

## Prehistoric Ceramic Analysis of the Phase 1 assemblage from Lanton Quarry



A rim fragment of modified Carinated Bowl with a rare instance of a handle connecting the shoulder and rim. Approx. date: 3800 cal BC.

**ARS Ltd Report No. 2009/30**

April 2009

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### Introduction

The ceramic assemblage recovered by the Phase 1 excavations at Lanton Quarry represents a significant corpus of material, numbering some 664 sherds, with a combined weight of just over 6 kilos. This assemblage not only contributes a significant addition, in terms of quantity, to the ceramic sequence already represented in the area at sites such as Cheviot Quarry and Thirlings. The bulk of the ceramics belong to the Early Neolithic Carinated Bowl tradition with smaller assemblages of Impressed Ware, Beaker and Middle Bronze Age Flat Rimmed Ware. There are a few possible sherds of Grooved Ware and 1<sup>st</sup> millennium cal BC pottery. A separate report has been prepared for the Anglo-Saxon ceramics (Vince 2008).

The vast majority of the corpus, numbering 565 sherds weighing 4753.88 grams and representing a minimum of 38 or more vessels, can be assigned to the Early Neolithic Carinated Bowl tradition. These sherds were primarily recovered from midden pits with smaller amounts from hearth pits, and occasionally from posthole fills. A degree of caution must be expressed in the identification of some featureless body sherds assigned to this group due to similarities with later fabrics.

A much smaller assemblage of 31 sherds, weighing a total of 639.03 grams and representing a minimum of five vessels or more, can be identified as deriving from the Later Neolithic Impressed Ware tradition, commonly referred to further south as Peterborough Ware. One vessel in this group may, on the balance of evidence, relate to the subgroup of Fengate Ware, although its occurrence this far north would be largely unprecedented. Alternatively the material related to this vessel may derive from an example of Grooved Ware which has possible comparanda amongst other Grooved Ware material from the region including that from the nearby Yeavinger Palace site (Hope-Taylor 1977; Ferrell 1990; see illustrations in Manby 1999). This material was all recovered from midden pits.

Approximately 38 sherds, with a combined weight of 248.75 grams and representing a minimum of approximately two or more vessels, are identified as Beaker. The majority of the corpus derives from a single vessel recovered from a pit (F181) at the south end of the site while other less diagnostic material was recovered from a hearth pit.

A small number of sherds, 11 in all, weighing 246.95 grams and representing a minimum of perhaps six vessels, can be assigned to the Middle Bronze Age tradition of Flat Rimmed Ware. They derive from a small number of hearth and pit features and two post holes associated with a timber-built roundhouse (post-built structure 13) that was of directly analogous form to the two roundhouses excavated at Cheviot Quarry which also produced assemblages of Flat Rimmed Ware (Waddington in Johnson and Waddington in press).

Initial examination of the assemblage identified a small corpus of material as potentially relating to the Iron Age. However, given the similarities in fabric types this is by no means certain and will rely on radiocarbon dating to test this possibility.

A small number of featureless body sherds deriving from contexts of uncertain date could not be assigned with any degree of confidence to any ceramic traditions and have been classed as of uncertain date. The fabric of this group can not be easily distinguished from that of any other group and consequently the material may derive from any number of the main traditions represented on the site. By grouping ceramics by fabric the diversity within ceramic assemblages from any given site can be easily conflated and confused because in some cases other criteria provide a more useful guide to classification, such as vessel form, surface finish, decoration and so forth, and therefore it is the use of these criteria in combination that provides the greatest guide to classification. This said, the recent study of Neolithic ceramic fabrics from the Milfield basin by Millson has shown that fabric differences between pottery styles can be identified (Marshall *et al.* in press).

The main fabric types encountered in the assemblage are listed in Table 1 below. The identification of temper and fabric types was undertaken using a hand held x10 magnifying glass and therefore represents only a basic assessment of fabric characteristics. Given the unusual degree of similarity observed in the fabric of the various ceramic traditions it may be possible to develop this study further through thin-section and petrographical analysis. This would generate greater accuracy in relation to the character and content of the fabric types and perhaps allow greater precision in the identification of featureless material. It would also allow a more comprehensive assessment to be made of the production of ceramics through time, whilst also allowing specific sources of raw materials to be identified in relation to local, regional and national geology, and contributing to a greater understanding of resource procurement and patterns of production and exchange.

Fabric Code	Description	Sherd Count	Minimum Vessel Count	Total Weight (grams)	Inclusive ceramic traditions
NS1	No or very rare (<1%) stone inclusions, angular to sub-angular in shape, 0.2-0.4 cm in size.	389	23	2942.28	EarlyNeolithic/Impressed Ware/Beaker/Flat Rimmed Ware
St 1	Rare (>3%) stone inclusions, generally well sorted, angular to sub-angular in shape, 0.2cm-0.4cm in size	236	20	2509.75	EarlyNeolithic/Impressed Wares/Flat Rimmed Ware
St 2	Occasional (>10%) stone inclusions, generally well sorted, angular to sub-angular in shape, 0.2-0.4 cm in size.	33	6	555.09	EarlyNeolithic/Impressed Wares/Flat Rimmed Ware
V1	Occasional (5-10%) voids, subangular to rounded, 0.1-0.5 cm in size. Mainly, although not exclusively, across the external surface. Indicative of either the leaching of minerals or the presence of an organic temper.	5	1	22.87	Early Neolithic
GSt1	Rare (>3%) stone inclusions, moderately well sorted, angular to subangular, >0.3 cm in size. Possible rare grog inclusions (>2%), up to 0.6cm in size.	1	1	26.92	Impressed Ware

Total		664	51	0056.94	
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Table 1. Fabric groups from Phase 1 Lanton Quarry.

## Neolithic Pottery

### Early Neolithic Ceramics

The substantial corpus of material that may be assigned to this period derive entirely from the Carinated Bowl tradition. The term 'carinated bowl' in this instance is used as a generic term to include vessels with either a high (Herne's 'Shouldered Bowls'; 1988) or low, and a sharp or slack rounded carination as well as the uncarinated material that includes S-profile bowls, bag-shaped vessels, simple bowls and cups. In this sense it follows closely the original definition of Grimston Ware advanced by Piggott (1954, 114) and includes both the 'traditional' and 'modified' forms as defined by Sheridan (2007).

The assemblage includes a fairly wide range of typical forms, featuring both sharply carinated shoulders and those with a slack rounded shoulder. Rims can be rolled, semi-rolled, vertical or flared and some examples of flat elongated rims that project horizontally were also present. A range of vessel sizes was present including small, medium and large, as well as a series of plain vertical-rimmed cups or small bowls. Some modified Carinated Bowls were also present including vessels with lugs, finger fluting on the rim and one vessel with a handle positioned over the neck between the carination and the rim. Overall this material compliments that recovered from the Phase 2 excavation at Lanton Quarry although it tends to possess a much higher proportion of sharply carinated vessels compared to the Phase 2 material. This range of Carinated Bowl ceramics is directly analogous to the Carinated Bowl assemblages from Cheviot Quarry, Thirlings and Coupland which all lie within a few kilometres of the site. The Lanton material recovered so far shows some slight differences in having few crushed quartz inclusions in the fabric which characterises much of the other Carinated Bowl material and also most of the Lanton material is dark grey in colour, whilst dark grey and buff brown material is common on the other sites.

#### *Fabric*

The fabric of the majority of the Carinated Bowl assemblage is tempered with varying amounts of crushed stone. The larger proportion of this group, some 292 sherds representing perhaps 18 or more vessels, possessed no or only very rare inclusions as identified in the fabric category of NS1. A smaller number, some 228 sherds representing approximately 14 vessels or more, were identified as belonging to the fabric group St1 and therefore contained rare inclusions of crushed stone. Thirty one sherds representing approximately four or more vessels contained a slightly higher concentration of crushed stone and were assigned to the category of St2. By comparison with the Phase 2 material no greater quantity of crushed stone inclusions were featured above that represented by category St2 whereas the temper content of Phase 2 material tended to be higher with examples of common or abundant inclusions. This undoubtedly only reflects slight spatial variation within what is essentially the same overall assemblage of material. It would however be interesting to explore if this bears any relation to the greater quantity of heavily Carinated Bowls in the Phase 1 assemblage compared to the greater frequency of slack shoulder vessels in the Phase 2 corpus. It may be that variations in fabric are linked to variation in vessel form and by extension possibly functional aspects of the ceramic assemblage.

A single vessel in this tradition possessed a fabric relating to the category of V1, moreover this vessel represents the only example within the entire corpus in this

category. The voids are clearly visible across the surface of the sherds relating to this vessel, particularly across the external surface. It is unclear if these voids relate to mineral inclusions that have since leached out of the fabric or to an organic temper that had burnt out during firing. In either case it stands apart from the entire assemblage including that of Phase 2.

A remarkable feature of Carinated Bowl fabrics from the Milfield basin is the consistent high quality of the material, with the fabric of even large vessels being kept relatively thin to produce thin-walled hard fabrics that do not reach an equal until the arrival of Beaker ceramics over one and a half thousand years later.

### ***Form***

In terms of form the assemblage appears typical of the Carinated Bowl tradition as defined recently by Sheridan (2007). It features at least six vessels in which the shoulder appears carinated to varying degrees with a distinct external moulding and an often sharp and pronounced change of angle. By contrast four vessels appear to possess a more slack, rounded shoulder section or an S-shaped profile, as was the case in the majority of vessels recovered during Phase 2. These shoulder profiles appear to have been combined with a range of vertical or outwardly flared rims, the edges of which appear to have been semi-rolled or, in a small number of cases, fully rolled over. In a small number of vessels the rim appears to have been bent over at a 90 degree angle to form a projecting elongated horizontal surface, as for example vessel 32 from context 749. These latter vessels may fall into the modified Carinated Bowl category (*ibid*).

The assemblage includes several examples of pots with simple vertical rims suggesting simple shoulderless cups or bowls, such as vessel 34. While not strictly a carinated bowl such vessels can be included within the traditional Carinated Bowl repertoire as defined by Sheridan (2007) although some authors have referred to such material as related plain ware. Several examples of simple cups/bowls were also recovered during the Phase 2 excavations at Lanton Quarry. Possibly akin to these examples is vessel 29, however the rim, which extends externally at an angle and terminates with a flat horizontal edge, would appear slightly out of keeping with the examples from the Carinated Bowl assemblage and may better be suited to one of the other traditions represented at the site.

A single pot, number 11, provides an example of a vessel with a handle and this complements the single example of a lugged vessel from the Phase 2 assemblage. It is unclear from the reconstructed remains of this vessel how many such handles the vessel possessed but both pots provide evidence for a modified Carinated Bowl component on the site. An important research priority is the acquisition of a detailed radiocarbon dating framework for traditional and modified forms in order to understand whether one is a typological progression from the other or whether they are in use contemporaneously and indicate a difference in function or some form of social significance.

A summary of the form of individual vessels is provided in Table 2 and sections of the descriptions are based upon criteria advanced by Cleal (1992). In general terms the majority of the vessels appear to be bi-partite hemispherical vessels and neutral inflected or open inflected in character. Several examples, such as the small cups described above, can be characterised as simple neutral or open vessels, while a smaller number may be simple closed forms.

Only a minority of vessels could be adequately reconstructed so as to provide a near complete profile, while the assessment of rim diameters, where possible, indicates a wide spectrum of vessel sizes present. Small vessels are indicated by rim diameters around the 100 mm mark while the majority of vessels tended to be in the range of 200-250 mm in diameter. A smaller number of vessels appear to be quite large with rim diameters around 300 mm or more. The assemblage can therefore be seen to include a range of high sided or wide and shallow cooking or storage vessels combined with a series of mid range jars or bowls and smaller vessels for serving and eating/drinking from.

### ***Decoration***

The greater proportion of the assemblage derives from undecorated sherds as is fairly typical of Carinated Bowl assemblages. Most of the material, however, does appear to have been afforded a significant level of surface treatment and if not burnished then has been extensively smoothed. In many cases this treatment appears to extend not only to the external surface but to the interior as well. To achieve such an effective burnish some kind of burnisher must have been used in many cases such as a smoothing stone or leather polishing cloth for example.

Distinctive finger fluting can be identified along the upper edge of a number of rims, for example vessels 6 and 12. This type of rudimentary decoration has also been identified on Carinated Bowl material from eastern Scotland (Sheridan 2007) and is characteristic of the modified Carinated Bowl forms. It is also possible that the light fluting may have served a utilitarian purpose aiding the pouring process. Identical features were noted in the Phase 2 assemblage.

If accepted as an example of the Carinated Bowl assemblage, vessel 29 would also appear to show rudimentary signs of decoration. Along the horizontal edge of the rim a single scored line appears to have been made following the circumference of the vessel. However, while decoration is not unknown within the Carinated Bowl tradition it remains relatively rare, and certainly appears at an absolute minimum within northern British assemblages. Therefore, the presence of potential decoration on this vessel may divorce it from the wider corpus of Carinated Bowl material and could perhaps relate it to another ceramic type.

One body sherd, small find number 355, had one small rectangular impression on the external surface, while sherd 348 from the same context had several faint incised lines evidently arranged in a single row. Whether these represent an attempt to apply deliberate decoration or rather relate to accidental markings remains uncertain. Similarly rim 563 of vessel 35 appears to possess a single incised or impressed mark on the upper surface of the sherd, yet its isolation may not suggest it is part of a wider decorative motif.

### ***Quantity***

As previously stated the Carinated Bowl assemblage recovered during the Phase 1 excavations at Lanton Quarry consisted of approximately 565 sherds, weighing almost 5 kg and representing a minimum of 38 vessels or more. The largest single sub-assemblage in terms of sherd numbers was recovered from context 749, the fill of a large pit which produced approximately 95 sherds, although they only represented three or more in terms of the minimum number of vessels. Smaller numbers of sherds were recovered

from similar pits but never represented more than this minimum vessel count. This may be contrasted with material from Phase 2 where over 400 sherds representing approximately 17 vessels was recovered from a single pit.

Small Find number	Vessel number/group	Fabric Group	Context Number	Description	Weight grams
239-241	1	St1	021	3 sherds from same vessel. Medium grey brown surface, slightly darker core, smooth external and internal >1cm thick 239=similar colour but surface appears to indicate a higher quantity of inclusions and may suggest a separate vessel	65.85
215/216	2	NS1	055	2 body sherds. Medium brown exterior, medium grey brown interior, smooth exterior and interior >0.8cm thick	54.32
162/163	3	NS1	183	2 body sherds. Medium pinkish brown throughout. >1.5cm thick	47.6
Rims 385-390 Body 446-448	4*	St1	251	Medium brown very smooth surface. >1cm thick. The rim appears to be flared but short and thick with a slack rounded shoulder. >30cm rim diameter	120.05
313/331- 5/337- 43/345-55	-	St1	255	28 body sherds. Initially identified as Iron Age. Light to Medium brown surface with a medium grey core. 0.9-1.1cm thick. 1 large body sherd (335) has a single rectangular impression 1cm long. Sherd 348 also features several faint incised lines in 1 row.	110.2
Body 237/243- 49/314/317- 19 Rim 316	6	NS1	267	12 body sherds. Medium light pinkish brown exterior, medium grey brown core and interior. 0.9-1.5cm thick. Rim 316 may or may not be associated with the body sherds. A vertical semi rolled over rim with apparent finger grooves or fluting across the upper surface.	253.64
Rims 478/486/492 Body 475-98	7	NS1	285	21 body sherds some with one surface missing, medium to light orangy brown 1-1.4cm thick. Vertical rolled over rim >20cm in diameter. 1 possibly 2 vessels.	106.82
Rim 401 Body 397/399/402/ 403	8	St1	287	Medium grey brown. Smoothed exterior >0.8cm thick. Rim angled internally while the edge is rolled over externally. Sherd 402 due to a change in the angle of the internal surface may relate to a base sherd.	13.74
Rim 405 Body 400/404	9	NS1	287	Medium brown smoothed surface >1.1cm thick. 400 may indicate the presence of a carinated shoulder. A thick flared rim presenting an almost flat horizontal shoulder.	44.79
Rim 234	10	St2	291	Light to Medium orange brown surface, light brown core, smooth internal and external surface >0.9cm thick. Flares but terminates in a wide, flat angled edge very similar to Ebbsfleet Ware.	9.23

231-233/235	-	NS1	291	Medium brown smooth surface >1cm thick. 233 is multi faceted across the exterior surface and may derive from a rim or base sections. 1 or 2 vessels.	20.02
Rim 374/362/367 Body 381/285/320	11*	St1	297	Light to medium brown surface, light brown core, smooth internal and external surface. 0.7-0.8cm thick. Rim flares and rolled at edge, slack shoulder. Probably a neutral/inflected or composite vessel. I large lug or handle. >30cm rim diameter	236.7
Rim 300	12	NS1	297	Medium brown, smoothed exterior and interior, >1.1cm thick. Two joined rim sherds, short and thick flared and rolled >34cm in diameter. Finger fluting evident along upper surface.	46.95
Rim 292 + Body sherds	13	NS1	297	Medium orangy brown surface , Medium grey brown core >0.8-0.9cm thick. Near vertical rim semi rolled >20cm in diameter. One shoulder sherd may indicate a high carination.	122.32
Rim 301 Body 282/290/296- 7/299/323	14	St1	297	Light to medium orangy brown throughout > 0.8-1cm thick. Rim vertical and externally thickened at edge, some indication of finger fluting. >26cm in diameter	127.09
Body 284/287/294/ 295/297/298/ 302/304/321/ 322/325- 30/358/ 363-4/ 368/371- 2/373/375/37 7//379/380/3 84/ 844-5	-	NS1	297	Medium brown surface black core, smooth exterior and interior 0.7-0.9cm thick. 844-5 indicate a slack shoulder. Sherds may go with vessel 12 or possibly 13.	358.28
Rim 456	15	St2	319	Medium grey brown, smoothed exterior surface only, >1cm thick. Vertical rolled rim > 20cm in diameter. Probably a small simple/neutral bowl.	24.24
Rim 469-70 Body 396/444- 5/448- 50/453/455	16	NS1	319	Medium orangy brown to medium grey brown >0.7-0.9cm thick. Two joined rim sherds very poorly represented, may be rolled over. Body sherds may relate to this vessel.	39.9
Rim 417/427 Body 15/17- 19/23- 25/413/417/4 22- 25/427/429/4 31/433- 34/437-38	17	St2	335	Medium grey brown, smooth exterior, cracked appearance to internal surface like crazy paving near rim only > 0.8-1.3cm thick. Near vertical semi rolled rim	239.35
Rim 414 Body 12- 14/16/20/412 -13/415- 16/418-	18	NS1	335	Light to medium orangy brown throughout >0.9-1.2cm thick. Uncertain if the rim is vertical or flared semi rolled. Shoulder appears slack and rounded. Body sherds may all go with this vessel or represent several vessels.	125.96

21/426/432/4 35-436/440					
Body 395	-	NS1	361	Light to medium brown surface medium grey core, smooth surface, >1.1cm thick. Striations across external surface may indicate decoration or alternatively grass wipe marks.	32.54
Body 442	-	NS1	369	Light orangy brown, smooth external and internal surface >0.8cm thick	9.2
Body 26	-	NS1	381	Medium orangy brown, smooth external and internal surface > 0.8cm thick	16.18
Body 515	-	NS1	431	Light grey brown, smooth external surface, medium grey core and internal surface >0.7cm thick	2.13
Body 514	-	St1	431	Light orangy brown exterior, medium grey brown core, light grey brown interior >0.9cm thick	11.31
Rim 518 Body 460/536/ 539	19	St1	465	Light brown surface medium grey brown core >1.1cm thick Rim poorly represented but appears vertical with a flat horizontal edge. If Early Neolithic probably represents a simple small cup, otherwise may possibly be an example of flat rimmed ware	35.45
Rim 502 Body 503/675/ 677/682 688	20	St1	533	Light brown exterior, medium grey interior, smooth internal and external surface >0.8cm thick. Rim may or may not be associated with body sherds indicates a slightly flared rim with a rounded edge. Two body sherds indicate a weakly carinated shoulder.	201.38
Body 501/680- 1/686-7	-	St1	533	Light orangy brown surface > 1cm May belong to vessel 20 but slightly different colour + thickness	158.93
Rim 509/550 Body 551- 2/645-652	21	NS1	535	Medium brown exterior, medium grey brown interior, smooth internal and external surfaces >0.9cm thick. Flared rim with rounded slightly inverted edge above a high clear carinated shoulder > 28cm diameter. Open/composite vessel	266.49
Rim 553/506- 7 Body 505/508	22	V1	535	Light orange to medium brown, very hard well fired >0.6-0.9cm thick. Voids clearly visible across surface especially the exterior. A flared and rolled rim >20cm in diameter.	22.87
Body 653/655/657- 71	-*	St1	561	Medium grey brown, slightly friable fabric >1.2 cm thick. 670 may have organic residue.	93.21
Rim 542 Body 540- 1/543-44	23	NS1	571	Light pinkish brown to light/medium grey brown >0.8cm thick. Flared rim with rounded edge.	8.42
Rim 594	24	NS1	589	Light orangy brown > 0.9cm thick Vertical rim with a flat horizontal surface a rounded external edge and sharp internal edge. Appears well worn.	3.53
				Light orange exterior, medium grey	

Body 591-2	-	NS1	591	interior > 0.5cm thick.	2.5
Body 585-6	-	NS1	593	Medium orangy brown > 0.9cm thick	24.64
Rim 603-4/606/608	25	St1	595	Medium grey brown exterior, medium grey/black core, medium orangy brown interior, smoothed surface but uneven and inclusions appear near the surface > 1cm thick. Short semi rolled rim > 13cm in diameter, probably of a shallow neutral/inflected bowl with a slack rounded shoulder	73.45
Rim 613/611 Body 605/607/610/612/609	26	NS1	595	Light to medium orange throughout > 1.2cm thick. Externally projecting rim bent over to produce a flat horizontal surface. 611 indicates a heavily carinated shoulder	47.66
Rim 626	27	St2	597	Light orange, smooth surface > 0.8cm thick. Flared rim with rounded edge > 20cm in diameter	8.52
Rim 624	28	St1	597	Medium grey brown exterior and core, medium reddish brown interior > 1cm thick. Vertical semi rolled rim with a slack shoulder, a small neutral/inflected bowl or cup.	12.3
Rim 617	29	St1	597	Light orange surface, medium reddish core, > 0.8cm thick Rim extends externally at an angle and terminates with a flat horizontal surface. A single scored line appears to run around the circumference of the horizontal surface. May be a shallow dish or not Carinated Bowl.	12.79
Body 578-9/583-4/597/577/619/621-22/618	-	St1	597	Light to medium brown exterior, medium grey brown interior > 1cm thick. May be associated with vessels 27 or 29 or from a separate unidentified vessel.	39
Body 625/627-9	-	St1	597	Light to medium pinkish brown exterior, medium grey core and interior > 1.5cm thick. May indicate a further vessel due to differences in thickness with other material.	70.07
Body 570-76/680-84/614-16/620/623/630	-	St1	597	36 body sherds + crumbs Medium grey brown, some are missing a surface. May derive from any of the vessels in this context.	71.02
Rim 690 Body 709/724/825/818/719/780/812/692-3/705/718/788/783/749	30	NS1	749	Light grey brown surface, medium grey/black core > 1cm thick. Short semi rolled vertical rim. May be associated with a heavily carinated shoulder.	157.91
Rim 714/704/820/723/827	31	NS1	749	Medium orange brown exterior, medium grey brown core and interior > 1cm thick. 704 indicates a bent over rim forming a	100.72

Body 706/709/ 773				flat horizontal surface but unusually large > .3.5 cm wide. Uncertain if associated with 723 but may indicate a very large vessel	
Body 793/683/861/ 716/785/794/ 779/807/824/ 697/816/798/ 792/696/821/ 775/777/812/ 797/695/784/ 782/817/798/ 776/809/799/ 787/819/717/ 791/786/811/ 711/781/803/ 822/805/802/ 694/790/814/ 808/715/828/ 829	-	NS1	749	59 body sherds, light to medium brown exterior, medium grey brown interior >0.9cm thick. May derive from vessels 30 or 31 or both	236.6
Rim 700/726/725/ 699/722/710/ 794/826/691/ 796	32	St1	749	Medium grey brown, smoothed external and internal surface >0.8-1cm thick. Mainly rim sherds. A bent over rim with a flat horizontal surface with a rounded external edge.	237.29
Body 638-9	-	NS1	615	Medium grey brown throughout >0.8cm thick	17.8
Rim 740/736 Body 635- 7/654/729- 35/737-9	33	NS1	899	Medium brown throughout, smoothed exterior > 1.1cm thick. Near vertical semi rolled rim > 12cm in diameter.	88.68
Rim 556/593/557 Body 749-61/558- 62	34	NS1	949	Medium pinkish exterior, medium grey core and interior, some are black all over and may derive from a separate vessel. >0.9cm thick. Simple vertical rims with a slightly rounded edge. Probably derive from a simple/neutral or open cup or small bowl. > 14cm in diameter.	94.52
Rim 563	35	St1	977	Medium grey brown , smoothed surface >1cm thick. Flared semi rolled rim. 1 impression or incised impression on the upper surface, uncertain if decoration.	5.27
Rim 847	36	NS1	1183	Light orangy brown surface, darker core >0.8cm thick. Flared semi rolled rim > 20cm in diameter	14.71
Rim 262 joined to Body 254	37	St1	1189	Black exterior and core, medium brown interior, smooth surface >0.9cm thick. Simple vertical rim semi rolled over >10cm in diameter and a very slack rounded shoulder.	12.74
Rim 267 Carinated shoulder 260/256/278/ 277/+28 body sherds	38	St1	1189	Medium brown to medium grey brown exterior, grey core and medium brown interior, smooth surface >0.7-1cm thick. Thick short flared semi rolled rim with finger fluting along upper surface. Strongly carinated shoulder may be part of the same vessel or not.	246.94

Body 306-12	-	St2	1192	Light orangy brown exterior, medium grey interior and core, fairly smooth surface >1.1cm thick.	75.18
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Table 2. List of Early Neolithic ceramics by vessel group and context. \* next to the vessel number denotes the possible presence of organic residues adhering to sherd surfaces.

### Later Neolithic Impressed Wares

The corpus of Impressed Ware recovered during the Phase 1 excavation at Lanton Quarry is very small compared to that of Carinated Bowls but nevertheless offers a welcome addition to the relatively scant Impressed Ware assemblages known from the region from sites such as Redscar Bridge (Miket 1976), Thirlings (Miket 1987), Yeavinger (Hope-Taylor 1977 and Ferrell 1990) and Woodbridge Farm (Waddington 2000). The limited number of vessels represented obviously curtails the range of vessel types so far represented within the corpus, however they appear fairly representative of local forms of Impressed Ware as well as the more typical sub-forms of Peterborough Ware more commonly associated with assemblages from southern England. Unusually vessel 5 may represent a fairly typical Fengate Ware vessel, the identification of which is comparatively rare among sites this far north.

### *Fabric*

Unusually, the fabric of much of this material is relatively indistinguishable from that of the Carinated Bowl assemblage and is tempered with varying, although consistently low, quantities of crushed stone. This appears to reflect some continuities in vessel production during the 4<sup>th</sup> millennium BC at this site but this is at odds with Impressed Wares from more southern areas where tempers of crushed quartz and burnt or un-burnt flint are favoured, often included in great quantities, and deliberately left protruding from the surface of the vessels (for example see Gibson 1995). Given the unusual similarities in fabric type between the Impressed Ware and Carinated Bowls from the site typological identification primarily resides with the identification of Impressed decoration as well as the distinctive rim shapes and vessel profiles. It is conceivable, however, given that impressed decoration is not always applied to the entire surface of such vessels that elements of the plain featureless body sherds assigned to one or other of the ceramic traditions featured in the assemblage may also derive from one or the other vessel types. Thin section analysis may add further resolution to this question and distinguish between the various fabrics yet it would seem that on the basis of this visual inspection the character of vessel production, at least in terms of the choice of fabric, has remarkable consistency throughout the 4<sup>th</sup> millennium cal BC for the material from the Phase 1 area. This contrasts with the material recovered from Cheviot Quarry where distinct fabrics could be observed between the Impressed Ware from the Cheviot Quarry South site and the Carinated Bowl from the same site and the Cheviot Quarry North site (see Waddington in Johnson and Waddington in press) and likewise the differences in fabric between the Carinated Bowl and Impressed Ware fabrics from Thirlings (Millson in Marshall *et al.* in press).

A single rim sherd, and therefore a single vessel, may have been executed in a fairly novel fabric at least in terms of the local area. In this instance a grog temper may have been employed in combination with the usual crushed stone. However, the identification of a grog temper is only provisional and again thin-section analysis would resolve this issue.

### ***Form***

A total of three vessels may be positively identified based on the presence of three different rim sherds as well as a possible fourth if the identification of Fengate Ware can be accepted. A fifth vessel was identified on the basis of the presence of impressed decoration alone, yet relates to several body sherds which give little indication as to the type of vessel involved.

The form of vessel 1 would appear fairly typical of a more localised variant of the wider Peterborough or Impressed Ware tradition as characterised by material from sites such as Meldon Bridge (Burgess 1999) and Ford (Longworth 1969). The vessel is represented by a single rim sherd that has a rectangular profile with a flat inverted surface and a flat external edge. The body of the vessel appears to be conical or possibly vertical and therefore tub-like in shape, and a shoulder or neck section is entirely absent.

Vessel 3 is represented by a single rim sherd, the wider profile of which is not preserved. Comment can therefore only be offered in relation to the rim itself and this appears fairly indistinct and slightly crude. The profile appears not to have been moulded to the same extent as vessel 1 and is a relatively simple vertical rim with a slightly angled internal edge and a slight groove around the external edge, probably produced by the creation of a row of finger nail impressions at this point. While the rim profile lacks the distinctiveness of other examples from the site, it is nevertheless fairly typical of the Mortlake Ware sub-group of Peterborough Ware and may be compared with similar examples from across the entire geographical range of the style.

Similarly the profile of vessel 3 is comparable with that of the Mortlake Ware tradition, although in this case the vertical internal surface combined with a flat horizontal top and an externally projecting lip allows greater precision in comparison with the rim sub-form of M3b as originally defined by Smith (1956). While this level of precision has rarely been applied to Mortlake Ware identifications outside of Smith's original work it serves here to align the diagnostic features of the vessel with a much wider and well-defined typological group. In this respect the moulded shoulder and tub-like shape of the overall vessel profile would also not be out of place among typical assemblages in more southern regions.

Given the presence of both vessel 1 and 3 and, to a lesser extent vessel 2, we can see in the Lanton Quarry assemblage a combination of both regionally idiosyncratic and more commonplace diagnostic elements of the Impressed Ware or Peterborough tradition. Other material in the assemblage can also be compared to wider established typological groupings as in the case of vessel 5. The vessel is represented by a single large rim sherd that appears to indicate a large vertical collar with a slight cordon along the lower external edge. Little remains below the line of the cordon yet what does remain would suggest a steeply angled conical body with no shoulder or neck. This profile therefore could be fairly typical of the Fengate Ware sub-group of the Peterborough Ware tradition, a suggestion that would appear to be corroborated by the decorative motifs employed across much of the external surface (see below). An element of doubt may be expressed in relation to the presence of the decorative cordon, a feature more typical of Grooved Ware ceramics, yet such features are not entirely unknown among examples of Fengate Ware, see for example material from Sawdon Moor, Yorkshire (Brewster 1995). Although a Grooved Ware assignation should not be discounted a Fengate attribution is

probably the most likely given the presence of other Impressed Ware on the site and the absence of Grooved Ware.

### ***Decoration***

As the name suggests vessels in the assemblage are finished using a variety of impressed techniques common to the wider tradition and tend to be heavily decorated across much of the external surface, and in some cases the inner as well. Vessel 1 is decorated entirely with short twisted cord maggots approximately 10 mm in length. Across the inverted surface they are arranged end on end in three parallel rows running around the circumference of the rim. Across the external surface they are arranged in six or more parallel rows extending from the edge of the rim and down across the body. Unlike the upper surface the individual maggots are arranged at an angle so as to produce a chevron pattern between the various rows. Twisted cord maggots, employed in both end on end fashion or to form chevron motifs are fairly commonplace within the Impressed Ware decorative repertoire and can be found on examples of both Ebbsfleet Ware, more commonly on Mortlake Ware and to a lesser extent Fengate Ware.

Vessel 2 is decorated across the flat horizontal surface with two parallel rows of what appear to be twisted cord impressions arranged side by side around the circumference of the vessel. The external rim edge is decorated with a combination of short incised lines arranged in a single row along the upper edge and above a single row of fingernail impressions set side by side. Both decorative techniques are ubiquitous in the Impressed Ware tradition and found in various combinations of technique and motif on all forms of vessel and subgroup.

Vessel 3 is decorated slightly differently again with three rows of continuous rows of twisted cord impressions running around the circumference of the flat horizontal rim surface. A single row of finger nail impressions are arranged running horizontally within the area of the vessel neck. Upon the shoulder three rows of finger nail impressions occur again but appear to be slightly pinched out compared to the row within the neck. A second zone of decoration is defined below this shoulder section, across the body exterior, by a series of horizontal and parallel continuous twisted cord impressions. Division of the vessel surface into separate zones of decorative motif, often distinguished by different decorative techniques, are fairly commonplace in the Peterborough Ware tradition, particularly among examples of the Mortlake Ware subgroup, to which this vessel can be assigned on the basis of the rim profile, as well as the Fengate Ware subgroup. A similar example of a zonally decorated Mortlake Ware vessel was recovered from sites associated with the Maidenhead Flood Relief Scheme in Berkshire for example (Alistair Barclay pers com).

Vessel 4 is represented by a single body sherd identified on the basis of slight differences of decoration and fabric. In this instance the external surface has been decorated with several parallel horizontal rows of bird bone impressions. Again the technique and motif are not unusual among examples of the tradition.

Vessel 5 has been identified as an example of the Fengate Ware subgroup and the decorative techniques and motifs employed in this case may well confirm this situation. As has been described above the lower external edge of the collar appears to have received extra moulding with the formation of a slight horizontal cordon. While this feature is usually more associated with Grooved Ware decorative techniques it is not

entirely unknown among examples of Fengate Ware. Above this cordon the extensive surface of the collar has been decorated with quite roughly executed incised lines. These appear to be arranged so as to form a rough motif of in-filled triangles, a fairly typical arrangement upon Fengate Ware vessels. Also typical to the style is the arrangement of a single row of circular impressions just below the lower edge of the collar as is the case here, although again these can be found on Grooved Ware. These are often executed with a finger or, as in this example, with the shaft of a stick or perhaps a leg bone of some animal (Cotton 2004). The upper edge of the collar also appears to have been decorated with a series of shallow sub-circular impressions which may indicate the use of bird bone. A number of body sherds derive from the same context as Vessel 5 and are decorated with a number of incised lines arranged in no particular pattern. These may derive from the same vessel as the rim discussed above. Several other sherds from the same context may also be decorated with a series of possible bird bone impressions but it is unclear if they also derive from Vessel 5 or a further vessel.

In all the assemblage is decorated in a fairly predictable manner, according to the style of the Impressed Ware tradition, with a range of decorative techniques including whipped cord, twisted cord, fingernail and incised lines as well as probable bird bone impressions. Individual decorative elements are arranged according to stock motifs common across the geographical and typological range of the tradition, including single or multiple horizontal rows, chevron patterns and in-filled triangles.

### **Quantity**

As stated above a minimum of five vessels are represented in the Impressed Ware tradition (assuming vessel 5 is Impressed Ware and not Grooved Ware), with a total of 31 sherds deriving from four separate contexts. Two vessels derive from a single context, pit fill 783, but are only represented by a single sherd, which taken together with a further unattributable sherd produce a relatively small sub-assemblage. Vessel 1 is represented by five different sherds and all derive from a single pit fill (355). Similarly Vessel 4 was represented by only two body sherds from a single pit fill (799). The single largest sub-assemblage in terms of the quantity of sherds derives from pit fill (973) which contained material from Vessel 5 as well as 18 or more other sherds perhaps from the same or additional vessels.

Small Find Number	Vessel/group number	Fabric Group	Context Number	Description	Weight (grams)
Rim 449 Body 463-66	1	St1	355	Light orangy brown surface Medium grey core, hard well fired fabric >1.7cm thick. Flat, slightly inverted upper rim surface with a flat vertical external edge forming a separate surface. A conical or cylindrical body with no shoulder or neck. Decorated in whipped cord arranged end on end in three parallel rows around the circumference of the inverted surface. Externally the whipped cord are arranged in parallel rows so as to form a chevron pattern extending down from the rim edge and across the body surface.	124.56
Rim 833	2	GSt1	783	Light orangy surface medium grey core, hard well fired fabric >1.7cm thick. Short thick rim with a flat horizontal surface and a grooved section along the external surface produced by the	26.92

				application of finger nail decoration in a single line along the circumference of the rim. A single line of incised lines is arranged above this while two rows of continuous twisted cord run parallel around the circumference of the horizontal upper surface.	
Rim 768	3	St2	783	Medium pinkish brown surface, medium grey brown core hard well fired fabric >1.8cm thick. Rim has a vertical internal surface a flat horizontal surface and an externally projecting lip, Smiths type M3b. Three parallel rows of continuous twisted cord run around the circumference of the upper horizontal surface. One row of finger nail impressions within the neck, three rows of pinched finger nail impressions arranged horizontally across the shoulder above a separate zone of decoration with three or more horizontal rows of parallel twisted cord.	159.67
Body 834	-	St1	783	Medium pinkish brown exterior, medium grey brown core and interior >2.3 cm thick. Appears to be from near the base of a vessel, possibly pot 3 or another unidentified vessel.	85.92
Body 772 Base? 771 +crumbs	4*	NS1	799	Light orange exterior Medium grey core and interior > 1.9cm thick 772 has possible organic residue adhering to the internal surface and appears to have several horizontal rows of bird bone impressions.	32.24
Rim 564 Body 566/746	5	St1	973	Light brown to grey surface, medium brown core, hard well fired fabric > 1.3cm thick. Vertical collar coming to a point, cordon along lower external rim edge, no shoulder or neck present but a steeply angled body of a probable conical vessel. Collar edge decorated with a single row of probable bird bone impressions around the circumference. External collar surface is decorated with roughly infilled triangles of incised lines. Below the external cordon is a single line of deep circular impressions probably executed with the shaft of a stick or narrow leg bone which appear to break through to the internal surface but may have occurred post fracture.	121.87
Decorated Body 29 Body 748/568	-	NS1	973	Light to medium brown surface, medium grey core >1.2cm thick. 2 body sherds from 29 show incised decoration across the external surface and may come from vessel 5	55.13
Body 565/567	-	NS1	973	Medium brown throughout >1cm thick. 565 displays what may be bird bone impressions in two rows.	9.1
Body 741- 45/747	-	NS1	973	Light orange most have either a rough or missing internal surface, smooth exterior >1.2cm thick.	23.62

Table 3. List of Impressed Ware vessels or sherd groups by context. \* Denotes the possible presence of organic residues adhering to sherd surfaces.

### Beaker

The overwhelming majority of the material identified in this group derives from a single pit fill and a single vessel represented by approximately 30 or more sherds weighing 226.4 grams. The majority of these sherds join to form a flat base section of a conical vessel

typical of the Beaker tradition. Several other sherds displaying a series of different decorative techniques to that of the base section, including one small rim sherd, may derive from different vessels or indicate zones of decoration across the same vessel formed by the use of different decorative schemes. One other vessel is also represented by two other sherds from the same context and appears to relate to a shallow, perhaps oblong, dish. Such vessels are not uncommon among assemblages of other ceramic traditions (see for example the report on Ceasars Camp, Berkshire, relating to the Peterborough Ware tradition (Grimes 1966) or alternatively Manby (1995) in relation to the Collared Urn assemblage). It is not known whether this pit included a burial deposit despite the entire fill being sieved and passed through flotation. It is possible that the pit represents a continuation of the 'midden pit' tradition of the preceding Neolithic.

Three other featureless body sherds were recovered from a separate pit and have been tentatively assigned to this group on the basis of similar appearance and fabric, although they may easily derive from another ceramic tradition represented at the site.

### ***Fabric***

The composition of the group is entirely of a hard, well fired fabric with few if any visible inclusions other than sand. The visual appearance of the majority of the material is fairly typical of Beaker ceramics with a black core and distinctive reddish brown surface.

### ***Form***

Only the basal section of Vessel 1 is represented to any great extent being of typical Beaker form and comprising a relatively wide flat base and a conical body. While the remaining body profile is not readily apparent within the surviving material it probably took the form of a typical S-shaped jar suggestive of a short-neck Beaker form. A single rim sherd also came from the same context and probably relates to the same vessel, although the surface colour of the sherd and the decorative technique employed differs from that of the base section. Again this rim appears typical of the Beaker tradition and is relatively thin-walled, simple in form and projects vertically or at a slight external angle and has a rounded top.

Vessel 2 is represented by a comparatively crudely formed and simple, vertically projecting rim which appears to be roughly oblong or sub-rectangular in plan. Indications are that the vessel was perhaps no more than 20-30 mm high and probably relates to a shallow dish or serving vessel.

### ***Decoration***

The external surface of Vessel 1 is decorated across the entire surface down to the edge of the base with multiple parallel rows of comb decoration arranged horizontally. The rim sherd appears to be decorated using whipped cord maggots arranged in three horizontal rows along the internal surface, although given the size of the sherd it is difficult to judge whether this is actually the internal or external surface. A series of whipped cord maggots also appear to be arranged along the rim edge. Changes in motif between different sections of the same vessel are relatively commonplace among Beaker vessels (see for example Boast 1995 or Gibson 2002) yet these tend to be executed using the same media type. It is therefore uncertain if this rim sherd derives from the same

variably decorated vessel or another. Similarly, a single body sherd appears different in colour but also in terms of decorative media, with several horizontal lines of either incised or fingernail impressions closely set end on end. It is therefore again uncertain if this derives from the same or a different vessel.

The shallow dish described above appears to be devoid of decoration, as do the featureless sherds from context 265, although in these cases the surface has been considerably smoothed.

### **Quantity**

The assemblage of Beaker ceramics constitutes a relatively small one with approximately 38 sherds representing a minimum of two or more vessels. Thirty five of the sherds derive from the same context, Pit F181, which produced fragments of bone and lithics, with all but three sherds potentially from the same vessel. The three remaining featureless sherds almost certainly represent a separate vessel and derive from a hearth pit (262).

Small find Number	Vessel/ Group Number	Fabric Group	Context Number	Description	Weight (grams)
Base 179	1	NS1	181	Light reddish brown surface, black core, hard well fired >0.6cm thick. Smooth exterior and interior surface. Flat wide base of a conical vessel. Decorated with multiple horizontal and parallel rows of comb impressions. 15 joining sherds and 15 others.	226.4
Rim 179	-	NS1	181	Light grey brown surface, black core >0.6cm thick. A simple vertical or slightly angled rim with a rounded edge. 3 rows of horizontally arranged whipped cord maggots across the internal? Surface and 1 row along the rim edge.	2.47
Body 179	-	NS1	181	Light brown surface, light grey brown core and interior >0.6cm thick. External surface decorated with parallel horizontal rows of incised line or fingernail impressions set end on end.	1.62
Body 179	2	NS1	181	Light orangy brown surface medium grey core >0.7cm thick. Simple vertical rim of a sub-rectangular shallow dish. Smooth surface but no decoration.	13.26
Body 407-09	-	NS1	265	Light orangy brown > 0.7cm thick. May easily be Early Neolithic.	5

Table 4. List of Beaker vessels or sherd groups by context.

## **Middle Bronze Age**

### **Flat Rimmed Ware**

The assemblage of material identified as Middle Bronze Age Flat Rimmed Ware relates to a small group of just 11 sherds with a combined weight of 246.95 grams. However, this may well represent up to six different vessels from four different contexts. By and large these vessels are fairly typical of the tradition as outlined by Hedges (1975, 69). Although the term 'Flat Rimmed Ware' has in the past been used to refer to coarsewares dating from the third to first millennia cal BC (Coles and Taylor 1970, 97), it is used here

specifically to refer to an assemblage of vessels that date to the late second and early first millennia cal BC as Hedges outlined sometime ago (Hedges 1975, 69). As Hedges stated, the term Flat Rimmed Ware is really a reference to what are “simple, crude, bucket-and barrel-shaped pots”, a description that fits well with the limited profiles available in this assemblage. In fact there is only one example among the Phase 1 assemblage where a flat rim is present.

### ***Fabric***

The range of fabrics associated with the ceramic tradition includes almost the full spectrum of those encountered elsewhere in the Phase 1 assemblage. The temper consists predominantly of crushed stone applied in varying quantities from type NS1 through to St2 (see table 1). Slight variation was observed in relation to specific sherds, for example rim 535, where small and rounded inclusions of quartz were observed. However, the natural shape of these particles, together with their relative isolation, could perhaps suggest that they are derived naturally within the base materials and not deliberate temper additions, but this is unlikely given the local availability of fine potting clays in the nearby river banks. Thin section analysis would add to our understanding of fabric type and content for this otherwise fairly featureless ceramic type.

### ***Form***

A minimum of five vessels are represented by five separate rim sherds, while a sixth vessel may also be indicated by the identification of a base sherd in a different fabric from the material in the same context. All of the vessels indicated in the assemblage are therefore represented by partial profiles. This said they do indicate a fairly normal range of vessel types associated with the tradition. Vessel 1 is represented by rim sherd 846 which indicates the presence of a simple vertical rim curving slightly inwards and with a rounded top. A slight cordon exists approximately 20 mm below the external rim edge. The overall impression of the vessel is therefore one of a simple/neutral tub-shaped bowl or jar. Vessel 2, by way of slight contrast, also presents a simple vertical rim profile in the form of sherd 535, however, the rim edge has been flattened and is slightly inverted. Other than this rim feature the profile has not been embellished further and probably constitutes a further simple/neutral tub-shaped vessel.

Vessels 3 and 5 are represented by two fairly similar rim sherds. In both cases the rim appears to be fairly simple in form projecting vertically and perhaps flaring slightly outwards. The area of the internal rim edge has been altered slightly in both vessels to produce an inverted surface. It is unclear from either rim sherd quite how the wider profile of the vessel develops although it is likely that they again relate to a tub-shaped form.

Vessel 4 is again represented by a single rim sherd. The profile of the rim is simple and flares outwards slightly with a flat horizontal rim edge.

A single flat base, probably of a cylindrical tub-shaped vessel may also be identified, on the basis of differences in fabric, from other material from the same context.

### ***Decoration***

All vessels identified as Flat Rimmed Ware are plain and devoid of decoration as is typical of this tradition. This said all examples tend to have a fairly high degree of surface finish and are well smoothed both externally and internally. In the case of Vessel 1 a single horizontal cordon can be identified approximately 20 mm below the external rim edge and may qualify as a rudimentary attempt at decoration although one cannot entirely rule out a more functional explanation.

### **Quantity**

The total assemblage of potential Fat Rimmed Ware vessels derives from a 11 sherds recovered from four different contexts, weighing a total of 246.95 grams and potentially representing up to six vessels. The largest sub-assemblage derives from context 529, the fill of a posthole associated with post-built structure 14, and features a total of six sherds with a combined weight of 99.82, and includes vessels 5 and 6. The single sherd representing vessel 2 derived from pit 475 and the single sherd representing vessel 1 was from a posthole fill, both from building 14. A total of three sherds weighing 29.23 grams and representing vessels 3 and 4 were recovered from a further posthole (521) forming part of the timber-built roundhouse (post-built structure 13).

Small Find Number	Vessel/ Group Number	Fabric Group	Context Number	Description	Weight (grams)
Rim 846	1	St2	453	Medium grey brown exterior medium orange brown interior >1cm thick smoothed surface. A plain vertical rim with a slight inward curve and rounded edge. A single horizontal cordon extends around the vessel approximately 2cm below the external edge. > 14cm in diameter.	38.9
Rim 535	2	St1	475	Light brown exterior, black core, medium grey interior >0.8cm thick. 1 small rounded piece of quartz visible <0.1cm in size. A simple vertical rim with a flat inverted internal surface. Simple/neutral jar or bowl. > 12cm in diameter	29
Rim 522	3	St1	521	Light to medium grey surfaces, medium grey core, light grey interior >0.9cm thick. The rim appears vertical but slightly flared outwards, with a rounded edge but a slight internal bevel or inverted surface. Probably a simple/open or neutral vessel >20cm diameter.	14.02
Rim 523 Body 244	4	NS1	521	Light orange external surface, medium grey core, light grey interior, hard well fired >0.9cm thick. Simple vertical slightly flaring rim with a flat horizontal surface.	15.21
Rim 533	5	NS1	529	Illustrated as Early Neolithic Carinated Bowl but very similar to vessel 3 >1.1cm thick. Simple vertical outwardly flared rim with a rounded edge and a slightly inverted edge.	14.22
Base ?	6*	St1	529	Light orange hard well fired fabric >1.3cm thick. No small find number. I base sherd of a flat based and conical bodied or tub shaped vessel. Possible residue.	62.06
Body 531/512/532	-	NS1	529	Light orange brown >1cm thick. Do not appear to be with vessel 5.	13.54

Table 5. List of Flat Rimmed Ware vessels or sherd groups by context.\* denotes the presence of potential organic residues adhering to the surface.

### Uncertain date

This heading includes a group of featureless body sherds that could not be associated definitively with any ceramic type, even on the basis of general assumptions regarding contextual relationships. The sherds are all undecorated and indistinguishable in terms of fabric from any material associated with the ceramic traditions represented above.

Small Find Number	Vessel number	Fabric Group	Context Number	Description	Weight (grams)
Body 595-98	-	St1	907	Medium brown with a slightly reddish core, smooth internal and external surface, very hard and well fired >1cm thick.	13.37
Body 835	-	NS1	1009	Medium brown exterior and core, medium orange brown interior, smooth external surface >1.7cm	19.74
Body 640-42	-	NS1	1013	Light medium brown surface, medium grey core, smooth interior and exterior >1cm thick. Sherd 642 may be a simple vertical rim with possible decoration along the rounded edge.	8.27
Body 451-52	-	NS1	1203	Listed as flat rimmed ware but no diagnostic features. Medium orangy brown surface, medium grey brown core, hard well fired >1cm thick.	23.03
Body 837-38	-	St1	1215	Marked as surface and listed as Impressed Ware 2 large worn sherds medium brown surface medium grey core >1.7cm thick.	104.17

### Discussion

The ceramic assemblage derived from the Phase 1 excavations at Lanton Quarry represents a significant addition to the local and regional corpus in terms of both the quantity and the temporal spread of the material. As with the assemblages from Cheviot Quarry and Thirlings, in terms of the ceramic sequence of the area it presents a range of material that spans most of the major ceramic assemblages from Early Neolithic Carinated Bowls, Later Neolithic Impressed Wares, through the Beaker period and into the Middle Bronze Age as represented by Flat Rimmed Wares. While this is not an unbroken sequence it nevertheless represents a significant one that offers the opportunity to study ceramic change across a considerable temporal span allowing for comparison with other similar material from sites in the immediate locality and from across the country.

The overall assemblage from Lanton Quarry is also notable for the unusual consistency in fabric types. While a degree of continuity can be observed elsewhere in the country on a regional scale a number of studies have highlighted significant changes that occurred with regard to such aspects of ceramic production linked to the adoption of new ceramic forms (Cleal 1995), and this has been observed across the other assemblages from the Milfield basin (Millson in Marshall *et al.* in press). Slight variation in fabric types can be noted within the Lanton assemblage yet this largely relates to the quantity of temper inclusions rather than the type. Consequently similar fabric groups have been identified for the entire assemblage. Thin section analysis of the pottery would undoubtedly add further detail to this study and bring about a greater degree of separation between the ceramic traditions. It is intended that the prehistoric ceramics will be further analysed in relation to a programme of radiocarbon dating, with particular questions including the dating of modified forms of Carinated Bowl, the date of the Impressed Ware and Beaker

ceramics and the dates associated with Flat Rimmed Ware. Samples for radiocarbon dating will be taken either from the residues adhering to pottery herd surfaces or from single entity charred plant remains from shortlived species. This will hopefully place the ceramic assemblage within a tight chronological frame that can then be used to develop the regional sequence and relate it to the wider national picture.

The assemblage of Early Neolithic Carinated Bowls combined with that from the Phase 2 excavations offers a substantial assemblage of material consisting of over 1000 sherds and representing a minimum of 60 or more vessels. It is represented by a wide range of both carinated and slack-shouldered vessels in a range of sizes and forms and substantially adds to our knowledge of the repertoire and range of such vessels. In a number of instances organic residues have also been potentially identified adhering to the surface of the vessels and analysis of this resource will add a further dimension to our understanding of vessel function as well as wider aspects of social practice.

The relatively small assemblage of Impressed Ware from the site is significant despite its limited size in that it adds to a growing list of such material recovered from the local area and consequently expands the picture of habitation during this period. The typological range evident within the assemblage is also notable including as it does more typical generic types as well as more localised sub-forms as identified at sites such as Meldon Bridge, Ford and Cheviot Quarry. Within this range of material the potential identification of an example of Fengate Ware may also be highlighted as perhaps one of the most northerly finds of its kind.

The recovery of material associated with the Beaker tradition, while limited in the range of vessels it represents, extends the ceramic repertoire of the assemblage. While the quality of the material is somewhat limited, given the fragmentary nature of the primary vessel represented in the assemblage, it does add to the wider corpus of such material recovered and particularly from lowland areas.

Finally, while the assemblage of Flat Rimmed Ware material is relatively small, it may be combined with the material recovered during the Phase 2 excavations at the site to produce of more complete picture of ceramic production and use at the site during the Middle Bronze Age.

In all the assemblage from Lanton Quarry, including material from Phases 1 and 2, represents a significant assemblage that provides a punctuated sequence of ceramic production and use extending from the Early Neolithic through to the Middle Bronze Age.

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