3. The Later Prehistoric Pottery

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3.1 Introduction

The excavations produced a total of 3278 sherds of later prehistoric pottery weighing 18814g. A small collection of thirty, mostly unstratified, early Roman sherds, was also recovered. The condition of the assemblage is generally extremely poor, most sherds being highly abraded and fragmentary. A small number are so small (below one gram in weight) that their fabric type was not identifiable. It was, nonetheless, possible to establish a chronological sequence and a broad typology of fabrics and vessel forms on the basis of a small number of distinctive sherds.

The majority of classifiable sherds are of Early Iron Age type (7th-4th centuries BC), the remainder belonging to the Middle Iron Age (4th-2nd centuries BC). Most of the assemblage (55%) derived from pit fills, and it was from these deposits that the few large sherds in good or fair condition were recovered. The remainder of sherds were recovered from ditch fills (12%), a variety of small features (4%), layers relating to the rampart (5%), or were unstratified within the topsoil (24%).

3.2 Method

All sherds were recorded to the same level of detail. The pottery was examined with the aid of a binocular microscope (x 20) and a hand lens (x 10 and x 20). The pottery was characterised by fabric, form, surface treatment, decoration, number and weight of sherds. Degree of abrasion was recorded on a scale of 1 to 3 (1 being the freshest) and the presence of carbonised residue, soot and limescale was noted, although residues were rarely preserved. A number of sherds are illustrated in figures 3.1 to 3.3 on pages 18 -20 of this report.

3.3 Fabrics

Fifteen fabrics were identified, of which five are predominantly sand-tempered, four shell-tempered and four flint-tempered. In addition, a small group of body sherds with grog temper and calcareous inclusions were recognised within Iron Age contexts. A proportion of the latter may belong to the Late Bronze Age period, but, in the absence of sherds diagnostic of form, it was not possible to be certain. The relative proportions of fabrics are presented in Table 3.1 below.

3.3.1 Predominantly Quartz Sand Temper

A1 – Fine sandy ware

Sandy ware containing frequent well-sorted silt-sized grains, sparse small mica and glauconite. Some sherds contain small inclusions of shell, oolites or quartzite. The fabric is dense and compact with a smooth feel and fine fracture. Fires to dark grey, black, less commonly orange or reddish brown.

A2 – Fine sandy ware with haematite

Sandy ware containing silt-sized or slightly larger quartz sand grains, sparse small mica, black ferrous pellets and glauconite, and, invariably, dark red, powdery lumps of haematite measuring between 1-5mm. Some sherds contain additional small shell fragments. The fabric is soft and powdery, easily abraded. Fires almost invariably to a distinctive light orange colour.

A3 – Medium sandy ware
Sandy ware containing very common well-sorted quartz grains of small to medium size, sparse small gold mica and common glauconite pellets. Some sherds contain additional sparse inclusions of shell or quartzite. Sandy surface texture, smooth or slightly hackly fracture. Fires to dark grey, black, or variable grey/dark reddish colour.

A4 – Medium/coarse sandy ware
Glauconitic sandy ware containing ill-assorted quartz sand grains of small, medium and coarse grade with additional inclusions of sub-angular quartzite up to 4mm, occasional small shell, weathered flint or haematite. Coarse texture, hackly fracture. Fires to dark grey or dark reddish brown.

A5 – Fine sandy ware with organic temper
Fabric as A1 but with elongated voids and imprints indicating presence of organic material such as chaff, grass or straw, possibly animal dung. Generally soft fired and powdery, orange or dark reddish in colour. Few identifiable forms occurred in this fabric.

3.3.2 Predominantly Shell Temper

S1 – Fine sandy ware with sparse shell
Fine sandy fabric resembling A3 but containing sparse inclusions of shell 1-7mm in size. Fine sandy texture. May fire to dark grey/black or shades of orange/red.

S2 – Medium/coarse sandy ware with moderate density of shell temper
Sandy fabric resembling A3 (sometimes somewhat coarser, as A4) with a moderate density of coarsely fractured shell fragments measuring 1-5mm in size. Some sherds contain additional sparse inclusions of sub-angular quartzite or red powdery haematite. Generally fires to dark grey with orange or reddish brown colour on one or both surfaces.

S3 – Smooth , soapy fabric with sparse to moderate shell
Smooth clay with sparse, ill-assorted grains of medium grade quartz sand, sparse black ferrous pellets and sparse to moderate density of crushed shell fragments, some platey, some with curved structure. Soapy feel, irregular fracture. Almost invariably fires to orange or light reddish grey.

S4 – Fine sandy ware with fine shell and oolite particles
Very fine sandy, slightly micaceous fabric with common inclusions of crushed small white shelly matter, including oolites, most measuring 0.5-1.5mm, giving the fabric a speckled appearance. Some sherds contain additional inclusions of red, powdery haematite. Generally fires to dark grey interior with orange outer surfaces.

3.3.3 Predominantly Flint Temper

F1 – Sandy ware with sparse flint
Glauconitic sandy fabric containing abundant well-assorted fine to medium grade sub-angular grains with sparse inclusions of sub-angular and sub-rounded non-calcined white flint pieces 0.5-5mm in size, most fragments 1-2mm. Fires to dark reddish interior with dark grey/black exterior surfaces.

F2 – Soapy fabric with sparse flint
Smooth , hard-fired clay with sparse ill-assorted small to medium grade quartz sand grains along with rarer rounded quartzite pieces 1-2mm in size. Additional sparse

inclusions of ill-assorted angular, white non-calcined flint. Fine fracture, soapy texture. Generally fires to uniform dark grey or black.

F3 – Sandy fabric with haematite and flint
Sandy fabric containing common, ill-assorted rounded grains of small to medium grade, a moderate density of red powdery haematite lumps 1-5mm and moderate to abundant angular and sub-angular non-calcined white flint pieces 0.5-3mm in size. The haematite component is distinctive. Fine fracture, fires to variable mid-grey to brown to light reddish brown colour.

F4 – Fine sandy ware with dense white flint
Fine sandy ware with abundant inclusions of well-sorted angular white calcined flint pieces mostly 1-2mm. The flint appears to be a deliberately selected, graded temper added to a fine clay. Hackly fracture. Generally fires to dark grey/black.

3.3.4 Predominantly Calcareous Temper

C1 – Coarse sandy ware with calcareous inclusions
Coarse sandy fabric resembling fabric A4 with additional sparse to moderate inclusions of sub-rounded and sub-angular light grey to white calcareous fragments, probably weathered limestone. Some examples contain sparse oolites in addition. Hackly fracture. Generally fires to dark grey. Very uncommon type.

3.3.5 Predominantly Grog Temper

G1 – Soapy fabric with grog inclusions
Smooth, slightly micaceous, non-sandy fabric containing a moderate density of red and grey grog pieces, red haematite lumps and, in some cases, sparse shell fragments. Hackly fracture, smooth, soapy feel. Generally fires to mid-grey or brownish colour. Very uncommon.

Table 3.1: Fabric Statistics

FABRIC	SHERDS	%SHERDS	WEIGHT(g)	%WEIGHT
A1	829	25.3	4199	22.3
A2	302	9.2	2555	13.6
A3	991	30.2	4721	25.1
A4	80	2.4	647	3.4
A5	30	0.9	486	2.6
FABRIC A	**2232**	**68.1**	**12608**	**67.0**
S1	372	11.3	2457	13.1
S2	132	4.0	1150	6.1
S3	320	9.8	1791	9.5
S4	55	1.7	237	1.3
FABRIC S	**879**	**26.8**	**5635**	**26.0**
F1	44	1.3	219	1.2
F2	16	0.5	149	0.8
F3	3	0.1	56	0.3
F4	12	0.4	60	0.3
FABRIC F	**75**	**2.3**	**484**	**2.6**
C1	3	0.1	14	0.1
G1	4	0.1	19	0.1
unclassified	85	0.3	54	0.3
total	**3278**		**18814**	

Sandy wares dominate the assemblage by a large margin, representing 68% of the total by count. Shell-tempered fabrics form a quarter of the group and flint-tempered wares are uncommon. The sandy fabrics contain visible glauconite and resemble material recovered from Uffington hillfort, a distance of only about 10km to the north-west of Segsbury (Brown 2003). Although it is likely that some glauconitic clay used in the manufacture of the EIA vessels was obtained from sources a short distance from the site, the precise sources of glauconitic fabrics in general, in the absence of added temper, can be difficult to distinguish. The clays were plentiful at other sources, including sites further to the west in Wiltshire. Some of the MIA vessels appear, on stylistic grounds, to be Wiltshire products but their glauconitic fabrics closely resemble those of EIA finewares.

Petrological analysis of the Uffington assemblage indicated that fossiliferous shell fragments were probably deliberately added as temper to glauconitic clays that outcropped less than a mile from the site. The shell, shelly limestone and calcite used as tempers would all have been available from Ridgeway deposits in the vicinity. The chalk ridge could have also been a source for the flint temper.

The Segsbury assemblage demonstrates a similar pattern of resource exploitation. The varieties within each fabric category signify not necessarily a diversity of clay and temper sources but, more likely, variation in mix and refinement of fabric constituents. For example, the shell component of fabrics S1-S4 probably derived from similar sources but varieties S3 and S4 contain more finely crushed fragments than S1 and S2. Similarly, the flint in fabrics F1-F4 was likely to have originated from related sources along the chalk ridge. It is in the relative proportions of fabrics that the Segsbury and Uffington/Tower Hill assemblages differ. Shell-tempered wares represented 72% of the total assemblage at Tower Hill (Barclay et al. 2003) and almost 60% at Uffington (Brown 2003) in contrast to a figure of 26% of the Segsbury group. Sandy wares were correspondingly less common at Uffington and especially at Tower Hill, where they formed only 22% of the total assemblage. These figures probably reflect a chronological disparity between the two groups, the Segsbury material probably belonging, in general terms, to a later phase of the early Iron Age (7th-5th rather than 8th-7th century). The low proportions of flint-tempered wares at all three sites (1-2%), is notable.

A small but unquantifiable element of the assemblage may date to the Late Bronze Age. The few calcite-tempered and grog-tempered sherds and shell-tempered fabric S3, in particular, may be earlier than the bulk of the assemblage but these were generally found in association with sherds in other fabrics and may have been residual in later deposits. One of the grog-tempered sherds was recovered from an ancient ground surface (7319) sealed below the rampart in Trench 7. A jar rim (form J3, fig.3.3.46) from the same layer may also be a Late Bronze Age vessel.

3.4 Forms

The majority of sherds were highly abraded and fragmentary and only 111 fragments (3.4% of the total assemblage) were classifiable at any level by form. Of this group, 33 fragments were basal sherds, in most cases insufficiently distinctive to identify the vessel type. This left a mere two percent of sherds classifiable by vessel form and, due to the small size of sherds, identification was sometimes uncertain. Several forms were represented by only a single vessel. Nonetheless, it was possible to establish a basic form typology, described below. Most of the distinctive sherds are illustrated. Very small rim fragments were recorded by a rim classification (R1-R4).

3.4.1 Jars

J1

Large barrel-shaped or straight-sided jar with expanded rim.

J2

Slack-shouldered jars with upright or slightly flaring rim with fingertip or fingernail impressions on rim top. Shoulder may also bear similar decoration.

J3

Shouldered jar with upright rim which may be simple or slightly expanded, but lacking the decoration of type J2.

J4

Barrel-shaped jar without much emphasis on the shoulder and short everted or upright rim resembling an elongated bead.

J5

Jars of varying size with rounded profile and thickened proto-bead rim.

J6

Globular S-profile jar with out-curving rim. Generally well-smoothed or burnished, sometimes decorated with shallow-tooling. MIA type.

3.4.2 Pots

P1

Vessel with near vertical sides which curve inwards slightly towards the top ending with a simple rim.

P2

Vessel with near vertical sides, hooked-over, and flattened rim top.

P3

Vessels with straight sides and simple rounded or slightly beaded rims ('saucepan' pots). Generally well-smoothed or burnished. MIA type.

P4

Pot with a 'flower pot' profile, straight walled with sides flaring outwards. One example.

3.4.3 Bowls

B1

Shouldered bowl of tripartite form which may have angular or rounded shoulder and flaring rim. Some examples are red-finished or decorated with finger impressions or incised diagonal lines. The group appears to share affinities with the Chinnor-Wandlebury and Long Wittenham-Allen's Pit styles (Cunliffe 1991, 75).

B2

Finely made bowl with flaring rim, faceted or smoothly rounded shoulder, sometimes emphasised with cordons, and a simple foot-ring base. Generally red-finished.

B3

Globular bowl with short out-turned rim and bag-shaped profile (indicating an earlier date range in the MIA). 'Frilford bowl' type.

3.4.4 Lids

L

Due to the small size of sherds classification was sometimes uncertain.

3.4.5 Bases

BS1

Simple flat base.

BS2
Coarseware flat base with pinched out, expanded basal angle.
BS3
Finely moulded base with simple footring.

3.4.6 Rim Forms

R1 Simple, rounded everted rim (15 examples).
R2 Upright, flattened or expanded rim (9 examples).
R3 Beaded rim (1 example).
R4 Simple, in-turning rim (1 example).

Table 3.2: Form / Fabric Correlation

	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	S1	S2	S3	S4	F1	F2	F3	F4	total
J1							1	1						**2**
J2	1		1			1		2				1		**6**
J3	2	3	5			1	1	1		1				**13**
J4	1	3	4		1									**9**
J5		2	1											**3**
J6	1	1	1	1									1	**5**
P1		1	1	1										**3**
P2						1								**1**
P3	2													**2**
P4	1													
B1	10	2	10			1		1						**24**
B2		1	1											**2**
B3	1													**1**
L	3	1	1			1								**6**
BS1	3	1	7	1	1	3	1							**17**
BS2	7	1	3		1			2			1			**12**
BS3	1													**1**

3.5 Surface Treatment

Surface treatment was recorded as follows: A – no special finish; B – burnished; C – partial burnish; D – smoothed; E – brushed or wiped; F – red finished (by application of slip or by control of fabric/firing quality). The majority of sherds exhibited no special or deliberate finish, but 15% had been smoothed and 8% were wholly or partially burnished. Burnishing was most common on fabrics A1 and A3, with only one flint-tempered example. Thirty-seven sherds were red-finished, all sandy wares, mostly fabrics A1 and A3.

3.6 Decoration

A small proportion of sherds (4%) were decorated. The following decorative devices were observed:

burnished horizontal lines (BL1)
burnished vertical lines (BL2)
diagonal grooves (G1)
fingertip impressions (FT)
fingernail impressions (FN)
slashing (SL)
shallow tooled lines (ST1)

shallow tooled dots (ST2)
shallow tooled dots + lines (ST3)
shallow tooled lines + dots + swags (ST4)
rosette stamp (SM1)
cordon (C1)
'piecrust'/cabled effect (P)
incised horizontal lines (I1)
incised vertical lines (I2)
incised linear geometric (I3)

Burnished linear decoration and cordons were present only on fabric A3, incised linear decoration was present on fabrics A1 and A3 but also on shell-tempered ware S3. Shallow-tooled decoration was present on sandy fabrics A1, A2 and A3, with a single shell-tempered example. Only vessels in shell-tempered fabric S3 exhibited cabled/piecrust rims. Fingernail and fingertip decoration were present on both sand and shell-tempered wares (A1, A3, A4, S1, S2, S3), but most commonly on shelly fabrics. Two sherds in flint-tempered ware F3 also had fingernail impressions. A single sherd each in fabrics A3 and A4 were decorated with impressed rosette motifs.

Table 3.3: Form co-occurrence (MIA forms in italics)

Form	**J1**	**J2**	**J3**	**J4**	**J5**	***J6***	**P1**	**P2**	***P3***	**P4**	**B1**	**B2**	***B3***	**Total**
CXT														
D1003 (1004)				+	+	+								**3**
D3007 (3008)		+	+					+			+			**4**
D3007 (3009)			+											**1**
D3007 (3066)											+			**1**
PH1060			+											**1**
PH1339		+												**1**
PH1379			+											**1**
PH 1503											+			**1**
PH1553			+											**1**
PH4021							+				+			**2**
PH4041											+			**1**
PIT 1001							+				+			**2**
PIT 1009		+												**1**
PIT 1013											+			**1**
PIT 1015											+			**1**
PIT 1017												+		**1**
PIT 1019				+										**1**
PIT 1021									+					**1**
PIT 1041					+									**1**
PH 1118											+			**1**
PIT 1169					+	+							+	**3**
PIT 1175				+	+									**2**
PIT 1260											+			**1**
PIT 1294			+	+										**2**
PIT 1305												+		**1**
PIT 1307	+													**1**

Form	**J1**	**J2**	**J3**	**J4**	**J5**	***J6***	**P1**	**P2**	***P3***	**P4**	**B1**	**B2**	***B3***	**Total**
CXT														
PIT 1312			+			+					+			**3**
PIT 1313				+										**1**
PIT 1321		+												**1**
PIT 1334			+											**1**
PIT 1337	+		+	+							+			**4**
PIT 1341			+											**1**
PH 1344							+			+				**1**
PIT 1521			+											**1**
PIT 2061											+			**1**
PIT 3020			+								+			**2**
PIT 4062			+											
SOIL 7319		+												**1**

Due to the small size of the classifiable assemblage it was difficult to establish a detailed chronological sequence referenced to vessel form. The problem was compounded by the limited frequency of co-occurrence of identifiable forms within any given deposit and, bearing in mind the condition of sherds, the assumption must be that much of the ceramic content of deposits was residual in any case. Frequency of co-occurrence is shown in Table 3.3, which demonstrates the shortcomings of the available evidence. In most significant features and deposits that produced diagnostic sherds, only a single identifiable form was present, and the highest incidence of co-occurrence was of four different forms in Pit [1337]. Co-occurrence does not, of course, equate to contemporaneity, but, in larger well-preserved assemblages, correlation analyses can be helpful in constructing ceramic sequences. For the Segsbury assemblage, the exercise has served rather to highlight the limitations of the data and the distinctive taphonomic pattern of the Site.

Because few diagnostic sherds were recovered, classification has been at a broad rather than detailed level, although it is recognised that more than one regional ceramic tradition may be included in a single form category. For example, form B1 bowls include flaring rim bowls with both angular and rounded shoulders and with and without decoration.

3.7 Key Feature and Sequence Groups with Illustrated Catalogue (see Figures 3.1 to 3.3 on pages 18 to 20 of this report)

Circular structures

A circular structure represented by gully [1003] (fill 1004) produced 105 sherds of which 99 were highly abraded, including rim sherds of jar forms J4 (four conjoining sherds, Fig.3.1.3) and J5 (Fig.3.1.1). A fragment of a burnished J6 jar form (Fig.3.1.2) and a base form BS2 (Fig.3.1.4) were in a fresher condition. Form J6 is a MIA type and the presence of this single sherd in a reasonable condition suggests that the gully filled during the MIA. It is, however, cut by Pit [1001], which produced an assemblage containing two B1 type bowl fragments and nothing demonstrably later than EIA. It is likely that the pit assemblage is, therefore, entirely residual. Gully [1154], perhaps a recut of [1003], produced only 20 sherds, including two basal fragments (BS2):-

FIGURE NO.	CONTEXT	FORM	FABRIC	SURFACE	DECORATION
3.1.1	(1004)	J5	A2	-	-
3.1.2	(1004)	J6	A4	B	-
3.1.3	(1004)	J4	A3	B	-
3.1.4	(1004)	BS2	A3	D	-

Circular structure

A second circular structure was represented by gully [1364] (fill 1536) which produced only four abraded body sherds in shell-tempered and sandy wares along with one sherd of uncommon flint-tempered ware (F2). It was not possible to determine on the basis of the pottery whether this structure was contemporary with [1003]. (None illustrated).

Ditch [3007] (3008, 3009, 3012, 3017, 3031, 3066)

A total of 340 sherds weighing 2092g was recovered from six layers filling this ditch. Layer (3017), the lowest fill to produce pottery, contained 21 sherds in a range of sandy and shell-tempered fabrics. The only diagnostic sherd was a lug in fabric A4 (Fig.3.2.30). Layer (3031) produced a single shell-tempered fragment. Layer (3066) produced nine sherds including a very small fragment of a tripartite bowl (B1). Layer (3012) contained 22 sherds including a shell-tempered fragment with a trace of shallow-tooled decoration. Layer (3009) produced 30 sherds including a fragment in fabric F4 and a shell-tempered sherd of a form J3 jar (Fig.3.2.21) that joins a fragment from layer (3008). Layer (3008) produced 257 sherds (Fig.3.2.20-29), a group that included type J2 and J3 jars, type B1 bowls and a P2 pot as well as a possible lid (Fig.3.2.25).

FIGURE NO.	CONTEXT	FORM	FABRIC	SURFACE	DEC.	
3.2.20	(3008)	J2	S3	D	FT	
3.2.21	(3008)	J2	S3	D	FT	Joins 3009
3.2.22	(3008)	J3	A3	D	-	
3.2.23	(3008)	B1	A3	B	-	
3.2.24	(3008)	P2	S1	E	-	possibly lid
3.2.25	(3008)	Lid	S1	B	-	possibly lid
3.2.26	(3008)	B1?	A1	B	I3	
3.2.27	(3008)	BS1	A3	A	-	
3.2.28	(3008)	BS1	S1	A	-	
3.2.29	(3008)	BS2	S3	A	-	
3.2.30	(3017)	Lug	A4	D	-	

Ditch [6002] (6003 and 6013) and Recut Ditch [6006](6007)

Four abraded EIA sherds weighing 21g were recovered from layer (6003) of this ditch, only two from layer (6013) (8g). Layer (6007) of recut ditch (6006) produced only nine small EIA sherds weighing 25g. Four abraded EIA body sherds were found in the fill overlying the features.

Ditch [7607] (7604, 7612, 7613, 7618, 7619)

The fill of the ditch produced a very small assemblage (12 sherds, 60g) of Roman pottery in a very fragmentary and abraded condition. The group, which probably dates to the late 2nd century AD, includes three conjoining sherds from a white-slipped orange ware flagon and a storage jar fragment which may be an Alice Holt product. This group derived from layers (7618) and (7619) which formed at a point when the ditch profile was only approximately one-third filled. No pottery was recovered from layers below

this point. A small assemblage of 30 sherds of residual prehistoric pottery, including a bowl form B1, was found in overlying fills (7604), (7612) and (7613). (None illustrated).

Pit [1019] (1020, 1718, 1723, 1724, 1728 1730)

Contains 43 sherds, 322g. Assemblage contains a wide range of sandy wares, including the uncommon A5, shell-tempered wares and a sherd of flint-tempered ware (F4). Two coarsely finished type J4 jar rims were recovered.

FIGURE NO.	CONTEXT	FORM	FABRIC	SURFACE	DECORATION
3.2.32	(1020)	J4	A2	E	-
3.2.33	(1020)	J4	A1	A	-

Pit [1118] (1417)

Produced only 10 abraded sherds from a single fill but the group included eight conjoining sherds of a type B1 bowl and a few pieces of daub.

FIGURE NO.	CONTEXT	FORM	FABRIC	SURFACE	DECORATION
3.1,9	(1417)	B1	A3	F	-

Pit [1169] (1170, 1376)

Contained 68 sherds, 172g. All except four sherds came from the upper fill (1170) which contained a decorated J6 jar, almost certainly of Wiltshire 'Yarnbury-Highfield' style (Cunliffe 1991, 81 and 569), together with a 'Frilford' type bowl (B3), both in fine glauconitic sandy ware (A1) with burnished surfaces. These sherds indicate a date in the MIA, probably 3rd-2nd century.

FIGURE NO.	CONTEXT	FORM	FABRIC	SURFACE	DECORATION
3.1.7	(1170)	J6	A1	B	ST3
3.1.8	(1170)	B3	A1	B	-

Pit [1175] (1382, 1409, 1410, 1414)

Pit 1175 was located within gully [1003] but need not have been contemporary with it. It contained 51 sherds, most from (1382). The assemblage included sherds of two type J4 and one type J5 jars and a B1 bowl. The majority of sherds were very small and abraded.

FIGURE NO.	CONTEXT	FORM	FABRIC	SURFACE	DECORATION
3.1.5	(1382)	J5	A2	-	-
3.1.6	(1382)	J4	A2	-	-

Pit [1307] (1561)

Contains 13 sherds, 39g, including the 'cabled' or 'piecrust' decorated expanded rim of a jar, probably type J1 or similar.

FIGURE NO.	CONTEXT	FORM	FABRIC	SURFACE	DECORATION
3.1.17	(1561)	BS2	S3	A	P

Pit [1312] (1538, 1683, 1684, 1685)

Contains 79 sherds, 1643g. Forty-two sherds belonging to a type J6 decorated jar (fig.3.3.43) in glauconitic sandy ware were recovered from the bottom fill (context 1685). In common with vessel no 7 from Pit [1169] (fig.3.1.7), this vessel can be assigned on the basis of style and fabric to the 'Yarnbury-Highfield' type manufactured in Wiltshire, broadly dated to 400/300-100 BC. The middle fill, context (1538), produced large sherds making up much of another S-profile jar (fig.3.1.13). This vessel has a pedestal base with double cordon above and resembles similar types from Swallowcliffe in Wiltshire (Clay 1925 & 1927). These vessels are uncommon and not well dated but are generally regarded as roughly contemporary with the All Cannings

Cross-Meon Hill group dating to the 5th-3rd century (Harding 1976). The association of these two Wiltshire jars, one generally assigned to the EIA and the other to the MIA, in this pit is interesting. They were almost certainly imported from Wiltshire, possibly following the Ridgeway route used to transport pottery of All Cannings Cross type from the Salisbury/Devizes area to Uffington, Liddington Castle and Rams Hill in the earlier part of the Iron Age (Brown 2003; Hirst and Rahtz 1996; Bradley and Ellison 1975). The traditional dating schemes and the available evidence would allow for the styles to overlap somewhere between 400 and 300 BC. The circumstances of their deposition appears to reflect the type of behaviour commonly observed on later prehistoric sites whereby pottery and other material seems to have been selected for ritual deposition. Evidence for such placed deposits is notably lacking elsewhere on the site. A few residual sherds of EIA type, including a bowl from context (1683) (fig.3.2.35), were recovered from the final fill of the pit.

FIGURE NO.	CONTEXT	FORM	FABRIC	SURFACE	DEC.	
3.1.3	(1538)	J6	A3	B	C1	Special deposit
3.2.35	(1683)	B1	A1	FN	-	
3.3.43	(1685)	J6	A2	B	ST4	

Pit [1313] (1539, 1573)

This pit produced only three small sherds but included an example of jar type J4 in fabric A3.

FIGURE NO.	CONTEXT	FORM	FABRIC	SURFACE	DECORATION
3.1.18	(1573)	J4	A3	A	-

Pit [1337] (1338, 1709, 1719, 1720)

Contains 98 sherds, 761g. Fabrics represented include the complete range of sandy wares, shell-tempered wares S2 and S3 and a flint-tempered sherd (F2). Most diagnostic sherds were very fragmentary. The shape of jar 36, found in layer (1709) is unusual but it was classified as type J1 on the basis of its expanded rim. Layer (1709) of the pit also produced fragments of two small vessels in fine sandy ware which are almost certainly crucibles (Figs.3.2.38 and 3.2.39) resembling two found at the Late Bronze Age settlement site at Aldermarston Wharf (Bradley *et al.* 1980, 244). In common with Pit [1334] there is some suggestion from the ceramic assemblage that this group could belong to the Late Bronze 'plain ware' tradition.

FIGURE NO.	CONTEXT	FORM	FABRIC	SURFACE	DECORATION
3.2.34	(1338)	J3	A1	D	-
3.2.36	(1709)	J1	S2	A	-
3.2.37	(1709)	B1	A3	-	-
3.2.41	(1719)	J4	A3	E	-

Pit [1334] (1544, 1545)

Contains 98 sherds, 1068g. 78 sherds belong to a single vessel (fig.3.1.14), probably a jar with a 'flower pot' profile. A form P1 plainware jar (fig.3.1.15) and a jar with a pinched out base (fig.3.1.16) were also recovered from the lower fill. The basal sherd is in an unusual organic-tempered fabric (A5). The co-occurrence of two 'plain ware' type vessels in this pit suggests that there is a possibility that this feature, or the pottery within its fill, date to the latest phase of the Bronze Age (11th-9th century).

FIGURE NO.	CONTEXT	FORM	FABRIC	SURFACE	DECORATION
3.1.14	(1545)	P4	A1	E	-
3.1.15	(1545)	P1	A2	E	-
3.1.16	(1545)	BS2	A5	E	-

Pit [1521] (1522)

Produced only 13 sherds, 119g, all in sandy wares A1-A3 apart from a single shell-tempered sherd. A small type J3 jar and a simple BS1 base were present.

FIGURE NO.	CONTEXT	FORM	FABRIC	SURFACE	DECORATION
3.1.10	(1522)	J1	A1	D	-
3.1.11	(1522)	J3	A3	E	-

Pit [3020] (3021, 3026, 3032, 3038)

Contains 28 sherds, 55g. Includes a range of sandy wares along with several sherds in fabric S1 a single example of F4 and a fragment of the shoulder of a type J2 jar with fingernail decoration.

FIGURE NO.	CONTEXT	FORM	FABRIC	SURFACE	DECORATION
3.2.31	(3038)	J2	S1	A	FN

Pit [4062/4064] (4063, 4065, 4067)

Contains 118 sherds, 720g, of which 32 sherds are conjoining fragments of a decorated flaring rim bowl (fig.3.3.45). Fragments of the same vessel were also recovered from the overlying topsoil layer (4000). Despite the large size of the assemblage, the bowl and a basal sherd (BS1) in fabric A1 were the only diagnostic sherds. One of the lower fills (4067) produced eight relatively fresh sherds, uncommon for any deposit from the site, but all were body sherds.

FIGURE NO.	CONTEXT	FORM	FABRIC	SURFACE	DECORATION
3.3.45	(4063)	B1	A1	D	ST1

Other pit groups

A number of additional pits produced relatively large assemblages of pottery containing mostly simple body sherds. The range of fabrics present suggests that most, apart from Pit [1021], which produced two rim fragments of MIA saucepan pots, were likely to be of EIA date although it must be allowed that some could date to the Late Bronze Age. The most prolific, or those containing diagnostic sherds, are listed below. The remaining pits contained small assemblages of between one and 25 body sherds in a variety of sandy and shell-tempered fabrics.

[1001] (1002, 1511)
51 sherds, 203g [A1, A2, A3, S1]
[1007] (1008, 1543)
[1009] (1010, 1412)
15 sherds, 60g [A1, A2, A3, S1, S3] {P1, J2, R1}
[1013] (1014, 1695)
71sherds, 193g [A1, A2, A3, S1, S2, S3] {B1, BS2}
[1015] (1016)
40 sherds, 104g [A1, A3, A5, S2, S3] {B1, Lid}
83 sherds, 271g [A1, A2, A3, A4, S1, S2, S3, G1]
[1021] (1022) MIA
63 sherds, 166g [A1, A3, S1, S3, S4] {P3 x2}
[1041] (1266)
31 sherds, 136g [A2, A3, S1] {J5, BS1}
[1175] (1382, 1409, 1410, 1414)
51 sherds, 509g [A1, A2, A3, A5, S1, S2, S4] {J4 x2; J5; B1;BS1}
[1260] (1498, 1594, 1662, 1668, 1670)
84 sherds, 276g [A1, A2, A3, A4, S1, S3, S4]

[1294] (1512, 1590)
69 sherds, 387g [A1, A2, A3, A4, S1, S2, S3] {J3, R2}
[1298] (1475)
35 sherds, 132g [A1, A2, A3, A5, S1, S3, S4] {BS2}
[1305] (1520, 1555)
18 sherds, 78g [A1, A2, A3, S3] {B1/2, B1}
[1334] (1524)
34 sherds, 153g [A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, S1, S3] {J3}
[1336] (1698, 1729, 1732, 1733, 1741, 1742, 1766)
140 sherds, 1191g [A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, S1, S3] {BS1; BS2; R1; LID}
[1341] (1703, 1712)
56 sherds, 251g [A1, A2, A3, A4, S1, S2] {J3)A3); R4}
[1343] (1701, 1707, 1708)
38 sherds, 126g [A1, A2, A3, A4, S1, S2, S3, F2] {BS2}
[1345] (1517, 1534, 1595)
31 sherds, 176g [A2, A3, A4, S1]
[2061] (2062, 2072, 2074)
52 sherds, 211g [A1, A3, A4, S1, S3] (B}

Posthole [1339] (1650)
One sherd, 49g. Jar form J2, an uncommon example of a flint-tempered vessel, decorated with fingernail impressions along the rim and slashes across the shoulders.

FIGURE NO.	CONTEXT	FORM	FABRIC	SURFACE	DECORATION
3.1.19	(1650)	J2	F3	A	FN/SL

Posthole [4041] (4042)
This posthole produced nine sherds belonging to a burnished bowl with a rounded shoulder and stamped rosette decoration of the type seen at Chinnor (Richardson and Young 1951) and Blewburton Hill (Harding 1976). These are broadly dated to between 600 and 300 BC. A small sherd in the same fabric with this rosette decoration was found in Trench 1, Pit [1321]. The fill also produced a sherd of a P1 vessel.

FIGURE NO.	CONTEXT	FORM	FABRIC	SURFACE	DECORATION
3.3.44	(4042)	B1	A3	B	SM1

Posthole [1379] (1710)
Three sherds, 61g. A single body sherd in shell-tempered ware S2 was associated with a small jar with simple upright rim.

FIGURE NO.	CONTEXT	FORM	FABRIC	SURFACE	DECORATION
3.2.40	(1710)	J3	A2	A	-

Posthole [1761] (1762)
Contained 10 sherds, 18g, belonging to a fineware red-finished bowl, repesented by a foot-ring base.

FIGURE NO.	CONTEXT	FORM	FABRIC	SURFACE	DECOR.	
3.2.42	(1762)	BS3	A1	B	-	form B2?

Rampart sequence
The ceramic assemblage from the rampart sequence is summarised below. Unfortunately, the group is very small and consists almost entirely of plain body sherds. A rim sherd of a type J3 jar (fig3.3.46), from a soil horizon (7319) sealed by the rampart in Trench 7, could possibly date to the Late Bronze Age. The form is elsewhere

associated with EIA bowls, but it is here also associated with a rare grog-tempered sherd (one of only four from the site), that could also pre-date the bulk of the assemblage. There is, however, insufficient evidence to date this deposit with any degree of confidence.

(7302) 9 sherds, 82g, fabrics: A3, S1, S3
(7303) 38 sherds, 225g, fabrics: A3, S1, S3, F1
(7311) 1 sherd, 3g, fabric: S3
(7312) 40 sherds, 234g, fabrics: A1, A3, A5, S1, S3, F1, F4
(7315) 1 sherd, 5g, fabric: A5
(7316) 8 sherds, 53g, fabrics: A1, A3, S1, F4
(7317) 25 sherds, 130g, fabric:A1, A3, S1, S2, F4
(7323) 2 sherds, 23g, fabric: A3
(7325) 8 sherds, 38g, fabric: A3, S1, S2
(7350) 2 sherds, 7g, fabric: A3, S1
(7352) 1 sherd, 22g, fabric: S1
(7365) 1 sherd, 4g, fabric: A3
(7366) 10 sherds, 28g, fabric: A1, A3, S1, S3
(7368) 8 sherds, 27g, fabric: A1, S2, S3
(7371) 3 sherds, 31g, fabric: A3, S1
(7391) 3 sherds, 19g, fabric: A3, S2
(7424) 1 sherd, 21g, fabric: S1

Ancient soil below rampart [7319]

(7319) 14 sherds, 241g, fabrics: A3, S1, S2, S3, G1 {J3 (S2)}

FIGURE NO.	CONTEXT	FORM	FABRIC	SURFACE	DECORATION
3.3.46	(7319)	J3	S2	E	-

3.8 Crucibles

Two crucible fragments were recovered, both from Pit [1337]. They resemble examples recovered from the Late Bronze Age site at Aldermarston Wharf (Bradley *et al.* 1980).

FIGURE NO.	CONTEXT	FORM	FABRIC	SURFACE	DECORATION
3.2.38	(1709)	crucible	A1	D	-
3.2.39	(1709)	crucible	A2	-	-

3.9 Discussion

The majority of the pottery assemblage appears to best reflect the Early Iron Age ceramic traditions of the Ridgeway and the Upper Thames region with, perhaps, a small component of Late Bronze Age material and a small but distinctive Middle Iron Age element. Insufficient ceramic evidence of reasonable quality was available to assess the duration of the Early Iron Age presence at the site but identifiable vessels could be accommodated within a date range of the 7th-4th centuries BC. A number of coarse ware vessels with finger-impressed decoration may be somewhat earlier, but these were often associated with red-finished flaring rim bowls (B1) which are unlikely to date to before the 6th/5th century (Harding 1976; Cunliffe 1991, 75).

The Early Iron Age assemblage is dominated by jars. The group includes shouldered and slack-shouldered jars with upright rims (J1-J3), some bearing fingertip or fingernail-impressed decoration on the rim and/or shoulder. Forms J4 and J5 have a rounded profile and may be slightly later types, precursors to bead-rim jars. Forms P1, P2 and P4 certainly resemble vessels belonging to the post-Deverel-Rimbury 'plain ware' assemblage current during the latest phases of the Bronze Age (Barrett 1980) and all

three can be paralleled at the Late Bronze Age settlements at Knight's Farm and Aldermarston Wharf (Bradley *et al.* 1980). But the few fragmentary examples occurred fairly consistently in association with Early Iron Age bowls (forms B1 and B2). The possibilities are that they are residual Late Bronze Age sherds or that the 'plain ware' tradition continued in the area into the 7th century or later in the area of the hillfort (Cunliffe 1991, 63). The assemblage from Pit [1334] (described above) perhaps provides the strongest evidence that a Late Bronze Age phase can be identified, however tentatively, at Segsbury.

The majority of bowls were flared-rim vessels produced in fine glauconitic sandy wares. Decoration in the form of stamped rosettes, a motif recognised within the Blewburton Hill assemblage (Harding 1976), and incised lines were identified on a very small number of sherds but the paucity of decorated sherds may have been due to the fragmentary and worn condition of the assemblage. The bowl assemblage appears to share affinities with the Chinnor-Wandlebury assemblage but the lack of decorated examples may suggest links with the more westerly Long Wittenham-Allen's Pit group found in the Upper Thames valley and extending into the Cotswolds and which, in its late phase, was frequently undecorated (Cunliffe 1991, 73). A few bowls were red-finished, suggesting imitation of or a possible link with the All Cannings Cross/Meon Hill ceramic tradition centred around the Salisbury region (Cunliffe 1991). A small number of flared-rim bowls were manufactured in shell-tempered fabrics and, although these are possibly Late Bronze vessels, it is equally possible that they are locally produced coarse copies of imported Early Iron Age fineware bowls.

On the whole, the Early Iron Age assemblage from Segsbury lacks the All Cannings Cross ware component identified at Uffington, Liddington Castle and Rams Hill and, further to the south in the Kennett Valley, Knight's Farm and Dunston's Park (Fitzpatrick 1994). In this respect the assemblage more closely resembles those from Allen's Pit (Bradford 1942), Appleford (Hinchcliffe and Thomas 1980) and Ashville (De Roche 1978). A significant aspect of the Segsbury Early Iron Age ceramic assemblage, however, is that the deposition signature was more or less consistent across the site, within all the trenches and across the context range. That is, the great majority of sherds (over 70%) from pits, gullies, ditch fills and rampart layers were small and highly abraded. Very few fresh sherds were recognised. In many cases surfaces (and decoration) were completely abraded and edges rounded. The material appeared to have been exposed to weather and perhaps plough damage over a long period prior to re-deposition within its final position. This distinctive deposition signature was also noted at Uffington, where 75% of sherds were assigned the highest abrasion factor (Brown 2003), at Liddington Castle (Ashton *et al.* 1996 37), and at Rams Hill (Bradley and Ellison 1975) and so, in this respect, the Segsbury assemblage was similar to this group of Ridgeway sites.

The fact that All Cannings Cross types were not identified at Segsbury could indicate that occupation began later there, perhaps in the 7th but probably the 6th century. There is a possibility, however, that in the Early Iron Age, Segsbury, for some reason, simply did not receive material from the Wiltshire supply source and the site was supplied instead by more locally produced material or by sources located to the east and south-east. By the Middle Iron Age this situation had altered.

The small but distinctive Middle Iron Age assemblage was represented by a very few vessels, but sufficient to demonstrate activity at some level dating to approximately the

4th-2nd centuries BC. Three pits, [1021], [1169] and [1312], provided the clearest evidence of a Middle Iron Age presence. Pit [1021] produced a sizeable assemblage of body sherds, most of which were probably residual, but two saucepan pot rims were clearly identifiable. Pit [1169] produced a 'Frilford' bowl (Harding 1974 1976) and a 'Yarnbury-Highfield' style jar, albeit from the upper fill. Pit [1312] produced substantial fragments of two jars, a Swallowcliff type with pedestal base and a decorated 'Yarnbury-Highfield' type. The pots appear to have been ritual deposits, the only example of this type of behaviour recognised at the Site. Evidence of ritual deposition is common at later prehistoric sites and the absence of evidence for such activity before the Middle Iron Age is notable.

Significantly, all of the clearly identifiable Middle Iron Age vessels are Wiltshire products which were probably supplied or traded along the same Ridgeway route from the Salisbury or Devizes area that had earlier supplied Uffington, Rams Hill and Liddington Castle. This suggests that sometime after about the 4th century Segsbury underwent a significant change in terms of ceramic intake. There is insufficient structural evidence available from the excavations to define the nature of this shift, but the ceramic evidence implies that the site began to face to the west, at least in terms of pottery supply, sometime during the Middle Iron Age.

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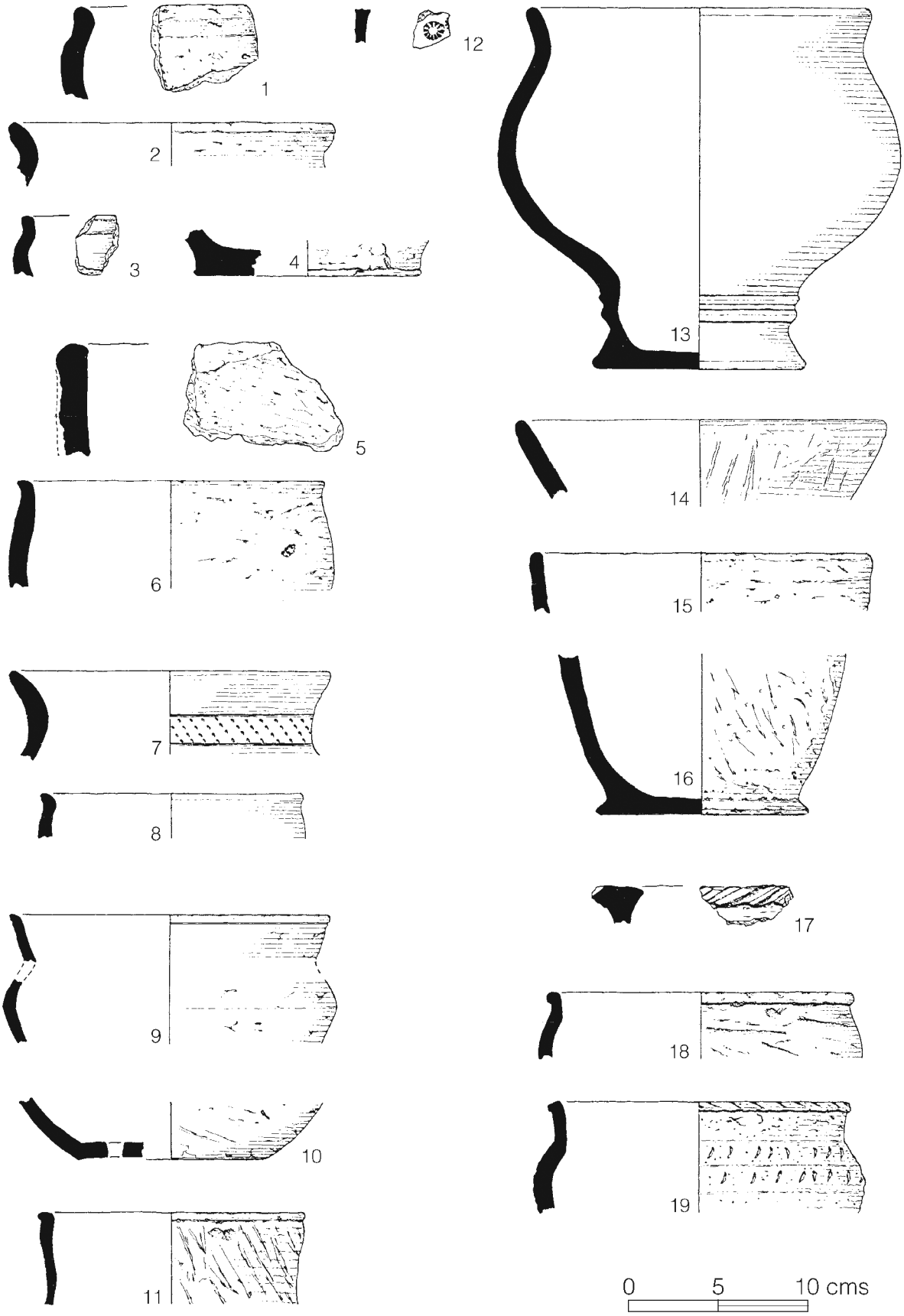

Fig. 3.1 Iron Age pottery: (1-4) context 1004; (5-6) context 1382; (7-8) context 1170; (9) context 1417; (10-11) context 1522; (12) context 1523; (13) context 1538; (14-16) context 1545; (17) context 1561; (18) context 1573; (19) context 1650 (at approximately 1:3 scale; drawn by Lisa Brown)

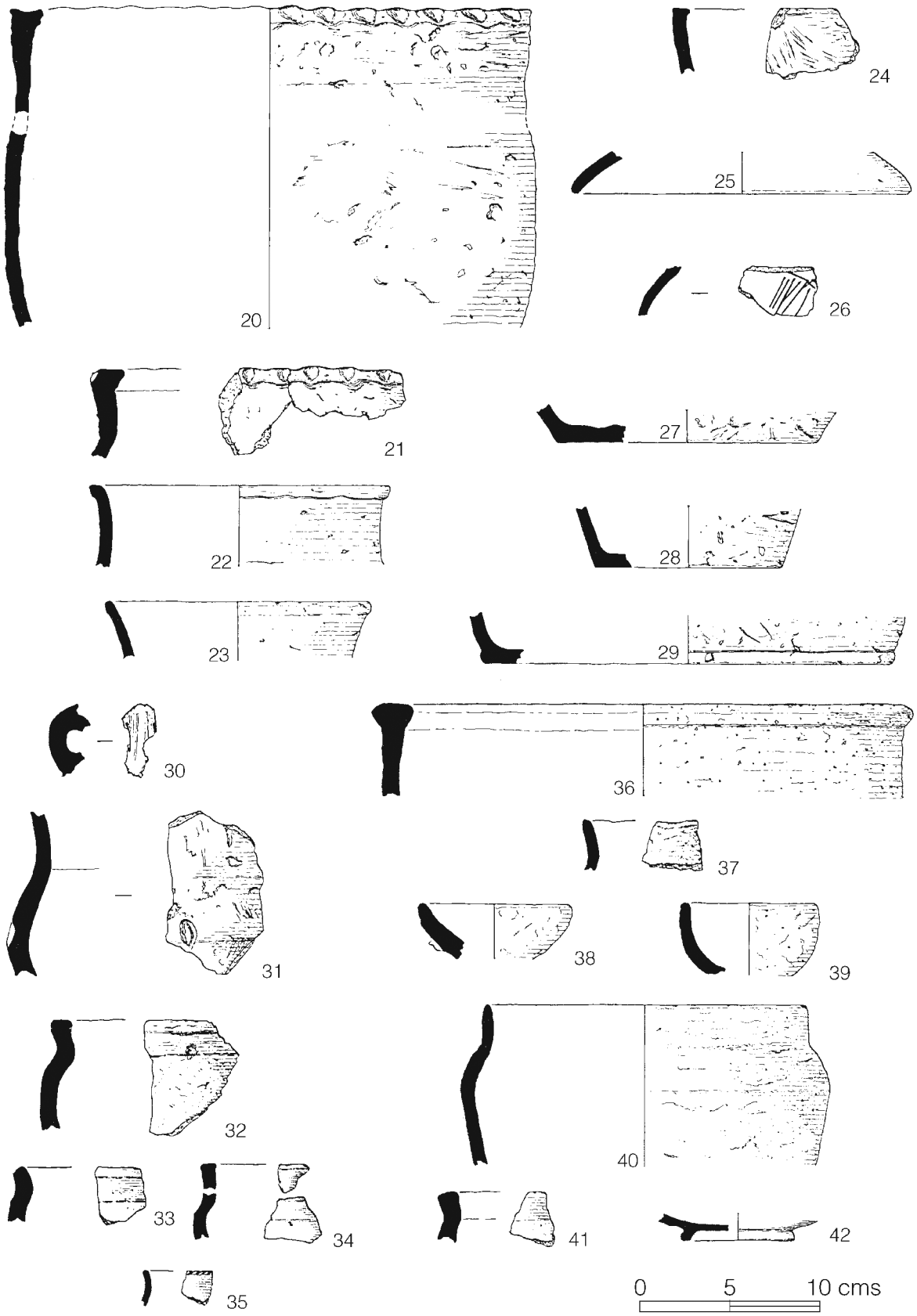

Fig. 3.2 Iron Age Pottery: (20) context 3008; (21) context 3008/3009; (22-29) context 3008; (30) context 3017; (31) context 3038; (32) context 1020; (33-34) context 1338; (35) context 1683; (36-39) context 1709; (40) context 1710; (41) context 1719; (42) context 1762 (at approximately 1:3 scale; drawn by Lisa Brown)

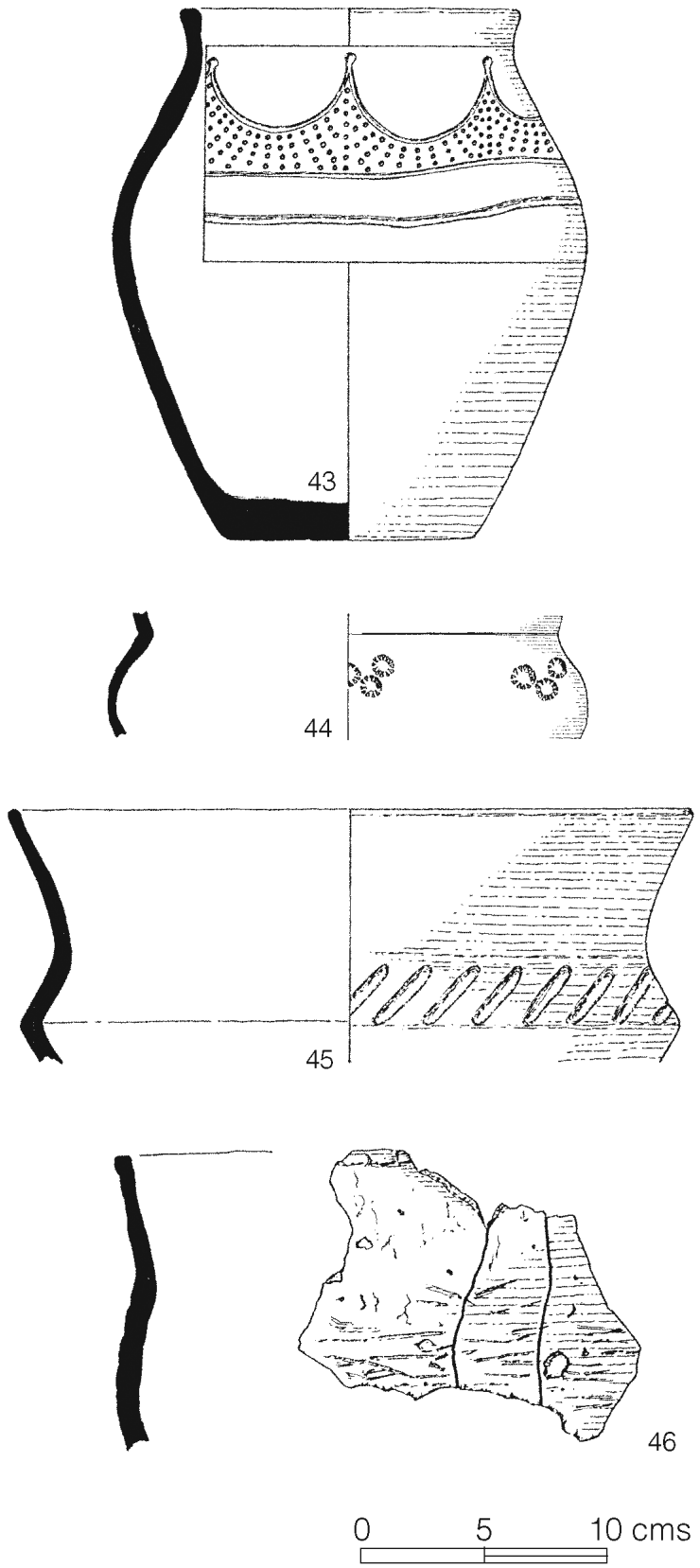

Fig. 3.3 Iron Age pottery: (43) context 1685; (44) context 4042; (45) context 4063; (46) context 7319 (at approximately 1:3 scale; drawn by Lisa Brown)