

NOTES

LATE NEOLITHIC GROOVED WARE FROM WALLINGTON, FAREHAM

By MICHAEL HUGHES

DURING topsoil stripping operations at Paradise Lane, Fareham (NGR SU 5945 0715) and the salvage excavation of a Romano-British farmstead (Hughes, forthcoming) a burnt area was discovered containing some waste flakes, a few burnt flints and forty sherds of Grooved Ware.

A sample of the burnt clay from the feature was examined for botanical evidence by Mr. F. J. Green. No seeds were present, only wood charcoal in small quantities. The lack of carbonised botanical material does not necessarily preclude domestic activity in the area. The absence of evidence for cereal cultivation from Grooved Ware sites in southern England is noted by Wainwright and Longworth (1971, 264).

The pottery sherds weighed 181 grams. Although they vary in thickness from 5 to 10 mm, they are possibly all from one pot (sample sherd shown in Fig. 2). Binocular microscopic examination of the sherds showed that the paste had fairly sparse inclusions, including occasional angular (calcined) flint to about 2 mm, and grog to 2 to 3 mm. Similarly tempered Grooved Ware has been identified amongst Neolithic pottery from Durrington Walls (Wainwright and Longworth, 1971). Some pitting of the surfaces has occurred whilst the inside has been reduced with some incrustations. The outside surface

is moderately oxidised to a variable light brown (Munsell 7.5YR 5/4) to light red (Munsell 2.5YR 6/8) colour. All the sherds showed grooved chevron decoration covering the surface. The grooves vary in width from 3 to 2 mm and were executed when the pot was quite soft.

This is quite typical Grooved Ware of Longworth's Clacton Sub-Style (Wainwright and Longworth, 1971). Radiocarbon dates for similar material mostly fall in the range 2200-1800 radiocarbon years BC, that is, within Late to Final Neolithic time.

Acknowledgements

I should like to acknowledge the expert advice of Mr. A. M. ApSimon and Dr. D. Williams on the pottery, and Mr. F. J. Green for his analysis of the soil sample.



Fig. 1. Wallington, Grooved Ware sherd. Scale $\frac{1}{2}$.

REFERENCE

Wainwright, G J and Longworth, I H 1971 *Durrington Walls: Excavations 1966-1968*, Rep. Research Ctte. Soc. Antiq. London, 29.

Author: M. F. Hughes, 13 Blenheim Avenue, Southampton.