Prehistoric pottery and associated radio carbon dating from the hinterland of South Cadbury, Somerset, England

Part 3: Pottery as an indicator of affinity and exclusion

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PREHISTORIC POTTERY AND ASSOCIATED RADIOCARBON DATING FROM THE HINTERLAND OF SOUTH CADBURY, SOMERSET, ENGLAND. PART 3: POTTERY AS AN INDICATOR OF AFFINITY AND EXCLUSION

RICHARD TABOR

SUMMARY

The first two of three papers presented the prehistoric pottery and associated radiocarbon dates from the landscape surrounding Cadbury Castle, Somerset. This final paper seeks to place that landscape in long term regional contexts based on the renewed understanding of its chronology and its adopted ceramic styles and the sources of raw materials.

PARAMETERS

Parts 1 and 2 presented a chronological sequence of pottery recovered during fieldwork of the South Cadbury Environs Project linked to radiocarbon dates for the Neolithic to Late Bronze Age and the Late Bronze to Late Iron Age periods (Tabor and Darvill 2020; Tabor and Jones 2021). A more detailed analysis of the Neolithic pottery forms had appeared earlier (Tabor 2018). The aims and methodology are set out in part 1. The aim of part 3 is to 'Explore changes in cultural/regional interaction and influences over time exemplified by the pottery from the Early Neolithic to the Late Iron Age' (Tabor and Darvill 2020, 1). For this purpose sourcing of materials and stylistic characteristics of pottery are considered from neighbouring counties and beyond, from Cornwall to Central Southern Britain. From the Neolithic onwards evidence for the widest ranges of potential contact is provide by durable materials forming artefacts other than pottery. In this respect they represent the known extent of materials transfer. However, pottery is likely to have been the least portable object throughout prehistory, perhaps mitigated by waterborne transport, hence its range is likely to be reduced unless it was conveyed as raw material, possibly with a potter. Samples of unfired gabbroic clay from Gwithian are evidence for the transportation of a preferred raw material within Cornwall over a distance of 25km (Nowakowski *et al*. 2007, 35).

The most detailed consideration will be given to periods well represented by their pottery: Early Neolithic; Early and Late Middle Bronze Age and Late Bronze Age through to Late Iron Age. The smattering of Middle and Late Neolithic, Beaker and Early Bronze Age pottery is insufficient for making judgement about cultural affiliation or contact although the relative lack of evidence is not evidence of absence.

In the first instance a summary is provided of the evidence for external contact offered by other artefacts. An appendix provides a key to sites marked numerically on the figures.

ACCESS TO RESOURCES

Over recent decades, where enabled by funding, isotope and increasingly genetic data are providing insights into the movements of human and other animals. However, prior to and in parallel with those data, petrological information has been the best indicator of the extent of exchange or other networks within and beyond the study area, whether in the form of metals, stone tools or the raw materials for pottery.

The few pre-Iron Age metal objects recovered from within the study area provide implied evidence of direct or indirect sources the locations of which remain a matter for speculation. A dagger and an axe are the oldest metal objects found so far. The 'bronze dagger with three rivets, 6.5in. [165mm] long from proximal rivet to point' was found in the bark coffin of a cremation burial under the southern mound of a twin barrow at Sigwells, Charlton Horethorne, with the hallmarks of a Wessex II burial (Rolleston and Lane Fox 1879, 188). The Arreton-type flanged axe was found in an Iron Age midden context at Cadbury

Castle (Needham 1996, 132-3; Northover 2000, 272). Later Middle Bronze Age metallurgical evidence from the hilltop is restricted to a Taunton-phase spearhead, 15th to 13th century BC, and a Penard-phase blade fragment, 13th to 12th century BC, but the most notable artefact manufactured during the latter phase is a complete shield from Milsoms Corner, although its date of deposition may have been as much as two centuries later (Northover 2000, 272; Needham *et al*. 2012, 480). Throughout this period Bronze was an alloy of copper with tin. Metallurgical data would allow that copper was sourced in Cornwall over the full course of the Bronze Age (Webley *et al*. 2020, 9-10). There are extensive veins of copper and tin in south Cornwall especially and, to a lesser degree, around St Austell and extending from southern parts of Bodmin Moor to either side of the River Tamar but as yet there is no direct evidence for copper extraction in the South West Peninsular (Timberlake 2016, fig. 5). It is possible that by the early 2nd millennium BC copper was extracted at Roman Lode, Exmoor, but the evidence is not clear-cut (Juleff and Bray 2007, 290-1). However, tin slags broadly associated with a Camerton-Snowshill dagger from Caerloggas, west of St Austell, offer good evidence that by the 2nd quarter Cornwall was a tin source and the presence of pure tin elements in composite jewellery at the Whitehorse Hill barrow, Dartmoor, is suggestive of the exploitation of a source in that area also (Jones 2016, 217-6; Carey *et al*. 2019, 'Indirect evidence'). There are known and probable Bronze Age extraction sites in south-west Ireland (the earliest known in the British Isles), mid- and north Wales and in England's north-west Midlands but sources in central and continental north-west Europe may have been especially important, often in the form of objects for recycling (Northover 2013, 109-11; Timberlake and Craddock 2013, fig. 1).

A new dominant alloy of leaded bronze is likely to have been used in moulds for casting Wilburton-type metalwork at Sigwells associated with a date of 1222-1047 cal BC at 95.4% probability (Tabor and Darvill 2020, tab. 1, OxA-23716). The clay for the moulds themselves was probably sourced from at least 15km to the east (Darvill 2020a, 11-12). It has been suggested that by the end of Late Bronze Age 'Most lead would probably have come from local sources' and stable isotope analysis of Wilburton metalwork has would allow a Mendip Hills source (Timberlake 2016, 'Lead + Silver', 'South-West England'). Recent analysis of a stalagmite from GB Cave near Charterhouse was able to show peaks in lead content during periods of known Roman and Post-Medieval extraction, possibly with smelting, and recorded three prehistoric peaks at approximately 1800-1500 BC, 1100-800 BC and 350-0 BC (McFarlane *et al*. 2014, 438-41, figs 3 and 4). At the same time recycled metal continued to be imported from the continent and was also exchanged with south Wales, with tin prevailing over lead during the Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age transition. After this period lead all but ceased to feature in copper alloy artefacts from the hilltop although south-west region sources may have remained dominant for bronze metals (Northover 2000, 272-73). Iron would have been available from the Blackdown Hills straddling the Somerset/Devon border but there are seams in the local sand which are still visible in a partly quarried ravine forming a track to the north side of the Sigwells plateau (author).

Gold objects from the hillfort demonstrate wider connections during the Late Bronze and Middle Iron Age, although as yet there is no published source for an early 1st millennium BC class 'C' bracelet and a Late Bronze to Early Iron Age gilded ring from the Cadbury plateau (O'Connor 2000, 192; O'Connor and Foster 2000, 194-6).

Later Iron Age glass beads from the hillfort may have come via the Meare workshop, although in most instances they appear to use non-local sands and for some of blue hue the Schwarzwald is a likely source of the cobalt added (Henderson 2000, 275-7). It is possible that some jewellery was inlaid with coral but more accessible calcareous substitutes such as chalk or tufa are considered likely (Foster 2000, 262). Four amber pieces were most probably collected from east British beaches rather than the Baltic (Bellamy 2000, 275-7).

The most numerous non-flint stone artefacts from the hilltop and its surrounding landscape are querns, rubbers, hammerstones, whetstones, weights and axe-heads. Excepting examples from secure contexts of primary deposition saddle querns and their rubbers are datable only very broadly, reflecting usage from the Early Neolithic to at least the Middle Iron Age. Rotary querns were in use from the Middle Iron Age onwards so if they were found in Iron Age contexts it may be assumed that they are of that broad date. The lower intensity of use of most SCEP sites allows more secure dating of the former group whilst polished stone axe heads are likely to be of at least broadly Neolithic date and it is reasonable to assume that stones associated with metalworking from the Sigwells South East enclosure are of the later Bronze Age. Thus, as a minimum, sources by period can be shown to include: Early Neolithic, the Mendips and the Mounts Bay area of Cornwall (Roe 2018; Williams 2018); Middle to Later Bronze Age, Hestercombe, near Taunton, Pen Pits, near Wincanton, the Mendips (Roe 2004, 17); Late Bronze Age / Earlier Iron Age, Dartmoor or Cornwall, Plymouth, the Mendips (Roe 2000, 265; 2004, tab. 2.3; Watts 2014, 77); Middle

to Late Iron Age, the Mendips, Ham Hill, Pen Pits, Chesil Beach (Roe 2000, 264-5).

The Early Neolithic pottery

To a limited extent the lithic resources outlined above reflect the potential sources of clay and tempering for the pottery (Fig. 1). The consistent salicaceous chemistry of all petrological samples covering the Early Neolithic to the Early Bronze Age would allow long term use of clay sources 10-20km to the east or north-east of South Cadbury, although a lack of Middle and Late Neolithic samples must be born in mind. This is true also of Trevisker style pottery tested from the SCEP fieldwork and possibly also that from Queen Camel which was made from 'non-calcareous clay' (Quinn 2018, 61). The clay sources are likely to have differed from temper sources. Early Neolithic deliberate additives included crushed shelly limestone, calcite, iron-rich clay pellets, finely crushed sandstone and possibly quartz (Darvill 2020b, 24-5). Quartz also occurred in a grog and crushed limestone mixture (Darvill 2020b, 25, P4). The shelly limestone is likely to have been sourced locally but, although it is also locally available, there has been an assumption that calcite came from the Mendip Hills or, more recently, Sherborne. The acquisition of Mendip Old Red Sandstone for querns is especially suggestive as once used up or broken they may have been crushed to become the source of sandstone temper (Tabor and Randall 2018, 44).

It is interesting to note that although Hambledon

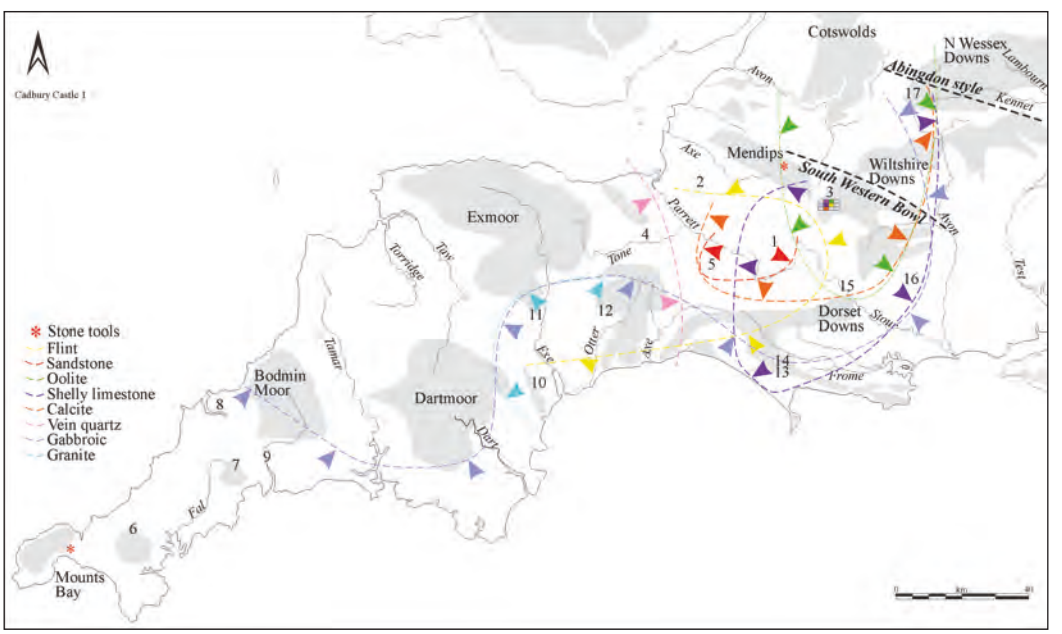

Fig. 1 The distribution extents of Early Neolithic pottery styles and their tempering materials (arrows indicate direction of expansion from putative core or source). See Appendix for key to numbered sites.

Hill and Maiden Castle are set on flint-bearing chalk substantial minorities of shelly limestone and, to a lesser extent, calcite fabrics featured in the assemblages from both (Smith 2008, 617-8, table 9.13). Cretaceous mudstones a few hundred metres west of Hambledon Hill would have been a source for some of the former group but others were from further afield, potentially from the Jurassic ridge of which Hicknoll Slait is part, 1km east of Cadbury Castle (Smith 2008, 617-8, table 9.13). Tim Darvill has noted also a similarity between the clay type of two petrological samples from Milsoms Corner to Hambledon Hill's wide-ranging 'red pellet wares' (Darvill 2020a, 11-2). There are similarities of decoration and fabric between the Early Neolithic assemblage from Hambledon Hill and recently discovered, broadly contemporary pottery, from an archaeological evaluation at Hicknoll Slait (Smith 2008, 590, fig. 9.8, P106-7, P109-10; Tabor 2022). The two hills are intervisible across a south-easterly vista across the Blackmore Vale over a distance of 24km.

Middle Neolithic to Beaker pottery

Finds of later Neolithic and Beaker pottery are sparse in the South West peninsula relative to central southern England (Pollard and Healy 2008, 86). The very modest number and size of sherds recovered from the South Cadbury environs frustrates more in-depth comparison.

The three sherds of Mortlake and two of Fengate sub-style pottery from the Sigwells plateau compare favourably with the complete lack of it from excavations of comparable intensity at Milsoms Corner and the far more extensive programme at Cadbury Castle. Three of the sherds available for analysis provide the earliest identified use of flint temper in the study area, an inclusion typical of contemporary pottery from Dorset and Wiltshire (Tabor 2018, 26-7, fig. 13, 35-7; Cleal 1991b, appendices 1-5). In contrast the vesicular sherds from a possibly shelly limestone tempered Clacton sub-style bowl from Cadbury Castle remains the only example of Grooved ware from the study area (Tabor 2018, fig. 13, 39).

The nearest significant quantities of Grooved are from the Dorchester area. Of six sherds from Maiden Castle available for study two were judged to be in the Clacton sub-style and another in either that or the Durrington Walls sub-style whilst at Poundbury single examples of Woodlands and Durrington sub-styles were identified (Smith 1987, 114, fig. 183, 1 and 2; Cleal 1991a, 182-3). All but one of the Maiden Castle sherds were vesicular due either to the burning out of organic matter or due to loss of 'oolites and shell inclusions'. One of only two sherds in the Clacton sub-style had frequent shell inclusions in the large Durrington group at Mount Pleasant on the town's eastern periphery (Longworth 1979, 85, 98, figs 46 and 47, P81 and P105).

All but one of five Beaker fabrics from seven sites spread over all six of the study area's sampling localities included grog, the exception being a fabric vesicular probably due to the loss of shelly limestone. The widely varied decorative motifs of the small sherds are worthy of consideration but none gives a profile sufficient for reliable typological identification (Tabor and Darvill 2020, 13-5, table 6, fig. 5, nos 40-44).

The gentle concave curve of a neck sherd with rows of small, sharp cylindrical, apparently comb impressions (Tabor and Darvill 2020, fig. 5, no. 40) suggests that it is from a vessel with a more sinuous 'S' profile, a trait of earlier Beakers, including the All-Over-Chord and All-Over-Comb (AOC) varieties. The small, pointed impressions are similar to those on a Beaker sherd from Field Farm, Shepton Mallet (Morris 2009, 42-3, fig. 13, no. 6) and the decoration and curve of the neck are combined in an example from Fir Tree Field, Down Farm (Cleal 1991b, fig. 7.8, no. P65), although the latter impressions are square. A curved neck of this sort is rare after the Wessex phase 4 proposed by Lanting and van der Waals (1972) and can be earlier in the sequence, as in the case of a Bell Beaker from Woodhenge (Annable and Simpson 1964, 46, no. 120).

The incised horizontal ladder pattern from a straight neck sherd (Tabor and Darvill 2020, fig. 5, no. 41) is often used as a spacer between equally divided decorative zones on early beakers. It resembles that below the rim of a straight-necked Bell Beaker from Brean Down (Harrison 1990, 118-19, fig. 85, no. B17) where the boxes were formed by a row of upright incisions closed at the top and bottom by rows of comb impressions. However, given the associated pottery, it seems more likely that the sherd from Milsoms Corner belongs to a straight, long necked form. An example from Winterbourne Stoke has a similar box pattern on the upper lower half of the neck formed by a row of upright incisions closed at the top and bottom by continuous incised horizontal lines (Annable and Simpson 1964, 40, no. 105). Using David Clarke's classification (1970, 213), Isobel Smith considered a similarly decorated vessel from Wilsford G51 burial to belong to his Developed Southern style, retaining archaic features (Smith 1991, 18; fig. 5, no. 2). Another instance of this decoration in Somerset is from Bos Swallet cave site (ApSimon 1997, fig. 7, no. 8).

Fingertip impressions, often deeply formed, can occur in rows, pairs or in a less orderly pattern on vessels sometimes described as rusticated. A small sherd from Milsoms Corner (Tabor and Darvill 2020, fig. 5, no. 44) is probably from a vessel of the latter type, examples of which are well-known in Wiltshire (i.e. Smith 1991, 22-3; fig. 8, no. P5 from Wilsford 52) and Dorset (Woodward 2009, fig. 140, no. 26; Tabor in prep. a) but also in the Charterhouse area of Somerset's Mendip Hills (ApSimon *et al*. 1976, fig. 51, no. 38; 1997, fig. 8A, no. 15).

Comb impressions set within incised diamonds and isosceles or equilateral triangles feature strongly on later British Beakers, typically on Wessex long-necked varieties such as another example from Milsoms Corner (Tabor and Darvill 2020, fig. 5, no. 43). They are distributed most densely in Wiltshire but also on the Mendips (i.e. Annable and Simpson 1964, no. 74; ApSimon *et al*. 1976, fig. 48, no. 20; 1997, fig. 7, no. 6).

Earlier to Middle Bronze Age pottery

Grog remained dominant during an earlier Bronze Age ceramic phase represented locally by biconical jars often with straight internally bevelled rims. The trait is shared with Cornwall's Trevisker assemblage in the early stages of its progress into Devon and features in earlier Bronze Age biconical jars from Wessex (Calkin 1964, fig. 4, no. M23, M24; Quinnell 2012, fig. 4, C). Brean Down's layer 6, identified by investigations during the 1950s and loosely integrated with Unit 6 of the investigations carried out in the mid-1980s included biconical forms in an assemblage incorporating sherds with earlier and later Trevisker characteristics (Bell 1990, 16-8, tab. 1; Woodward 1990a, 124-6). Straight internally bevelled, upright or slightly inturned rims, possibly from near cylindrical upper walls of biconical jars from Brean layer 6, Shearplace Hill, Dorset, and Queen Camel, Somerset, each had a horizontal row of fingertip impressions below the rim and are broadly comparable with a rim from North Field, Weston Bampfylde (ApSimon *et al*. 1961, 114, fig. 27, no. 41; ApSimon 1962, 311, fig. 17, no. 20; Jones 2018, 66, fig. 8, no. 13; Tabor and Darvill 2020, fig. 5, no. 54). Internal bevelling is less pronounced and less frequent in morphologically related grog-tempered jars from Brean Down's Unit 6 which Ann Woodward noted were 'matched at Shearplace Hill, where they soon give way to the flint-tempered recipes of the Dorset Downs Deverel-Rimbury ceramic group' (Woodward 1990a, 124-26, fig. 88). The handful of Earlier Middle Bronze Age biconical jar sherds from the Cadbury Castle hinterland are antecedents to the local varieties of both Trevisker and Deverel-Rimbury styles the distributions of which in part reflect their potters' preferred sources. Grog was absent from two biconical vessels at Sigwells, which were similar in composition to the subsequent Deverel-Rimbury material but which have morphological traits, a lug and a high incurved rim, comparable with sherds from Unit 6 (Woodward 1990a, 123-4, fig. 88, 145, 6, 17; Tabor and Darvill 2020, fig. 5, nos 62-3). In contrast, probable Biconical Urns from both North Field, 1400m west of Cadbury Castle, Crissells Green ring ditch, 400m to its east and rims from ovoid vessels with early traits from Milsoms Corner were all in grog fabrics (Tabor and Darvill 2020, fig. 5, nos 55, 56, 57 and 48). The North Field vessel was decorated with a fingertipped rim and a swag cordon was applied to the upper wall of one of the rims from Crissells Green. The North Field fabric was very similar to the iron-rich grog fabric lacking calcareous inclusions of an internally bevelled, cord impressed Trevisker-related

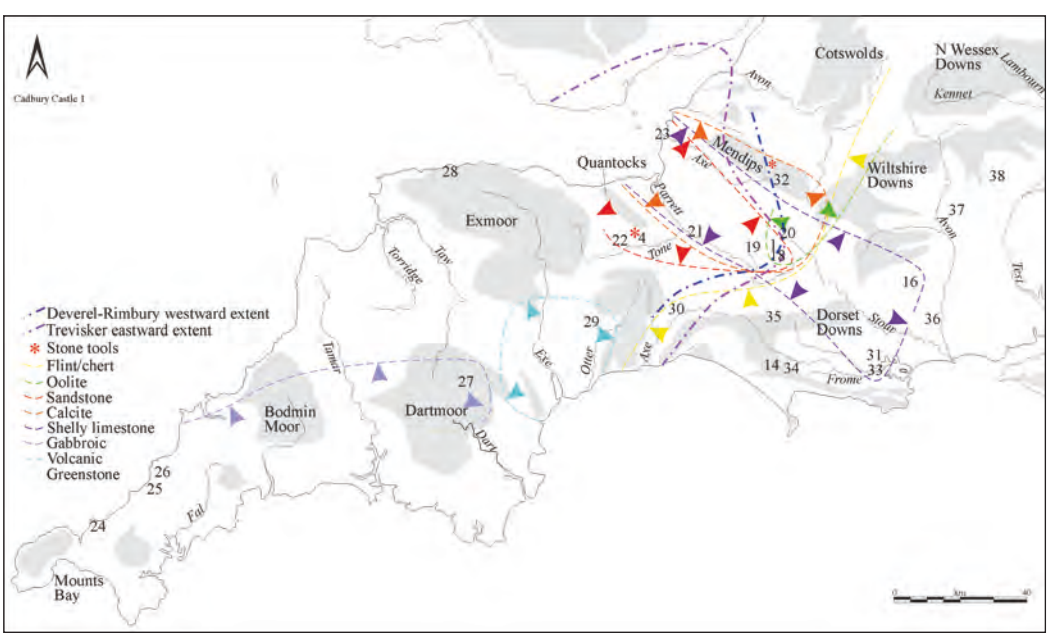

Fig. 2 The distribution extents of Middle Bronze Age pottery styles and their tempering materials (arrows indicate direction of expansion from putative core or source). See Appendix for key to numbered sites.

rim of a biconical form from Milsoms Corner (Tabor and Darvill 2020, fig. 5, no. 47).

The horseshoe motif occurs above the shoulders of biconical and earlier bucket forms in Brean Down's layer 6 (ApSimon *et al*. 1961, 114, fig. 27, no. 29), in secondary barrow contexts in Wiltshire (Annable and Simpson 1964, 69; no. 583) and in Hampshire (Ellis 1989, 89, fig. 87, no. 46). Swag cordons feature routinely on South Lodge-type barrel urns (Calkin 1964, 20, fig. 7, nos 1-4) but are comparatively rare above the shoulders of biconical urns although a heavy-rimmed example is known from Down Farm on Cranborne Chase (Barrett 1991, fig. 8.6).

By the middle of the 2nd millennium BC dominant inclusions in the pottery of the South West peninsula tended to be more restricted in their ranges beyond the sources (Fig. 2). Although Gabbroic fabrics reached as far as the north-east of Dartmoor Trevisker-related ware from that area tended to reflect more ready access to Greenstone whilst Permian volcanic rock was well represented alongside grog fabrics from around the lower rivers Exe and Ottery (Laidlaw and Mepham 1999, 45; Quinnell 2016, 31) (Fig. 2). Flint or chert with grog fabrics made up distinct Trevisker-

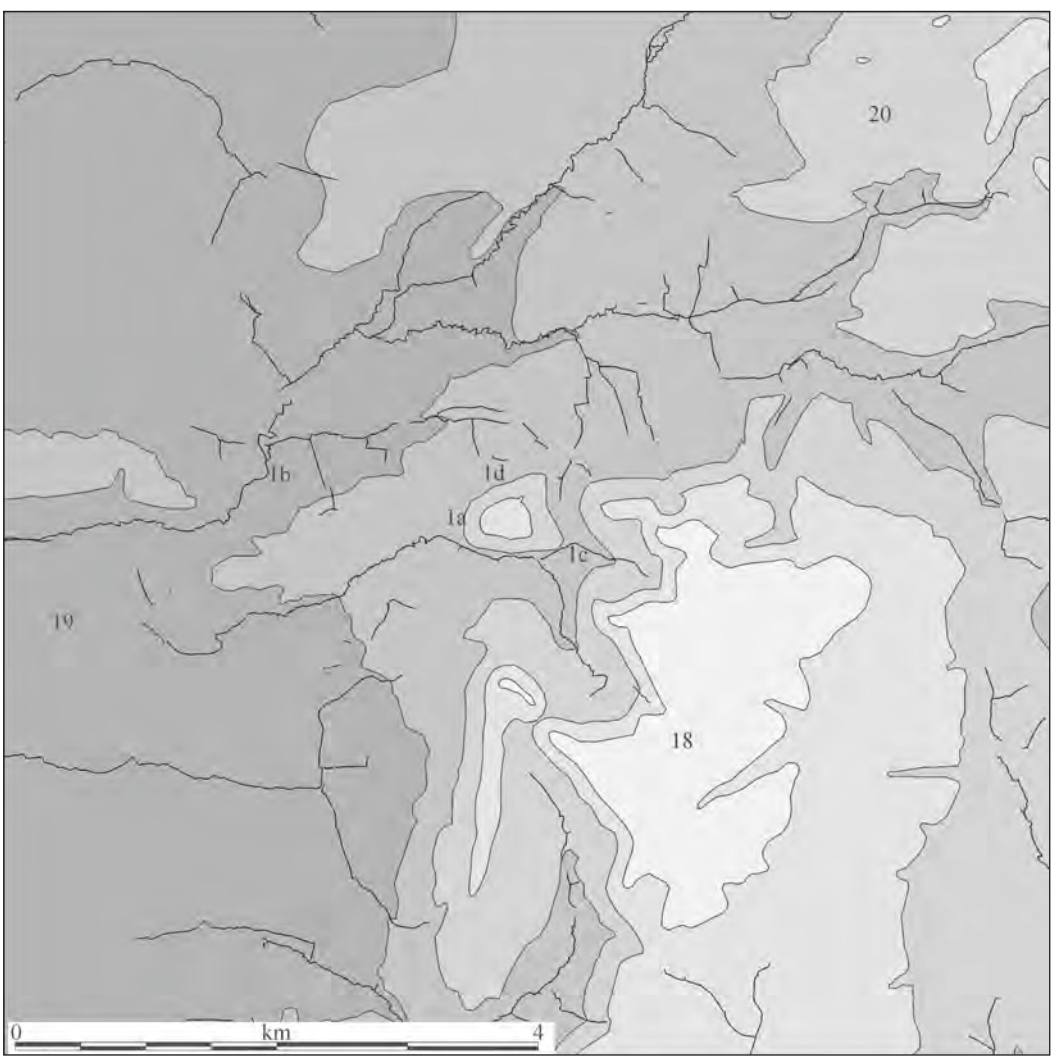

Fig. 3 Sites in the study area associated with Earlier Middle to Middle Bronze Age pottery (see Appendix for key).

related and Deverel-Rimbury dominated groups from two enclosures within 300m of each other at Chard Junction (Machling 2004, 32-33). However, the situation is more complicated in west, central and south-east Somerset. Pottery of both styles tended to include calcite and sometimes sandstone in a zone along and around the rivers Parrett and Axe, extending south-eastwards beyond their respective headwaters and taking in at least the east end of the Mendip Hills. A belt where inclusions may include fossiliferous limestone covers a similar area but extends much further south-eastwards in Deverel-Rimbury pottery to take in Bestwall Quarry near Wareham and, rarely, South Lodge enclosure on Cranborne Chase Farm (Barrett 1991, 207-8, 210, 212; Woodward 2009, 201). Calcite featured even more rarely in the style at nearby Down Farm enclosure and only possibly at Field Farm, Shepton Mallet, but was represented or dominant at Milsoms Corner, Ladyfield 1 and Sigwells (Barrett 1991, 208, 212; Morris 2009, 36-7; Tabor and Darvill 2020, 15). The scarcity of calcite at Field Farm is surprising given its relative proximity to the widely accepted Mendip source in contrast to the calcite-rich south-east Somerset fabrics. Grog, calcite and fabrics mixing the two dominate Trevisker-related pottery from Units 5b and 5a (the successors to Brean Down's Unit 6), Aller, Queen Camel, Milsoms Corner and Sigwells (Fig. 3) (Woodward and Cane 1991, table 7; Jones 2018, 59-61; Brown 2020, 46-8; Tabor and Darvill 2020, 15). The complexity is compounded by Deverel-Rimbury pottery at Sigwells and probably Ladyfield 1 in mixtures including ooliths (Darvill 2020b, Appendix 1, P15, P16).

Trevisker style was synonymous with Cornwall's Early Bronze Age pottery and by the mid-2nd millennium BC it had expanded across the South West peninsula and reached as far as the coastal strip on the Welsh side of the Severn Estuary (Bell 2013, fig. 17.4) (Fig. 2). In broad terms, although there are isolated examples of Trevisker-related wares from as far afield as Kent, its easternmost core extent appears to coincide with the landscapes taking in the two rivers Axe around the Devon/Dorset border and through central Somerset. As noted above, pottery from one of two enclosures at Chard Junction had predominantly Trevisker-related traits whilst the pottery of the other had predominantly Deverel-Rimbury characteristics and only a few Trevisker traits (Machling 2004, 33-34; Quinnell 2012, 164-65). Cadbury Castle's hinterland takes in another meeting of the styles (Table 1). Identified Middle Bronze Age pottery on the hilltop itself is restricted to two Deverel-Rimbury sherds (Woodward 2000, 326, fig. 144) and at least one more vessel in the style is recorded below its northern slopes in Homeground. The sub-angular voids of the latter's vesicular grog fabric may indicate loss of calcite inclusions (Tabor and Darvill 2020, 19, fig. 5, no. 61). There were two of each tradition from the Milsoms Corner spur. The Trevisker-related sherds are the cord-impressed rim with biconical traits discussed above and an incised upper wall sherd. It stands out for having a calcite and shelly limestone fabric lacking in grog and hence in that respect has greater affinity with the Sigwells' Deverel-Rimbury assemblage (Tabor and Darvill 2020, fig. 5, nos 47 and 51). At Sigwells a single early Trevisker-related sherd was outnumbered by a minimum of 11 Deverel-Rimbury vessels whilst a strongly Trevisker-related assemblage at Queen Camel comprised a minimum of over 20 vessels (Jones 2018, table 5). The pottery of both traditions from within the study area had in common a high instance of calcite and limestone inclusions but whereas grog also featured strongly in the Trevisker ware it was usually absent from Sigwells' Deverel-Rimbury wares which in contrast included occasional ooliths and, rarely, flint.

Grace Jones (2018, 67) has noted that the Queen Camel assemblage is arguably closer to the Trevisker style's Cornish origins than other substantial Somerset groups and the 15th to 14th century BC radiocarbon dates would allow it to be the earliest well-dated group so far discovered from Somerset. Early traits in the pottery itself include rims of which around half have internal bevels, and cord as well as incised and fingertip decoration. As such it appears weighted more towards an earlier date than the assemblages from Brean Down and Norton Fitzwarren, although it should be noted that the range of three radiocarbon dates from the former's Unit 5b spanned the whole of the 2nd millennium BC (Walker 1990, tables 3, 4; Woodward 1990a; 1990b; Jones 2018, 66-67). This is of particular significance as decoration on Trevisker-related pottery from recent excavations at the latter site's near neighbour, Nerrols Farm, was predominantly incised, lacked both cord impressions and straight internally bevelled rims and was associated with overlapping but more strongly mid-14th century BC centred radiocarbon dates (Davies 2021, 29, figs 9-11). Whilst it is clear that both cord, incised and fingertip impressed decorative techniques co-existed in the earlier Trevisker-related groups the evidence from Nerrols Farm would allow that cord was no longer in use within a few decades of at least the earlier phase of the Queen Camel site. The dates for a substantial portion of the Sigwells Deverel-Rimbury group straddle the two.

The evidence implies that by the later 15th century BC either the two styles emerging from biconical forms co-existed in close proximity in south-east Somerset or that Deverel-Rimbury pottery had begun

TABLE 1 SITES, STYLES AND FABRICS OF EARLY MIDDLE TO MIDDLE BRONZE AGE POTTERY IN THE STUDY AREA

			Trevisker			Deverel-Rimbury			
Cal BC @ 95.4%	**Biconical**	**Ovoid**	**Cord/FT**	**Incised**	**Bucket**	**Barrel**	**GUII**	**GUIII**	**Necked**
1670-1500 1530-1410	**Crissells Green** G/ShL/aV/I (North Field G/I)	**Crissells Green** ShL/aV (Milsoms Corner G/I/aV)							
1546-1416 (@89.6%) 1449-1292 1420-1268			**Queen Camel** C/L/G (Milsoms Corner G/I) (Sigwells C/L/g)	**Queen Camel** C/L/Q/G	(Home Ground G/aV)				
1506-1415 1498-1311 1492-1301	(Sigwells C/ShL)					**Sigwells** ShL/C/I/qe	**Sigwells** ShL/C/I (Milsoms Corner G/I)	(Milsoms Corner G/I)	**Sigwells** G/ShL/C/I
1430-1290 1415-1270 1415-1270				**Nerrols Farm** G/VQ/Q (Milsoms Corner C/ShL)					
1288-1056 (@95.1%)							**Ladyfield** aoV		
1222-1047 1131-894 (@89.8%)					(Sigwells C/ShL)	(Sigwells L/C/O/Ss)		(Sigwells L/C/I/O/Ss)	**Sigwells** C/ShL

Inclusions: Not recorded, nr; grog, G; iron oxides or staining, I; calcite, C; voids, sub-angular, (lost calcite?), aV; voids, spheroid (lost ooliths?), oV; shelly limestone, ShL; ooliths, O; sandstone, Ss; F, flint; medium Quartz, mQ; quartzite, Qe. Lower case = < 2%.
Sites marked on Figure 3: 1 – Cadbury Castle; 1a – Milsoms Corner; 1b – North Field; 1c – Crissells Green; 1d – Home Ground; 18 – Sigwells South East enclosure; 19 – Queen Camel; 20 – Ladyfield 1

to replace the Trevisker-related style. The evidence is slender. An incised sherd would allow continuity of the latter style during the formation of the middle fills of Milsoms Corner's Middle Bronze Age ditch. In addition, out-turned or -curved rim sherds from a Sigwells post hole, dated within a range of 1193-894 at 89.8% probability, decorated with single rows of fingernail impressions on the outer rim edge and upper body/neck were originally deemed to be from an 'S'-profiled jar (Tabor and Darvill 2020, fig. 7, nos 103-4). However, the profile would also suit the Trevisker later style 4 open bucket forms with one or two rows of light fingernail impressions a little below the rim and one with impressions on the outer rim (ApSimon 1962, 333, figs 15, 17, and 19, nos 12 and 17, 40 and 55, fig. 17, no. 42). With one exception the rims from Trevisker are out-turned and differ in having external and internal bevels giving a box section. Similar double rows of fingernail impressions feature on closed vessels with out-turned rims at Trethellan Farm, Newquay, and an outwardly expanded flattened rim at Scarcewater, St. Austell (Woodward and Cane 1991, figs 43, 50, nos 16, 59; Quinnell 2012, fig. 11, no. 12). Impressed outwardly expanded flattened and incised rounded rims occurred on neutral and closed vessels in the Trevisker-related assemblage from Castle Hill

and on an upright, outwardly expanded rim with a row of fingernail impressions below it on a neutral vessel from Brean Down Unit 5b (Woodward 1990a, 129, fig. 92, no. 63; Laidlaw and Mepham 1999, 49, fig. 24, nos 22-24). Later Deverel-Rimbury pottery is represented by Globular Urns, one at Woolston dated to the 12th century BC and, possibly later still, an Avon/Stour type vessel of the same general style from Sigwells (Tabor and Darvill 2020, fig. 7, nos 83 and 85). A sherd from a feature neighbouring the latter was of a straight-sided bucket form which might be a Deverel-Rimbury survival into the Late Bronze Age (Tabor and Darvill 2020, fig. 7, no. 87).

Late Bronze Age pottery

John Barrett gave the first structured account of the stylistic division between Late Bronze Age Post-Deverel-Rimbury Plain and Decorated wares (Barrett 1980). This has provided a framework for subsequent refinements. It is now clear that the earlier Plain ware is sometimes concurrent with late Deverel-Rimbury and, on the evidence above, late Trevisker-related pottery but that it belongs to the final stages of the Bronze Age whilst the Decorated assemblage is described variously as Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, Earliest Iron Age and, in this case, simply Early Iron Age. Despite the varied terminology there is general agreement that the latter group references the 8th to 6th centuries BC. There is also general agreement that a distinct Plain ware assemblage becomes discernible during the mid-12th century BC (although earlier at Eynsham), broadly synchronous with the introduction of Wilburton metalwork, but in some areas, notably south-east England, it is sub-divided with a 'Developed' phase emerging in the mid-10th century BC (Seager Thomas 2008, 40-41, figs 8 and 9, nos 11-30, table 2). In the South Cadbury area there are readily distinguishable Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age styles but it is necessary to establish a clear context incorporating sites from a wider area to gauge whether or not the former group is divisible. The preferred fabrics change over the period as calcite fabrics are mixed increasingly with and eventually gradually replaced by shelly fabrics which were to remain overwhelmingly dominant until the arrival of South East Dorset quartz fabrics during the later Middle Iron Age (Tabor and Jones 2021, tab. 6).

Locally, the earliest Late Bronze Age pottery is exemplified best by the Post-Deverel-Rimbury Plain ware pottery production assemblage from Tinney's Lane, Sherborne, which has a modelled date range starting at 1150-1070 cal BC and finishing at 1050-

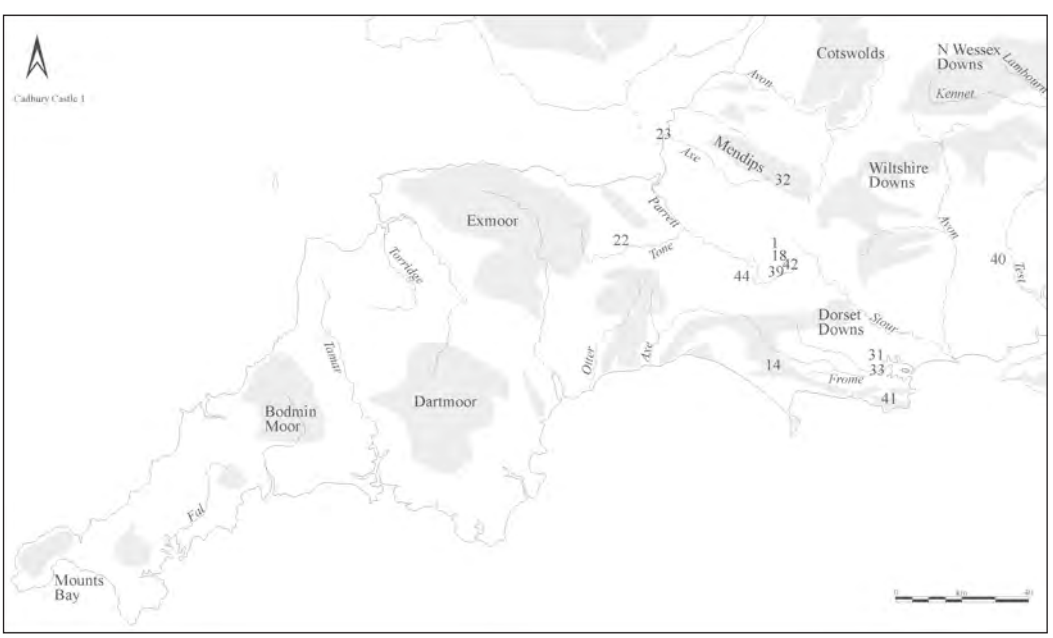

Fig. 4 Somerset and Dorset sites associated with Late Bronze Age pottery referred to in the text (see Appendix for key)

980 cal BC at 68% probability (Tyler and Woodward 2013, 46). The site's most characteristic forms are bucket type 1 (Tyler and Woodward 2013, 36-7, fig. 33), hooked-rim type 3 (Tyler and Woodward 2013, 36-7, fig. 35) and ovoid/barrel type 4 jars, often with internal bevelling of otherwise simple rims (Tyler and Woodward 2013, 36-37, figs 36-37). There were also round-shouldered jars type 5 with internally bevelled rims (Tyler and Woodward 2013, 36-7, fig. 38, nos 65-67), and type 6 with short-necked simple outwardly turned rims (Tyler and Woodward 2013, 36-7, fig. 38, nos 68-71) and open dish/bowls type 8 (Tyler and Woodward 2013, 37, fig. 39, nos 75-80). It was judged that a few examples of type 2 jars with high, very rounded shoulders and constricted necks with flaring rims may have been from the later stages of the occupation (Tyler and Woodward 2013, 37).

It is noteworthy that the profiles of a very similar but much less prolific range at Field Farm appear to emerge directly from the style of that site's later Middle Bronze pottery but that there was a very marked change from grog and quartz and grog fabrics to calcite fabrics, although a very few calcite and quartz sherds may also have been of the earlier period (Morris 2009, 36-7, figs 13-15). This is in contrast to a marked change in vessel profiles and an extensive overlapping, albeit proportionally highly distinct, range of fabrics in Bestwall Quarry's Late Bronze Age assemblage which is morphologically different from both Field Farm and Tinney's Lane but which compares well with Poundbury, Woodsford Quarry and some of the Period I pottery from Eldon's Seat (Woodward 2009, 244-47, figs 141, 162; Leivers 2011, figs 5.5-5.6, nos 16-26; Cunliffe and Phillipson 1969, 208-9, figs 10-15; Tabor in prep. a). However, like Field Farm there are elements of the much larger assemblage from Eldon's Seat Period I which appear to emerge directly from Late Deverel-Rimbury types, particularly in the case of biconical and bucket form jars with lugs or plain or fingertip-impressed cordons (i.e. figs 10, 11, 12, nos 1, 10, 23, 42-45). As well as the early types the Eldon's Seat group includes bowls with a distinctly Developed flavour (Cunliffe and Phillipson 1969, fig. 10, nos 2, 7, 8, 10), probably indicating a longer span of Late Bronze Age activity than the absolute dates suggest (Table 3, below). In contrast, the latest dated group from Field Farm appears to be anomalously typical of Plain ware (Morris 2009, figs 13-14, nos 13-38), although the earlier date for a group with Developed characteristics (Morris 2009, fig. 14, nos 39-43) fits within the expected range. Conversely, a Developed assemblage from Brean Down's Unit 4 bears no relationship with the underlying Trevisker assemblage (Woodward 1990a, 133-40). Two of three dates from Unit 4 are clearly anachronistically early but the third is entirely appropriate for the pottery, centring on the final quarter of the 9th century BC (Walker 1990, tables 3, 4; Woodward 1990a, 140).

Tyler and Woodward have argued that the 12th to 11th century cal BC dates for the first production of Plain ware at Tinney's Lane is unusual in central southern Britain and interpret evidence from other sites as implying that there was a generally earlier inception in the Severn and Thames Valleys. They note the similarity of the dating, narrow range and simplicity of forms at Kemerton, Worcestershire, and Eynsham, Oxfordshire, compared with other assemblages described as Plain ware, especially those in Dorset (Barclay 2001; Tyler and Woodward 2013, 47; Woodward and Jackson 2015). However, a recently published substantial Plain ware assemblage from Roke Manor, north west of Romsey, Hampshire, is linked to radiocarbon dates including a single pottery rich pit which fit comfortably within the range for Kemerton and the start and end dates for pottery production at Tinney's Lane (Tabor 2021).

It should be noted that there remain relatively few sites with large assemblages of the period and that variation or development in much smaller assemblages require careful consideration. To facilitate inter-assemblage comparison a single typological scheme derived from that devised for Tinney's Lane and used in the previous two parts of this article and at Roke Manor has been imposed on the key sites listed above based on their published illustrations and descriptions. Table 2 sub-divides Late Bronze Age pottery into Plain and Developed wares and lists sites in descending radiocarbon date order with their associated types. This suggests that at least jars 1, 3, 4, 6 and cups 11 were fundamental parts of the early package, supplemented over time by simple bowls type 8 (B30) and, in larger groups, by usually singular examples of the highly distinctive type 16 jars. Types 2, 14 and 18 occur sporadically. Sometime during the later 10th to 9th centuries jars 12, 13 and, more rarely, 15 and bowls 9 (B31), B34, B36 and rarely B37 are added, possibly replacing jars 14, 16 and 18 and the relatively simple bowls 8. Some of the earlier forms continue to appear but rarely as parts of the near uniform characteristics of the early group. Roke Manor is unusual in that it appears to be represented throughout the Late Bronze Age in a series of pits containing pottery which matched radiocarbon dates supporting the sequence. All five pottery types from pit 1124 occur in the large group from pit 526 which is likely to have been filled around 60-70 years earlier. Together they would represent the middle and late currency of Seager Thomas' narrower Plain Ware style but a third pit, 1104, is set well within

the span of the Developed phase. Three of four early types remain but it is distinguished from the earlier group by a very fine bowl type 9 (B31) decorated with incised lines.

TABLE 2 SELECTED SOMERSET AND DORSET LATE BRONZE AGE POTTERY TYPES AND ASSOCIATED DATES

	Plain ware		**Developed**	
	Types	**cal BC / probability%**	**Types**	**cal BC / probability**
Eynsham	1, 3, 4, 6, 11	1270-1040 /m95%		
Tinney's Lane	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11	1150-1070, 1050-980 /m68		
Kemerton	1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 11, 16, 18	1130-1010, 1050-960 /m95		
SCC K016	1, 3	1440-1020, 1310-800*		
SCC E701	1, 3, 8, 16 (JA1)			
Roke 526	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 11, 14, 16	1125-969 /93.7		
Sigwells SE Enc	1, 3	1131-894 /89.8		
Eldon's Seat	1, 3, 4, 6, 16	1190-800, 1130-840 /95	B34, B36	
Milsoms Corner	3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 16	1134-811 /90, 1058-912 /93		
Roke 1124	3, 4, 6, 8, 11	1055-910 /98.6		
Woodsford Quarry	1, 3, 4		6, B34, B36	
Sheep Slait	3, 4	?1007-889 /85.6		
Brean D Unit 4			1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 11, 16, B36, B37	1040-800 /95
Roke 1104 / other			2, 4, 9, 11 / 12, 13, 15, B37	942-825 /95 / undated
Field Farm, F30			3, 12, 17, B38	1020-830*
Field Farm, F23	1, 2, 3, 4, 8	940-810*		
Poundbury			3, 5, 6, 12, B34, B36	
Bestwall Quarry			5, 6, 10, 13, B34	1020-930, 825-750 /m95

Types: 1 – Jar, bucket, open or neutral; 2 – Jar, high round-shouldered, sharply everted rim; 3 – Jar, bipartite with high inturned or hook rim; 4 – Jar, ovoid; 5 – Jar, bipartite, high round-shouldered with everted rim, often internally bevelled; 6. Jar, weak-shouldered with constricted neck; 8 (B30) – Bowl, simple, open or neutral, rounded profile; 9 (B31) - Bowl, fine, open, straight-sided; 10 (B32) – Bowl, hemispherical, neutral or closed; 11 – Cup; 12 – Jar, high, angular-shouldered, everted rim; 13- Jar, 'S'-profiled; 14 – Jar, high-shouldered with upright/near upright recessed neck; 15 - Jar, round-shouldered with upright/near upright recessed neck; 16 - Jar, round-shouldered with strongly inturned concave neck; 17 – Jar, closed biconical; 18 - Jar, swan-necked; B34 – Bowl, bipartite, rounded; B36 – Bowl, bipartite, angular; B37 - Bowl, tripartite, angular. B38 – Bowl, tripartite, round-shouldered with flared/everted rim

m = Modelled start/end dates. * Probability not stated.

Late Bronze Age pottery from Sigwells is very sparse despite the high number and range of casting mould fragments of the period from the south east enclosure site and a pit 200m from it. However, the types in a narrow range (Tabor and Darvill 2020, fig. 7, nos 87, 89, 90) are entirely consistent with the latest radiocarbon date from the site and there is no evidence of later pottery before the Middle Iron Age. The Milsoms Corner group is from a variety of contexts but includes strong Plain ware traits entirely in keeping with two late 11th to early 10th century dates (Tabor and Darvill 2020, fig. 7, nos 92-101; 2021, fig. 2, nos 106-9). However, there is diagnostically Early Iron Age pottery from the site supported by one radiocarbon date and the possibility that some ambiguous material is in a Developed style cannot be excluded. Much the same is true for the widely dispersed, very small, calcite and/or shelly limestone tempered Cadbury 4 groups from the pre-hillfort (Alcock 1980, 682, 687-9, fig. 11, nos 5 and 6, fig. 12). Two widely differing dates for wood charcoal and bone from a lynchet sealed beneath the lowest inner Iron Age bank range from Middle to Late Bronze Age. The later date is very broad but would allow an association with Plain ware (Bayliss *et al*. 2000, 371-72). Occasional calcite and/or shelly limestone

tempered sherds from elsewhere in the study area may also be of the broad period but the only examples with clear morphological traits were Plain ware sherds from low in rapid deposits in the Early Iron Age re-cut terminal of a Late Bronze Age ringwork which are likely to have formed at a time close to the mid-9th century BC focussed date of an antler sample from the deposit immediately below it. The date is around the cusp of late Plain and early Developed ware and an undulating rim top with shallow furrowing of the exterior below it may be symptomatic of renewed innovation. No similar vessels were recovered from the large group of demonstrably Early Iron Age pottery in the same and higher fills.

Thus, although there is very strong evidence for a pronounced Developed style extending along the Frome valley from Dorchester to Purbeck from the middle decades of the 10th century BC until decades around the end of the 9th century there is no persuasive evidence of the style circulating from Sherborne to the study area. Indeed, the nearest Developed pottery associated with a date within that timespan is from Field Farm where account must be made for a later date associated with large, apparently typical Plain ware assemblage.

Early Iron Age pottery

In Part 2 the forms of the period were bracketed broadly within the 'Early to Early Middle Iron Age' because of the persistence of some across the two periods. However, despite the retention of some types there are clear earlier and later groups. The richest Early Iron Age assemblages from within the study area are those of Milsoms Corner, Sheep Slait and Cadbury Castle itself. They all have an association with JB1 type shouldered jars which is especially strong at Sheep Slait and South Cadbury Castle and shared by sites including Norton Fitzwarren. It is a period when the number of sites with large assemblages burgeons in a manner previously unprecedented in Somerset. They include Ilchester, Ham Hill, Norton Fitzwarren and, most recently, Bowden's Lane Quarry, Langport (Ellison 1982; 1994; Morris 1988; 1999; Brudenell and Brown undated; Tabor in prep. b).

All of these groups have elements in common, in the main relatable to contemporary pottery from sites in central southern England. The nearest large group from beyond Somerset is from sites around Battlesbury Hill, Wiltshire, 34km north-east of South Cadbury. In common with the Somerset sites it

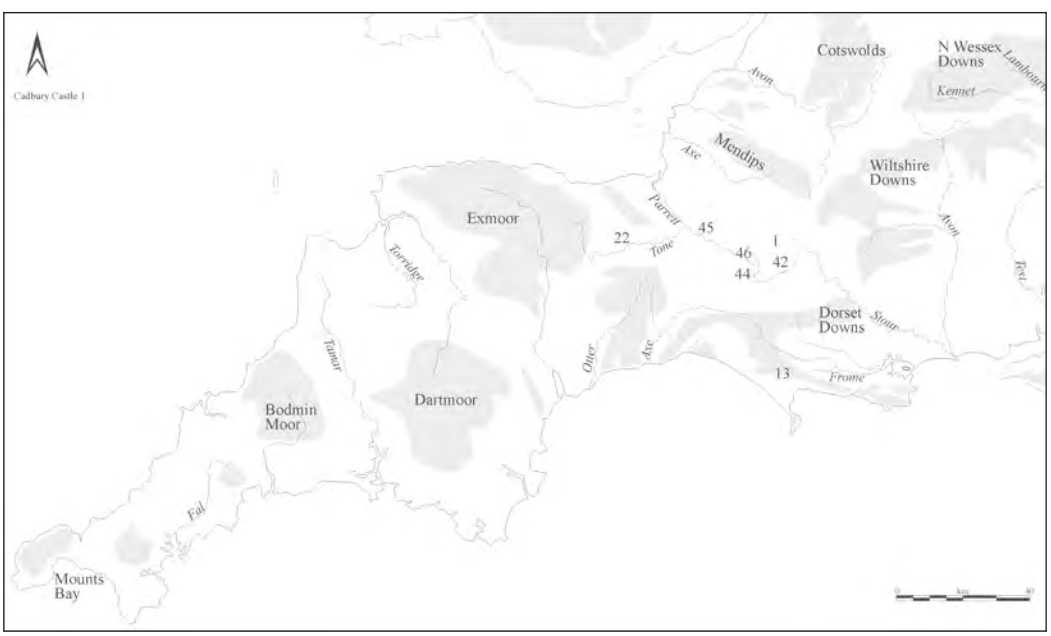

Fig. 5 Somerset and Dorset sites associated with Early Iron Age pottery referred to in the text (See Appendix for key)

includes bipartite and tripartite jars and bowls notable for their pronounced shoulders, whether rounded or angular. Ornament most commonly comprises the characteristic Post-Deverel-Rimbury Decorated style's fingertipping of shoulders, rims and, more rarely, impressed neck cordons (figs 4.5, 4.6, nos 21-23, 26, 27, 30, 31, 39). There is a smattering of bipartite bowls with incised geometric and furrowed upper body decoration typifying the Early All Canning Cross style which as Potterne's Types 1 and 3.1 have dates of respectively 10/9th to early 6th and 8th to 7th centuries BC (Gingell and Morris 2000, 150, figs 47, 48). A single JB1 jar with two rows of impressed circles and incised zones and geometric is the only example of the decorative style from Cadbury Castle and it is similarly rare at Ham Hill (Woodward 2000, 328, fig. 148; Morris 1988, fig. 3, no. 17). It is more common at Milsoms Corner where there are examples of furrowed and incised bowls, BE1.0 and BA1.11 and incised and circle-impressed jars, JF1.0 (Tabor and Jones 2021, fig. 2, nos 110, 112, 113, 117, 118). Single sherds from two BE1.0 bowls from Milsoms Corner are noteworthy for having stamped impressions on their furrows, a rare motif at Potterne (Gingell and Morris 2000, fig. 112, no. 85). However, at Bowden's Lane a much greater range of decorative motifs in the All Cannings Cross style is applied over BA1, BA2, BA3, BE1 and JA5 and JB1.3 jars (Tabor in prep. b). Most were recovered from a midden disturbed by probably continuous subsequent structural activity from the Middle Iron Age to the Late or Post Roman periods. In terms of the balance with Post-Deverel-Rimbury Decorated pottery only the group from the fills of the Sheep Slait ringwork terminal re-cut bears comparison, particularly with respect to plain, geometrically decorated and furrowed, short-necked, convex or straight upper bodied, bipartite bowls and jars which are included within Potterne types 1, 14, 3.1, 3.2, 30 and 50 (Tabor and Jones 2021, 49-51, fig. 4, BA1, BA1.11, BA2.1, BE1.1, JA4; Gingell and Morris 2000, 150-51, figs 47, 48, 50, 52, 55). However, there is a significant overlap with types from the Purbeck site at Kimmeridge, Dorset, which is considered to fall within a hiatus between the first and second phases at Eldon's Seat and is dated in a range from 800 to 600 BC (Cunliffe 2005, 93, fig. A3). The geometrically arranged incised line and pointillist decoration and furrowing features in both styles and there are jar and bowl forms in common with those from Sheep Slait (Cunliffe and Phillipson 1969, 231, fig. 23; Gingell and Morris 2000, figs 113-14). Comparable pottery is relatively sparse at Battlesbury but it includes a few short-necked bipartite carinated bowls and jars comparable with BA1.1, BE1.1 and JA5 types from Sheep Slait and with BA1.1, JA3, JA4 and JB1 types from Folly Lane (Every and Mepham 2008, figs 4.5, 4.6, nos 1-4, 22, 31; Brace 2016, 4; Tabor 2021, figs 3, 4).

Early Middle Iron Age pottery

A lack of bowls with long, smoothly concave necks and flaring rims is common to Sheep Slait, Norton Fitzwarren, Kimmeridge and Cadbury Castle. They feature as what should probably be regarded as a late trait associated with Potterne's Type 2 bowl, in the Phase II assemblage from Eldon's Seat, bowls and jars of the Period 1 assemblage at Rope Lake Hole, another Purbeck site, and at Battlesbury (Gingell and Morris 2000, 150, fig. 47; Davies 1987, fig. 79, nos 5, 6, 21, 22; Cunliffe and Phillipson 1969, fig. 16, nos 110-14 etc; Every and Mepham 2008, fig. 4.5, nos 5-7). The latter group may represent a continuous transition from the later stages of the Early Iron Age into the Early Middle Iron Age. In the study area fine pottery of this phase is represented best by the assemblage from Folly Lane, although its range and volume are poorly understood as the extensive and deep midden deposits were machine excavated, and very slightly at Milsoms Corner and Cadbury Castle (Tabor and Jones 2021, 51, figs 2 and 5, nos 111, 199-202; Woodward 2000, 340, fig. 160). However, all three sites produced coarse wares likely to be of the period (Brace 2016, 4; Tabor and Jones 2021, fig. 2, nos 115, 126-30; Woodward 2000, 328, 336, figs 149, 152). The high shouldered JB1 forms may no longer have been produced by this time but forms JB2 and new introductions JB3, JB4 and the related JD1 were added. It is likely that plain, rounded bipartite jars JC1 and possibly JC2 were introduced during the later stages of the phase and they remained a major component in a highly distinctive Middle Iron Age assemblage (Woodward 2000, 328-336, figs 149-50, 154). Similar pottery was abundant at Bowden's Lane but in stark contrast to its Early Iron Age group there is a marked lack of the later All Cannings Cross style (Tabor in prep. b). Further afield a similar range marks the early stages of the Iron Age occupation of Maiden Castle where, given the lack of characteristically Early Iron Age carinated bowls, a 5th to 3rd centuries BC inception was suggested (Brown 1991, 198).

Middle Iron Age pottery

During the 3rd to 1st centuries there appears to have been an ever-increasing volume and denser distribution of pottery in circulation across southern Britain, with the exception of the South-West peninsula. There was a trend towards homogeneity of forms across much of south-west Wiltshire, Dorset

and south-east Somerset notable for their sparse decoration which, where it occurs, tends to be in bold, simplified motifs. The period's assemblages at Cadbury Castle and Maiden Castle are dominated by such pottery, the latter site with pottery from Audrey Williams excavations at Allard's Quarry, Marnhull, giving the name to one of Barry Cunliffe's regional style groups (Cunliffe 2005, 107-8, fig. 5.6, no. A:21). The material also includes so-called plain, PB1, and a very few decorated, PB1.1, 'saucepan' pots which have been treated as an important characteristic of styles in a broad band from Sussex, and Surrey to Gloucestershire and south-east Wales (Cunliffe 2005, 104, figs A:16, A:17). Further west in Somerset there are sizable assemblages from Ham Hill and Bowden's Lane (Morris 1988, 38-43, figs 3, 4; Tabor in prep. b). During the period there is a significant increase in the number of SCEP sites with sizable assemblages from Sheep Slait, renewed within the ringwork after a lull and, for the first time during the Iron Age, at The Moor and Homeground. The group from a 3m long section of ditch at The Moor, trench 2 includes a variety of large fragments from JC1, JC2, PA1, DA1 and single examples of decorated PB1.1 and BC2.1 types, and is associated with three very similar dates focussed on the third decade of the 3rd century BC (Tabor and Jones 2021, tab. 1, fig. 6). A flint-tempered PB1.1 rim from Homeground is stratigraphically lower than a deposit associated with a date of 204-46 cal BC at 95% probability. The fabric is a nod to sources east of the site and is one of very few sherds of the period fashioned from material acquired from significantly beyond the limits of the study area. Only small amounts of pottery can be linked to the first phase of renewed use after millennial lulls at Sigwells North West enclosure, for which some dates are within a very similar range, and targeted test pits in several fields at Woolston Manor (Tabor and Jones 2021, fig. 8, ditch F002; SCEP archive).

Later Middle Iron Age pottery

The lines between Middle and Later Middle Iron Age pottery are blurred. The distinction is based almost entirely on the introduction of decorated wares other than those characteristic of the Maiden Castle-Marnhull style, most notably in the South West Decorated style. In the Cadbury area it is represented most commonly by bowl type BD6 which tends to have a ledge at the junction of the upright neck with the upper shoulder and is decorated with curvilinear and geometrical motifs with cross-hatched incised linear and occasionally impressed fills. The fabrics of imported examples are readily distinguishable by inclusions sourced from the Mendips, the Exeter area and The Lizard, although David Williams stresses that examples in fossiliferous limestone at present indistinguishable from local sources may also have been imported (Williams and Woodward 2000, 259-60; Jones 2021a, P38-40; Tabor and Jones 2021, fig. 9). At Cadbury bipartite bowls with BC3 profiles with incised decoration limited by a horizontal line on or above the girth were classified as BD5, following the example of Hengistbury Head's BD5.1 where the term applied mainly to bowls with narrow cordons or incised lines in similar positions (Brown 1987, 212, ill. 177; Woodward 2000, 340, fig. 162). Examples from Mere village East classified in a different scheme as BC2 are much closer in both form and decoration (Rouillard 1987, 211-14, figs 5.21, 5.22, nos P244, P261, P232, P235, P26). The Cadbury examples were occasionally in local, coarse quartz and micaceous sand but more commonly in Poole Harbour fabrics (Woodward 2000, 340). No examples have been found elsewhere in the study area.

Late Iron Age pottery

Deposits in the re-cut and extended Sigwells North West Enclosure ditch contained a broad range of characteristically South East Dorset Black Burnished pottery. The latest of three radiocarbon dates for bones from the basal and middle fills of the re-cut ditch gave a range of 168-19 cal BC (Tabor and Jones 2021, tab. 1, OxA-23730-2). All but the uppermost fills were rapid and included several examples of refitting sherds in fresh condition from single vessels in multiple deposits. A notable example is provided by a BD6.2 bowl with a South East Dorset fabric and decoration from which sherds were distributed in the lower middle, middle and upper fills (Jones 2021b; Tabor and Jones 2021, fig. 8, no. 296). Although there was a high instance of sherds in shelly limestone fabrics most were probably residual. The great preponderance of large, fresh sherds was in Poole Harbour fabrics. The range of forms includes what are likely to be Dorset copies of Armorican bowls BD1 and BD2 and Durotrigian BC3 bowls in the lower fills, supplemented by an extensive range of Durotrigan JC3, JC4, JD4 jars and BC3 bowl types in the lower middle fills upwards. Everted rim JE4.2 jars occur only at the top of the ditch sequence and in the upper fill of a pit associated with a radiocarbon date of 50 cal BC to 57 cal AD, hence centring on the opening decade AD. They are a late addition to the pre-Roman South East Dorset suite and occur in Hengistbury Head's Late Iron Age 2 and Cadbury Castle's CA9 (Brown 1987, 210, ill. 155; Woodward 2000, 336, fig. 155). At Gussage All Saints, east Dorset, two single-handled tankards of Brailsford's

type 8 were described as a 'familiar Durotrigean [sic] ceramic form' but they occurred only as the handle-less BC3.12 at Hengistbury Head and are not reported so far at Maiden Castle, Cadbury Castle and Ham Hill (Brailsford 1958, fig. 1, no. 8; Wainwright 1979, 66, fig. 53, nos 560 B and 636; Brown 1987, 210, ill. 157). The single example associated with a late, stone-based wall of a round building within the enclosure is likely to belong to the final Iron Age phase and was in a South East Dorset fine quartz fabric (Tabor and Jones 2021, 62, fig. 9, no. 311; Jones 2021b, tab. 5, P55).

The combination of radiocarbon dates and a large body of diverse Durotrigian pottery in appropriate fabrics implies strongly that South East Dorset wares were circulating in south-east Somerset by the early to mid-1st century BC. As previously noted this has implications for the interpretation and dating of Roman occupation and possible violent assault on the hillfort settlement (Tabor and Jones 2021, 73). However, it is notable that decoration is very rare at Sigwells and when present it is generally of simple, iconic designs. In contrast, the illustrated examples of JE4.2 jars from Cadbury Castle have various incised line designs grounded on mid-body rusticated surfaces.

As yet it unclear how much further Poole Harbour wares penetrated into Somerset. The pottery from the later of two Iron Age phases at Dibble's Farm, Christon, near Weston-Super-Mare is sparse and probably too early for comparison. However, at Ham Hill there have been small amounts of an early Durotrigian fabric (Morris 1999, 93, Q5; Brudenell and Brown undated, table 3.1, Q4, Q5) and very small amounts of fully fledged Late Iron Age Black Burnished ware (Morris 1999, 93, Q8; Brudenell and Brown undated, table 3.1, Q6). Site 3 along a pipeline route between Horsington and Abbas Combe also produced small amounts of Durotrigian pottery, including a 1st century BC cordoned sherd and a bead similar to examples associated with Hengistbury Head's LIA 2 (Morris 2001, 6-7, fig. 5, nos 7, 8). Most of the vessels described as 'Durotigan' [sic] from Westonzoyland were decorated in much the same manner as Cadbury Castle's JE4.2 jars but there are at least single examples of BC3.2 and JC4 types with Late Iron Age or no decoration (Miles and Miles 1969, 33, fig. 6, nos 56, 58). Clearly Late, possibly Late Middle Iron Age Durotrigian pottery was circulating in south-east and possibly mid-Somerset significantly before the Roman invasion and occupation but the Cadbury Castle and Sigwells assemblages remain exceptional for their size and range.

DISCUSSION

The Early Neolithic assemblage conforms to a regional pattern and warrants noting in an area where there is a relative dearth of such material. The recent discoveries in pits of the period at Hicknoll Slait are tantalising. The very sparse Middle Neolithic to Beaker pottery is of significance because it has been absent or very rare in the area but until there are further discoveries comparison is necessarily piecemeal. In assessing the tenuous evidence from Sigwells for the local long term co-existence of Trevisker-related and Deverel-Rimbury wares it should be borne in mind that the site has been interpreted as an intermittently used marginal, perhaps neutral, space for gathering, craftworking and exchange epitomised by two near complete querns placed side-by-side at the interface of the middle and upper fills of the South East enclosure ditch (Tabor 2008, 65-67, col. plate 7). One is from an area almost certainly associated with Trevisker-related, the other most probably with Deverel-Rimbury pottery, respectively at Hestercombe and Pen Pits.

Late Bronze Age pottery has been found only rarely in the study area yet it is now one of Somerset's better represented areas (Table 3). Thereafter there seems to be a steady growth in the number of sites and their amounts of pottery across the county. In many respects Plain ware morphology represents the selective retention of simplified forms which until the earlier 10th century BC co-existed with late Deverel-Rimbury and, perhaps to a lesser extent, Trevisker pottery. In the same way Plain ware forms co-existed with strongly shouldered Developed jars and bowls which mark a highly distinctive shift in a style from which characteristics are retained during the evolution of distinctive Early Iron Age forms. In much of Somerset, not least the study area, the forms of the 8th to 6th century Decorated jars and bowls owe much to those of elegant later 10th to 9th century Developed bowls which appear to have had a particularly strong presence in Purbeck and the Dorset Frome valley. Their decorative schemes are relatively restricted compared to those strongly associated with central Wiltshire. The evidence from the study area would allow a lull in the circulation of pottery at the sites investigated between the currency of the Plain ware and the very marked changes associated with the introduction of Early Iron assemblages, although this may merely reflect encounter probability in relatively small assemblages.

TABLE 3 STYLE TRANSITIONS IN 1st MILLENNIUM BC AT SELECTED SOMERSET SITES

	Period	LBA		EIA	EMIA	MIA	LMIA	LIA
	Style	Plain	Developed	Decorated				SED
Site	Date BC	1150-920	950-800	800-500	550-300	350-150	200-50	100-AD50
Cadbury Castle		---------		---------	---------	---------	-----------	---------
Milsoms Corner		---------	?	---------	----	-----		-/-
Norton Fitzwarren		---------	-/-	---------	-/-	-/-	-----------	
Sheep Slait		-/-		---------		---------		
Sigwells SE Enclosure		-/-					-----	-----
Sigwells NW Enclosure						-----	----------	---------
Bowden's Lane			-/-	---------	---------	---------	-----------	---------
Ilchester			-/-	---------				---------
Ham Hill				---------	---------	---------	-----------	---------
Folly Lane				---------	----------	---------	---------	-/-
The Moor						---------	---------	---------
Home Ground						---------	----------	---------
Woolston Manor						-----	----------	---------
Meare Village East							----------	---------
Westonzoyland							----------	---------
Worthy							---------	
Sigwells SW Enclosure								---------

--------- = Well-represented. ----- = Well-represented. -/- = Slight presence.
--------- = Significant presence of Early All Cannings Cross.
--------- = Slight presence of Early All Cannings Cross. --------- = Significant presence of Late All Cannings Cross.
-/- = Slight presence of Late All Cannings Cross. ---------- = Significant presence of SW Decorated.
--------- = Slight presence of SW Decorated. Sheep Slait ringwork is 350m into Dorset, south of the border with Somerset.

Thus far only small amounts of pottery with a wider range of decoration have been retrieved from some of Somerset's most prominent sites of the period, although Sheep Slait and especially Bowden's Lane are now notable exceptions. Late All Cannings Cross fine wares of 5th to 4th Early Middle Iron Age remain very rare in the study area but are likely to survive where the Folly Lane midden remains untouched. The Middle Iron Age is no different from what would be expected from the Cadbury Castle assemblage but the demonstrated introduction of Poole Harbour wares at a time no later than the earlier 1st century BC reveals centralised production in an industry previously hugely weighted towards local production. Research questions to be addressed would relate to precipitating factors, transport methods and networks and the mode of exchange. It is not enough to say that it represented the expansion of a tribe's territory as there would have been considerable technical difficulties in transporting in numbers a stronger but still fragile commodity.

The pottery which has been the subject of parts 1 and 2 of this article will be allocated to site reports which are in preparation.

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APPENDIX

NUMERICAL KEY TO SITES IN TEXT MARKED ON MAPS

Site	EN	MBA	LBA	EIA	Site	EN	MBA	LBA	EIA
Cadbury	1	1	1	1	Norton Fitzwarren		22	22	22
Milsoms Corner		1a	1a		Brean		23	23	
North Field		1b			Gwithian		24		
Crissells Green		1c			Trethellan Farm		25		
Home Ground / Folly Lane		1d			Trevisker		26		
Sweet Track	2				Teigncombe		27		
Whitesheet	3				Parracombe		28		
Nerrols Farm	4	4			Castle Hill		29		
Netherfield Farm	5				Chard Junction		30		
Carn Brea	6				Sturminster Marshall		31		
Tregarrick Farm	7				Field Farm		32	32	
Penmayne	8				Bestwall Quarry		33	33	
Helman Tor	9				Knighton Heath		34		
Haldon Belvedere	10				Shearplace		35		
Raddon Hill	11				Simons Ground		36		
Hembury	12				Thorny Down		37		
Maiden Castle	13			13	Kimpton		38		
Poundbury / Mount Pleasant	14	14	14		Tinney’s Lane			39	
Hambledon	15				Roke Manor			40	
Cranborne Chase	16	16			Eldon’s Seat			41	
Windmill Hill	17				Sheep Slait			42	42
Sigwells		18	18		Ham Hill				44
Queen Camel		19			Bowden’s Lane				45
Woolston		20			Ilchester				46
Aller		21							