. 7.8, 91, which also shows how the overall decorative pattern changes both on the rim and on the body. The neck ridges found on this vessel as well as on P91 appear to be a common feature of Mortlake style bowls found in the middle and lower Thames valley (eg Staines Road, Shepperton: Jones 2008).

Discussion

It is likely that most of the Area 10 Peterborough Ware would fall within the period 3300-2800 cal BC, and, with the possible exception of a few Ebbsfleet style sherds, should post-date the general currency

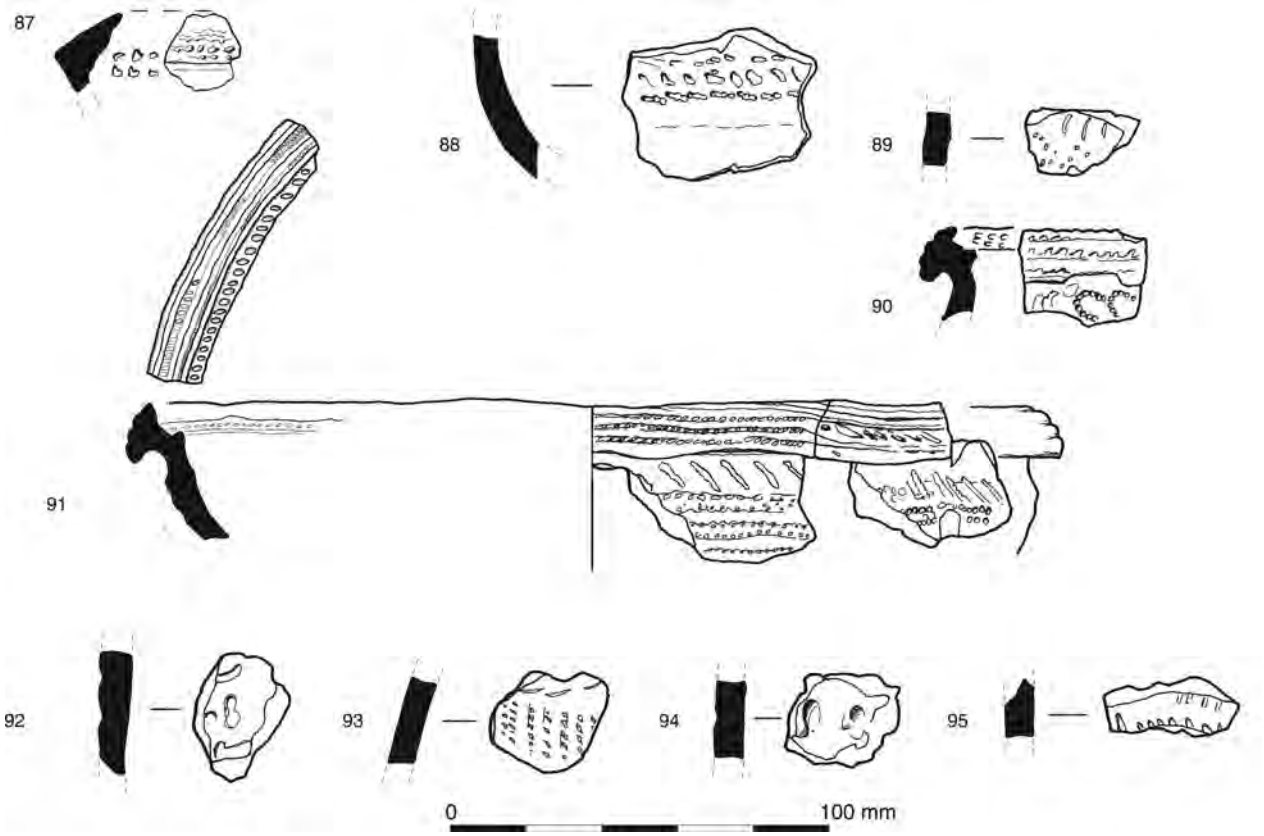


Fig. 7.8 Area 10 middle Neolithic pottery

of early Neolithic Bowl. Within the Eton Rowing Course project small assemblages of Peterborough ware have been found, most of which have been recovered from surface occupation spreads. Area 6 also produced a small assemblage of Peterborough ware (92 sherds, 439g, representing a minimum of ten vessels). This was dominated by Ebbsfleet Ware but included at least three Mortlake vessels and a single Fengate vessel. Like Area 6, the activity within the Area 10 hollow could represent small-scale reuse of the site for deposition, given the restricted distribution of material and the presence of two fragmentary vessels (P91 and 102).

Catalogue (Figs 7.8-9)

Layers within the Area 10 hollow
SE squares

87 6244, spit 2. SF 32705. Mortlake Ware. Rim fragment decorated on the exterior and interior surfaces with impressed bone (8g). Fabric F2/MN. Firing: ext. brown; core and int. black. Condition average.

88 6565. SF 31023 and 32435. Peterborough Ware. Two refitting sherds from the lower part of a vessel decorated with impressed bone and twisted cord (8g). Fabric F3/MN. Firing: ext. reddish-brown; core black; int. reddish-brown. Condition worn.

89 6565. SF 31247. Peterborough Ware. Body sherd with twisted cord decoration (5g). Fabric FA2/MN. Firing: ext. reddish-brown; core and int. black. Condition average.

90 6565, 6565, spit 3 and 6615, spit 2. SF 31246, 41599 and 32376. Mortlake Ware. Three T-shaped rim sherds (22g) from the same vessel with internal neck ridge. The rim top is decorated with horizontal lines of impressed twisted cord, which have been overprinted with short lengths of twisted cord to form a `barbed wire` type motif. The internal neck zone is decorated with a row of impressions made from the articular end of a small bird or mammal bone. The external neck or cavetto zone is decorated with oblique horseshoe motifs made from twisted cord. Fabric FA3/MN. Firing: ext. reddish-brown; core black; int. black or reddish-brown. Condition average/worn. These sherds are very similar to those that make up P96 and it is possible that they belong to the same vessel.

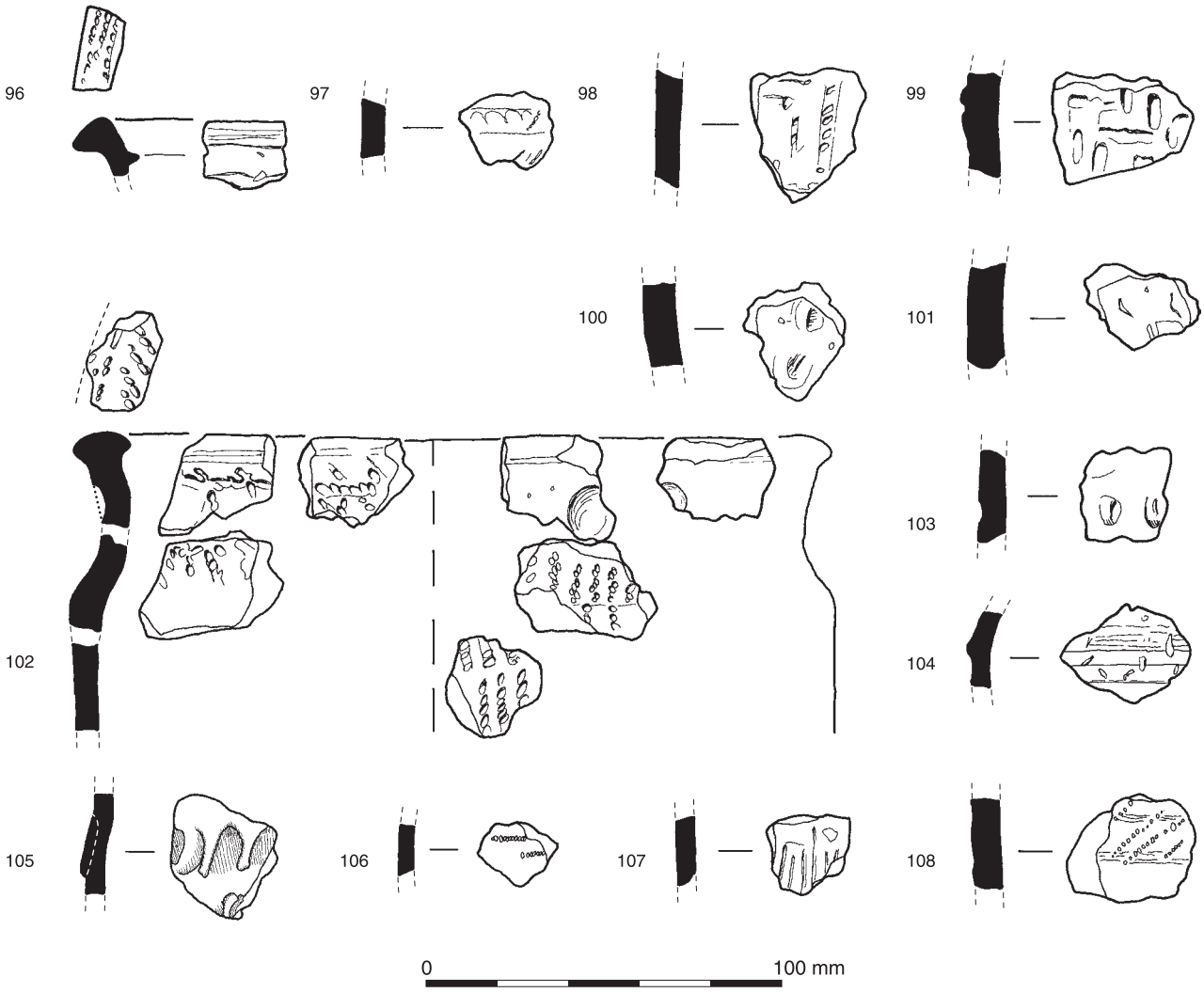


Fig. 7.9 Area 10 middle Neolithic pottery

91 6565, 6565, spit 2 and 6566, spit 2. SF 31008, 31017, 32659 and 32492. Mortlake Ware. Rim and shoulder sherds from a small bowl (5 sherds, 46g). The rim is T-shaped, angled and there is a pronounced internal neck ridge. The rim top is decorated with five horizontal rows of impressed twisted cord. However, this pattern changes to a row of short lengths of oblique cord bounded by rows of cord. The internal neck zone between the rim and cordon carries a single row of impressions made with the articular end of a small bird or mammal bone. The exterior neck or cavetto zone is either decorated with short lengths of oblique cord or is left blank. Where the neck decoration occurs (SF 31008) the body is decorated with horizontal bone rows of bone impressions similar to the ones found on the internal neck zone. The body decoration is arranged in alternate zones with plain bands in between. However, on sherd SF 31017 the decorative pattern changes; the neck zone is plain and oblique cord replaces impressed bone. Fabric FA3/MN. Firing: ext. reddish-brown; core and int. brown. Condition average.

92 6565, spit 3. SF 41599. Peterborough Ware. Body sherd with impressed decoration (2g). Fabric FA3/MN. Firing: ext. reddish-brown; core and int. black. Condition average.

93 6566, spit 2. SF 32516. Peterborough Ware. Body sherd decorated with impressed end-to-end finger-nail and horizontal lines of fine twisted cord (5g). Fabric FA2/MN. Firing: ext. brown; core black; int. reddish-brown. Condition average.

94 6613, spit 2. SF 32387. Peterborough Ware. Body sherd decorated with finger-pinched rustication (7g). Fabric FA3/MN. Firing: reddish-brown throughout. Condition average.

95 6613, spit 2. SF 32388. Peterborough Ware. Body sherd with impressed ?bone decoration (3g). Fabric FA2/MN. Firing: ext. brown; core black; int. brown. Condition average.

96 6613, spit 2. SF 32406. Mortlake ware. Outturned rim with internal neck ridge, decorated with impressed twisted cord (6g). Fabric FA2/MN. Firing: black throughout. Condition average.

97 6613, spit 2. SF 32409. Peterborough Ware. Body sherd with impressed finger-nail and twisted cord decoration (4g). Fabric FA3/MN. Firing: ext. brown; core and int. black. Condition average.

98 6613, spit 2. SF 32393. Peterborough Ware. Body sherd with impressed twisted cord decoration (10g). Fabric FAB3/MN. Firing: ext. reddish-brown; core black; int. brown. Condition average.

99 6615, spit 2. SF 32842 Peterborough Ware. Body sherd with finger-tip impressed decoration (10g). Fabric FA3/MN. Firing: ext. reddish-brown; core and int. brown. Condition average.

100 6615, spit 2. SF 32377. Peterborough Ware. Body sherd with finger-tip impressed decoration (9g). Fabric FA3/MN. Firing: ext. reddish-brown; core and int. brown. Condition average.

101 6615, spit 2. SF 32335. Peterborough Ware. Body sherd with finger-nail impressed decoration (6g). Fabric FA3/MN. Firing: ext. reddish-brown; core and int. black. Interior surface wiped. Condition average. Burnt residues on interior surface.

102 6615, 6615, spit 2. SF 32333 and 32382-3. Peterborough Ware, Mortlake ware. Rim, shoulder and body sherds from a bowl or jar. Fabric FA3/MN. Firing: ext. brown; core black; int. brown. Condition worn.

103 6618, spit 2. SF 32311. Peterborough Ware. Decorated body sherd (6g) with finger-tip rustication. Fabric FA3/MN. Firing: reddish-brown throughout. Condition worn.

104 6621, spit 2. SF 31654 and 32738. Peterborough Ware. Decorated shoulder sherds with barbed wire impressions (6g). Fabric AF2/MN. Firing: black throughout. Condition worn.

105 6639. SF 41843. Peterborough Ware. Body sherd with rusticated finger-tip decoration (8g). Fabric FA3/MN. Firing: reddish-brown throughout. Condition worn.

106 6641, spit 2. SF 42248. Peterborough Ware. Decorated body sherd with whipped cord maggot impressions (3g). Fabric FA2/MN. Firing: black throughout. Condition worn.

107 6655, spit 2. SF 41755. ?Peterborough Ware. Sherd with incised decoration (3g). Fabric FA3/MN. Firing: ext. and core grey; int. brown. Condition average to worn.

Layer 6880

108 6880. SF 40884. Peterborough Ware. Body sherd (11g) decorated with oblique whipped cord maggot impressions. Fabric F3/MN. Firing: ext. reddish-brown; core and int. black. Condition worn.

The watching brief in the former Thames channel: human and cattle skulls and other Middle Neolithic finds *by Tim Allen, Anne Marie Cromarty and Nick Mitchell*

During the watching brief on the former Thames channel in and around Areas Ex1-3, 11 and 1 a number of notable finds, including a human skull and a cattle skull overlain by a large antler, were recovered up to 150m upstream and 200m downstream from Area 1 during the watching brief. Due to the nature of this type of investigation, these finds cannot be tied with much accuracy to the stratigraphy of the channel. However, radiocarbon dates indicate that they date from the middle Neolithic. The skull was almost certainly redeposited, and the animal bones may have belonged to phase 1 or phase 2 of the channel.

Cattle skull (SF 45001) was found adjacent to a large piece of driftwood close to the northern bank of the channel. Radiocarbon analysis yielded a middle Neolithic date of 3370-3020 cal BC (OxA-8815: 4500±50 BP) for this skull. One of the more complete red deer antlers (SF 45000) attributed to this context rested partly upon this skull at the northern side of the large driftwood log. This too was subject to radiocarbon assay in an attempt to determine whether the two were contemporary. It yielded a date of 3330-2910 cal BC (OxA-8752: 4425±40 BP).

Upstream of the cattle skull and close to the same bank, a human skull (SF 45025) was recovered in the watching brief. This skull was dated to 3330-2900 cal BC (OxA-8821: 4410±45 BP). It was identified as an adult male aged upwards of 35 years.

Neolithic animal bones from the watching brief on the former Thames channel *by Gillian Jones*

Much of the cattle skull recovered during the watching brief (SF 45001) was present: the occiput, parietals, part of both frontals, right squamous temporal and part of the left, and the right horncore complete and the left with the tip missing. The skull was fully adult, with sutures obliterated. From the horncore shape, it is thought to be a cow. Using Grigson's (1976) skull shape descriptions and categories, the frontal profile from above showed a slight boss (classification 3), the intercornual ridge a low double arch (2); the horncore was adult (category 4), the length group is long (4), the curvature twisted, and the tip pointed.

Several measurements were possible, and these are shown on Table 5.29, as part of the study of the early Neolithic cattle from Area 6. The horncore basal diameter measurements are at the upper end of the range of the ABMAP Iron Age measurements, but are well below the size of the wild Ullerslev cow. The skull can be identified as domestic, but is of considerable size, particularly given that it is thought to be from a cow.

The red deer antler (SF 45000) was from an '18 point' stag and was the largest antler found at the Rowing Lake, with an overall length of 925mm (Table App 3.7). It was the left side and shed. It was nearly complete and included the base, the brow, bey and trey tines, the lower and upper beams and the complete crown, though broken. The crown was large, with four main points, two of which divide, making a total of six. Another has the base of a new tine, but it is less than 20mm long (and would therefore not be included in the count of points, as defined de Nahlik 1959, 111). Most of de Nahlik's measurements could be taken.

The tip of the longest crown tine has over eleven chop marks on one side, and some on the other side; another tip has two chop marks. The burr is rubbed down on the medial side, as is the beam and brow tine near the base. Some of the damage may be natural, occurring during life, but the extent and number of marks suggest that some are cultural.

Lake End Road West: middle Neolithic pits
by Alistair Barclay

Introduction

The evidence of middle Neolithic activity at Lake End Road West (Fig. 7.10) was similar in character to that on other sites along the Jubilee River. Most of the evidence comes from ten middle Neolithic pits. These features were distributed across an area 120m by 75m. The pits occur either as isolated features or as groups, and were spaced between 40m and 70m apart. With the exception of one pit that contained Fengate Ware, all of the pits contained pottery belonging to the Mortlake Ware style. Pit 41434 had been mostly destroyed by a much larger Saxon pit (41424). A number of similarly shaped pits which did not contain pottery could have been of similar middle Neolithic date.

Detailed reports on the pottery, flint and charred plant remains recovered from these pits follow the description of the site. Although animal bone was found in a number of pits, apart from a single cattle bone, none of the animal bone fragments could be identified. The distribution of the animal bone is thus summarised only in the description of the pits themselves.

Middle Neolithic pits

Pit Group 1 (Fig. 7.11; Plate 7.4)

Pit Group 1 consisted of three pits of certain middle Neolithic date (40953, 41050 and 41341). Two further nearby pits, as well as a number of smaller pits and postholes, could have belonged to the same phase of activity, but, in the absence of any direct chronological evidence, it is just as likely that they were contemporary with the Anglo-Saxon pits that occur in the same area. Pits 40953 and 41050 were almost certainly paired. Set less than 0.5m apart, they were almost of equal size. In contrast, pit 41341 was much more irregular in plan and also larger, and set some 1.3m away from pit 41050, the closest of the pair. Pit 41341 could either have been a single pit, or have formed part of a pair with either pit 41883 or pit 41417 (both undated). It is possible that these last pits were dug and not used or that they only held organic material that has not been preserved.

Pit 40953 was subcircular (1.04m x 1m), 0.3m deep, and had a bowl-shaped profile. It contained two fills: a lower charcoal flecked fill (40954) of light grey-brown sandy silt that contained only a few artefacts and a central upper fill (40955) of dark grey-brown charcoal flecked sandy silt. The latter was rich in artefacts (pottery and worked flint). Small pieces of cremated bone were noted. Finds were distributed throughout the fill. The sherds of pottery were generally small in size.

Pit 41050 was subcircular in plan (1.1m x 1.23m), 0.34m deep, and had steep sides and a flat base. Finds were mostly concentrated in the central fill (40959), although some large sherds of pottery, hazel nutshell and a single unidentified fragment of animal bone came from the upper part of fill 41066 (eg SF 42016-7; Plate 7.5). A radiocarbon date of 3330-2910 cal BC (GU-9284: 4410±45 BP) was obtained from hazel nutshell from fill 41066. Smaller sherds, flintwork, a fragment of a polished adze reworked as a flake core, animal bone (1 unidentified fragment) and burnt stone were distributed throughout fill 40959, perhaps suggesting that they had been dumped within a deposit of ashy and organic soil. However, some of the pottery from near the base of the pit may have been placed with more formality (in particular a group of nested sherds from one vessel; SF 42084). Close to this group of sherds were a number of large

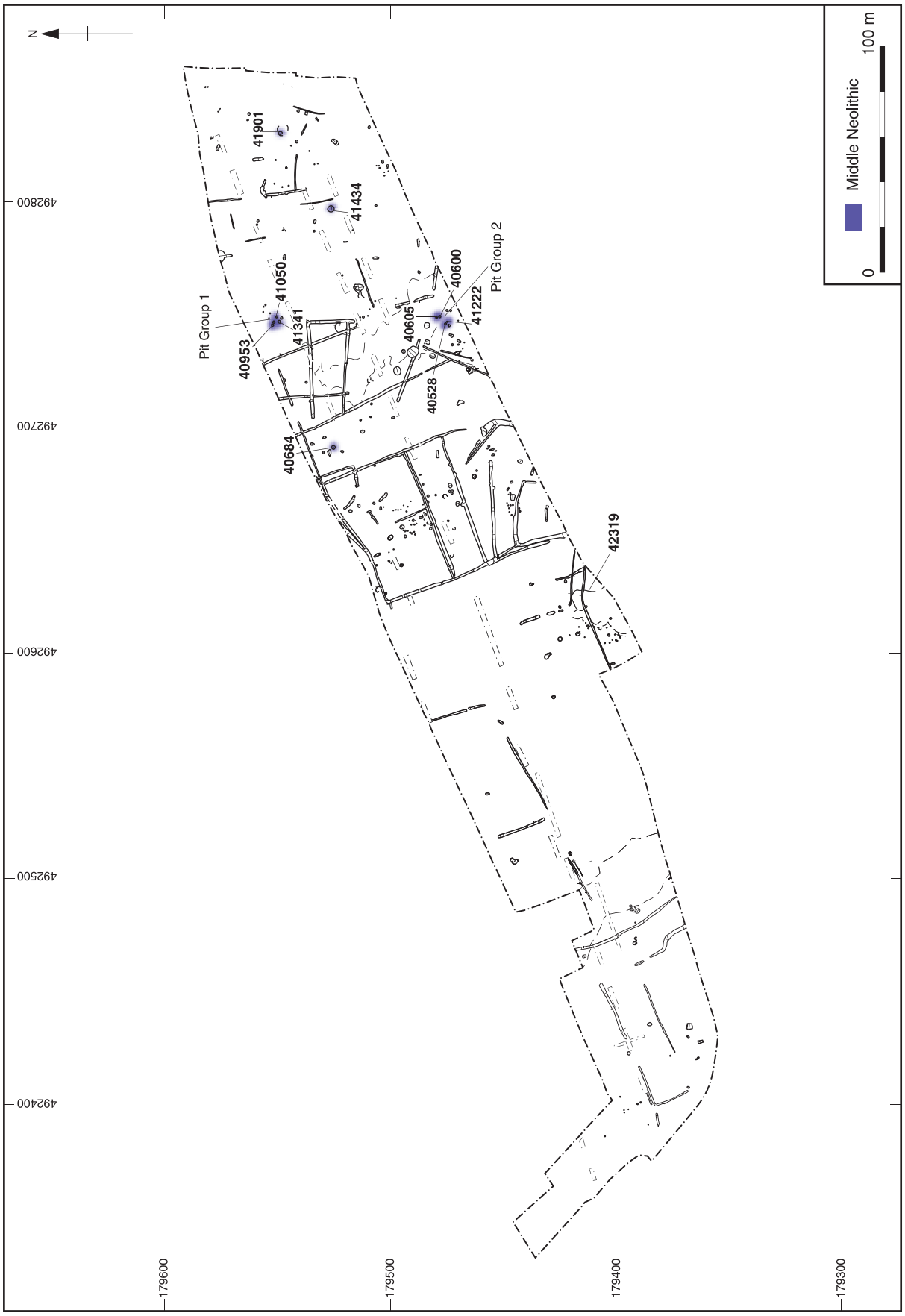


Fig. 7.10 Location of middle Neolithic pits at Lake End Road

Plate 7.4 Pit Group 1, Lake End Road West

Plate 7.5 Pit 41050, Lake End Road West

rim sherds from several vessels (SF 42041, 42026 and 42025). A small deposit of cremated/burnt bone was recorded in the upper part of fill 40959.

Pit 41341 was subcircular in plan (1.3m x 1.15m), 0.2m deep, with sloping sides and a flat base. The upper edges of the pit were hard to define. A single fill was recorded (41342), although it was noted that this contained an area of darker soil. The fill consisted of an orangey-brown sandy silt, rich in artefacts, charcoal, charred plant material and ash.

Pit Group 2 (Fig. 7.11; Plate 7.6)

Pit Group 2 was located near the southern edge in the central part of the excavated area. It consisted of two pairs of pits (40605 and 40600, and 40528 and

Plate 7.6 Pit Group 2, Lake End Road West

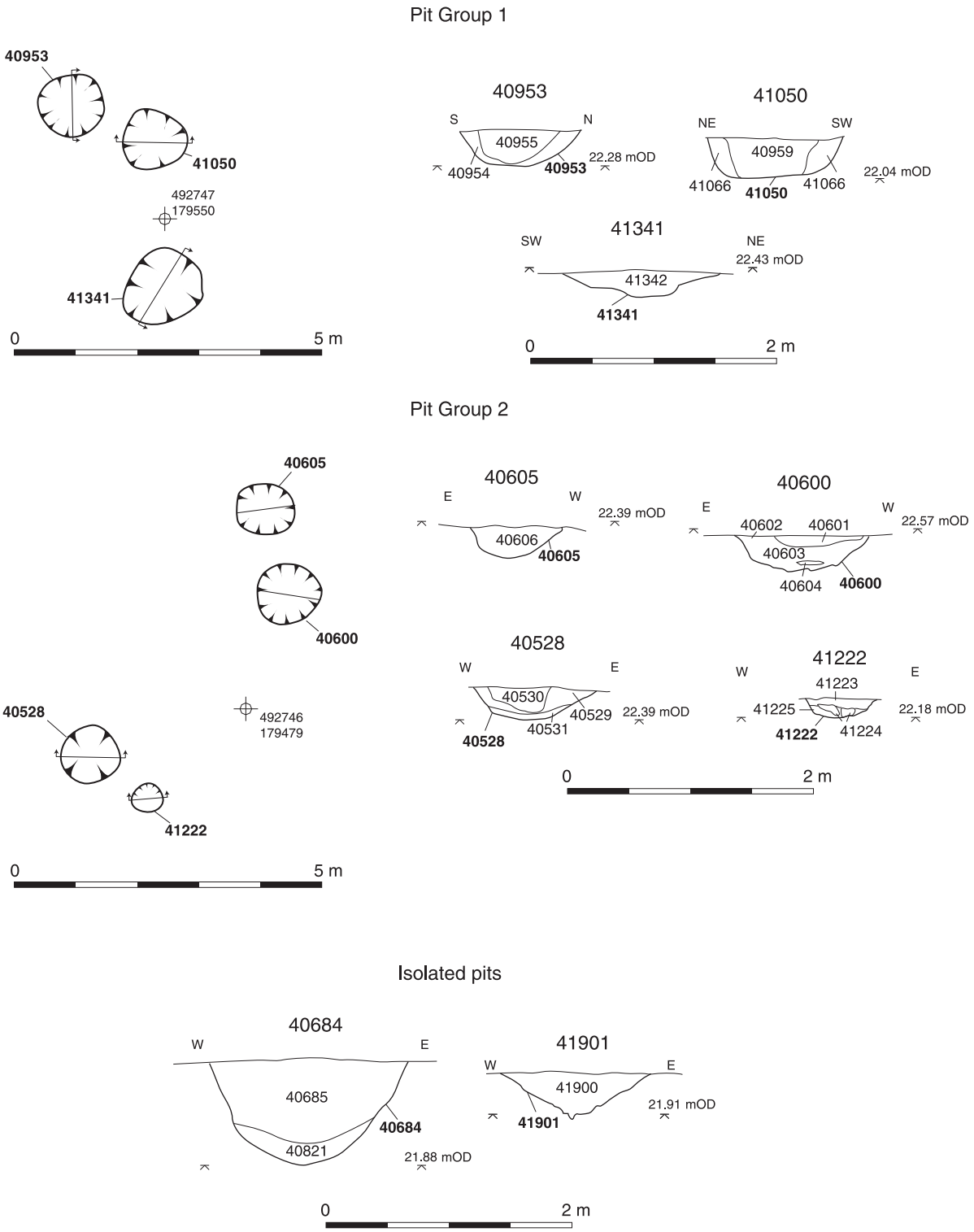


Fig. 7.11 Plans and sections of middle Neolithic pits at Lake End Road West

41222). The immediate area also contained pits of Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon date as well as a number of unphased features. The latter included four pits of similar size to those of definite Neolithic date. The two pairs of pits were set just over 3m apart. The more southerly pair were of near equal size and shape and were set 0.75m apart, while the more northerly pair were of unequal size but of similar shape and were set just over 0.5m apart.

Pit 40605 was subcircular (0.91 x 0.85m) in plan, 0.2m deep, had steep sloping sides and a flattish base. It contained a single fill (40606) of dark grey-brown sandy silt that was flecked with charcoal and charred plant remains. The pit contained animal

Plate 7.7 Pit 40600, Lake End Road West

bone (5 unidentified fragments), burnt or cremated bone, worked flint and broken pottery. The pit was excavated in five spits, which revealed that the finds were distributed throughout.

Pit 40600 was subcircular (1.05 x 1.09m) in plan, 0.29m deep, had steep sloping sides and a flat base (Plate 7.7). It contained three fills: the main fill (40603) consisted of yellowish-brown sandy silt, which contained a lens (40604) of dark greyish black sandy silt – a burnt soil rich in charcoal flecks and charred plant remains – and was stratified below an upper fill of dark greyish-black sandy silt (40601). The upper fill (40602) represents an arbitrary spit which included parts of both 40601 and 40603.

Pit 40528 was ovoid in plan (*c* 0.90m by 0.95m across), had a bowl-shaped profile 0.30m deep, and was filled with a series of artefact-rich ashy deposits. The main fill (40529) was an ashy deposit of compact reddish-brown sand, flecked with charcoal and containing pottery, worked flint, stone, burnt flint and animal bone (4 fragments, unidentified). Within fill 40529 was an ashy deposit (40530) of grey sand, again rich in finds, including 2 fragments of unidentified animal bone. At the base of the pit was a similar deposit (40531) of greyish-brown sand which contained 2 fragments of unidentified animal bone and hazel nutshell. A radiocarbon date of 3340-2910 cal BC (GU-9282: 4425±45) was obtained from the hazel nutshell.

It is possible to recognise three separate episodes of deposition. The first deposit, 40531, of artefact rich ashy soil covered the base of the pit. Above this a second more substantial deposit of material was made (40529). The similar character of the two deposits perhaps indicates that they were closely related. It is possible that there was a hiatus before the third deposit was made, as this appears to be contained within a steep-sided scoop or recut within 40529. Artefacts including large sherds of pottery and animal bone were concentrated in the fill of the scoop (40530).

Pit 41222 was paired with pit 40528. It was circular in plan (1.1m in diameter), 0.35m deep, with steep sides and a rounded base. It contained three fills (41223-5), which had been disturbed by animal burrows (41226). The lowest fill (41225) consisted of friable orange brown silty sand, gravel and flecks of charcoal. The form of this fill suggests that the pit was left open for some time. Above this was an ashy deposit (41224) of greyish black silty sand that contained charcoal fragments and flecks, as well as broken pottery, worked flint, burnt flint and animal bone. The pit had an upper fill (41223) of compact mid-brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks and a fragment of unidentified animal bone . This deposit also contained amorphous lenses of ash, gravel and flint nodules as well as broken pottery, worked flint, and burnt stone.

Isolated pits (Fig. 7.11)

Three pits occurred in relative isolation.

Pit 40684 appeared to be isolated. It was the largest of the Neolithic pits, subcircular in plan (1.5m x 1.28m), 0.86m deep, with steep sides, and a rounded base. It contained two fills, a lest substantial lower fill, 40821, of loose mid-brown sandy silt (0.12m thick) that was capped with flint nodules, and an upper fill, 40685, of friable reddish-brown sandy silt.

Pit 41434 had been almost completely cut away by Saxon pit 41424, but small quantities of pottery and flint were nonetheless recovered from it.

Pit 41901 had been cut into the top of a silted up tree-throw hole. The pit was oval in plan (1.3m x 1.7m), 0.34m deep, with a conical profile. It contained a single fill of mid brown grey to slightly yellowish grey charcoal flecked sandy silt (41900). The fill contained worked flint and pottery.

The middle Neolithic pit deposits at Lake End Road West represent practices that were not wholly new to the site, but whilst early Neolithic activity was concentrated around a natural hollow, middle Neolithic activity appears to have been more widespread, with pits occurring in clusters and as isolated features. A small quantity of middle Neolithic pottery recovered from the early Neolithic deposit in hollow 42319 indicates, however, that this area was revisited.

Middle Neolithic pottery from Lake End Road West

Introduction

A total of 1043 sherds (12kg) of middle Neolithic pottery were recovered from the Lake End Road West site, almost all of which came from the ten pits described above (Tables 7.3-4; Fig. 7.12). Most of this pottery can be classified as Mortlake Ware although there are also a few sherds with Fengate Ware affinities. Most of the pottery was in quite good condition. Overall the average sherd weight was 11g, but the material included a number of large sherds including some from nearly complete vessels. There were a large number of featured sherds including 7 sherds which included the rim

Table 7.3 Summary of quantities of pottery and sherd size from middle Neolithic pits at Lake End Road West

	Tot. Weight (g)	*Tot. NoSh*	*Mean sherd weight*	*SD of sherd weight*	*min*	*max*
Pit Group 1						
40953	325	61	5.3	7.5	1.1	34
41050	3637	125	29.1	32.1	1.7	166
41341	262	22	11.9	12.9	1	47
Pit group 2						
40605	648	65	10	21	1	112
40528	2107	195	10.8	24.6	0.6	183
40600	580	73	8	17.9	0.3	80
41222	627	61	10.3	12.5	1	65
Isolated pits						
40684	2767	256	10.8	17	1	109
41901	238	34	7	4.8	1	13
41434 (truncated)	204	22	93	11.8	7.5	29

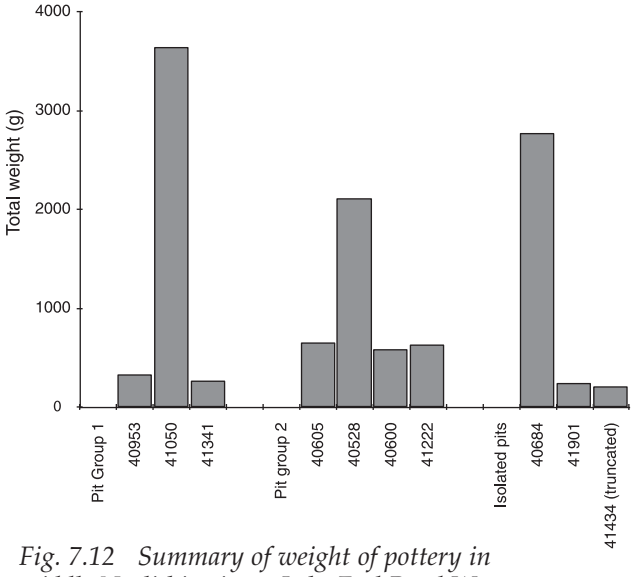


Fig. 7.12 Summary of weight of pottery in middle Neolithic pits at Lake End Road West

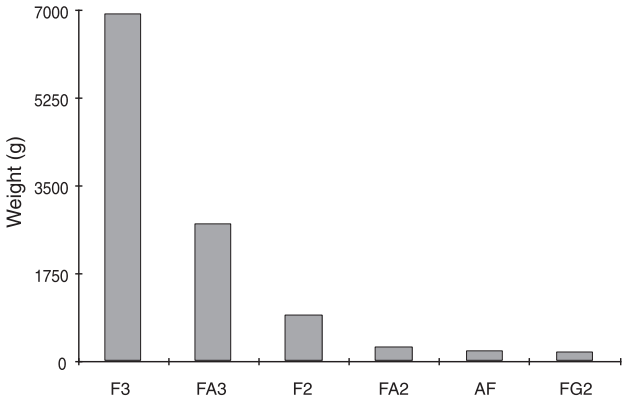


Fig. 7.13 Summary of weight of pottery in major fabrics in middle Neolithic pits at Lake End Road West

and neck or shoulder, 82 rims sherds, 14 shoulders, but just 6 base sherds.

Fabrics

A wide range of fabrics was identified (Fig. 7.13; Tables 7.4-5; see Appendix 1 for fabric codes). The fabrics are typical of this period in the Middle Thames Valley, and are consistent with those found at other sites on the Rowing Course. They are similar to the fabrics used in the early Neolithic at Lake End Road West, although quartz sand is less evident in the middle Neolithic pottery, suggesting that there may have been changes in the processing of the clay or in the sources which were exploited. It nonetheless seems likely that the clay was obtained locally, from within a few kilometres of the site.

The most striking innovation in the fabrics is the use of grog, often alongside flint, but sometimes forming the predominant type of inclusion.

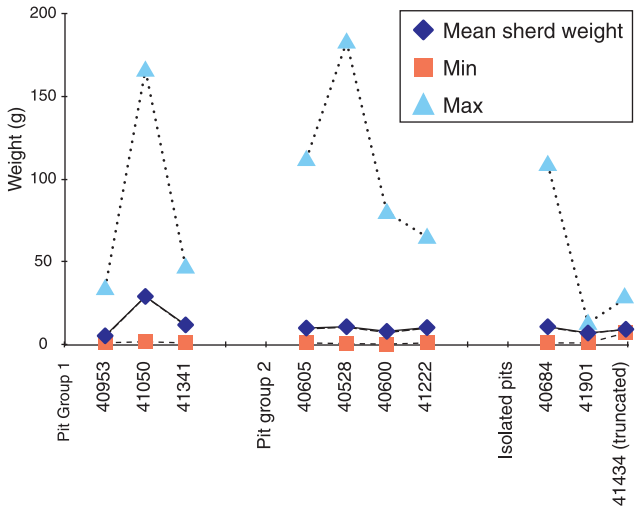


Fig. 7.14 Summary of sherd weights from middle Neolithic pits at Lake End Road West

Table 7.4 Summary of middle Neolithic fabrics

Site	No. of sherds	Weight (g)	Mean sherd weight (g)	Weight as % of assemblage
F3	557	6916	12	58.0
FA3	140	2733	20	22.9
F2	131	916	7	7.7
FA2	47	280	6	2.3
AF	69	203	3	1.7
FG2	16	180	11	1.5
F	6	114	19	1.0
G2	8	100	13	0.8
GF2	8	95	12	0.8
GF3	5	63	13	0.5
F1	7	57	8	0.5
GFA2	3	35	12	0.3
FGA2	2	33	17	0.3
AF1	3	32	11	0.3
G3	5	19	4	0.2
AF2	1	18	18	0.2
G?F	1	18	18	0.2
A1	4	16	4	0.1
AGP1	1	16	16	0.1
GA3	1	13	13	0.1
G?F3	1	13	13	0.1
FA1	8	13	2	0.1
G?	7	11	2	0.1
G?F2	1	9	9	0.1
V2	3	8	3	0.1
QF3	1	6	6	0.1
LS?2	1	5	5	0.0
IND	5	3	1	0.0
AG2	1	1	1	0.0
Total	1043	11926	11	

Although the grog-tempered fabrics form only a small fraction of the pottery, small proportions of grog-tempered sherds were present in most of the pits. It was, however, notably rare in the pits in Pit Group 1, where, although the relatively small assemblage from pit 41341 contained a quite high proportion of grog-tempered sherds, the large assemblage from pit 41050 contained none.

Forms and decoration

Like most Mortlake Ware assemblages, the assemblage from Lake End Road West is dominated by bowls (roughly hemispherical vessels). There is, however, evidence for other forms. Pit 41050, in Pit Group 1, contained at least two jars. These are, in fact, deep bowls and are distinguished by the fact that their height exceeds their rim diameter. Few examples have been found in the Thames Valley (eg Smith 1965, fig. 4.8: 1-8), and the best examples come from East Anglia (eg Spong Hill, Ecton and Icknield : Healy 1988, fig 79: P199; Bamford 1985, fig 6:2; Piggott 1962). The same pit also contained small cup-sized bowl. Similar cup forms of hemispherical shape have been recognised at West Kennet and Windmill Hill (Piggott 1962; fig 11.P11; Smith 1965) and possibly Briar Hill (Bamford 1985), some of which have flat bases. The presence of this range of forms suggests that this pit may have contained a 'set' of vessels.

The rim forms are extremely varied. As well as more simple forms (simple, expanded, out- and inturned), there are more elaborate T-shaped and complex rims, as well as incipient collars, indicative of the Fengate style (which were found in pits 41341 (Pit Group 1), 40528 (Pit Group 2) and 41901 (isolated)). Most of the vessels have marked shoulders and short, concave necks. The bases are all rounded.

Table 7.5 Summary of main fabric groups by pit (no. sherds/weight (g))

	F1	F2	F3	FA1	FA2	FA3	FG2	FGA2	G2	G3	GA3	GF2	GF3	GFA2	Total
Pit Group 1															
40953	3/15	7/105	41/180			10/25									61/325
41050		4/59	76/2138			45/1440									125/3637
41434			1/23			20/152						1/29			22/204
Pit Group 2															
40605	1/15	21/99	47/571		1/14										71/701
40600	1/1	9/57	43/317		1/43	1/10	1/10		1/2					1/11	73/580
40528		30/131	128/1417		3/32	2/286	13/152	1/11		4/15			1/2	2/24	195/2107
41222		11/47	18/228	1/10	14/122	10/166		1/22							61/627
Isolated pits															
40684	2/27	30/317	194/1853		1/5	16/396			6/83	1/4	1/13		1/4		256/2767
41341		6/69	8/99				1/9					6/65	1/20		22/262
41901						33/237						1/1			34/238
Total	7/57	118/884	556/6826	1/10	20/216	137/2712	15/171	2/33	7/85	5/19	1/13	8/95	3/26	3/35	920/11448

The vessels are decorated with a range of typical techniques. The most commonly used are impressed twisted and whipped cord maggots, although in some cases longer lengths of cord impression were used. Finger-tip and nail impressions were also commonly used. Animal bone impressions are less common, but were used extensively on some vessels. These techniques were usually used to form horizontal rows or herringbone patterns on the body (sometimes covering the whole body of the vessel) and rims of the vessels, and more rarely and less extensively on the neck. These techniques were also used to decorate a band extending from the rim, sometimes to the shoulder, on the inside of the vessel, although in some cases this zone was not decorated.

One vessel, from pit 41050, with more unusual decoration is worth singling out (Plate 7.8; Fig. 7.15). The decoration is described in detail below, but includes a grooved arc motif, perhaps including a skeuomorpic handle which runs around the body of the vessel. The base is decorated with a series of concentric grooves. A similar base was found in pit 41341.

A few vessels were also decorated with incised lattices which again occur on the body, neck and inside of the vessels. Necks were often decorated with impressed pits, the size and spacing of which varies. A small number of vessels were decorated with moulded ribs placed at the shoulder and by internal cordons on the rim and neck.

Three vessels had holes drilled through their necks, possibly for repair. Although it is possible that they were used to suspend the vessel, there is no wear to indicate that they were used in this way.

Burnt residues

Burnt residue was found on 20 sherds, in 19 cases from the inside of the vessels, and in just one case from the outside. Examples occurred in all of the pits in the pit groups, but in only one of the isolated pits (40684, although this pit contained 7 of the examples of burnt residue).

Condition and deposition

The pottery from the middle Neolithic pits was generally in a better condition than that from the hollow (42319, see Chapter 5), and the average sherd weight was appreciably higher (11g compared to 5g in the hollow). It has, however, been noted above that the early Neolithic pottery from tree-throw hole or pit 42069/42146 was in better condition than the less well-preserved material from the hollow. It is likely that the better condition of the middle Neolithic pottery also reflects the fact that it has been protected within the pits (even though they were usually not very deep) than was the pottery from the hollow.

The quantity of pottery from particular pits was very varied (Fig. 7.12; Table 7.3). It is clear that three of the pits – one in each of the pit groups (41050 in Pit Group 1 and 40528 in Pit Group 2) as well as one

Plate 7.8 Mortlake Ware, vessel 1, Pit 41050, Lake End Road West

of the isolated pits (40684) – contained much larger assemblages (41050: 3.6kg; 40528: 2.1kg; 40684: 2.8kg) than the other pits which usually contained assemblages amounting to 200 – 300g (although the other pits in Pit Group 2 contained assemblages of around 600g). It is possible to see these other pits as containing a background level of pottery which reflects the general density of pottery in the deposits with which the pits were filled, whilst the pits with large assemblages were the focus for special deposition. This argument might be valid, in particular, for pit 41050 which was distinguished by the presence of near complete vessels, and by a deposit of nested sherds placed near the base of the pit which provides the clearest example of a probably deliberately placed group of pottery. Partly as a result of the the presence of these sherds, pit 41050 also has the highest mean sherd weight (29.1g). The other two pits with large assemblages also contained noticeably larger sherds than the pits with smaller assemblages (Fig. 7.14 and Table 7.3). It is, however, striking that in all of the pits except pit 41050, the mean sherd weight was quite consistent, varying little from 5.3g to 11.9g (but generally falling between 8g and 11g), and, in particular, that the means sherd weight is not noticeably higher in the pits with large assemblages than it is in pits with small assemblages.

The pottery was generally distributed throughout the fills (or throughout particular fills), often mixed with ashy sediment and other finds. It is worth noting too, that although a number of refitting sherds were found, with the exception of the vessels in pit 41050, the vessels were only very partially represented. All of this suggests that the pottery was broken and first deposited elsewhere before being deposited in the pits, even if the refits and generally good condition of the pottery suggests that it was neither exposed for a long time or very substantially disturbed before being deposited in the pits. It is possible, then, that the variation in the quantities of pottery in each pit simply reflects variation in the density of pottery in the deposits from which the pits were filled. It is perhaps worth noting that this implies the existence of deposits which contained quite high densities of middle Neolithic material, and which might therefore be called middens, which are not, however, represented archaeologically on the site, or indeed elsewhere on the Jubilee River or on the Eton Rowing Course.

Pit Group 1

Pit 40953

Pit 40953 contained 25 sherds (272g) and 36 crumbs (53g) of Mortlake ware including five rim fragments, two shoulder sherds and a neck sherd. Pottery was widely distributed throughout the fill of the pit, suggesting that it had been tipped in as part of a mixed deposit of ashy soil.

Pit 41050 (Figs 7.15-16)

Pit 41050 contained 125 sherds (3637g) of Mortlake ware. At least seven vessels are represented including the fragmentary remains of one or more jars and at least two bowls. At least two of these vessels had undergone repair. One bowl is the most unusual from the entire site as it is decorated with a series of grooved and impressed panels and a grooved arc motif which could be a skeuomorphic handle, and the base is decorated with a series of concentric grooves (Plate 7.8; Fig. 7.15). A similar grooved base fragment was recovered from pit 41341. A small cup-sized bowl decorated with whipped and twisted cord impressions came from the upper part of the outer pit fill, 41066. In addition to the small cup and the bowl, there are at least two large, deep jar-like vessels. One is decorated although with plastic finger-tip impressions. In contrast, the other is decorated with impressed bone. Both vessels had widely spaced neck pits. The rims from two further vessels are of uncertain form. The body sherds indicate the presence of other similar vessels.

It is possible that the pit group represents a set of vessels. Charred residue on two sherds, including a rim, indicate some use for cooking and the repair holes indicate an attempt to prolong the life of at least some vessels. Most of the pottery was in a fresh condition and appeared to have been buried not long after breakage. Some of the pottery, in particular the unusual bowl, appeared to have been placed within the pit as a series of broken fragments. However, the rest of the pottery was distributed throughout the two pit fills, indicating that it had been tipped into the pit in a haphazard manner, along with other material (animal bone, worked flint, burnt stone, charcoal and charred plant remains) and ashy soil. With this pit at least, it seems that a range of pottery vessels may have been deliberately broken and selected for burial.

Illustrated catalogue (Figs 7.15-16)

Fig. 7.15

1 (restored), Context 40959 (SF 42024, 42026, 42039, 42041, 42084), Fabric F3/MN/FA3/MN. Plate 7.8. Thirty six conjoining sherds from a decorated Mortlake Ware bowl. Internal rim diameter is approximately 225mm and the height is 175mm. The bowl has a slightly flattened base. The rim is T-shaped and angled, and is attached to a short neck with a high shoulder. The base is plain and ringed at its edge by up to four grooves arranged as a continuous spiral. The lower body is decorated with incised lattice that infills a crescent shaped panel that almost wraps around the entire circumference of the vessel. The body of the pot has six alternating panels of infilled finger-tip impressions and grooves. Two of the grooved panels are linked by an arc of grooves. This may represent a single skeuomorphic handle. Beneath the handle the panel is infilled with finger-tipping, which extends down to the base. Two further grooves mark the shoulder, the upper of which is

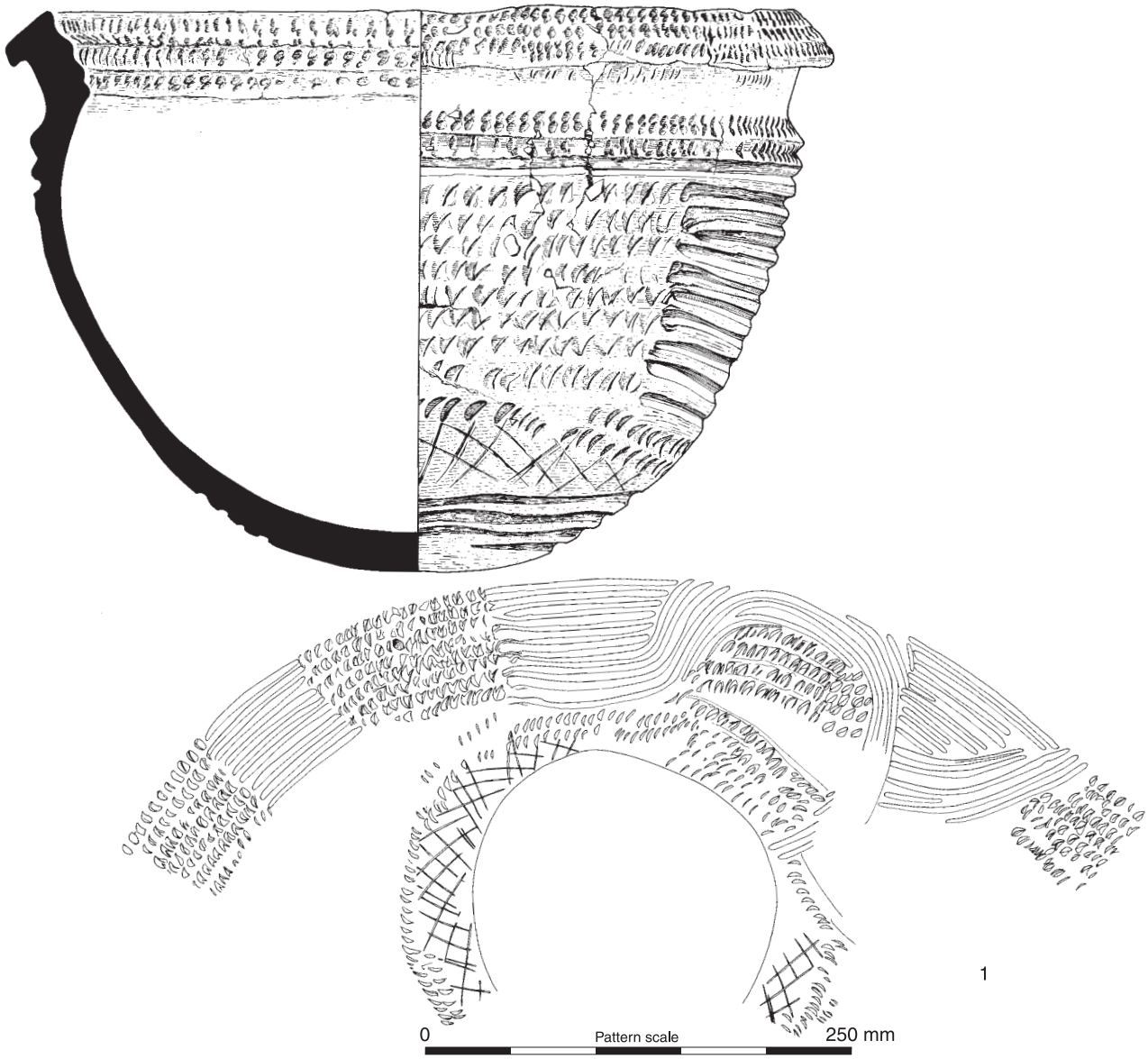


Fig. 7.15 Pit 41050, Peterborough Ware, Lake End Road West

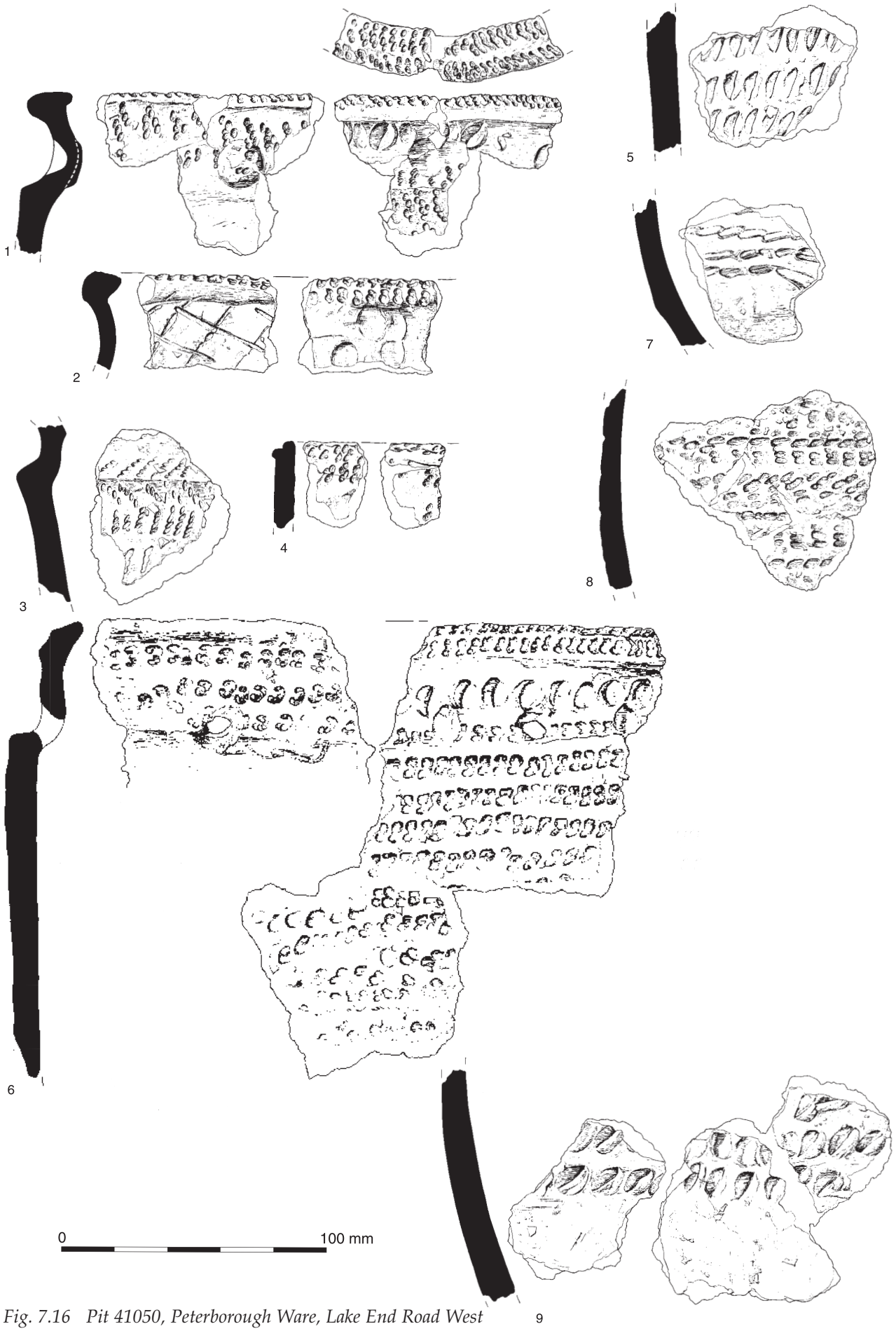


Fig. 7.16 Pit 41050, Peterborough Ware, Lake End Road West

infilled with impressed twisted cord maggots. Another row of these impressions occurs above. Otherwise the neck is plain up to the rim, with the exception of a short row of finger-nail impressions. The rim is decorated with three rows of decoration. The lower of which is finger-nail, above this is impressed bone and at the top there are twisted cord maggots. Three cordons mark the interior of the rim and neck. The grooves between the cordons are decorated with impressed bone, and above the cordons there is a single row of twisted cord. Below the shoulder there are short lengths of finger-nail impressions.

2 Context 41066, SF 41199. Fabric F3/MN. Mortlake ware small bowl, refitting rim and shoulder sherds. Rim diameter 110mm. Decorated with short lengths of whipped and twisted cord.

3 (restored), Context 40959, SF 42034, 42066-7, 42084, Fabric F3/MN. Fifteen sherds (1287g), many refitting, from a decorated Mortlake Ware vessel. It has an inturned expanded rim, a hollow neck with pits and high shoulder. The vessel is deep and has a jar rather than bowl profile, with the maximum diameter (220mm) approximating to the height. At least half of the vessel's rim is present and less than half of the body. The base which is assumed to be round or slightly flattened is absent. On the neck there are two drilled holes on either side of an old break and in between these there is a third attempted unfinished hole. It is probable that these were for repair. The body of the vessel, from below the rim to the base, is decorated with rows of impressed finger-tip. The neck has a single row of widely spaced pits made by impressing the thumb. A short row of finger-nail impressions occurs below the rim and other apparently random finger-nail impressions are evident. The rim, bevel and neck interior have been decorated with rows of impressed bone.

Fig. 7.16

1 Context 40959, SF 42037-8, Fabric F4/MN. Mortlake ware. Rim, neck and shoulder sherds. Rim, neck interior and body are decorated with impressed twisted cord maggot impressions. Neck is decorated with impressed finger-tip, deep and widely spaced pits and whipped cord impressions.

2 Context 40959, SF 42008. Fabric F3/MN. Mortlake ware. Rim and neck sherd. Rim decorated with impressed bone, neck interior decorated with incised lattice and exterior with a double row of thumb-print pits.

3 Context 41066, SF 42016. Fabric FA3/MN. Mortlake ware. Shoulder sherd decorated with horizontal rows of twisted cord maggot impressions (herringbone pattern).

4 Context 41066, SF 42042. Fabric F2/MN. Mortlake ware. Rim sherd decorated with short lengths of impressed cord.

5 Context 40959, SF 42084. Fabric F3/MN. Body sherd decorated with horizontal rows of oblique finger-tip impressions.

6 Context 40959, SF 42041 and 42025. Fabric FA3/MN. Mortlake ware. Rim, shoulder and body sherds. Rim, neck interior, shoulder and body decorated with impressed animal bone. Neck decorated with a single row of closely spaced finger-tip impressions and a widely spaced row of pits. Single drilled hole in neck.

7 Context 40959, SF 42014. Fabric FA3/MN. Body sherd three horizontal rows of cord impressions

8 Context 40959, SF 42050. Fabric F2/MN. Body

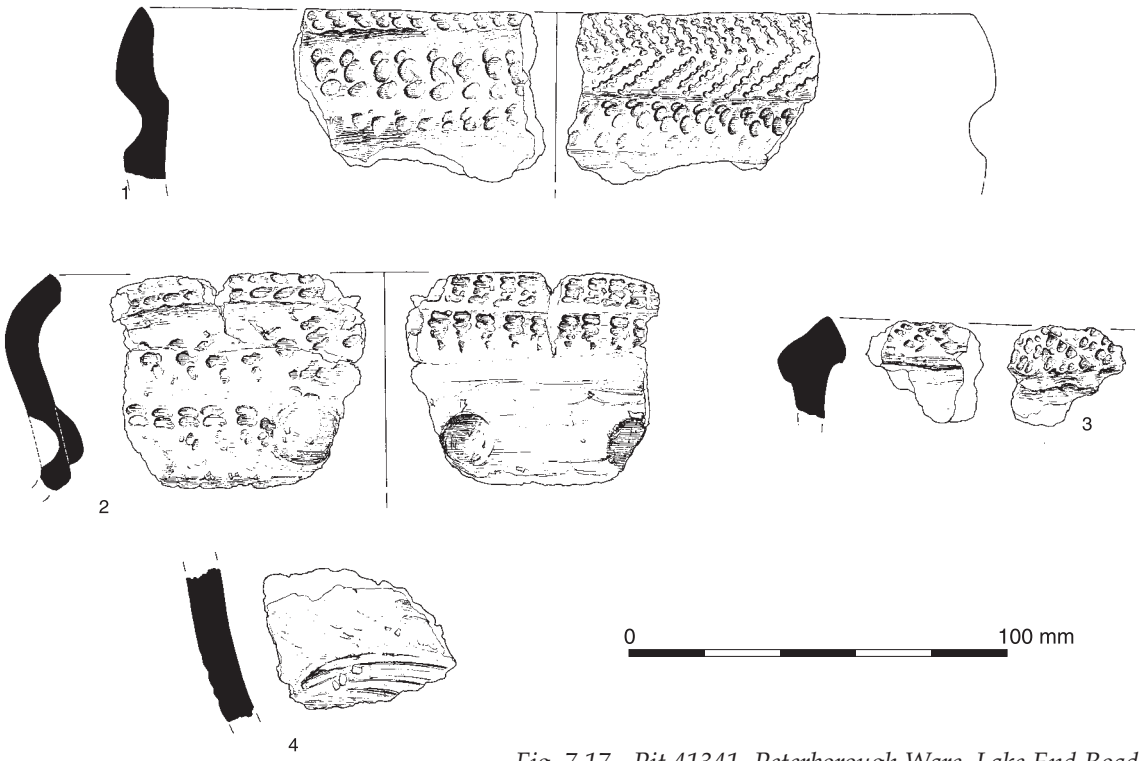


Fig. 7.17 Pit 41341, Peterborough Ware, Lake End Road West

sherd with horizontal rows of cord impressions bordering a band of oblique cord impressions.
9 Context 40959, SF 42084, 42033, 42030, and 42014. Fabric F3/MN. ?Mortlake ware. Refitting and related body sherds from the lower wall of a large vessel decorated with horizontal rows of oblique finger-tip impressions.

Pit 41341 (Fig. 7.17)
Pit 41341 contained 22 sherds (262g) of pottery including the rims from three vessels. Two of the rims have incipient collars more indicative of the Fengate style. A third rim is of heavy expanded and angular form. Part of a decorated base fragment is similar to that of the unusual bowl from pit 41050. Pottery was widely distributed throughout the fill of the pit, suggesting that it had been tipped in as part of a mixed deposit of ashy soil.

Illustrated catalogue (Fig. 7.17)
1 Context 41342, SF 42352. Fabric GF2. Rim and should sherd, decorated externally and internally with herringbone pattern in impressed cord and other impressions.
2 Context 41342, SF 42230. Fabric GF2. Rim and neck sherd. Deep pits on neck and further impressed internal and external decoration on rim.
3 Context 41342, SF 42239. Fabric GF2. Rim sherd with impressed decoration.
4 Context 41342, SF 42354. Fabric GF3. Body sherd with traces of rough arced grooves.

Pit group 2

Pit 40605 (Fig. 7.18)
Pit 40605 contained 65 sherds (648g) of pottery with an average weight of 10g. The pottery includes 9 rims, 2 necks and 3 shoulders. One sherd was marked by burnt residue. The pottery was distributed throughout the single fill of the pit.

Illustrated catalogue (Fig. 7.18)
1 Context 40606, SF 41135. Fabric F3/MN. Rim and shoulder sherd. Rim decorated with short whipped cord impressions, interior neck zone decorated with impressed bone, body of vessel decorated with finger-print dimples.
2 Context 40606, SF 41171. Fabric F2/MN. Rim and shoulder sherd.
3 Context 40606, SF 42140. Rim and neck sherd decorated with impressed whipped cord maggots. Possible widely spaced neck pits.
4 Context 40606, SF 41104. Fabric F3/MN ?Neck sherd decorated with twisted cord impressions.
5 Context 40606, SF 42120. Fabric F3/MN. Rim and neck sherd decorated with widely spaced and deep neck pits.
6 Context 40606, SF 41095. Fabric F3/MN. Rim sherd decorated with impressed twisted cord.
7 Context 40606, SF 41088. Fabric F23/MN Rim and neck sherd with small neck pits (impressed bone or stick) widely spaced.
8 Context 40606, SF 41087. Fabric F3/MN. Large body sherd decorated with horizontal rows of impressed cord above a zone of finger-tip impressions.
9 Context 40606, SF 41172. Fabric F3/MN. Shoulder sherd decorated with impressed twisted cord.
10 Context 40606, SF 42117. Fabric FA2/MN. Shoulder and neck sherd decorated with horizontal rows of impressions and large shallow neck pit.
11 Context 40606, SF 41175. Fabric F3/MN. Thick-walled body sherd decorated with horizontal rows of impressed finger-nail.
12 Context 40606, SF 41156. Fabric F3/MN. Body sherd decorated with twisted cord impressions.
13 Context 40606, SF 41109. Fabric F3/MN. Body sherd decorated with long lengths of impressed whipped cord. Herring bone pattern.
14 Context 40606, SF 42150. Fabric F3/MN Mortlake ware. Rim and shoulder sherd decorated with impressed whipped cord maggots and horizontal lengths of cord.

Pit 40600 (Fig. 7.19)
Pit 40600 contained 73 sherds (580g) of pottery, with an average weight of 8g. It included 4 rims and 2 neck sherds. One sherd was marked by burnt residue. Most of the pottery was recovered from the upper fill of the pit, although small quantities were recovered from the other fills.

Illustrated catalogue (Fig. 7.19)
1 Contexts 40601, SF 40497. Fabric F/MN. Mortlake ware. Rim, shoulder and body sherds. Body decorated with horizontal rows of finger nail impressions. Shoulder has two cordons and is decorated with finger nail and bone impressions. Neck decorated with incised lattice. Twisted cord impressions on neck. Upper part of interior decorated with irregular oblique finger nail impressions. Similar to SF 42208 in pit 41222.
2 Context 40603, SF 40824, Fabric F3/MN. Rim sherds decorated with impressed cord maggots.
3 Context 40601, SF 40346. Fabric F3/MN ?Mortlake ware. Neck sherd decorated on the exterior with vertical lengths of impressed twisted cord maggots and marked with small widely spaced pits. The interior is decorated with a single horizontal line of impressed twisted cord.

Pit 40528 (Fig. 7.20)
Pit 40528 contained a large assemblage comprising 195 sherds (2107g) with an average weight of 10.8g. The assemblage contained a large number of featured sherds. A large portion of the upper profile of a vessel was preserved in 5 sherds. There were also 21 rims sherds, 1 neck sherd and 2 base sherds. Only one sherd was marked by burnt residue. The largest group of pottery came from the upper fill (40529: 85 sherds/1047g), but there were also large groups from the lower fills (40530: 65 sherds/418 g; 40531: 45 sherds/642g).

1 Context 40531, SF 40917. Fabric F2/MN. Rim and shoulder sherd. Herringbone patterns of impressed cord maggots on body, shoulder, rim and on internal surface of neck.
2 Context 40529, SF 40504. Fabric A1/MN. Mortlake ware. Rim sherd decorated with twisted cord maggot impressions.
3 Context 40530, SF 40520. Fabric NAT/MN.

?Fengate ware. Rim and shoulder sherds decorated with impressed whipped cord maggot impressions.

4 Context 40529, SF 40435. Fabric F3/MN. Mortlake ware. Rim and shoulder sherd decorated with impressed twisted cord maggot (herringbone pattern).

5 Context 40529, SF 40793. Fabric F3/MN. Mortlake ware. Rim sherd decorated with impressed whipped cord maggot (herringbone pattern).

6 Context 40530, SF 40521. Fabric F3/MN. Mortlake ware. Rim and shoulder sherd decorated with impressed oblique whipped cord maggot (herringbone pattern).

7 Context 40530, SF 40454. Fabric F3/MN. Mortlake ware. Lower body sherd decorated with false cord (finger-nail) impressions.

8 Context 40529, SF 40458. Fabric F3/MN. Mortlake ware. Rim and shoulder sherd. Rim

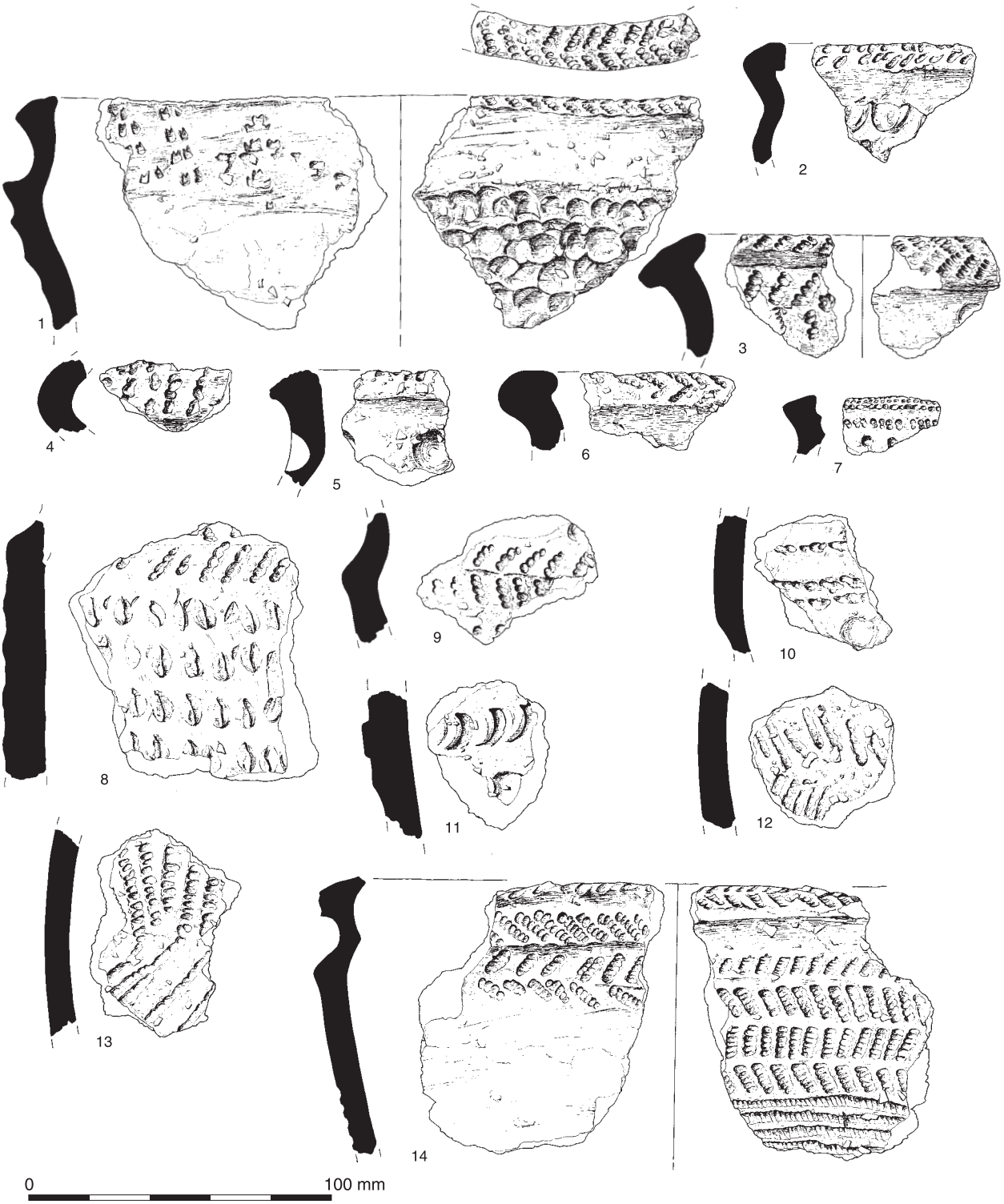


Fig. 7.18 Pit 40605, Peterborough Ware, Lake End Road West

and shoulder decorated with impressed twisted cord. Neck is decorated with impressed oblique finger-nail and is marked with large, widely spaced pits. Neck interior decorated with two oblique lines of twisted cord impressions.

9 Context 40529-30, SF 40434, 40807, 40519. Fabric F3/MN. Mortlake ware. Rim, neck and shoulder sherds. Rim has zonal decoration of impressed ?bone (cuneiform) (herringbone pattern). The neck is marked by small widely spaced pits. The shoulder and upper body zone are decorated with rows of horizontal impressed animal bone. The lower body zone is decorated with alternating horizontal lines of end-to-end and oblique finger-nail impressions.

10 Context 40531, SF 40553 Fabric F3/MN Rim and shoulder sherds. Twisted cord decoration on rim; impressed bone on shoulder.

11 Context 40530 and 40529, SF 40829 and 40504. Fabric F3/MN. ?Mortlake ware. Refitting body sherds decorated with alternating horizontal lines of end-to-end and oblique twisted cord maggot impressions.

12 Context 40530, SF 40870. Fabric F3/MN ?Mortlake ware. Body sherd decorated with rows of impressed oblique twisted cord maggot and impressed finger-tip.

13 Context 40529, SF 40866. Fabric FA2/MN ?Mortlake ware. Lower vessel sherd decorated with impressed twisted cord maggot (herringbone pattern).

14 Context 40531 and 40601, SF 40918, 40481, 40756. Fabric FG2/MN ?Mortlake ware. Five sherds with closely spaced moulded ribs decorated with finger-nail impressions. The single sherd recovered from 40601 (SF 40481) is abraded.

15 Context 40529, SF 40505. Fabric F3/MN. ?Mortlake ware. Body sherd decorated with long lengths of whipped cord (curvilinear motif).

Pit 41222 (Fig. 7.21)

Pit 41222 contained 61 sherds (627g) with an average weight of 10.3g. Although the only featured sherds were 9 rims, and the pottery appears to have consisted primarily of bowls (or perhaps jars), one small cup was also present. Two of the sherds were marked by burnt residue. The pottery was concentrated in the upper two fills of the pit, although there was also a little in the lower fill.

Illustrated catalogue (Fig. 7.21)

1 Context 41224, SF 42208. Fabric FA3/MN. Mortlake ware. Rim and shoulder sherd. The rim and upper shoulder zone are decorated by moulded cordons. The rim is decorated with short ?twisted cord impressions; the rim interior with long twisted cord maggot impressions. The zones between the rim and body cordons are filled with lattice, twisted cord and finger-nail impressions. The body is decorated with impressed finger-tipping.

2 Context 41223, SF 42112. Fabric F2/MN. Small bowl decorated with horizontal rows (herringbone motif) of twisted cord. Rim diameter 115mm.

3 Context 41224, SF 42416. Fabric F3/MN. Rim sherd decorated with twisted cord impressions.

4 Context 41223, SF 42386. Mortlake ware. Rim and shoulder sherd decorated with horizontal impressed twisted cord maggots (herringbone pattern). Neck marked with small pits.

5 Context 41223, SF 42387. Fabric FA3/MN. Body sherd decorated with horizontal rows of impressed animal bone.

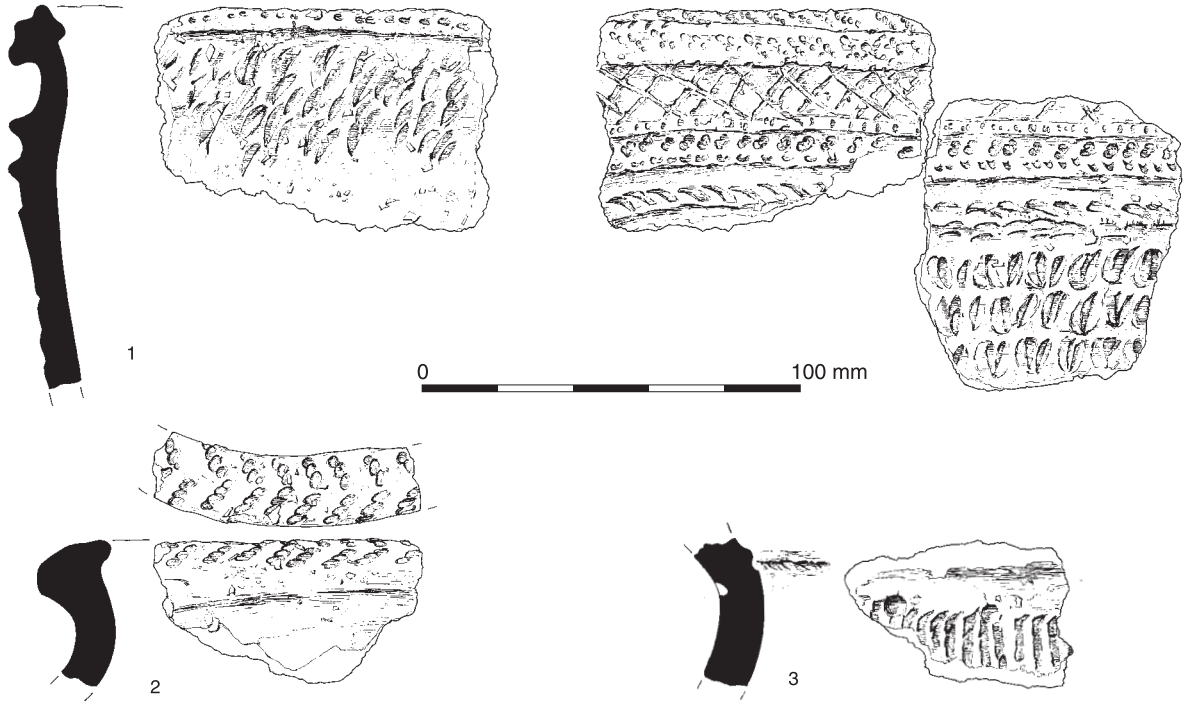


Fig. 7.19 Pit 40600, Peterborough Ware, Lake End Road West

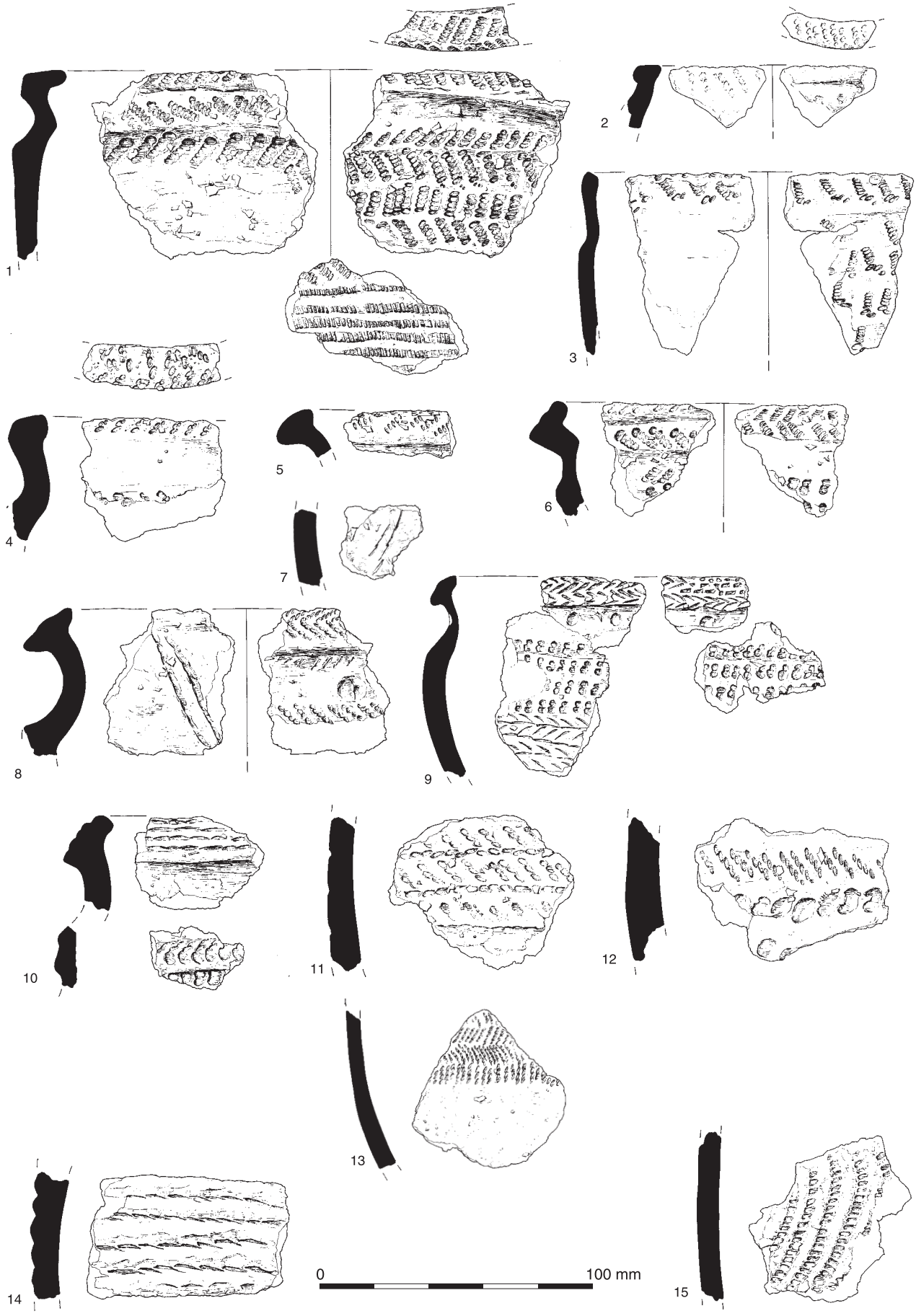


Fig. 7.20 Pit 40528, Peterborough Ware, Lake End Road West

6 Context 41223, SF 42198. Rim and shoulder sherds. Rows of impressed cord maggots on body, shoulder and rim and the internal surface of the neck. The maggots on the rim and the internal surface form herringbone patterns; the others are placed vertically in horizontal rows. Neck pits.
7 Context 41224, SF 42411. Fabric AF1/MN. Rim and neck sherd. Rim and neck decorated with impressed cord maggots.
8 Context 41224, SF 42436. Fabric FA3/MN. Rim and shoulder sherd. Herringbone patterns of impressed cord maggots on shoulder, rim, and internal surface of neck. Drilled hole on neck.
9 Context 41223, SF 42263. Fabric AGP1/MN. Rim or shoulder sherd decorated with impressed whipped cord maggots.

Isolated pits

Pit 40684 (Fig. 7.22)
Pit 40684 contained a large assemblage of 256 sherds (2767g) with an average weight of 10.8g. The assem-

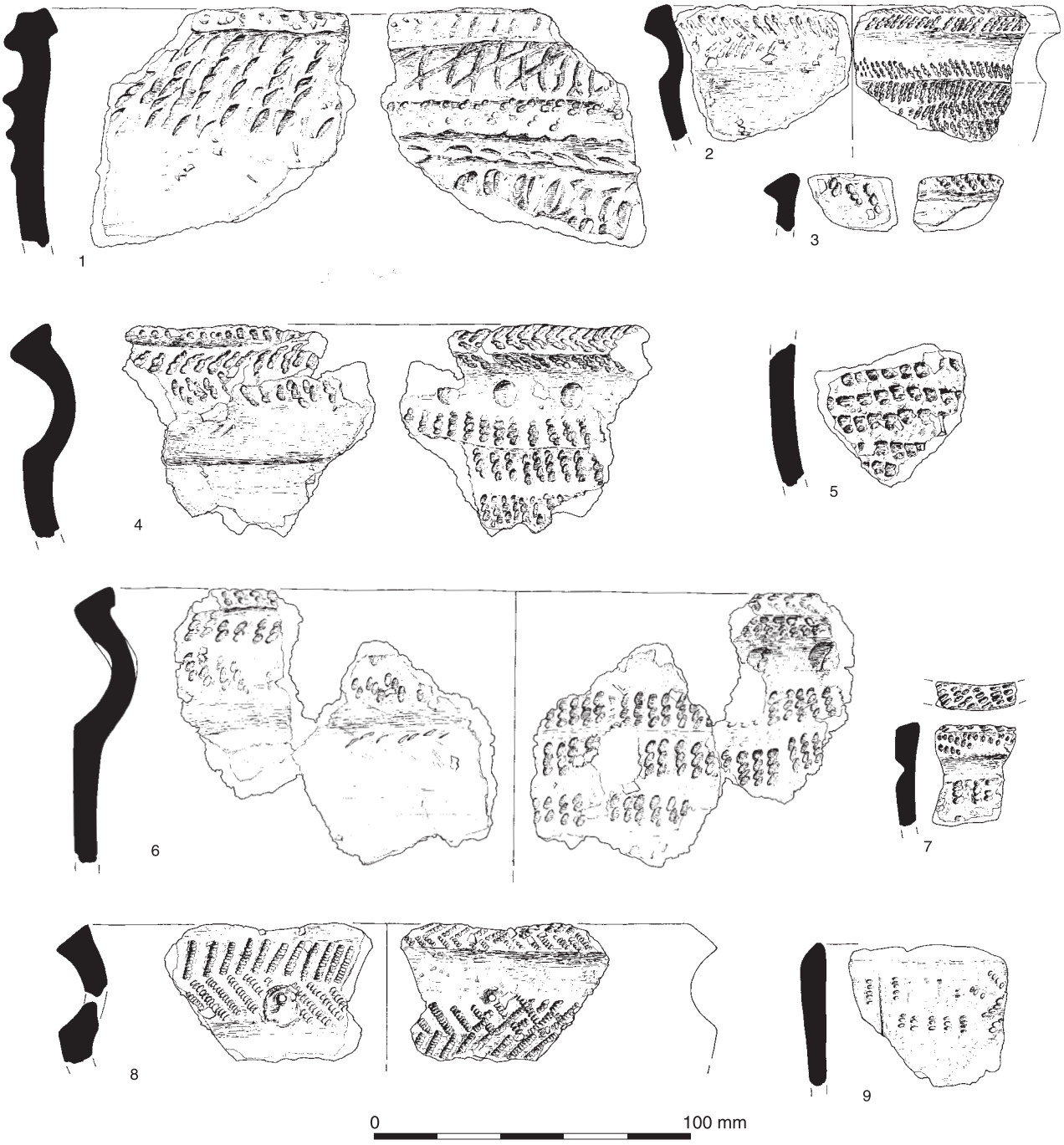


Fig. 7.21 Pit 41222, Peterborough Ware, Lake End Road West

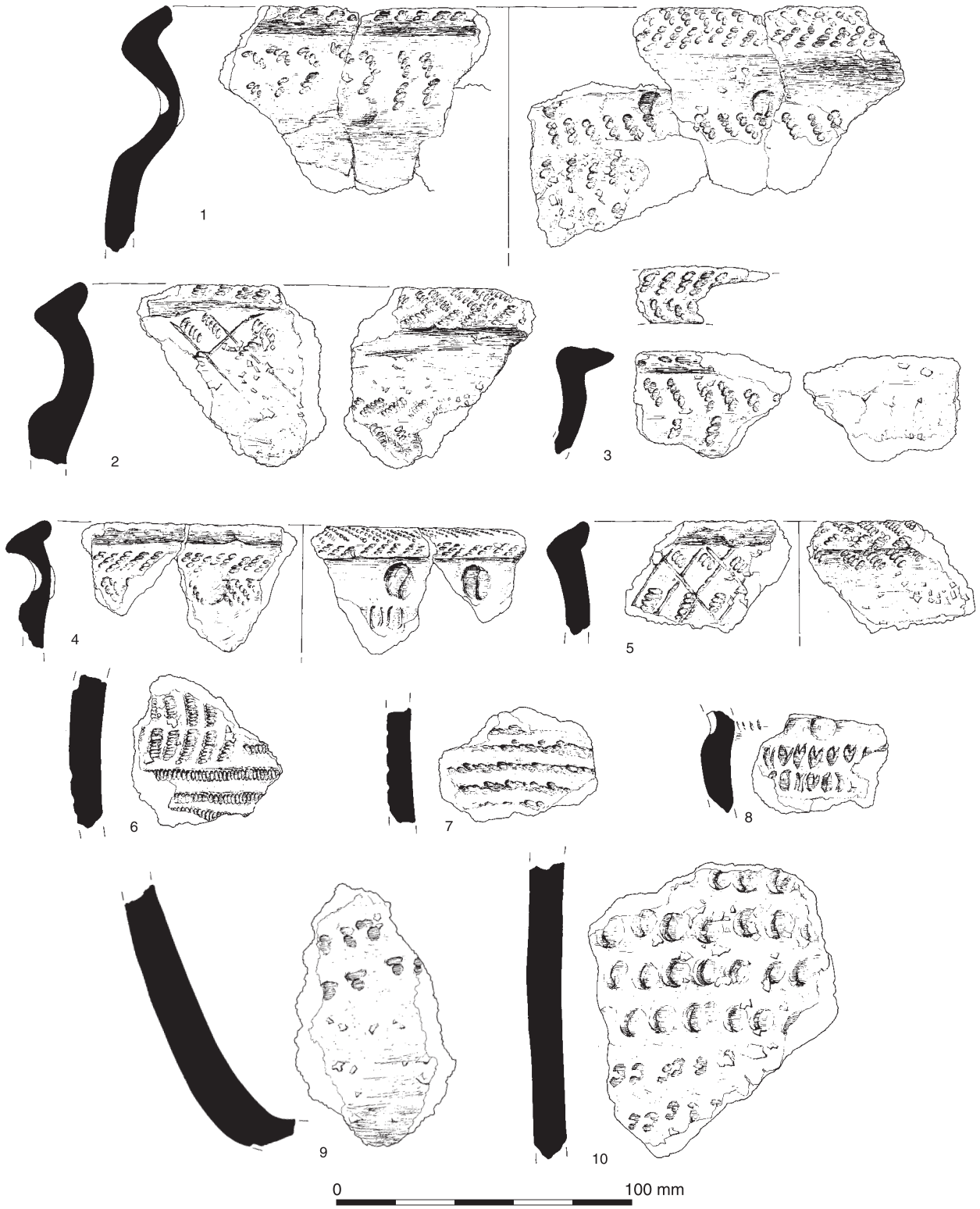


Fig. 7.22 Pit 40684, Peterborough Ware, Lake End Road West

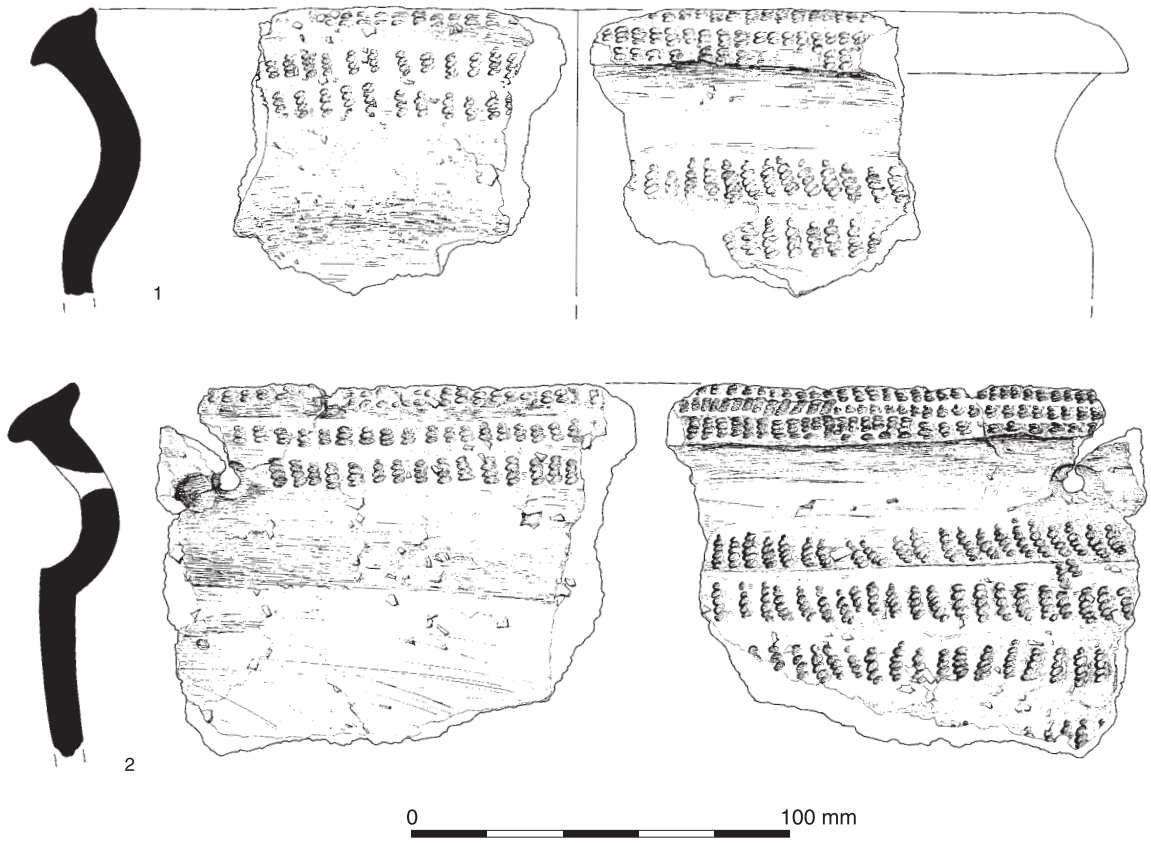


Fig. 7.23 Pit 41434, Peterborough Ware, Lake End Road West

blage included a large number of featured sherds: 14 rims, 1 neck, 5 shoulders and 4 base sherds. Burnt residue was preserved on 7 sherds. All of the pottery was recovered from the upper fill of the pit.

Illustrated catalogue (Fig. 7.22)

1 Context 40685, SF 41003, 40568 and 40572. Fabric FA2/MN. Rim and shoulder sherds. Impressed cord maggots on shoulder, rim and internal surface of neck, forming herringbone pattern on rim, rough herringbone on internal surface and possible herringbone pattern on shoulder. Widely spaced pits on neck.
2 Context 40685, SF 40565 sherd. Fabric F3/MN. Rim and shoulder sherds. Herringbone patterns of impressed cord maggots on shoulder and rim. Internal surface of neck has incised lattice, partially filled with impressed cord maggots.
3 Context 40685, SF 40966 sherd. Fabric F3/MN. Rim sherd, decorated with herringbone patterns formed of impressed cord maggots.
4 Context 40685, SF 40961 and 40975. Fabric F2/MN. Rim and neck sherd. Deep, thumb-nail impressed pits on neck, above row of finger nail impressions. Herringbone patters of impressed cord maggots on rim and internal surface of neck.
5 Context 40685, SF 40945. Fabric F2/MN. Rim sherd decorated with herringbone pattern of impressed cord maggots on rim. Internal surface decorated with an incised lattice, partially filled with impressed cord maggots.
6 Context 40685, SF 40602. Fabric F3/MN. Body sherd decorated with horizontal and vertical cord impressions.
7 Context 40685, SF 41005. Fabric G2/MN. Body sherd with horizontal (?) rows of cord impressions.
8 Context 40685, SF 40860. Fabric F3/MN. Shoulder and part of neck decorated with bone impressions and neck pit.
9 Context 40685, SF 41012. Fabric F3/MN. Body sherd decorated with horizontal rows of finger nail (x4 above) and bone (x2 below) impressions.
10 Context 40685, SF 40772. Body sherd with rows of impressed decoration.

Pit 41434 (Fig. 7.23)

Pit 41434 had been severely truncated and only a small assemblage of pottery, comprising 22 sherds (204g), was preserved.

Illustrated catalogue (Fig. 7.23)

1 Context 41433, SF 42397 sherd. Fabric F3/MN. Rim and shoulder sherd decorated with impressed whipped cord maggot.
2 Context 41433, SF 42397. Fabric F3/MN. Mortlake ware. Rim and shoulder sherd decorated with impressed whipped cord maggot. Drilled hole in neck.

Pit 41901

Pit 41901 contained a small assemblage of just 34

Table 7.6 The flint present in each pit by category

	Pit group 1				Pit group 2			Isolated pits			Grand total
CATEGORY TYPE	*40953*	*41050*	*41341*	*40528*	*40600*	*40605*	*41222*	*40684*	*41434*	*41901*	
Flake	19	22	5	42	22	21	11	12	5	6	165
Blade	1	1			1			1			4
Blade-like		4		3	2	4	4				17
Irregular waste					1						1
Chip	4	3	2	8	11	1	1				30
Rejuvenation flake core face/edge				1							1
Rejuvenation flake tablet				1							1
Flake from ground implement								2			2
Tested nodule/bashed lump							4				4
Single platform flake core				1						1	2
Levallois/ other discoidal flake core						1					1
Core on a flake	1	1									2
End scraper					1	1	2		1		5
End and side scraper							1				1
Serrated flake		1		3	1		1				6
Retouched flake		2	1				1	1			5
Axe		1									1
Hammerstone		1			1	1					3
Grand total	25	36	8	59	40	29	25	16	6	7	251
Burnt unworked flint (g)	2	192	3	234	157	116	96	-	36	-	836
No. burnt (%) (exc. chips)	1 (4.8)	5 (15.6)	-	10 (19.6)	2 (6.9)	5 (18.5)	1 (4.2)	-	1 (16.6)	-	25 (11.4)
No. broken (%) (exc. chips)	5 (23.8)	9 (28.1)	4 (66)	20 (39.2)	8 (27.6)	5 (18.5)	9 (37.5)	3 (18.8)	1 (16.6)	3 (42.9)	67 (30.6)
No. retouched (%) (exc. chips)	-	4 (12.5)	1 (16.6)	3 (5.9)	2 (6.9)	1 (3.7)	5 (20.8)	1 (6.3)	1 (16.6)	-	18 (8.2)

sherds (238g) with an average weight of 7g. The pottery included 1 rim sherd and 3 shoulders.

Struck flint from the middle Neolithic pits at Lake End Road West *by Hugo Anderson-Whymark*

The ten middle Neolithic pits contained small, but significant, assemblages of flint. The total assemblage from the two groups of Mortlake Ware pits is 222 flints, but the general scarcity of flint associated with this ceramic style makes this assemblage of some importance.

The middle Neolithic pits

All of the pits contained flint. They provide a rare opportunity for the lithics to be compared and contrasted between pits and pit groupings by looking at the assemblage composition and use-wear. This should assist in establishing the patterns of deposition, which appear to have been both formalised and structured.

Table 7.6 shows the categories of flint represented in each of the pits. It is clear that there is considerable variation in both the quantity and categories of flint deposited. The pits in Group 1 all contained a generally low number of flints with a high proportion of flakes, several chips, and a small amount of retouched material. The second group of pits each contained a higher average number of flints than the first pit group. They contained a high proportion of flakes and many chips. The small proportion of retouched material consists of end and side and end scrapers and serrated flakes. These pits also contained a number of blade-like flakes and burnt unworked pieces. A small number of flints that are associated with knapping were found in Pit Group 2, an element that is less apparent in Group 1.

Table 7.7 The total use of flint in the Neolithic pits

Neolithic Pits	*Utilised?*	
CATEGORY TYPE	*Yes*	*No*
Flake	52.7%	13.3%
Blade	1.1%	1.1%
Blade-like	12.2%	1.1%
Irregular waste		1.1%
Rejuvenation flake core face/edge		1.6%
Flake from ground implement	1.1%	
Core on a flake		0.5%
Retouched flake	4.3%	
Serrated flake	6.4%	
End scraper	3.7%	
Grand total	81.4%	18.6%

This knapping component comprised two hammerstones, a piece of irregular waste, a discoidal core, a single platform core and four tested nodules.

Burning was recorded on a number of pieces of flint from these pits. 8.8% (6) of the flints in Pit Group 1 have been burnt. However, the majority of burnt worked flints were in pit 41050, while none were present in 41341. Group 2 contained 13.9% (21) burnt worked flints. This included two end scrapers from separate pits. In addition a number of burnt unworked flints were recorded from the pits. Pit Group 1 contained 2 pieces of burnt unworked flint whereas Pit Group 2 contained 29 pieces, the proportions being similar to those for the burnt worked flint. Many of the fills of these pits were reddened and contained charcoal. It therefore seems likely that the material was burnt immediately prior to deposition.

Three pits (41434, 40684 and 41901) were isolated from the two groups. Pit 41434 contained only a limited flint assemblage of five flakes and an end scraper. Although from an isolated pit, this assemblage is comparable, both in size and content, to those from the other pits. Pit 40684 contained two flakes from polished implements, 12 flakes, a blade and a retouched flake, whilst pit 41901 contained six flakes and a single platform flake core. The assemblages in these two pits are of the same general character as those from the other pits and may have been contemporary with them.

Use-wear

Use-wear analysis was undertaken on a sample of flints from the pits. Pit Group 1 contained 68 flints of which 24 (35.3%) were analysed for use-wear. Pit Group 2 contained 152 flints of which 57 (37.5%) were analysed. The sample from each pit was roughly proportional to size of the assemblage it contained. Pits 40684, 41434 and 41901 had 10 (of 16), 5 (of 6) and 6 (of 7) flints analysed for use-wear respectively. The results are summarised in Tables 7.7-9.

Table 7.8 Broad patterns of use in the Neolithic pit

		Pit group 1			*Pit group 2*				*Isolated pits*			
Use	*Wear*	*40953*	*41050*	*41341*	*40528*	*40600*	*40605*	*41222*	*40684*	*41434*	*41901*	*Grand total*
Bore	Medium								1			1
Bore total									1		1	
Cut/whittle	Hard		2		1	1						4
	Medium	7	4		4	3	1	5	2	3	4	33
	Soft	1	5	1	11	5	2	1	5		1	32
Cut/whittle total		8	11	1	16	9	3	6	7	3	5	
Scrape	Hard	3	2	1	2			1	1			10
	Medium	1		2	5	1	3	3	3	4	2	24
	Soft				2					2		4
Scrape total		4	2	3	9	1	3	4	4	6	2	
Grand total		12	13	4	25	10	6	10	12	9	7	

Table 7.9 The use-wear of the Neolithic pits

		Pit group 1			*Pit group 2*				*Isolated pits*			
Use	*Wear*	*40953*	*41050*	*41341*	*40528*	*40600*	*40605*	*41222*	*40684*	*41434*	*41901*	*Grand total*
Bore	Medium								8.3%			0.9%
Bore total									8.3%		0.9%	
Cut/whittle	Hard		15.4%		4.0%	10.0%						3.7%
	Medium	58.3%	30.8%		16.0%	30.0%	16.7%	50.0%	16.7%	33.3%	57.1%	30.6%
	Soft	8.3%	38.5%	25.0%	44.0%	50.0%	33.3%	10.0%	41.7%	0.0%	14.3%	29.6%
Cut/whittle total		66.7%	84.6%	25.0%	64.0%	90.0%	50.0%	60.0%	58.3%	33.3%	71.4%	
Scrape	Hard	25.0%	15.4%	25.0%	8.0%			10.0%	8.3%			9.3%
	Medium	8.3%		50.0%	20.0%	10.0%	50.0%	30.0%	25.0%	44.4%	28.6%	22.2%
	Soft				8.0%					22.2%		3.7%
Scrape total		33.3%	15.4%	75.0%	36.0%	10.0%	50.0%	40.0%	33.3%	66.7%	28.6%	

Methodology

The analysis draws on experimental work on the use of flint published by Tringham *et al.* (1974), Cotterell and Kamminga (1979), Mallouf (1982) and Akoshima (1987), and personal communications with Dr Andrew Brown on the identification of use-wear. The analysis was carried out using a binocular microscope at 10x magnification for the identification of use-damage patterns, and 20x magnification for the categorisation of the hardness of contact materials. The data was then integrated with the flint database.

Results

The flint from the pits was in an excellent state of preservation. The only non-use edge damage present was a few isolated 'drop-nicks' – small chips occurring sporadically along the edge, removed when there is sudden contact with another material, such as during knapping when a flake drops into a scatter. This suggests that the utilised flint deposited in the pits was carefully curated rather than being material from surface collection, and that unutilised pieces may have been knapped immediately prior to deposition or kept in an environment not conducive to damage.

The data collected on broken edges requires examination in larger groups than the single contexts or pits can provide, in order to establish a valid sample size. Therefore, although there is no conclusive evidence that the spatial distribution of pits is anything more than fortuitous, for the purpose of this exercise the pits will be examined as groups. The three isolated pits will be discussed separately.

The first pit group exhibits a high proportion of breaks at 50% of the total (12 flints); of the snaps, 80% were on utilised flakes, of which 50% visibly truncated wear. In Pit Group 2, 38.6% of the assemblage was snapped (22 flints), only 50% of the snaps were on utilised flakes, and only 21% of snaps truncated wear. Pits 40684, 41434 and 41901 had 2, 3 and 4 (66.6%) snaps respectively, and for comparison, the earlier Neolithic finds from the hollow (see above) contained 21% (19) snaps of which 72% were on utilised flakes. The high percentage of snaps in both the first and second pit groups and in pit 41901 is unusual, as is the high number of snapped unutilised flakes present in the second pit group, especially considering the lack of post-depositional edge damage. It is entirely plausible that this pattern represents deliberate breakage rather than resulting from use.

Extent of usage

Table 7.7 shows the extent of use for all of the pits. Pit Group 1 has an average of 71% utilisation (17 flints), whereas Pit Group 2 averages at 62% (34 flints). This is probably the result of the inclusion of more knapping material in the second pit group than the first. In Pit Group 1 the utilised pieces had on average 1.7 utilised edges, which equates to 29 utilised edges. Pit Group 2 had 1.5 utilised edges per flint, a total of 51 utilised sides. The three isolated pits contained a higher proportion of utilised pieces than the pit groups, although the overall numbers are low. Pit 40684 contained nine (90%) utilised pieces, 1434 six (100%) and 1901 contained five (83%) utilised flints.

Broad patterns are apparent in Tables 7.8-9. Boring is entirely absent from Pit Groups 1 and 2, while soft scraping is only present in one pit, 40528, in Group 2. Flints from both pit groups have similar proportions of use, although there is some variation in the specific uses in each pit. Pit Group 1 has 69% (20 edges) cutting/whittling activities, and 31% (9 edges) scraping, whereas, Group 2 has 67% (34 edges) cutting/whittling and 33% (17 edges) scraping. Group 1 has a high proportion of use against hard materials at 28% compared to 10% in group 2. Group 2 has a high proportion of use against soft materials at 41%, compared to 25% in Group 1. More specifically Group 1 may be categorised as being used for hard scraping and medium to soft cutting/whittling, whilst Group 2 was primarily used for cutting/whittling soft materials, and scraping medium materials, with a small number of scraping soft and hard materials.

The hard damage present on the flints may have resulted from contact with materials such as bone or hard wood, whereas the soft damage may have resulted from cutting meat or fleshy plants (Tringham *et al.* 1974, 187-189). Pits 40528 (Group 1) and 41222 (Group 2) each contained two flints (three serrated flakes and one retouched flake) which exhibited edge gloss in conjunction with medium edge damage. This damage is therefore likely to have derived from the cutting/whittling of relatively tough silica-rich plants (see for example Juel-Jensen 1994; Unger-Hamilton 1988). The relatively consistent pattern of use-wear throughout the pits is of interest. All of the use-wear represented may relate to a single process or activity.

The small numbers of flints examined for use-wear from the isolated pits do not represent a valid sample but a few generalised comments may be made. In pit 40684 it is notable that cutting/whittling soft materials, scraping hard and medium materials and boring is present. In both pits 41434 and 41901 the cutting/whittling and scraping of medium materials is represented.

Refitting

Methodology

A refitting exercise was carried out on all lithic material from the pits. A total of 246 flints were examined for refits over a 7.5-hour period. All of the flints to be examined were marked and laid out by pit. Refitting was then attempted between the contents of each pit, then between the pits within a group. A final examination of the lithic material from the pits as a whole was also undertaken.

Results

The refitting exercise provided valuable information, although the results were largely negative. The exercise provided only one refit, and one possible relationship. The refit was found in pit 40605 in Group 2, where flake 42152 refitted to the discoidal core 41153 (Fig. 7.24). Several flake removals had been made after the removal of the refitting flake, although none of these later removals were present in the pits. Flake 42152 appears also to have slight signs of utilisation. A possible relationship was noted in pit 41050 between 42065, a polished axe fragment reused as a core, and 42031, a core which appears to be of the same distinctive mottled grey flint as the axe fragment. It is possible that 42031 represents the other part of the polished axe, although no refit could be made, and no area of polish is present on any of the surviving surfaces. The refitting exercise also clarified that while there is a high proportion of broken material there were no conjoins. Conjoins may have been expected given the proportions of breakage but this is not the case in these pits. It may be by chance that only half of any broken flint was included in the pits, but it seems more likely that it was deliberate selection on the part of those creating the pit deposit.

Discussion

The two groups of Mortlake Ware associated pits contained relatively small flint assemblages, but represent a significant group due to the scarcity of flint in Mortlake Ware contexts. The assemblages from the the pits have several distinctive traits, such

Fig. 7.24 Flint refits, Lake End Road West

as a high proportion of retouched artefacts (8.2%), many of which are well used, and a high proportion of burnt worked flints (11.4%). The pattern has been observed in numerous Neolithic pits within and beyond this project. The pits also contained a high level of utilised pieces, as demonstrated by the use-wear, and comparatively little knapping debris, with a single refit between a core and a utilised flake. Furthermore, the use-wear signature for the pits was relatively consistent, suggesting that a similar range of activities was related to each deposit. The occurrence of a relatively high proportion of scrapers and serrated flakes, perhaps suggest a mixture of tasks including hide preparation and the processing of silica rich plants.

Alternatively, it is possible that artefacts were selected for deposition within the pits. The reworked polished axe fragment represents a prime example of a selected artefact. In this small assemblage of 250 flints the occurrence of an axe fragment is unusual. For example, in Area 10 on the Eton Rowing Course, among 5,000 earlier Neolithic flints, only a single comparable example was found, whilst in Area 6, two examples were found in 25,000 flints. Moreover, the axe fragment was recovered from pit 41050 which produced sherds from a reconstructable Mortlake Ware vessel. The association of axes with Mortlake Ware and other forms of Peterborough Ware in pits has been recorded on several sites (in particular those with large pottery assemblages). Pit 1 at Harmondsworth contained three-quarters of a bowl and fragments of other vessels with a small assemblage of about a dozen flints including an end and side scraper and a fragment of a polished implement (Grimes 1960, 188). In addition, a complete axe was found with a large group of Ebbsfleet Ware at Mixnam's Pit, Thorpe, Surrey; no other flints were recorded (Grimes 1960, 184).

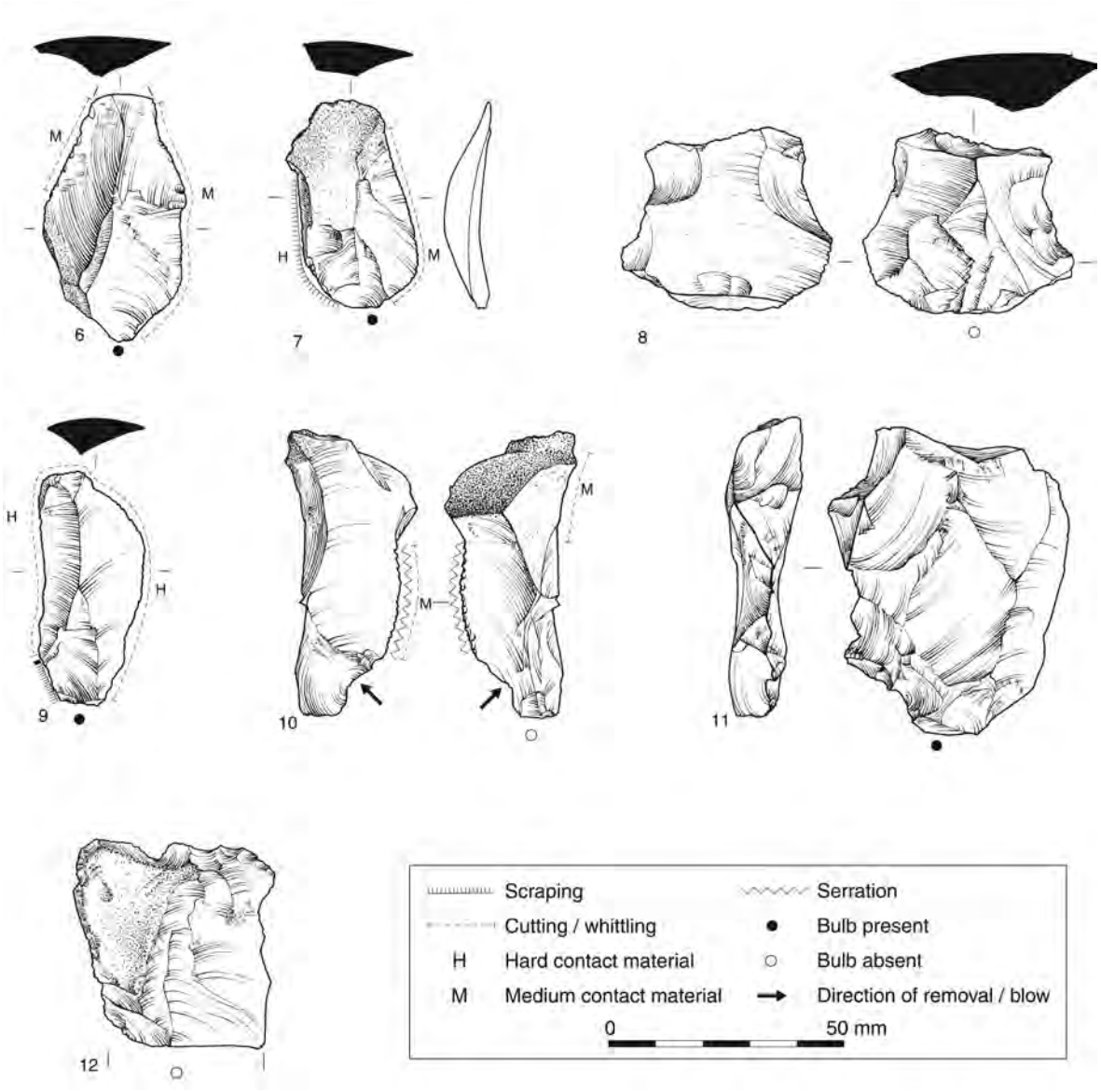


Fig. 7.25 Worked flint, Lake End Road West

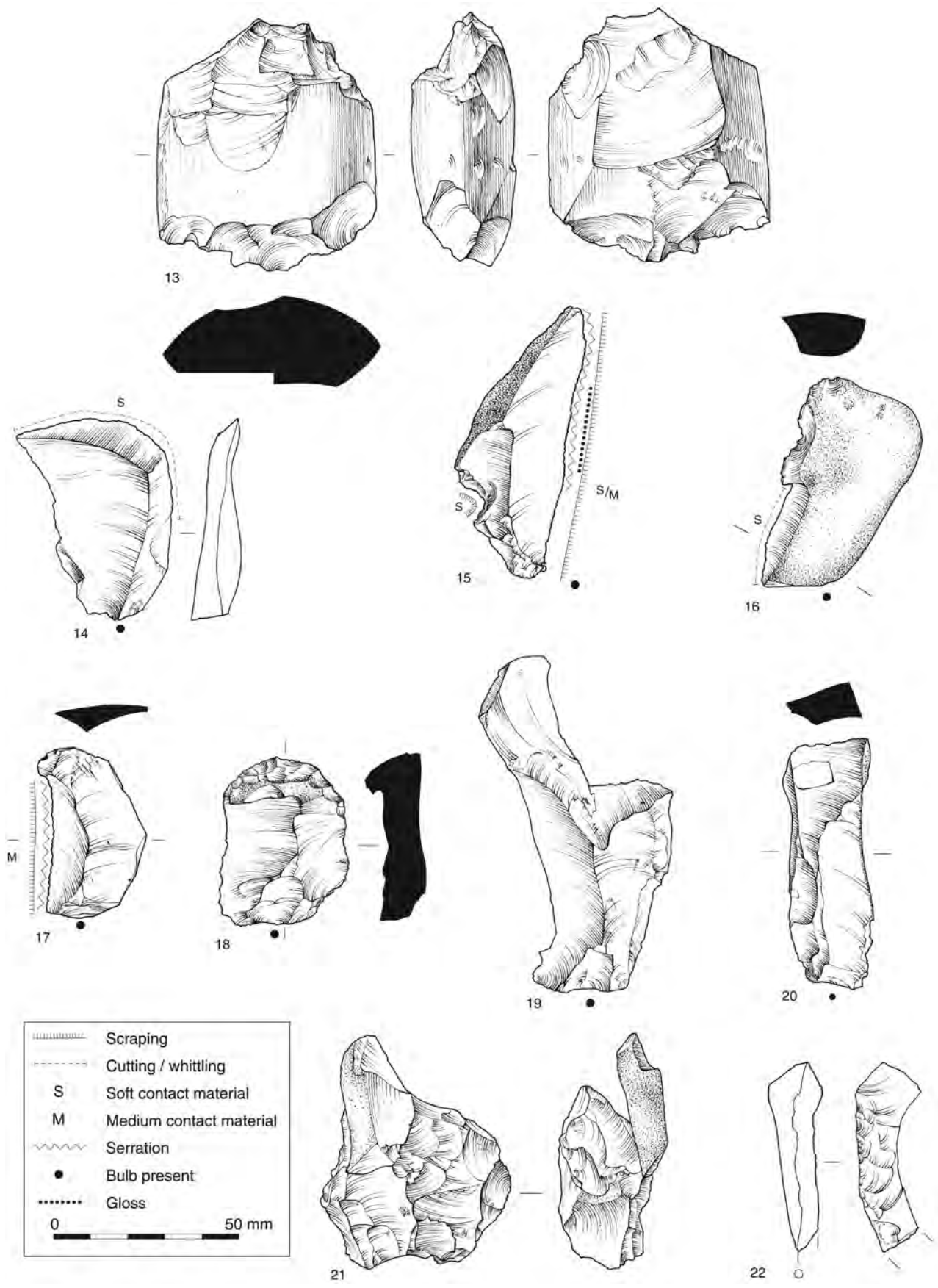


Fig. 7.26 Worked flint, Lake End Road West

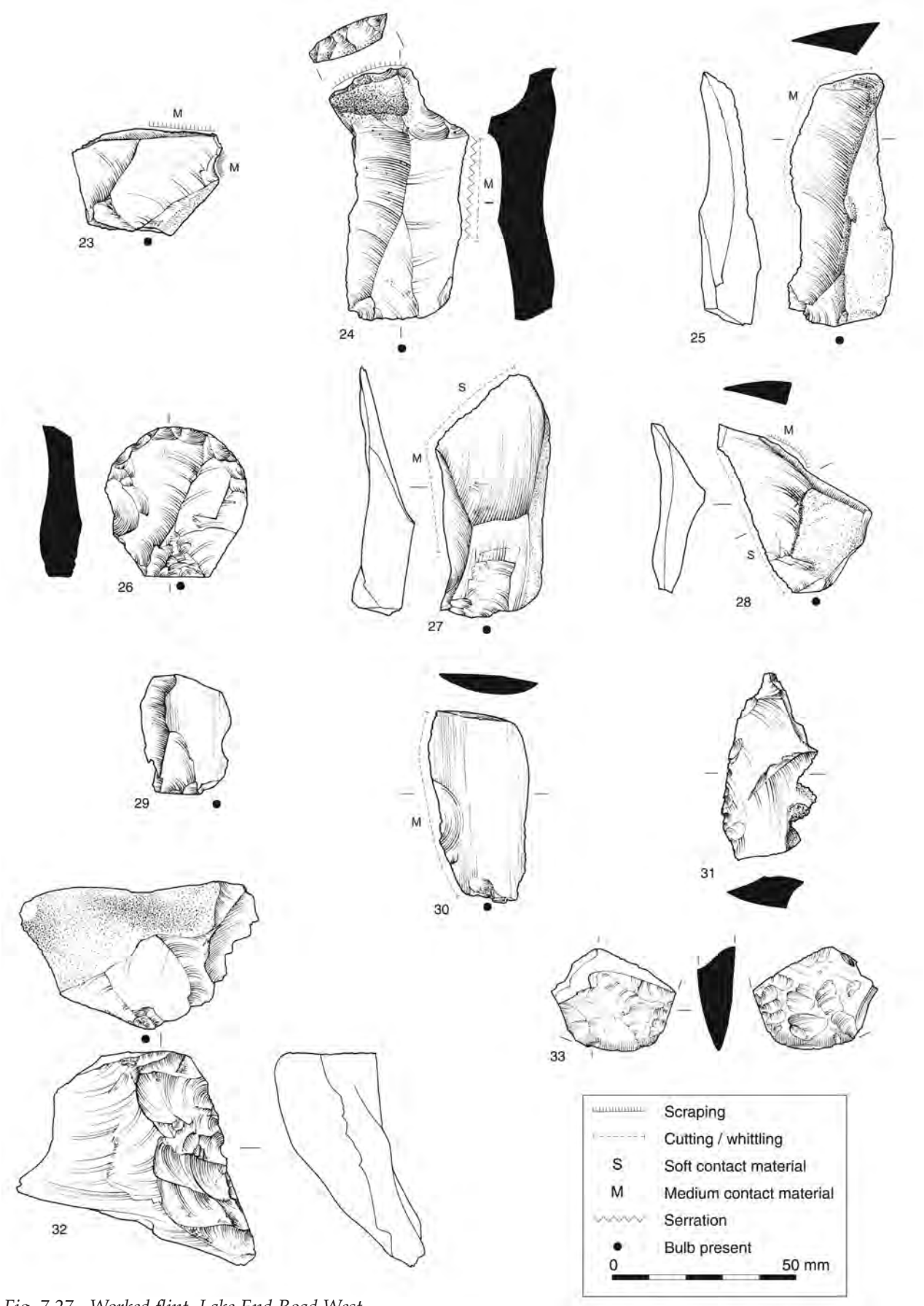


Fig. 7.27 Worked flint, Lake End Road West

The inclusion of reworked or complete axes clearly represents a common symbolic association in Neolithic, and particularly Peterborough Ware-associated pits. However, the association should not be overstated, as only one of the pits in these groups contained a fragment of polished axe, and the majority of the assemblage consists of utilised unadapted flakes, scrapers and serrated flakes with a small number of cores and unutilised pieces (especially in Pit Group 2).

The high proportion of burnt flints in the pits suggests that either the burning was part of the burial procedure, or that it was a selection criterion, perhaps as a result, for example, of deliberately collecting hearth debris.

Catalogue of illustrated flint (Figs 7.25-27)

6 Pit 40953, fill 40955, SF 41134. Pit group 1. Flake.
7 Pit 40953, fill 40955, SF 41120. Pit group 1. Flake.
8 Pit 40953, fill 40955, SF 41133. Pit group 1. Core on a flake.
9 Pit 41050, fill 40959, SF 41188. Pit group 1. Blade-like flake.
10 Pit 41050, fill 40959, SF 41192. Pit group 1. Serrated flake, pronounced serration along left hand side.
11 Pit 41050, fill 40959, SF 42031. Pit group 1. Core on a flake.
12 Pit 41050, fill 40959, SF 41194. Pit group 1. Retouched flake, abrupt retouch along the left hand side and distal edges.
13 Pit 41050, fill 40959, SF 42065. Pit group 1. Polished implement (adze) reworked as a flake core.
14 Pit 40528, fill 40529, SF 40787. Pit group 2. Flake.
15 Pit 40528, fill 40530, SF 40838. Pit group 2. Serrated flake. Right hand side serrated with gloss on the ventral surface, also note a notch on the left hand side.
16 Pit 40600, fill 40601, SF 40474. Pit group 2. Cortical flake.
17 Pit 40600, fill 40601, SF 40900. Pit group 2. Serrated flake, note serration along the left hand side.
18 Pit 40600, fill 40604, SF 40957. Pit group 2. End scraper.
19 Pit 40605, fill 40606, SF 42155. Pit group 2. Flake.
20 Pit 40605, fill 40606, SF 41085. Pit group 2. Blade-like flake, burnt.
21 Pit 40605, fill 40606, SF 42152 and 42153. Pit group 2. Refit between a multi-platform flake core and a flake.
22 Pit 40605, fill 40606, SF 41158. Pit group 2. Unifacial crested blade, burnt and broken.
23 Pit 40605, fill 40606, SF 41139. Pit group 2. Flake.
24 Pit 41222, fill 41223, SF 42259. Pit group 2. End scraper with serrations along right hand edge.
25 Pit 41222, fill 41224, SF 42214. Pit group 2. Blade-like flake.
26 Pit 41222, fill 41224, SF 42437. Pit group 2. End scraper.
27 Pit 40684, fill 40685, SF 40921. Flake.
28 Pit 40684, fill 40685, SF 40999. Flake.
29 Pit 40684, fill 40685. Flake from a polished implement.
30 Pit 40684, fill 40685, SF 40607. Flake from a polished implement.
31 Pit 40684, fill 40685, SF 40998. Retouched flake.
32 Pit 41901, fill 41900, SF 42627. Single platform flake core, crude removals from on thermally fractured nodule.
33 Pit 41480, fill 41491, SF 42467. Fragment of a polished implement.

Plant macrofossils from the middle Neolithic pits at Lake End Road West by Ruth Pelling

Introduction

A total of 19 soil samples were taken from Lake End Road West for the extraction of charred plant remains. The samples came from three of the middle Neolithic pits: pit 40953 in Pit Group 1 and pits 40528 and 40600 in Pit Group 2. A total of 510 litres of soil were processed. The volume of soil taken for each sample ranged from 30 to 40 litres. Soil was processed using a bulk water separation machine and flots were collected onto a 500μm mesh. On the basis of a preliminary assessment five samples were analysed in detail.

Methods

Samples were sorted for the retrieval of any quantifiable plant remains under a binocular microscope at x10 to x20 magnification. Identification of charred seeds and chaff was based on morphological characteristics and by comparison with modern reference material held at the Oxford University Museum. In the case of cereals the plant part identified is given (grain, rachis, glume base etc.). In all other cases the plant part given is the seed or nutlet, unless otherwise stated. Nomenclature follows Clapham, Tutin and Moore (1987).

Results

The detailed results are displayed in Table 7.10. The samples are dominated by large numbers of fragments of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell. Quantification is based on the number of fragments retained in the 2mm sieve. Cereal remains were present in small numbers in all five samples. Both free-threshing and hulled wheats (*Triticum* sp.) are represented. The hulled wheat grain has not been identified to species and is therefore recorded as *Triticum spelta/dicoccum* (spelt/emmer). Occasional glume bases were identified as *Triticum spelta* (spelt wheat). Spelt wheat is thought to be a Bronze Age introduction in Britain. It is therefore thought the occasional glumes bases in the Neolithic deposits are likely to be the result of contamination from later deposits. Hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.) was also present. The majority of the cereal remains were, however, too poorly preserved to enable identification, and have thus been recorded as indeterminate. Weed seeds were occasionally present in the samples, including weedy species of *Medicago/Trifolium* sp. (medick/clover), *Galium* cf *aperine* (goosegrass/cleavers), and large seeded grasses including oats. Many of the grasses may be poorly preserved cereal grains, although grasses along with

Table 7.10 Charred plant remains from Lake End Road West

	Sample	*30*	*31*	*50*	*47*	*68*
	Context	*40529*	*40530*	*40631*	*40601*	*40954*
	Feature	*40528*	*40528*	*40528*	*40600*	*40953*
	Volume	*30*	*40*	*30*	*40*	*40*
Triticum sp.	Free-threshing Wheat grain	3	-	2	1	1
Triticum spelta/dicoccum	Spelt/Emmer Wheat grain	2	1	1	1	1
Triticum sp.	Wheat grain	-	-	-	1	1
Hordeum vulgare	Hulled Barley, lateral grain	-	-	-	-	1
Hordeum sp.	Hulled Barley grain	2	4	5	-	-
Hordeum sp.	Barley grain	3	-	3	-	3
Triticum/Secale cereale	Wheat/Rye grain	1	-	-	-	1
Cerealia indet	Indeterminate grain	6	5	9	2	5
Triticum spelta	Spelt Wheat glume base	1	1	1	2	-
Triticum spelta/dicoccum	Spelt/Emmer glume base	-	1	-	-	-
Hordeum sp.	Barley rachis	-	1	-	-	-
Corylus avellana	Hazel nutshell frags.	246	146	367	29	16
Medicago/Trifolium sp.	Medick/Clover	-	-	1	-	-
Polygonum sp.	Knotgrass/Persicaria	-	-	-	-	1
Galium cf. *aperine*	Goosegrass/Cleavers	1	-	-	1	-
Labiate	Large seeded	-	1	-	-	-
Avena sp.	Oats	2	-	3	-	2
Gramineae	Grass, large seeded	-	-	1	-	1
Gramineae	Grass, small seeded	-	-	-	-	1

the other species represented are all common arable/ruderal weeds which are frequently recovered from prehistoric assemblages.

Such assemblages are typical of Neolithic sites where low density cereal cultivation tends to be suggested, involving both wheat and barley, supplemented by wild resources collected from local woodland/scrub. The presence of cereal chaff in the deposits indicates that cereal processing could have taken place on the site, although the numbers are too low to establish this with any certainty. Other Neolithic and early Bronze Age sites provide evidence for the cultivation of both free-threshing wheat, emmer and hulled and naked six-row barley (Moffett *et al.* 1989; Greig, 1991; Helbaek 1952). The study of Neolithic botanical records by Moffett *et al.* (1989) indicates that wild food resources are likely to have formed a major component of the diet alongside the cereals. In addition to the hazel nut, fruits, such as crab-apple, raspberry, blackberry and sloe, have all been recorded from Neolithic sites.

Taplow Mill Site 1: middle Neolithic pits

by Alistair Barclay and Elizabeth Anderson

Four pits dated to the middle Neolithic (110004, 110006, 110016 and 110018) were found at Taplow Mill Site 1, two of which had been partially excavated in Evaluation Trench B11 (Figs 7.28-29). Pit 110018 was fully excavated, whilst only half of pits 110004, 110006 and 110016 was excavated. The pits occurred in two pairs which lay around 10m apart. Pit 11004 lay around 1m from pit 11006, and pit 110016 around 1.5m from pit 11018.

The southern pair, pits 110004 and 110006, were of similar size and shape. Pit 110004 was subcircular in plan, and had steep, straight sides and a flat base. It measured 0.60m across and was 0.15m deep. Pit 110006 was circular in plan, and had an irregular, asymmetrical profile. It measured 0.50m across and was 0.11m deep. Both pits contained single fills (110003 and 110005) of mid grey brown silty loam and produced Fengate Ware pottery and flint. Charred cereal grain (3 grains the species of which could not be identified) and hazel nutshell fragments (76 fragments) were recovered from pit 110004 and charcoal was recovered from pit 110006 (Table 7.11). A radiocarbon date, obtained from the hazel nutshell from pit 11004 (fill 11003), places the pit in the period 3350-2920 cal BC (AA-42149 (GU-9276): 4455±45 BP).

The northern pair of pits, 110016 and 110018, were of unequal size. Pit 110016 was subcircular in plan, and bowl-shaped in profile. It measured 0.70m across and was 0.25m deep. Pit 110018 was circular in plan and was also bowl-shaped in profile, although with steeper sides than pit 110016. It measured 1.00m across and was 0.30m deep. Pit 110018, the bigger of the two, was the only pit which contained more than two fills. Its lower fill (110019) consisted of mid to dark grey brown clay silt with relatively large quantities of gravel. Its upper fill (110017) was a mid grey brown silty loam and contained charred cereal grain. Both layers contained Fengate Ware. The lower fill also yielded a shed antler, a bovine scapula (as well

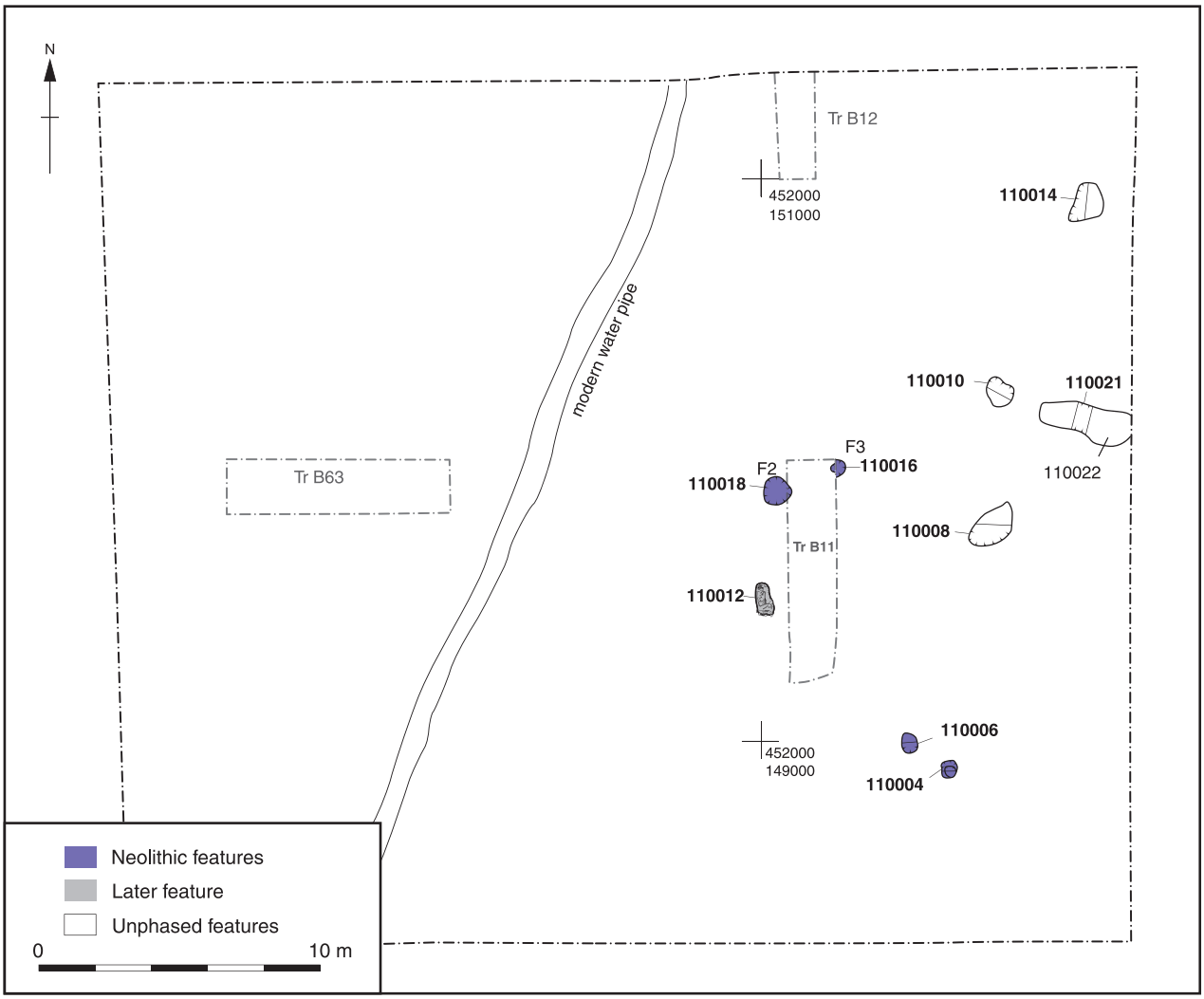


Fig. 7.28 Taplow Mill Site 1, plan

Table 7.11 Summary of features at Taplow Mill Site 1

Pit	*Depth (m)*	*Diam. (m)*	*Vessels (no.)*	*Flint (no.)*	*Arrow-heads (no.)*	*Flakes (no.)*	*Blades, bladelets and blade-like flakes (no.)*	*Chips (no.)*	*Other flint*	*Cattle (no. frags)*	*Red deer (no. frags)*	*Unident animal bone (no. frags)*	*Cereal (no.)*	*Hazel nut-shell (no.)*
110004	0.15	0.6	3	24		12	4	8					3	76
110006	0.18	0.5	5	6		2	3		Serrated flake 1			1		
110016	0.25	0.7	1	71		43	6	19	Irregular waste 3					
110018	0.3	1	3	98	4	76	10	1	Rejuvenation flake tablet 1 Tested nodule/bashed lump 2 Keeled nondiscoidal flake core 1 Notch 1					
									Retouched flake 2	1	1	25	1	

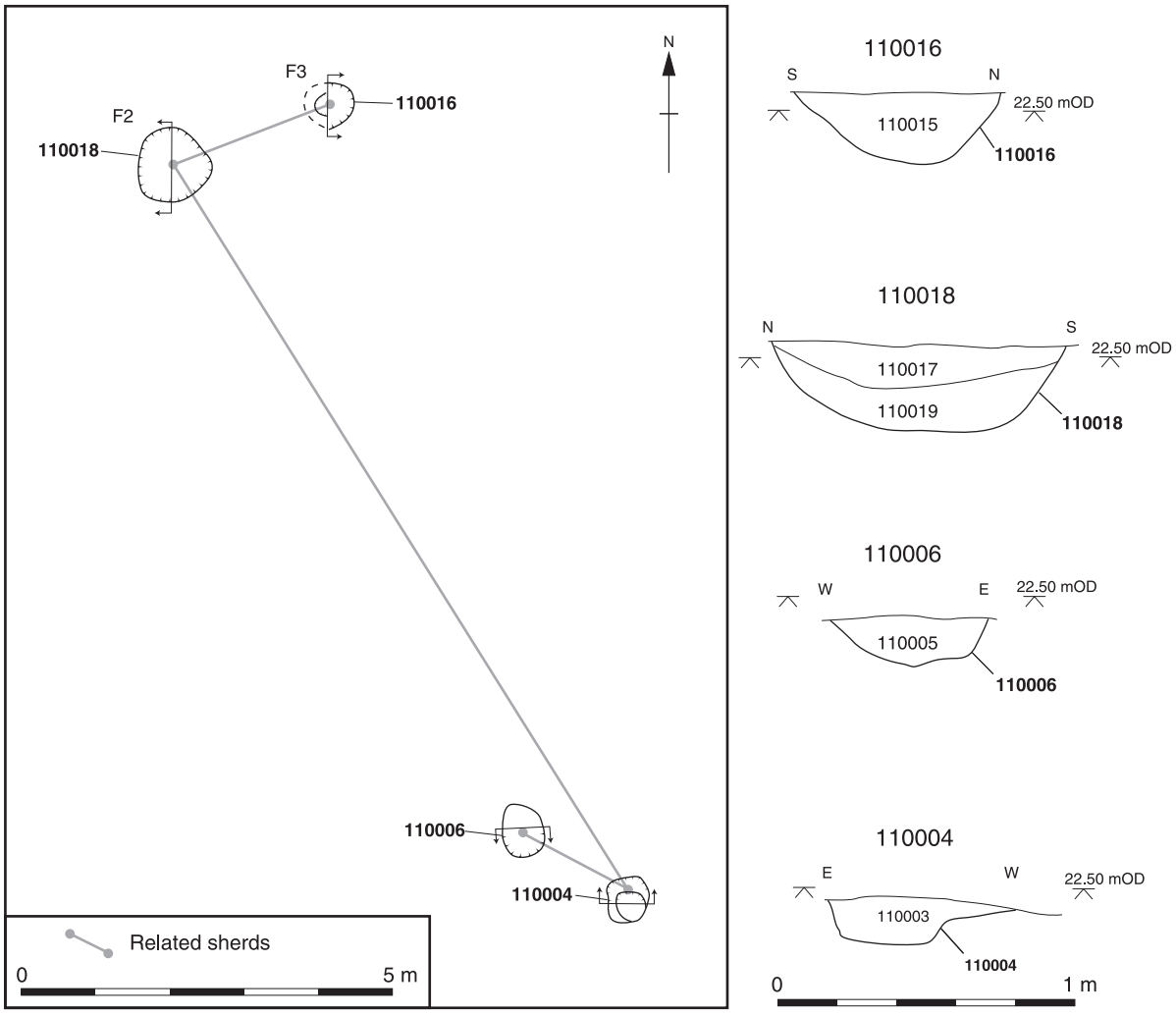


Fig. 7.29 Neolithic pits, plan and sections, Taplow Mill Site 1

as two other cattle bones and one unidentified fragment of bone) and four chisel arrowheads. The scapula was measurable and its size (length of glenoid cavity: 59.9mm; breadth of glenoid cavity: 56mm) is comparable to cattle from other Neolithic sites in southern England (identification and measurements by N Sykes)

One hundred and seventy-five sherds of Peterborough Ware pottery, from at least 12 vessels, were recovered from three of the pits (Table 7.12). The flint assemblages from the pits were very similar, consisting largely of flakes, blade-like flakes, and chips. The assemblage from pit 110018 was distinguished by the presence of four chisel arrowheads. The only animal bone was fragments of shed red deer antler and cattle bone from pit 110018. A large number of hazel nutshells were recovered from pit 110004 and cereal grains from pits 11004 and 110018.

Tree-throw holes and hollows

Four further features – two tree-throw holes (110008 and 110021) and two hollows (110010 and 110014) which might have been the truncated remains of further tree-throw holes – could have been of similar date based on the character of their fills. They were all more or less irregular in plan, measuring from 0.53m to 1.00m across and had shallow, bowl-shaped profiles, from 0.13m to 0.25m deep. Their fills consisted of grey to red brown loam or silt deposits which contained no finds.

Table 7.12 Summary of Peterborough Ware from pits at Taplow Mill Site 1

Pit	*Fill*	*Count*	*Weight (g)*	*Av. Sherd wt. (g)*	*Vessels*
110004	110003	31	158	5	3
110006	110005	28	81	3	5
110016	110015	19	26	1	1
110018	110017, 110019	34	248	9	3
Total		112	513		12

Fig. 7.30 Peterborough Ware, Taplow Mill Site 1

Middle Neolithic pottery from the pits at Taplow Mill Site 1 *by Alistair Barclay*

Introduction

A total of 112 sherds (27 decorated) of middle Neolithic Fengate Ware pottery were recovered from the fills of the pits. Fifty very small sherds of an unidentifiable fabric – although these were almost certainly later Neolithic – were also found.

The pottery from all four pits is made from a single fabric (FA3/MN) and is stylistically similar. Finger-nail impressed collared rims were recovered from pits 110004 and 110018, finger-nail impressed body sherds were recovered from all four pits, and sherds with internal incised decoration were recovered from pits 110004 and 110016. The presence of collared rims, the herring bone patterned finger-tip decorated rim bevels, the conical body profiles, and flat bases, all suggest affinities with the Fengate style. An unusual feature of this assemblage is the use of internal decoration on vessel P1.

Pit 110004 – fill 110003

Some 31 sherds from a minimum of three vessels were recovered from fill 110003. This includes 12 sherds from a medium size Fengate style bowl (P1) with a short bevelled rim, cavetto zone with impressed neck pits and a troncoconical body. The use of finger-nail impressions to generate a herring bone pattern on the rim bevel is typical of this substyle as is the use of end-to-end finger-nail impressions on the outer rim. The body of the vessel is decorated all-over with paired finger-nail impressions. More unusual is the use of incised lines to create a probable cross-hatch pattern on the inside part of the bowl. Part of a second vessel (P2) is represented by a more pointed rim and neck sherds. This time the rim decoration is executed in impressed bone. Part of a flat base (not illustrated) with a possible bone impression could come from vessel P2, although the fabric appears slightly different. Some 15 small fragments weighing 14g could not be assigned to a particular vessel.

Pit 110006 – fill 110005

Some 31 sherds from five vessels (based on differences in firing, fabric, decoration and sherd wall-thickness) were recovered from fill 110005. This includes a plain flat base (P3) from a relatively large vessel, body sherds with impressed twisted cord, body sherds from a relatively coarse vessel with finger-nail impressions, a finger-nail impressed rim fragment with herringbone motif on the rim bevel, other body sherds and miscellaneous fragments.

Pit 110016 – fill 110015 and evaluation B11 F3 51

In total some 19 sherds from a single vessel were recovered from this feature. These include part of a collared rim with finger-nail impressions, a herring bone decorated rim bevel and finger-nail impressed body sherds. Two refitting body sherds came from the evaluation.

Pit 110018 – fills110017 and 110019

In total some 7 sherds from two or three separate vessels were recovered from fill 110017, which includes sherds from a heavy flat base, a finger-nail impressed body sherd with internal incised decoration, a probable neck sherd, a pointed collared rim decorated with false cord (oblique finger-nail within grooves), neck and body sherds. A further 27 sherds and numerous small fragments were recovered from fill 110019, including neck fragments from one of the vessels represented in 110017. The neck pit of one of the vessels was made with a hollow tube fashioned possibly from a stick or bone.

Discussion

The pottery recovered from the four pits is strikingly similar in appearance, suggesting that the paired pits (or indeed all four pits) were broadly contemporaneous. It is noteworthy that sherds from very similar or the same vessel were found in pits 110004 and 110016, and 110016 and 110018 (Fig. 7.29).

Catalogue of illustrated middle Neolithic pottery (Fig. 7.30)

1 Pit 110004 fill 110003. Middle Neolithic, Fengate ware. Rim, neck and body sherds from a single vessel
2 Pit 110004, fill 110003. Middle Neolithic, Fengate ware. Rim sherd
3 Pit 110006, fill 110005. Middle Neolithic, ?Fengate ware. Base sherd
4 Pit 110016, fill 110015. Middle Neolithic, Fengate ware. Decorated body sherd
5 Pit 110016, fill 110015. Middle Neolithic, Fengate ware. Two refitting body sherds
6 Pit 110018, fill 110017. Middle Neolithic, Fengate ware. Rim sherd
7 Pit 110018, fill 110017. Middle Neolithic, Fengate ware. Decorated body sherd
8 Pit 110018, fill 110017. Middle Neolithic, Fengate ware. Decorated body sherd
9 Pit 110018, fill 110017. Middle Neolithic, Fengate ware. Decorated base sherd, finger-tip impressed
10 Pit 110018, fill 110019. Middle Neolithic, Fengate ware. Decorated body sherd

Struck flint from the middle Neolithic pits at Taplow Mill Site 1 *by Theresa Durden and Hugo Anderson-Whymark*

Introduction

A total of 211 pieces of struck flint was recovered from this site; no burnt unworked flint was found. All of the flint was contained within the four middle Neolithic pits (110018, 110004, 110006 and 110016), with the exception of chronologically undiagnostic residual flakes recovered from a Roman grave (110012; Fig. 7.28). Only five flints were burnt and

Table 7.13 The flint assemblage by feature and category type from Taplow Mill Site 1

CATEGORY TYPE	Pit 110004	Pit 110006	Grave 110012	Pit 110016	Pit 110018	Grand total
Flake	12	2	8	43	76	141
Blade			1		4	5
Bladelet				1		1
Blade-like	4	3	1	5	6	19
Irregular waste				3		3
Chip			2	19		21
Sieved chips 10-4mm	8				1	9
Rejuvenation flake tablet					1	1
Tested nodule/bashed lump					2	2
Keeled non-discoidal flake core					1	1
Chisel arrowhead					4	4
Serrated flake		1				1
Notch					1	1
Retouched flake					2	2
Grand total	24	6	12	71	98	211
Burnt unworked flint (g)	-	-	-	-	-	-
No. burnt (%) (exc. chips)	-	-	-	2	3	5 (2.8)
No. broken (%) (exc. chips)	3 (18.7)	-	6 (60)	19 (36.5)	15 (15.3)	62 (34.2)
No. retouched (%) (exc. chips)	-	1	-	-	7 (7.1)	8 (4.4)

43 broken (Table 7.13). Pit 110018 was fully excavated, whilst only half of pits 110004 and 110006 and 110016 was excavated. The excavation strategy has to be borne in mind when examining the assemblages recovered; a significant sized assemblage may have been present in pit 110016.

Raw material

The flint appears to be mostly gravel flint which is available locally. This flint varies in colour and translucency and ranges from pale beige and grey to dark brown and grey/black. The cortex is generally thin and worn and pale brown or grey in colour. A small amount of chalk flint – recognisable by its dark grey colour and thicker, chalky white cortex – was present. The material was all in fresh condition and light cortication was present on some pieces, but there was no relationship between its occurrence and the context.

The assemblage

The assemblages from the pits exhibit similar technological traits and will therefore be discussed together. Due to the generally limited size of the assemblages, technological attributes were not quantified precisely by piece, although general traits are discussed below.

Flakes dominate the assemblages in all of the pits except pit 110006. A small number of narrower, blade-like flakes were also present. Cores were only found in pit 110018, and chips were rare in all contexts given that all of the pit fills (except for pit 110006) were sampled and sieved.

The technological attributes of the flakes from all pits were very similar. A mixture of hard and soft hammers were used, although in pit 110004 soft hammer-struck flakes seemed to dominate. All flake butts were the simple prepared type, and both broad and narrow butts were found, generally occurring on hard and soft hammer struck flakes respectively. In pits 110018 and 110016, which contained larger numbers of flakes, completely cortical flakes were rare. Some side and distal trimming flakes were present, but inner flakes (bearing no cortex) were the most common. A few more specialised types of flake were noted. A core tablet was recovered from pit 110018 and a crested flake from pit 110004. These represent methods of creating or rejuvenating platforms or flaking faces of cores. Two cores were recovered from pit 110018, a crudely-worked keeled broad flake core and a nodule with several flakes removed.

Retouched pieces were found in pits 110018 and 11006. A flake with a small area of serration on one edge was found in pit 110006, whilst four chisel arrowheads, comparable in style to Clark's Type A or B (Clark 1934), a notched flake and two flakes with slight edge retouch were found in pit 110018. The four chisel arrowheads are of particular interest as all are in some way misshaped. Additionally, one of the flakes exhibiting slight edge retouch has the form of a chisel arrowhead, and, although broken, may represent another misshape (SF 110027). One example is relatively large and thick, whilst another very small and thin; the other two exhibit slight irregularities in their form. The results of examination for use damage were negative, suggesting that the pieces are unused. As misshaped and unused arrowheads, it is possible these pieces were manufactured crudely especially for deposition or were simply disposed of

within the pit. A collection of similar irregular arrowheads were recovered from structured deposits in Grooved Ware-associated pits at Wyke Down Henge, Cranborne Chase, Dorset (Brown 1991, 118-9). Brown interprets these irregular forms as pieces manufactured to a state which allows categorisation as 'symbolic arrowheads', which, whilst not functional, possessed a symbolic potency (*ibid*. 130).

The possibility of the presence of chisel arrowhead manufacture debris within the pit was investigated. In general, the proportion of breakage within the pit is relatively low. Detailed examination of the breaks identified a few edges which may have been deliberately snapped including a few proximal fragments, such as SF 110028. However, none of the fragments conjoined or were of a similar flint to the arrowheads.

The chisel arrowheads in pit 110018 suggest a middle to later Neolithic date for the assemblage (Green 1980), which is consistent with the middle Neolithic date indicated by the pottery. In addition, the technological traits of the flint from all of the pits would also appear to be broadly of this date. The cores are not particularly diagnostic though the keeled example could be attributed a later Neolithic/early Bronze Age date. The practice of rejuvenating cores appears to have declined through the later Neolithic and Bronze Age, and the presence of the crested flake and core tablet is slightly unusual and would be more typical of earlier Neolithic assemblages. The core tablet is, however, a poor example, and may represent the latest usage of this technique.

Given the presence of four arrowheads, pit 110018 appears to have contained a special deposit. The remaining flintwork from this pit does not suggest a knapping episode in or beside the pit as so few chips were recovered and no refitting flakes were found, but it is possible that chisel arrowheads were manufactured on flakes in the assemblage. Use damage was present on many of the flakes, and it is possibly the deposit is composed of utilised pieces rather than knapping debris. It is possible that the flints in this pit represent an act of disposal of utilised and non-functional pieces, but it is equally plausible that flints were deliberately selected or manufactured for deposition. The other pits may have had a similar role although they lack the presence of the more specialised lithic items.

The dearth of lithics from the site, and lack of retouched items such as scrapers, suggest that this was not a domestic focus. The presence of significant assemblages within pits, which, although not forming a tight group, are relatively closely associated, suggests that this might have been an area of ritual significance.

Catalogue of illustrated flint (Fig. 7.31)

1 Pit 110018, fill 110017, SF 110015. Chisel arrowhead, crude and thick.
2 Pit 110018, fill 110019, SF 110001. Chisel arrowhead.
3 Pit 110018, fill 110019, SF 110002. Chisel arrowhead.
4 Pit 110018, fill 110019, SF 110003. Chisel arrowhead.
5 Pit 110018, fill 110019, SF 110027. Misshapen/unfinished chisel arrowhead?
6 Pit 110018, fill 110019, SF 110028. Intentionally broken flake, possible debitage from the manufacture of transverse arrowheads.
7 Pit 110018, fill 110019, SF 110029. Flake.
8 Pit 110018, fill 110019, SF 110030. Flake.

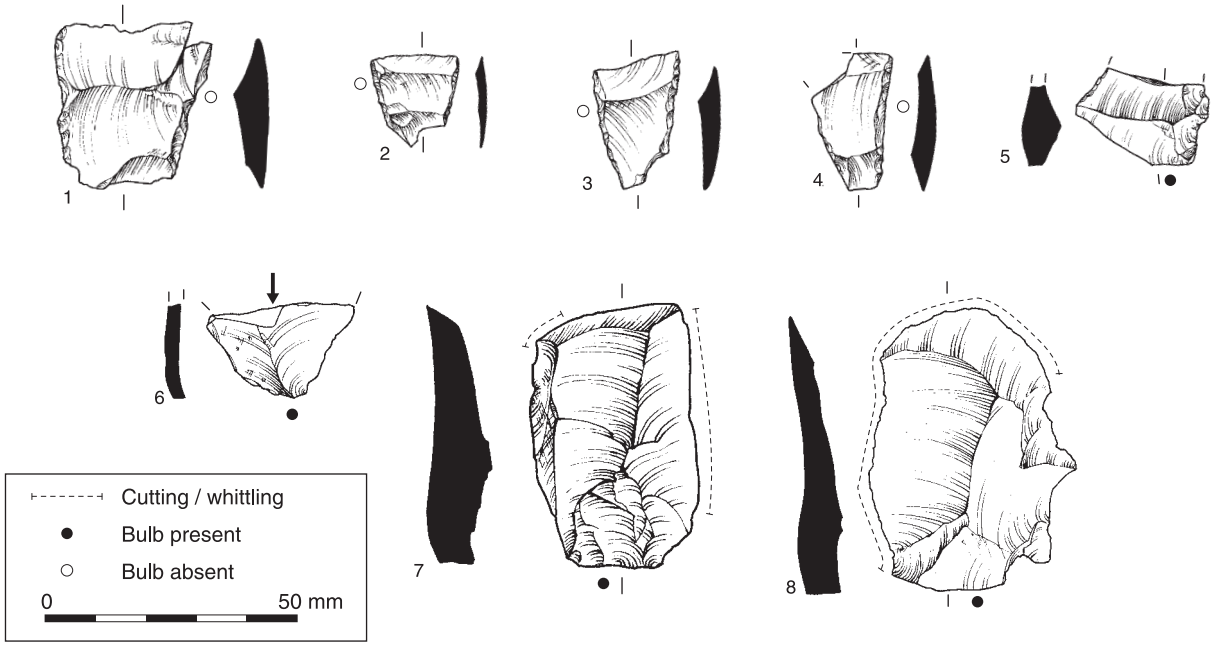


Fig. 7.31 Worked flint, Taplow Mill Site 1

Marsh Lane East Site 1: middle Neolithic pits
by A Barclay, A Cromarty and D Petts

Middle Neolithic pits

Three pits at Marsh Lane East Site 1 have been assigned to the middle Neolithic on the basis of the Peterborough Ware associated with them (Fig. 7.32). These pits all lay near the eastern edge of the excavation, around 130m north of the palaeochannel. Two of the pits formed a pair lying adjacent to each other (60324 and 60322); the third pit (60315) lay around 5m to the north.

Paired pits 60324 and 60322 (Fig. 7.32)

Pit 60324 had an irregular, roughly elongated oval shape in plan (0.55m by 0.40m across) and was 0.05m deep, while pit 60322 had a regular, subcircular form in plan (0.60m by 0.55m) and was 0.1m deep. Both contained only single fills which were nearly identical, consisting of a greyish-brown silty clay with some charcoal and a little gravel. The single fills of both pits contained small quantities of worked flint, Peterborough Ware and charred plant remains. The pottery in pit 60324 included decorated neck and body sherds from at least two vessels. One of the neck sherds is very similar to sherds identified as Mortlake Ware at Lake End Road West. However, other sherds are more likely to be from a Fengate style vessel.

Pit 60315

Pit 60315 was very similar to the paired pits described above. It was slightly elliptical in plan (0.45m by 0.40m) and was 0.15m deep with a bowl-shaped profile. Its single fill, 60314, of dark brown silty clay contained charcoal flecks and some small gravel as well as sherds of Peterborough Ware and a flint scraper.

The middle Neolithic pottery from the pits at Marsh Lane East Site 1 *by Alistair Barclay and Tessa Machling*

In total 26 fragments (102g) of middle Neolithic Peterborough Ware pottery were recovered from the three pit deposits at Marsh Lane East Site 1 (Table 7.14). The sherds from these pits were all relatively small in size.

Table 7.14 Summary of Peterborough Ware from pits at Marsh Lane East Site 1

Pit	*Context*	*SS no*	*FAB*	*Period*	*No. sherds*	*Weight (g)*
60315	60314	-	FA2	MN	4	26
60322	60321	60053	FA2	MN	3	2
60324	60323	60054	FA3	MN	18	73
	60323	60054	AF1	MN	1	1
Total					26	102

All of this pottery was in flint and sand-tempered fabrics (FA2/MN, FA3/MN and AF1/MN). Similar fabrics occur at Lake End Road West and at Taplow Mill.

Featured sherds were recovered from all three pits and include a number of rim, neck and shoulder fragments. A short collared rim and, possibly, a neck sherd with an impressed pit, are from a small Fengate Ware bowl. An angled inturned rim is from a Mortlake-style vessel. It is quite common for vessels of these two substyles to be found together, while some 'hybrid' vessels contain traits of both styles. The diagnostic sherds indicate that all the vessels were probably relatively small in size.

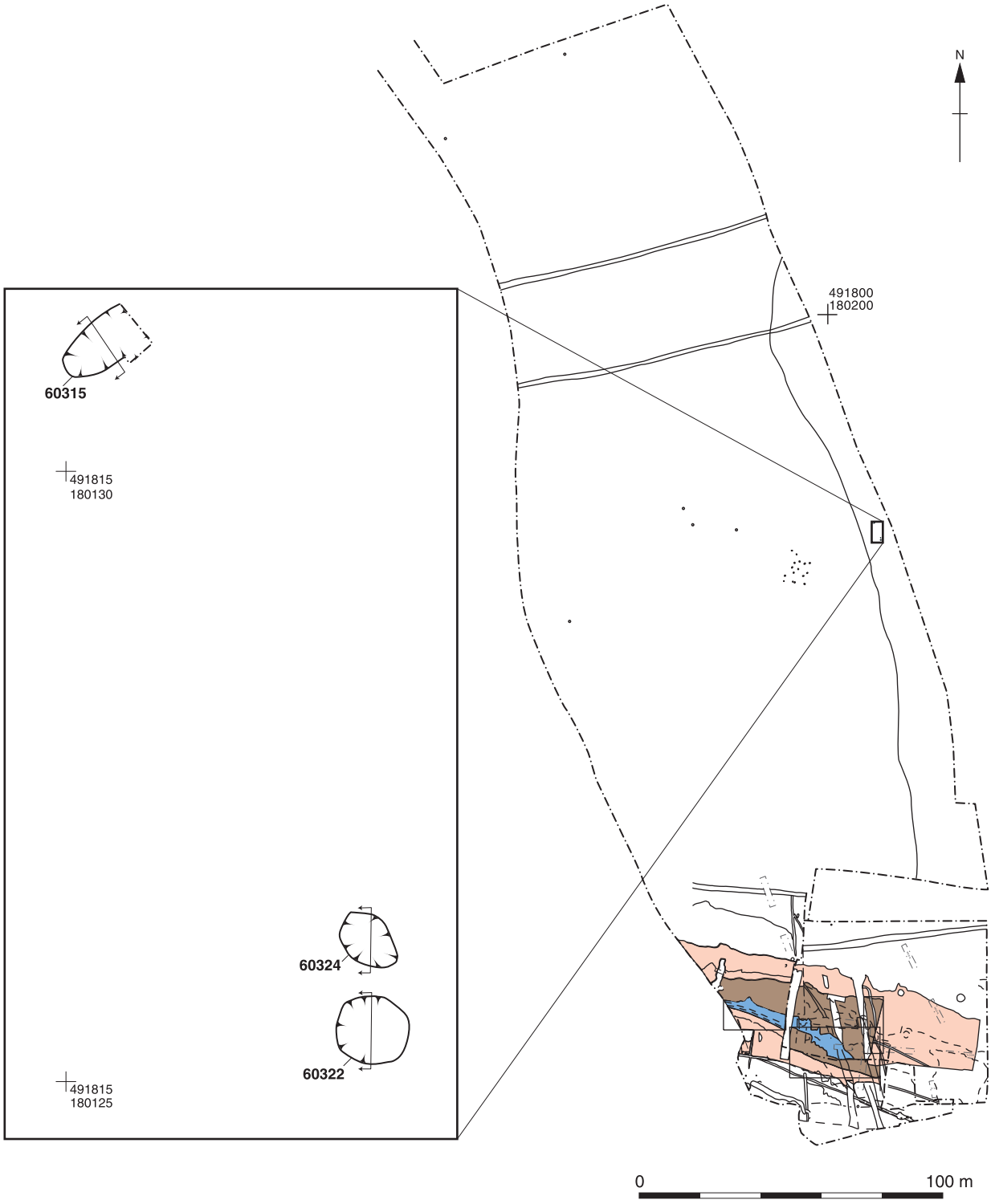
The assemblage from this site is characterised by generally small and abraded sherds somewhat similar to the assemblages of Fengate ware recovered from Taplow Mill Site 1, which can be contrasted with some of the pit deposits from Lake End Road West where much larger vessel fragments were recovered. It is possible to see these deposits as 'token offerings' for which only single or small numbers of vessel fragments were selected for burial.

Taplow Mill Site 2: middle Neolithic pits
by Elizabeth Anderson

Of the often irregular features found at Taplow Mill Site 2 (Fig. 7.33; Table 9.14), most of which were probably tree-throw holes, only two seemed sufficiently regular in plan and profile to be classified as pits (100011 and 100067). Pit 100067 did not contain any finds, but pit 100011 contained a large group of flint (196 pieces) as well as burnt unworked flint (482g) and a single charred grain of cereal. The flint, although it consists largely of flakes also includes 5 blades and 20 blade-like flakes, a blade and a flake core, as well as two serrated flakes, and has been tentatively dated to the middle or late Neolithic (see Chapter 9). These two features were both circular and had bowl shaped profiles. They were very different in size: pit 100011 measuring 1.3m across and 0.4m deep (Fig. 7.34) and pit 100067, 0.2m across and 0.15m deep. Although the chronology of many of the features on this site is uncertain, since most of the lithic evidence from this site suggests a broad late Neolithic or early Bronze Age date, they are discussed, along with the lithic evidence, in Chapter 9.

Area 16: Middle Neolithic tree-throw holes and a pit *by Tim Allen, Anne Marie Cromarty, David Petts and Ken Welsh*

Three features in Area 16 have been tentatively dated to the middle Neolithic period, all in Trench 16C, north-east of the main excavation (Figs 7.35-36). These included a probable pit or tree-throw hole (13411; Fig. 7.36; Table 7.15), and two probable tree-throw holes, 13403 and 13301.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491800
180200
60315
491815
180130
60324
60322
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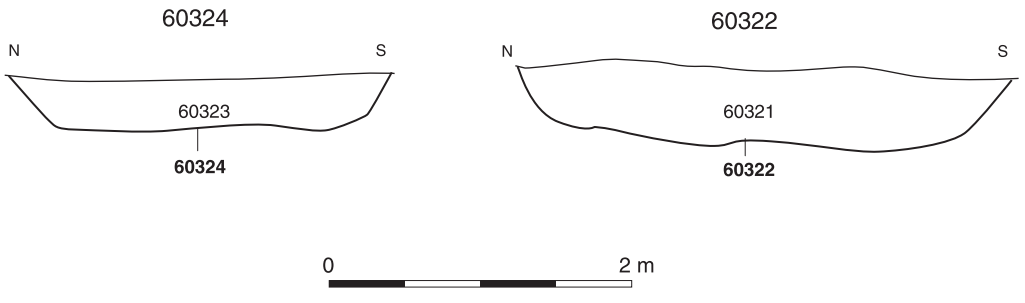
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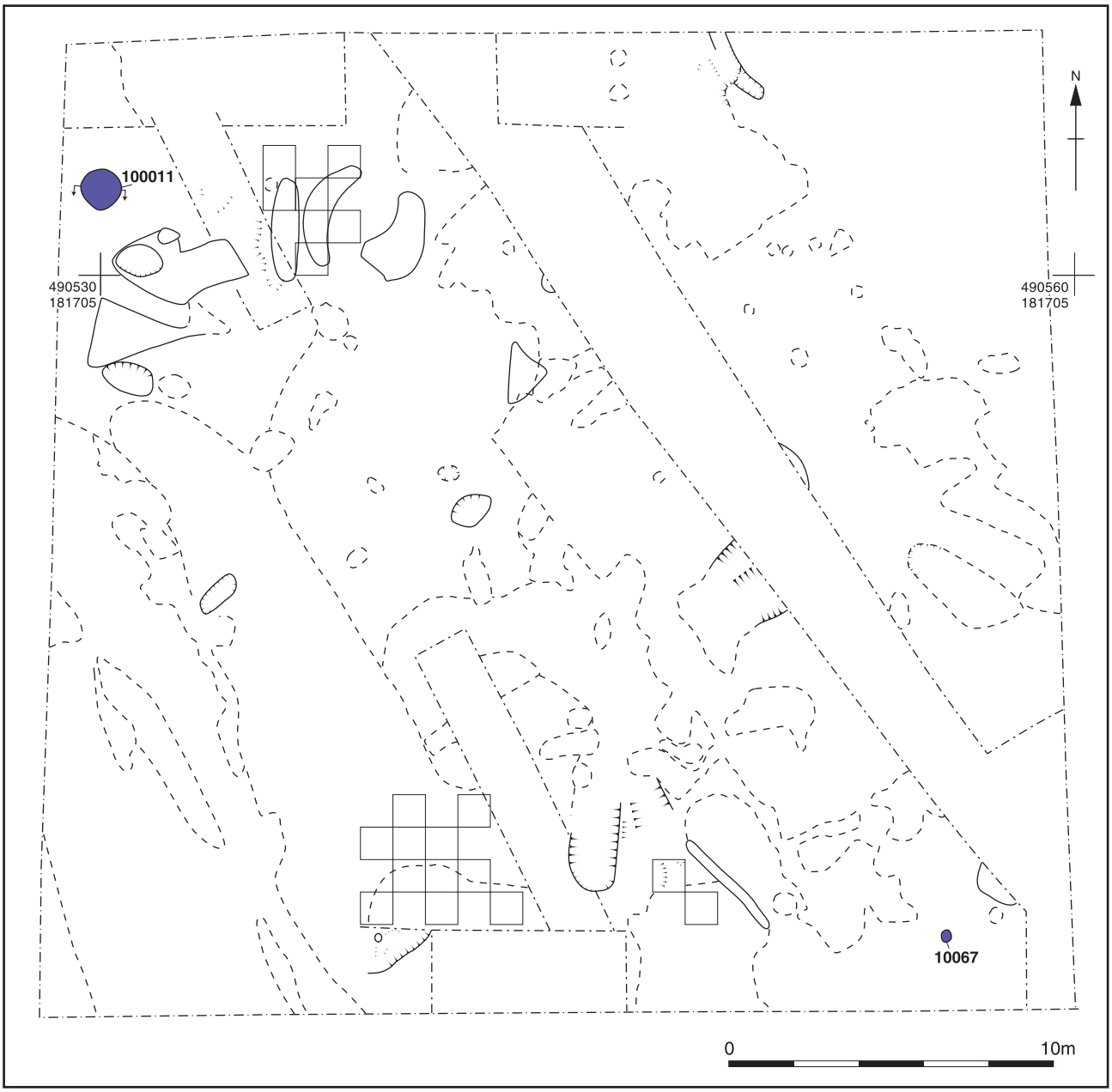


Fig. 7.33 Location of middle Neolithic pits at Taplow Mill Site 2

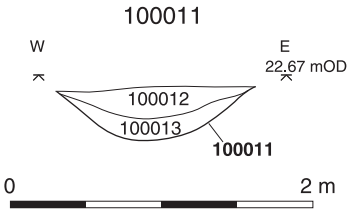
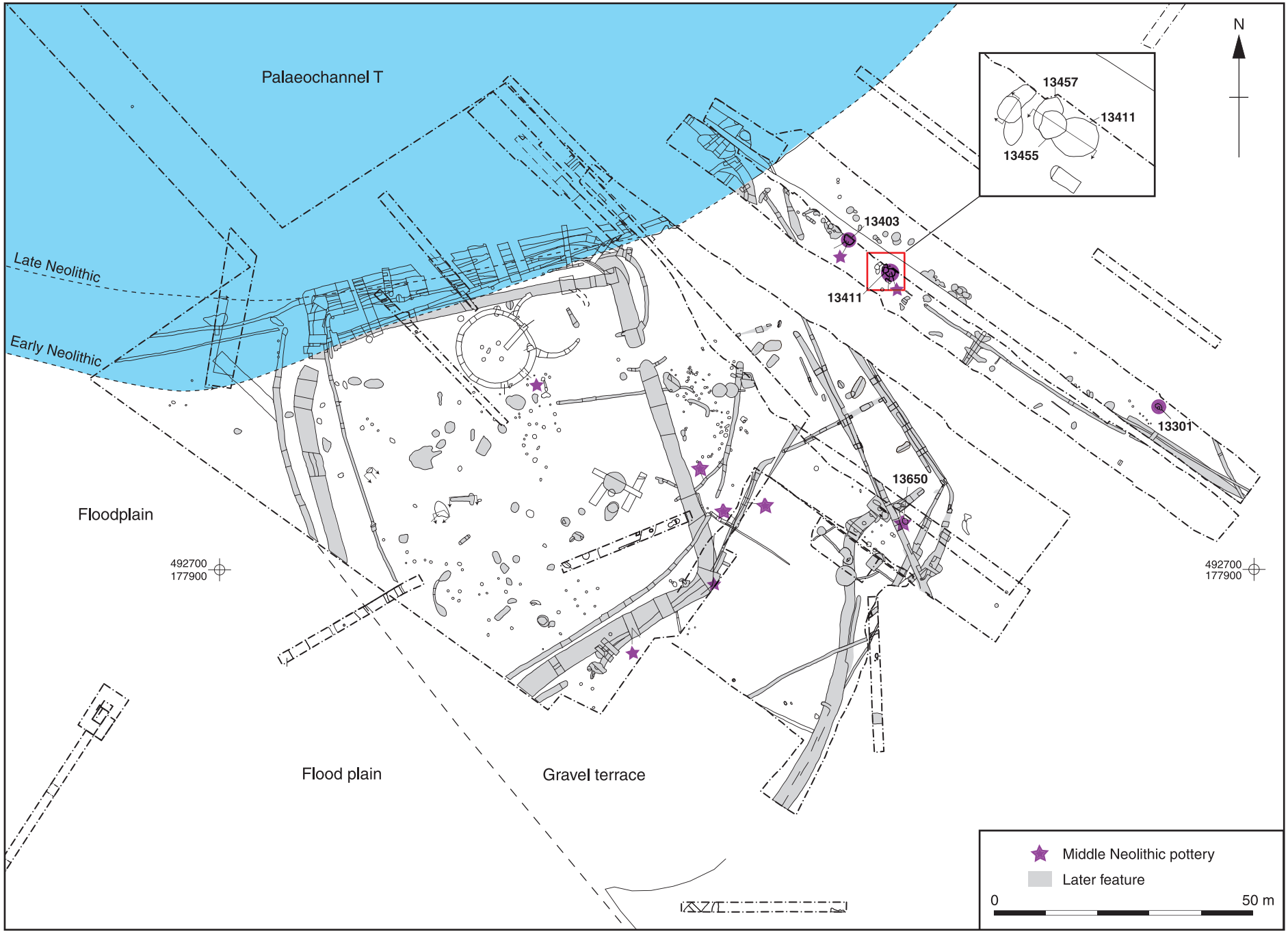


Fig. 7.34 Section of pit 100011, Taplow Mill Site 2

Fig. 7.32 (facing page) Plan and sections of middle Neolithic pits at Marsh Lane East Site 1

Feature 13411 is dated to the early-middle Neolithic period on the basis of 15 potsherds, including one small early Neolithic sherd, a 2g sherd of middle Neolithic Peterborough Ware and 13 other crumbs of pottery of Neolithic character. Fill 13412 also yielded six flint flakes, including one retouched example, and two flint cores, one of Mesolithic or early Neolithic type, nine pieces of burnt flint and fragments of a pig humerus, in addition to the pottery. Another oval cut feature (13457; Fig. 7.36) lay just to the north-west of this pit and was filled by a similar silty clay deposit (13458). Both features were cut by a third smaller, more circular pit (13455; Fig. 7.36) containing a slightly darker coloured clay silt deposit (13456). The only


Palaeochannel T
Late Neolithic
Early Neolithic
Floodplain
Flood plain
Gravel terrace
13457
13411
13455
13403
13411
13301
13650
492700
177900
492700
177900
N
Middle Neolithic pottery
Later feature
0
50 m

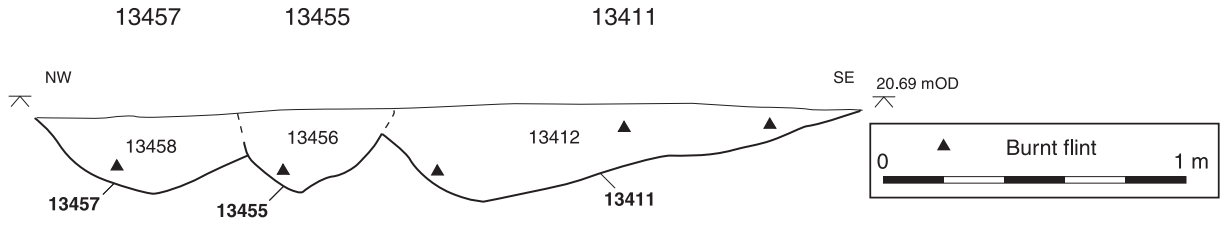


Fig. 7.36 Section of feature 13411, Area 16

Table 7.15 Catalogue of Neolithic, Bronze Age and undated pits from Area 16

Cut	*Shape in plan*	*Length (m)*	*Breadth (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*Profile*	*Fills*	*Fill character*	*Pot (NoSh)*	*Flint (no.)*	*Bone (no.)*
Neolithic										
9930	Circular	1.33	1.33	0.31	Bowl-shaped	9931	Occupation deposit	35	39	37
13403	Subcircular	1.70	0.54	0.15	Saucer-shaped	13404	Occupation deposit	1	5	1
13411	Oval	1.56	1.54	0.32	Irregular	13412	Occupation deposit	15	8	1
13650	Circular	1.08	0.97	0.19	Saucer-shaped	13651	Occupation deposit	32*	24	
Bronze Age including burnt flint pits of possible Bronze Age date										
9078	Suboval	0.41	0.39	0.22	Irregular	9079	Occupation deposit	7	1	
9344	Suboval	0.33	0.29	0.17	Irregular	9345	Occupation deposit	9		5
12541	Circular	0.70	0.70	0.40	Irregular	10416, 12542	Occupation deposit with intrusive later pottery	10		
12629	Circular	0.97	0.99	0.38	U-shaped	12630	Burnt flint pit			
12972	Circular	0.84	0.84	0.10	Irregular	12973, 12993	Very high in charcoal with some burnt flint			
13090	Subcircular	0.40	0.40	0.12	Bowl-shaped	13082	Burnt flint pit			
13208	Subcircular	0.80	0.80	0.15	Saucer-shaped	13209	Burnt flint pit			
13395	Circular	0.82	0.82	0.16	Saucer-shaped	13396	Occupation deposit	2		
Other pits										
9172	Suboval	0.41	0.29	0.22	U-shaped	9173	Occupation deposit	3		
9174	Suboval	0.54	0.21	0.37	Irregular	9175	Occupation deposit	6	1	5
9199	Subcircular	0.42	0.42	0.14	Bowl-shaped	9200	Occupation deposit	1	5	32
9340	Circular	5.00	4.00	0.40	Sloping U-shaped	9341-2, 9352	Occupation deposit	644**	17	328
9444	Circular	1.65	1.65	0.60	U-shaped	9445-8	Occupation deposit	33***	12	62
9450	Circular	3.55	1.13	0.50	Irregular	9451-3	Occupation deposit	36	24	37
9469	Circular	0.83	0.83	0.28	Bowl-shaped	9449	Occupation deposit	5*		5
9493	Circular	0.62	0.62	0.16	Bowl-shaped	9494	Occupation deposit	2		3
9495	Square	2.30	2.26	0.36	U-shaped	9496-7, 9831-2, 9902	Occupation deposit	433	12	32
9515	Circular	1.30	1.30	0.50	U-shaped	9604	Occupation deposit	18	3	19
9525	Circular	1.30	1.30	0.78	V-shaped	9526, 9528, 9533	Occupation deposit	38	7	18
9581	Circular	1.80	1.80	1.06	V-shaped	9539	Occupation deposit	1	1	
9815	Circular	1.70	1.70	0.40	Bowl-shaped	9816	Occupation deposit	43	2	
9896	Circular	1.56	1.56	0.38	U-shaped	9897	Occupation deposit	16	4	41
9910	Oval	0.98	0.87	0.18	Saucer-shaped	9911	Occupation deposit	7	1	12
10308	Circular	1.82	1.82	0.34	Bowl-shaped	10309	Occupation deposit	164	11	154
12554	Suboval	3.10	2.50	0.63	Irregular	12555-60, 10479	Occupation deposit	34	18	10
13016	Subcircular	2.30	2.30	0.75	Irregular	13027-20	Occupation deposit	2	3	
13722	Circular	0.90	0.70	0.20	U-shaped	13720-1, 13723	Occupation deposit with charcoal and *in situ* burning			2
13724	Circular	1.30	1.00	0.15	U-shaped	13725	Reworked ditch fill			

(continued overleaf)

Fig. 7.35 (facing page) Location of middle Neolithic features and finds in Area 16

Table 7.15 (continued)

Cut	*Shape in plan*	*Length (m)*	*Breadth (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*Profile*	*Fills*	*Fill character*	*Pot (NoSh)*	*Flint (no.)*	*Bone (no.)*
13735	Subcircular	2.20	1.20	0.55	Irregular	13736	Occupation deposit	11*	2	10
13758	Circular	0.50	0.40	0.30	Bowl-shaped	13730	Occupation deposit	19*		4
Undated pits										
9002	Oval	0.56	0.33	0.03	Saucer-shaped	9003	Reworked sand & gravel			
9008	Subcircular	0.30	0.23	0.13	Bowl-shaped	9009	Reworked sand & gravel			
9061	Subcircular	0.52	0.35	0.18	Irregular	9062, 9080	Reworked sand & gravel			
9063	Irregular	0.55	0.55	0.1	Bowl-shaped	9064	Reworked sand & gravel		1	
9086	Subcircular	1.60	1.50	0.19	Saucer-shaped	9087	Reworked sand & gravel			
9119	Circular	0.43	0.43	0.11	Bowl-shaped	9120	Reworked sand & gravel			
9121	Circular	0.17	0.17	0.10	Bowl-shaped	9122	Reworked sand & gravel			
9129	Irregular	1.50	1.50	0.05	Saucer-shaped	9130	Occupation deposit, high in charcoal		1	
9206	Circular	0.84	0.84	0.03	Irregular	9207	Reworked sand & gravel			
9214	Circular	0.44	0.44	0.12	Bowl-shaped	9213	Reworked sand & gravel			
9313	Circular	0.45	0.45	0.20	Bowl-shaped	9314-6	Reworked sand & gravel			
9375	Subcircular	1.19	1.17	0.10	Saucer-shaped	9376	Reworked sand & gravel			
9402	Irregular	0.32	0.32	0.36	Irregular	9403, 914	Reworked sand & gravel			
9421	Irregular	0.35	0.48	0.18	Irregular	9422	Reworked sand & gravel			
9458	Subcircular	1.20	1.10	0.17	Saucer-shaped	9459	Occupation deposit		2	
9597	Irregular	0.58	0.58	0.22	Irregular	9598-9	Occupation deposit		5	
9822= 9837	Circular	1.50	1.50	0.38	Bowl-shaped	9823, 9828-9, 9838	Reworked sand & gravel		1	
9898	Oval	0.32	0.17	0.50	U-shaped	9899-9901	Occupation deposit	1		
9920	Oval	0.54	0.54	0.22	Bowl-shaped	9921	Reworked sand & gravel			
9957	Irregular	0.30	0.24	0.05	U-shaped	9959	Reworked sand & gravel			
10325	Rectangular	1.63	1.30	0.60	Sloping U-shaped	10326	Reworked sand & gravel			
12541	Circular	0.70	0.70	0.40	Irregular	10415	Reworked sand & gravel			
12546	Circular	1.45	1.45	0.49	Bowl-shaped	12547-50, 12560	Occupation deposit		1	2
12571	Oval	0.75	0.43	0.18	Sloping U-shaped	12572	Occupation deposit	***	4	26
12935	Circular	0.35	0.16	0.05	Saucer-shaped	12936	Occupation deposit, high in charcoal			
13077	Circular	0.54	0.54	0.38	Sloping U-shaped	13078	Not recorded			
13158	Circular	0.36	0.36	0.05	Saucer-shaped	13159	Reworked channel fills			
13160	Circular	0.55	0.55	0.09	Saucer-shaped	13161	Reworked channel fills			
13162	Oval	0.33	0.33	0.06	Bowl-shaped	13163	Reworked channel fills			
13199	Circular	0.55	0.55	0.30	Bowl-shaped	13200	Occupation deposit high in charcoal		1	3
13212	Circular	1.14	1.14	0.10	Saucer-shaped	13213	Reworked channel fills			
13415	Oval	2.00	1.20	0.30	Bowl-shaped	13416	Burnt deposit		1	1
13450	Circular	0.86	0.60	0.17	Bowl-shaped	13451-2	Reworked sand & gravel			
13455	Circular	0.50	0.50	0.30	Bowl-shaped	13456	Occupation deposit		2	
13457	Oval	1.45	1.00	0.21	Bowl-shaped	13458	Reworked sand & gravel			

* = <10 pieces of fired clay **10-19 pieces of fired clay ***> 20 pieces of fired

finds recovered from these other two features were two pieces of struck flint. These pits could have formed parts of a single tree-throw hole rather than being a series of intercutting pits.

Tree-throw hole 13403, some 9m to the north-west along the same trench, may also have dated to the middle Neolithic. This subcircular feature protruded from the north-eastern baulk of the trench excavated in 2000, but did not extend into the 1999 trench. The only fill, 13404, yielded a considerable amount of burnt flint, together with a blade, a flake and 3 chips of struck flint, a single piece of bone from a large mammal and a sherd of pottery tentatively dated to the middle Neolithic period. An oval pit or tree-throw hole with an irregular profile, 13301 (Fig. 7.35), which lay to the east of 13411, may also have been of this date on the basis of single sherds of early and middle Neolithic pottery.

One residual Ebbsfleet Ware and ten other residual Peterborough Ware sherds were found in later features, all but one concentrated around the south-east corner of an Iron Age enclosure ditch. Substantial assemblages of struck flints were found in the Roman ditch fills in the same locations. Six residual Peterborough Ware sherds were also found in a late Neolithic pit, 13650 (Figs 7.35 and 8.5), some 35m to the east, and one sherd in the Bronze Age ring ditch (9233) to the north-west.

Middle Neolithic pottery from Area 16 *by Alistair Barclay*

In total 9 sherds from Area 16 belong to the Peterborough Ware style of the middle Neolithic (3350-2800 cal BC). This includes at least five impressed decorated body sherds (Fig. 7.37, 9-13). Decorative techniques are varied and include the following impressions: finger-tip (9 and 11), whipped cord maggot (10), twisted cord maggot (12), and 'barbed wire' (11 and 13). In the absence of rims, none of these sherds can be assigned to a substyle. All the sherds are manufactured from principally flint-tempered fabrics (F2/MN, F3/MN and FA3/MN). Two sherds (12-3) had burnt residues adhering to their surfaces and showed signs of refiring, indicating probable use as cooking pots.

Catalogue of illustrated middle Neolithic pottery (Fig. 7.37)

9 9294. Peterborough Ware. Body sherd with finger-tip decoration (37g). Fabric F3/MN. Firing: ext. reddish-brown; core and int. black. Condition worn. Burnt residue on the interior surface.

10 9197. Peterborough Ware. Body sherd with impressed maggot decoration (8g). Fabric F2/MN. Firing: ext. brown; core and int. black. Condition worn.

11 9974. Peterborough Ware. Body sherd with finger-tip and barbed wire decoration (8g). Fabric FA3/MN. Firing: ext. reddish-brown; core and int. black. Condition average-worn.

12 10306. SF 54776. Peterborough Ware. Body sherd with twisted cord decoration (12g). Fabric FA3/MN. Firing: ext. reddish-brown; core and int. grey. Condition worn. Burnt residue on interior surface. Possibly refired.

13 10306. SF 54777. Peterborough Ware. Body sherd with barbed wire impressions (17g). Fabric FA3/MN. Firing: ext. reddish-brown; core and int. grey. Condition worn. Burnt residue on interior surface. Possibly refired.

Area 3: a middle or late Neolithic flint scatter *by Anne Marie Cromarty, David Petts and Tim Allen*

A flint scatter (3181) only 0.8m across, containing 250 pieces, was found on the edge of the early palaeochannel cut in Area 3 (Figs 7.38-40). There were no diagnostically datable objects, but a technological analysis of the assemblage suggests a mid to late Neolithic date. All stages of the knapping process were present in the scatter, and there were 14 refitting groups

Worked flint from scatter 3181, Area 3 *by Hugo Anderson-Whymark and Theresa Durden*

Scatter 3181 contained 250 flints, with no diagnostic artefacts contained in the assemblage to provide dating. The absence of burning, burnt unworked flint and use-wear (as visible to an experienced eye) distinguish scatter 3181 from the late Mesolithic/early Neolithic scatters in this area (see Chapter 4). The assemblage is summarised in Table 4.11.

Technological analysis was performed on the 114 complete flakes from the assemblage. Around 13% of the flakes are blade-like, and this, together with the presence of two rejuvenation flakes, some platform abrasion (7%) and dorsal blade scars (5%), suggests that the assemblage dates to the middle or later Neolithic (Ford 1987a, 79).

Scatter 3181 contained 31 refitting flints in 14 refit groups, which appeared to be from 5 different flint

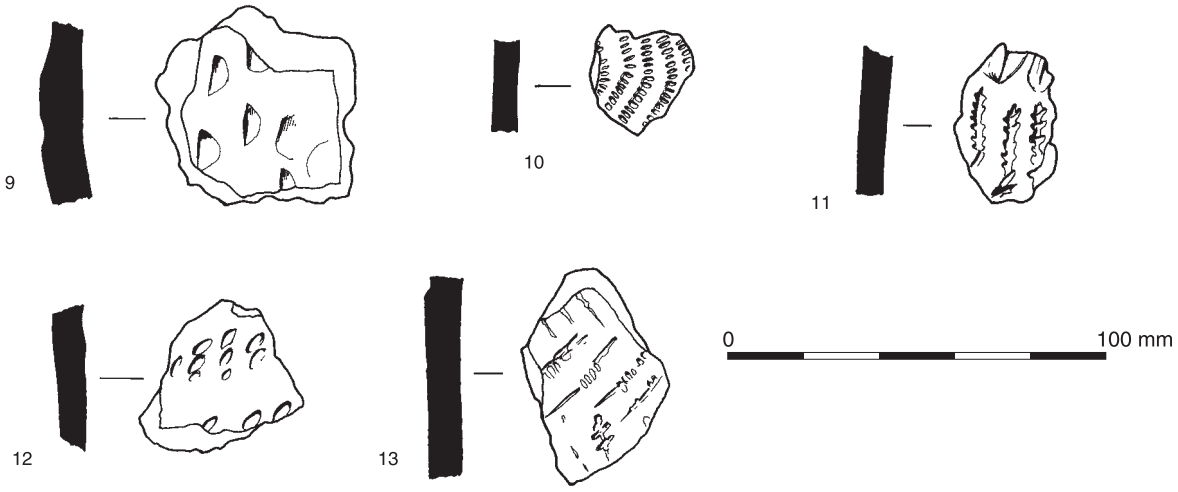


Fig. 7.37 Middle Neolithic pottery from Area 16

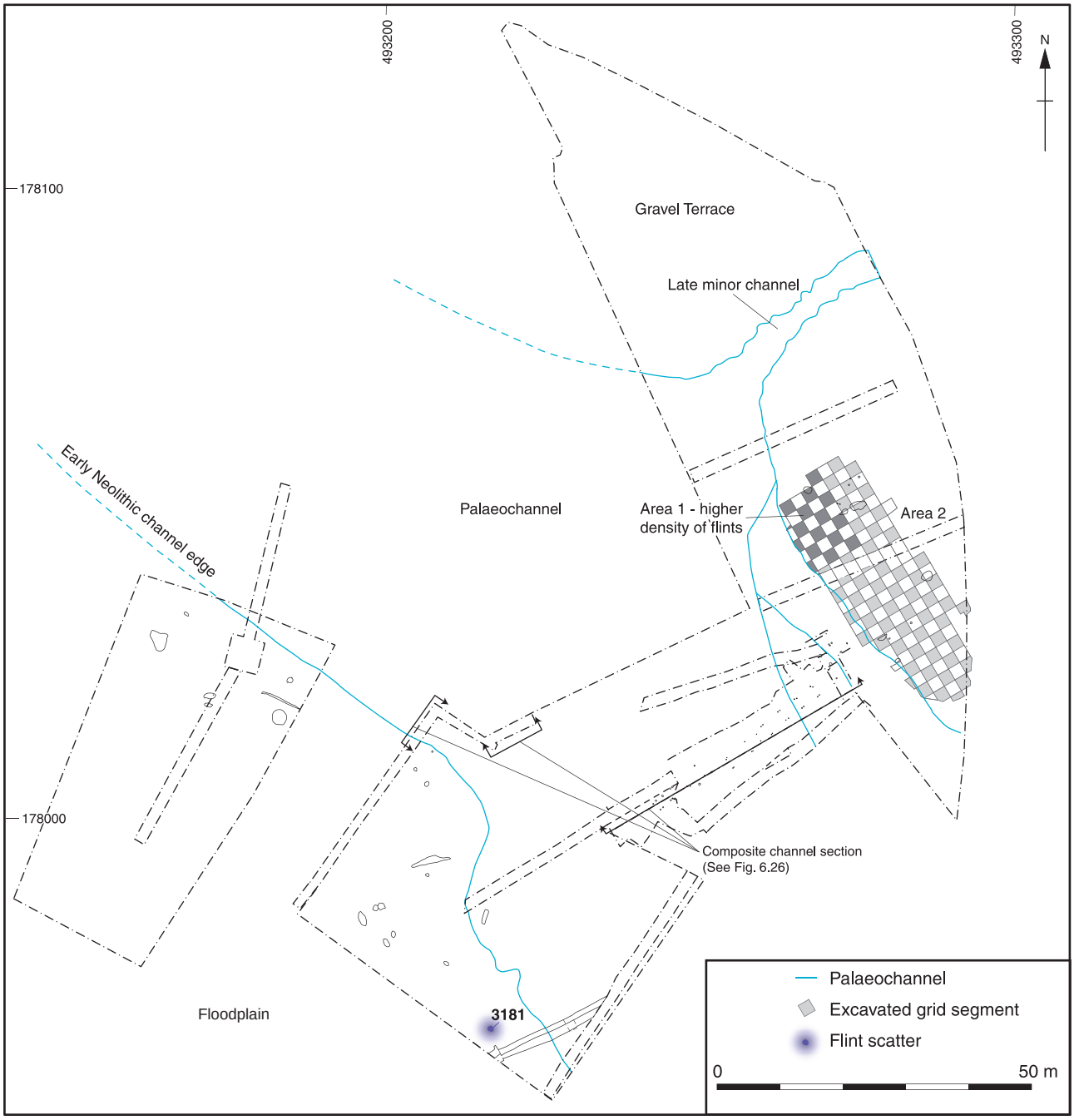


Fig. 7.38 Location of flint scatter 3181 in Area 3

types/cores (Fig. 7.40). The raw material of all the cores was a locally available grey to brown gravel flint, with a thin abraded cortex and occasional frost shatters. The majority of refits were in pairs, usually side trimming or cortical flakes; the longest sequence made consisted of four refitting trimming flakes. The refits shed little new light on the nature of working, despite the observation that many of the cores were entirely worked down. The debris relating to a single core consisted usually of a couple of pairs of refitting trimming flakes and an abandoned core. A total of 71.9% flakes were cortical or partially cortical, indicating the non-cortical flakes are under-represented, probably due to removal from the scatter. No blanks, retouched artefacts or retouched flakes were identified. This may mean the flakes were intended for use without further modification, or were removed elsewhere for adaptation.

Given the high proportion of cortical trimming flakes, it is unsurprising that 15.8% of the assemblage had cortical butts. The majority of the assemblage had plain butts (58.7%) and a further 11.4% had butts with more than one removal. Linear butts represented 12.3% of the assemblage, whist 2 flakes had punctiform butts. It is interesting that linear and punctiform butts are present as they are gener-

Fig. 7.39 Plot of flint scatter 3181 in Area 3

ally traits of the earlier blade-like industries (Tixier *et al.* 1980, 105).

The majority of terminations in this scatter were feathered (64.9%), and smaller proportions exhibit hinge and step fractures (13.2% and 8.8% respectively). This is the product not only of the hammer mode but also the general decline in flint technology throughout prehistory (Ford *et al.* 1984).

The hammer mode for this scatter appeared to be divided relatively equally between hard and soft hammer at 49.1% and 43% respectively, with 7.9% indeterminate. However, the bulbs were not easily classified, many appearing to have traits of both hard and soft modes. A single flint hammerstone was found in the scatter and is likely to have been used to knap some of this material.

The technological analysis of this scatter suggests a mid to late Neolithic date, although it also exhibits a few earlier traits. Continuity from earlier industries is clear. The presence of linear butts, platform abrasion, a single platform blade core and blade production are all traits of earlier technologies, although in general the quality of the flintworking in this scatter is relatively poor. The absence of retouched tools, visible use-wear (not, however, confirmed by microscopic analysis) and of burnt

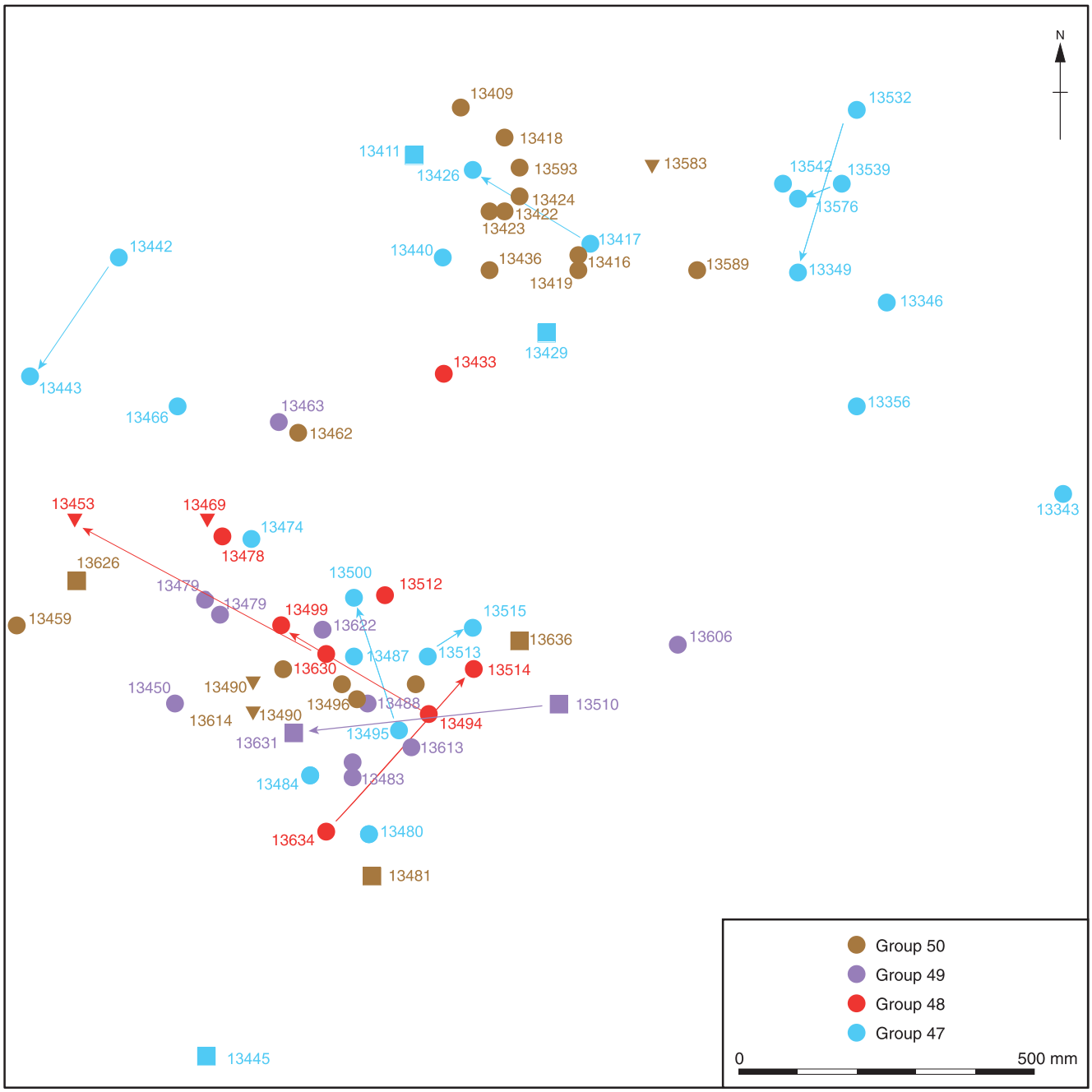


Fig. 7.40 Refits in flint scatter 3181

worked and unworked flint suggests that this scatter derives purely from production (ie knapping), and apparently unspecialised flake production in particular.

Middle Neolithic Pottery from Area 18, Site F East, Areas 20, 24, 24a, NAR RC1-2, 18, the watching brief in Area 14 and from evaluation west of the former Thames channel *by Alistair Barclay*

Forty one sherds probably belonging to the Peterborough Ware tradition were found in various areas in the north-eastern half of the Rowing Lake project area, most on Site F East (Figs 7.41 and 6.22). Four sherds of Mortlake Ware including part of the rim and body of a bowl with twisted cord decoration came from Trench H/2, and one sherd with whipped cord from Trench J/21. Another thicker sherd from this context possibly comes from the same vessel. Thirty one small sherds and crumbs of pottery from a single vessel were found in a natural hollow in Trench 183, and possible faint cord impressions on some sherds again suggest a middle Neolithic date. Four further sherds, all single occurrences, came from the excavations on Site F West, two from RC1 (4015) and one each from Area 24

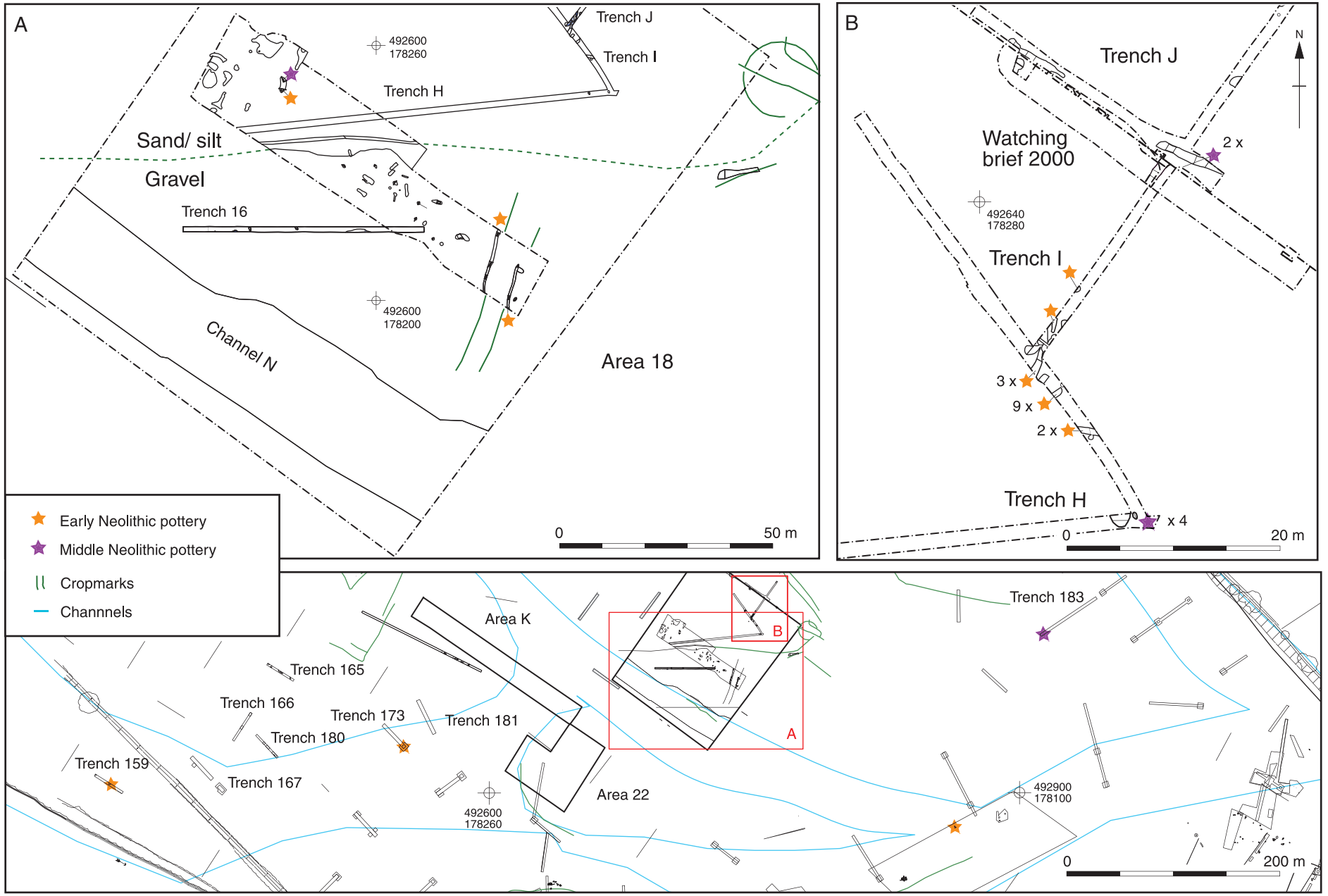


Fig. 7.41 Plan of Site F east with Neolithic pottery and insets of Area 18 and Trenches H-J

(Tr. 23/14) and 24a (Fig. 6.22). The sherds were all in flint-tempered fabrics (F2/MN and F3/MN).

The four sherds from Trench H/2 consisted of the everted rim and body of a bowl. The rim and neck are decorated with a twisted cord impressed motif, and there are also widely spaced impressions on the interior. The body has horizontal rows of closely-spaced twisted cord impressions. The surviving fragment has one row of vertical twisted cord impressions, and another of longer curving twisted cord impressions.

Discussion

The Mortlake Ware is concentrated on Site F East, perhaps indicating a local focus of activity on this gravel island. Both the vessel from H/2 and the fragmentary vessel from Trench 183 were apparently deposited in a natural, rather than a man-made, context. The few sherds in Area 24 may have been related to the surveyed ring ditch just to the south-west, which may have originated in the middle or late Neolithic (Fig. 6.22; Plate 1.6).