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**CERAMICS AND REGIONALITY IN THE HIGHLANDS
AND NORTHERN ISLES OF SCOTLAND, 2500-1800 BC**

VOL II OF II

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**SUBMITTED FOR THE DEGREE
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY,
ARCHAEOLOGY**

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

2018



PART III:
DISCUSSION & ANALYSIS



CHAPTER TEN

REGIONALITY, TYPOLOGY AND CHRONOLOGY



10.1 Introduction

Having set out the key features of ceramic assemblages at a regional level in **Part II**, this chapter considers the interregional similarities and differences at a broader level. Their relationship to preceding ceramic traditions will be further considered here. This review will summarise the principal vessel types from across the study area, further critiquing regional ceramic traditions and their chronology. The contextual aspects of these trends are considered in the following chapter. Before this, I will briefly outline the nature and quality of the evidence from across the study area.

10.2 Data Summary

This thesis set out to examine in detail the nature of regional ceramic traditions and their contexts of use. In **Part II** the key ceramic types from the study area were outlined, providing a comprehensive overview of types, context and chronology. Detailed regional typologies were developed based on these reviews (Tables 6.7, 7.11, 8.7, 8.8, 9.7 & 9.8). These considered not only the physical attributes of the vessels, but their associations and patterns of use. These contextual aspects are further discussed in **Chapter 11**. The quality of the available information was highly variable, with several sites lacking detailed information. This included a suite of sites where finds were either described simply as urns, or no further information was available (**Apps. B3, C3, D3**).

Due to poor levels of recording, sequencing and the lack of high quality radiocarbon dates, data from Shetland posed several interpretive problems. A variety of post-depositional factors including reuse, regular clearing of interiors, and manipulation of midden deposits was identified (**Section 6.2.12**). In the case of the latter this includes the use of midden to backfill structures. Similar processes were identified at domestic sites across the study area, including Orkney where midden was commonly employed in backfilling events. Where dates were available in Shetland, the degree of association between the dated sample and the pottery was frequently uncertain. Considering this, the ceramic sequence across the 3rd millennium in

Shetland remains uncertain. In **Chapter 5** it was suggested that some aspects of pottery in Shetland could be related to Grooved Ware, but this cannot be ascertained fully. As noted throughout this thesis, caution should be expressed in labelling pots based on perceived visual similarity (**Section 3.4.1**). The problems of this approach can be seen in the case of HD916 from H1 Ness of Gruting (SFI5). HD916 was initially interpreted as a Hebridean type (Henshall 1958: 381), but current dating and the overall composition of the assemblage suggest that such an analogy is erroneous (**Section 6.2.2**). Given the ambiguities in the phasing of H1 Ness of Gruting (SFI5) the interrelationships of the material are difficult to discern. Similar problems of phasing occur at most sites in Shetland, limiting further analysis of ceramic types and use over time. Despite these limitations it is apparent that a range of vessel types were in use during the later 3rd millennium across Shetland, showing considerable variation from site to site. It is unclear if these differences reflect temporal or site-specific variations. Considering this, vessels were assigned to a series of regional categories, rather than attempting to fit them into the categories defined for this study (**Chapter 4**). As will be further examined these pots, alongside examples from Orkney, represent regional types blending a range of attributes.

Although the quality of the information was better, difficulties were encountered in examining long-term sequence and patterns of deposition in Orkney. At Crossiecrown (ORK6) and Rinyo (ORK16), a lack of detailed ceramic phasing prohibited a critical appraisal of change over time. The exact position of sherds and their relationship to the rest of the assemblage was frequently unclear. Similar problems were encountered with phasing and sequence at Tofts Ness (ORK19). Here, difficulties in the overall phasing prohibit scrutiny of dating and sequence of the site overall (see MacSween *et al.* 2015). The bias towards domestic sites in Orkney prevents examination of the interrelationship of ceramic types across contexts. Bucket/tub vessels, however, were employed in both domestic and funerary contexts. These forms are frequently found in cremations in the 2nd millennium BC (Sheridan 2007a: 171), while plain bucket/ tub vessels continue in use, as seen at the burnt mounds of Liddle and Beaquoy (Hedges 1977) (Fig. 7.17).

One area of uncertainty remains around the final phase of Grooved Ware use in Orkney. The relationship of late incised wares to these is unclear. Given the overlap in form, there is a clear shared element, the primary point of divergence instead lies in the range of decorative techniques and motifs (**Section 7.2.3**, see also **Section 7.6**). Examples of late incised wares include sherds from Tofts Ness (ORK19), the single vessel from Newhouse (ORK12), the Braes Ha'Breck (ORK3), the Ness of Brodgar (ORK11) and Crossiecrown (ORK6). The latter site includes examples of probable Beakers (Fig. 7.7). Diagnostic Beakers, following the

	Feature	Function	Fill	Interpretation
	<i>F134</i>	Post pipe/ organic container	2 sherds pottery	Pottery incorporated into fill
Kiltaraglen (SH35)	<i>F168</i>	Unclear – proximity to Early Bronze Age cremation	112 sherds pottery (mix of vessels) 14 mudstone lithics	Unclear if associated with burial or 'domestic' activity
Kinbeachie (SH36)	<i>n/a</i>	?Disturbed burial?	Fragments of Beaker	Part of funerary rite
Rosskeen E (SH46)	<i>23/10, 23/11, 23/12</i>	Part of slot/ post built structure ?Burial?	? Fragments of Food Vessel	? Part of funerary rite
Rosemarkie (SH45)	<i>23,26,30,32</i>	Pits	Fragments of Beakers and Food Vessels	Mixed deposits

Table 10.1: *Summary of pit deposits from across the study area*

definitions set out in **Chapter 4**, were restricted to the Links of Noltland (ORK10), Rinyo (ORK16) and the fragmentary vessels from several chambered cairns. Food Vessels were recorded at only three sites, Redland (ORK15), Corrigan (ORK5), and Sand Fiold (ORK17). Other vessels from funerary contexts included bucket/ tub forms and steatite vessels from Shetland. The presence of steatite highlights the growing importance of connections between Orkney and Shetland in the later 3rd millennium. This extends to potential overlap in ceramics between the two regions, but in the absence of detailed chronology direct comparisons should be approached with caution.

In the Highlands, the evidence was predominantly of a funerary nature, with sixty-eight recorded sites, twenty-seven in the North Highlands and a further forty-one in the South Highlands (**Apps. A3.2 & A4.2**). In total, 101 vessels were recorded, 55% of which were Beakers, and 33% were Food Vessels. Other vessel types recorded from funerary contexts include Cordoned Urns, of which eight examples were recorded (Table 10.2). These lie outside

Site	Context	Type	Associations
Raigmore (SH44)	Cemetery/ Pit (cut into cairn)	Elongate bucket/ tub, four cordons. Undecorated	Inverted over cremation – cremation of child (3-4 years old) Bone toggle
Dalmore Farm (SH20)	Cemetery/ Pit	Fragmentary, single cordoned, incised lattice in space between cordon and rim	Cremation – container. No further information
Rosskeen (E. of Rosskeen Church)	Indeterminate	Fragmentary – no further information	?Poss. domestic vessel?
Kinsteary	Cist	Elongate bucket/ tub, three cordons	?Container for cremation? Faience beads (now lost)
Lairg	Henge/ Pit	Elongate bucket tub, slightly cylindrical, undecorated, two cordons	Inverted over cremation – cremated remains of two individuals, young female subadult and adult male
Rosemarkie (SH45)	Cemetery/ Pits	Fragmentary (Pot 42) Fragmentary (Pot 44) Lattice dec. reminiscent of that from Dalmore Farm	Pot 42- Upright, contained remains of two individuals and sub Pot 44 -adult animal
Ness Gap (SH40)	Cemetery/ Pits	At least five Cordoned Urns	Buried upright

Table 10.2: *Summary of Cordoned Urns from the study area*

Waddell's distribution, where notable clusters occur in Fife and Lothian (1995: Fig. 11.3). Multiple examples have also been recorded from Aberdeenshire, where they closely overlap with Collared Urns (see Law, R. 2008: Chp. 6). These form part of a small, tightly clustered group of vessels extending along the Laich of Moray (Shepherd, I. & Shepherd, A. 2001: 110). Cordoned Urns from the study area were predominantly associated with cremations. These varied from acting as covers to containers. In the case of the Lairg and Rosemarkie (SH45) vessels, more than one individual were included (Table 10.2). Owing to their late dates these have not been discussed in depth. Their relationship to emergent cremation practices in the 2nd millennium will be considered further in the following chapter. Alongside these, a range of bucket/ tub forms was identified. Again, the dating of these is problematic, with only three dated examples. As with Cordoned Urns, only examples that were dated - either scientifically or based on typology - were discussed in detail. Further examples are included in the appendices (**Apps. B3, C3, D3**).

Alongside funerary finds, nine domestic sites were recorded from the Highlands (**Apps. A3.1 & A4.1**). A further sixteen sites were recorded from the Northern Isles (**Apps. A1.1 & A2.1**). The pottery from these sites was often small and heavily abraded, making reconstruction of forms difficult. As in the case of Orkney and Shetland the stratigraphy of these sites was complicated with episodes of re-deposition and dispersal. The attribution of a domestic function to several sites is uncertain. In the case of sand dune sites, the possibility of the pottery belonging to now lost burials cannot be ruled out (**Section 2.5.1**). At Kiltaraglen (SH35), features comprised an enclosure, a timber alignment and possible funerary activity (Suddaby 2007). Pottery was recorded primarily from pits F134 and F168 (Fig. 9.3). At Culduthel Farm (SH17), activity was focused on a series of pits and anthropogenic spreads, but probable roundhouses were also recorded (Murray, R. 2008) (Table 10.1). At Rosemarkie (SH45), a range of pits, containing probable domestic waste, and a further set of pits associated with cremations, were excavated. One final category of site was the cave at Rudh an Dunain (SH47). Multiple sherds from several Beakers and probable Food Vessels were recorded. Food Vessels in the Highlands were predominantly documented from funerary sites. Possible Food Vessels from domestic contexts were recorded from Freswick Sands (NH18), Rosemarkie (SH45) and Rudh an Dunain (SH47). Examples of such vessels in domestic contexts have been noted elsewhere, including from the Hebrides (**Section 2.5.2**), but such assemblages are rare across eastern Scotland (Sheridan 2014).

Alongside recognisable Beaker forms are vessels that can be described as representing a "*vernacular component*" (Millson 2013: 229). Among these are examples which incorporate

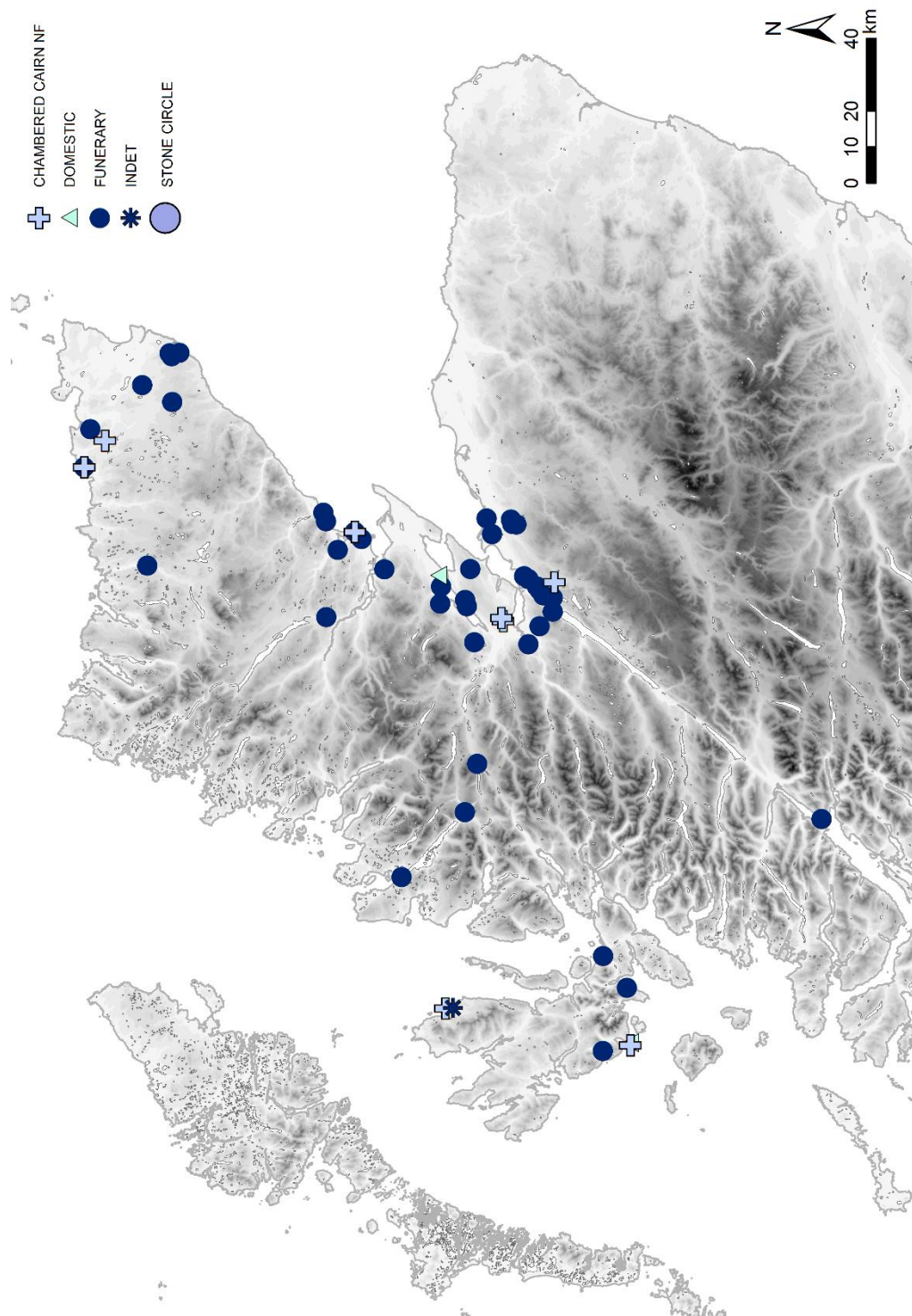


Figure 10.1: *Distribution of Beakers by site type in the Highlands (see Table 1.1 for definition of site types)*

various aspects creating pots that are neither one type or the other. This includes coarse, undiagnostic sherds that are difficult to date. Sherds of this type have previously been assigned to the broad category of flat rim ware (see **Section 2.3**). As argued, this diminishes the important roles played by these vessels in both domestic and funerary contexts. These ubiquitous sherds and their roles will be further discussed below.

In summary, while several trends can be defined within and across the study area, the strength of these is affected by the quality of the available information. As will be highlighted in **Chapter 11**, this extends to understanding broader contextual patterns. Despite this, several emergent patterns are noticeable that reinforce ideas of regionality, as well as interconnectedness. This extends to typological connections with other parts of Britain, which are further examined here and the following chapter. Bearing the limitations of the dataset in mind, I will in the following sections consider the key chronological and typological relationships from the study area.

10.3 Form Summary

In **Chapter 4**, a range of form-based definitions were set out to provide a foundation for the development of regional typologies. These classifications were not seen as having any interpretive weight. Following this, a restricted approach to labelling was adopted. Consequently, several vessels previously attributed to Beakers or Food Vessels have been assigned to different form groups. These assignments reflect on the broader aims of this project. These, as outlined in **Chapter 1**, focus on understanding the relationship of pots to wider processes, examining the emergence of different ceramic categories. In this regard, the forms defined here do not represent new types, but instead elements of a regional vernacular, which draw on wider ideas. These processes as outlined in **Section 3.3.2** involve the citation of existing and/ or new forms, coupled with moments of creativity (Sørensen 2015: 89). Such events represent points of rupture with past performances and can in part be linked to changes in the wider roles and contexts of vessels (see below). Among the vessels assigned to different categories are examples previously assigned to Needham's weak carinated/ late Beaker group (2005: 188-91). Other examples include those previously described as hybrid forms, including material from the Shetland and Orkney Isles. Following the form-based definitions outlined in **Chapter 4** these were assigned to a series of non-Beaker categories (Table 6.7, 7.11). This includes the tall vessel from Woody Knowe (NH29), previously described as a Beaker (P.S.A.S. 1934: 413). With Food Vessels, a slightly broader approach was taken incorporating a range of tall and squat shouldered vessels. These disparate types are connected by a suite of

recurrent features including shoulders, decorative schema and cavetto zones. Through the manipulation of these points during the vessel construction, a variety of similar but different forms were created (**Chapter 4**).

10.3.1 Beaker

Beakers were recorded from eighty-five sites, comprising four domestic sites with definable Beaker forms¹, and a further eighty-one non-domestic sites. This total includes funerary finds and deposits from chambered cairns, 92% of which were recorded from the Highlands (Fig. 10.1). Nine Beakers were recorded from Orkney (Fig. 10.2). These included the two necked vessels from the Links of Noltland (ORK10) and a sinuous sherd from Rinyo (ORK16). The probable examples from Crossiecrown (ORK6) are not included in this total. As highlighted in **Chapter 7**, these represent a distinct regional type that blends a range of attributes. In

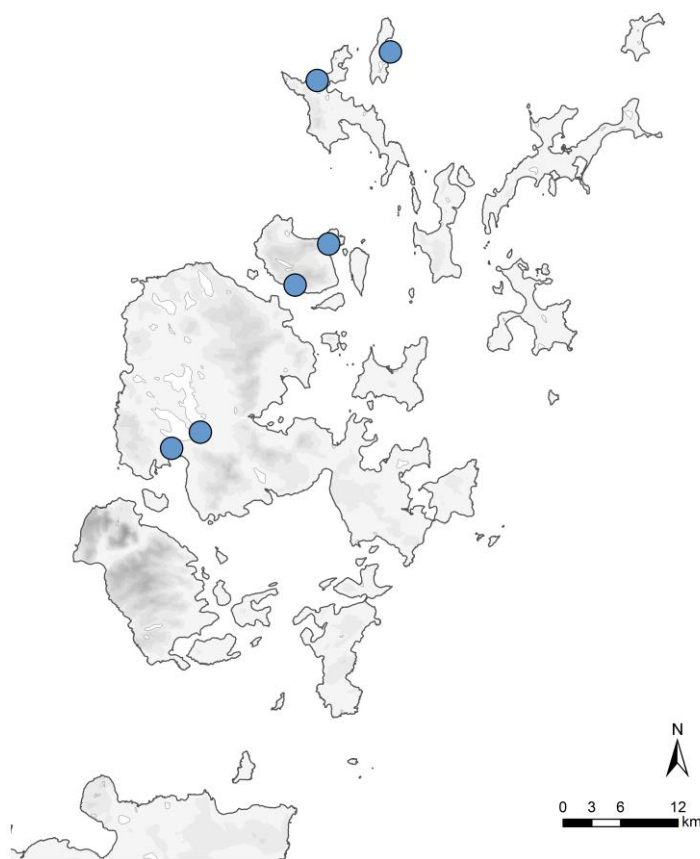


Figure 10.2: *Distribution of Beakers in Orkney*

¹ This total excludes the material from *Freswick Sands (NH18)* and *Kiltaraglen (SH35)*. Whilst Beakers could be present forms could not be defined with accuracy owing to the fragmentary state of the assemblage.

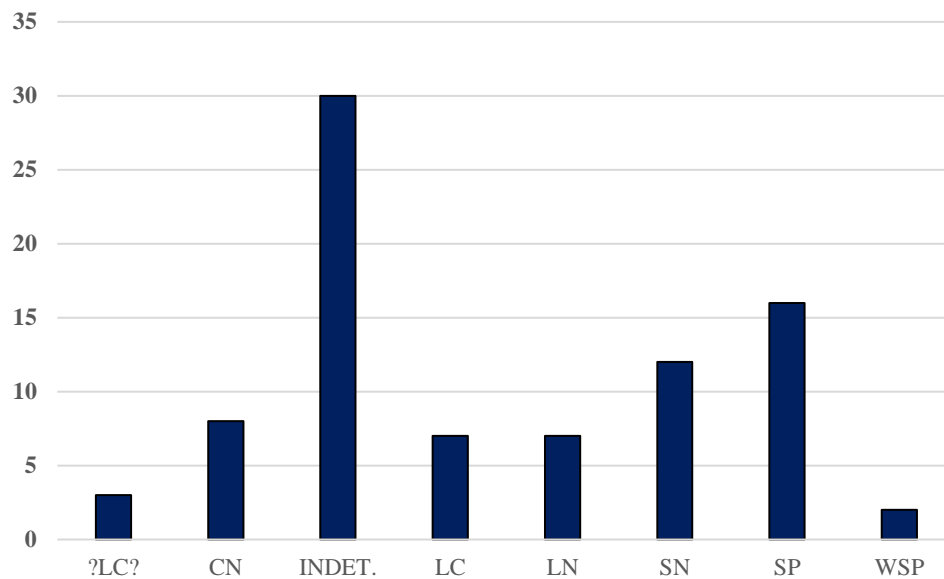


Figure 10.3: *Principal Beaker forms recorded from the study area*

Key: *?LC?*. probable low-carinated, *INDET.* Indeterminate form, *LC.* Low-carinated, *SN.* Short-necked, *SP.* S-profile *WSP.* Weak s-profile

Shetland, the abraded nature of the pottery prohibited full reconstruction, but Beakers were noted at H1, Ness of Gruting (SFI5). Decorative motifs and techniques recorded on Beakers from the Highlands were documented among vessels in the Northern Isles, notably twisted or plaited cord, arranged in zones or all over. In the past, this has led to these vessels being discussed as Beakers (*e.g.* Sheridan 2012a, 2013: 58-61; Clarke, D.L. 1970; 521; Gibson, A. 1982: 207-8). Given the absence of a regional sequence, the attribution of vessels in Shetland to form groups based on decoration was approached with caution. To this end, the sherds from Fraga (SFI3), Stanydale Temple (SFI12) and Tougs (SFI14) have not been classed as Beaker (*contra.* Sheridan 2013). The unprovenanced find from Unst was similarly not classed as a Beaker.

Within Inverness, fifteen Beakers were recorded along the far northeast end of the Great Glen, with a scattered distribution across the coast and ten further finds in Nairn (Fig. 10.1). These were centred on the Cawdor region, including examples from Auchindown (SH5). Isolated examples of Beakers were noted from northwest and northeast Ross and Cromarty (Figs. 10.1 & 9.15). Beakers were recorded from Sutherland along the River Fleet and the coast of the Dornoch Firth (Fig. 8.8). In Caithness, Beakers were recorded in a roughly NW/ SE tangent centred on the Yarrows and Waten district (Fig. 8.9).

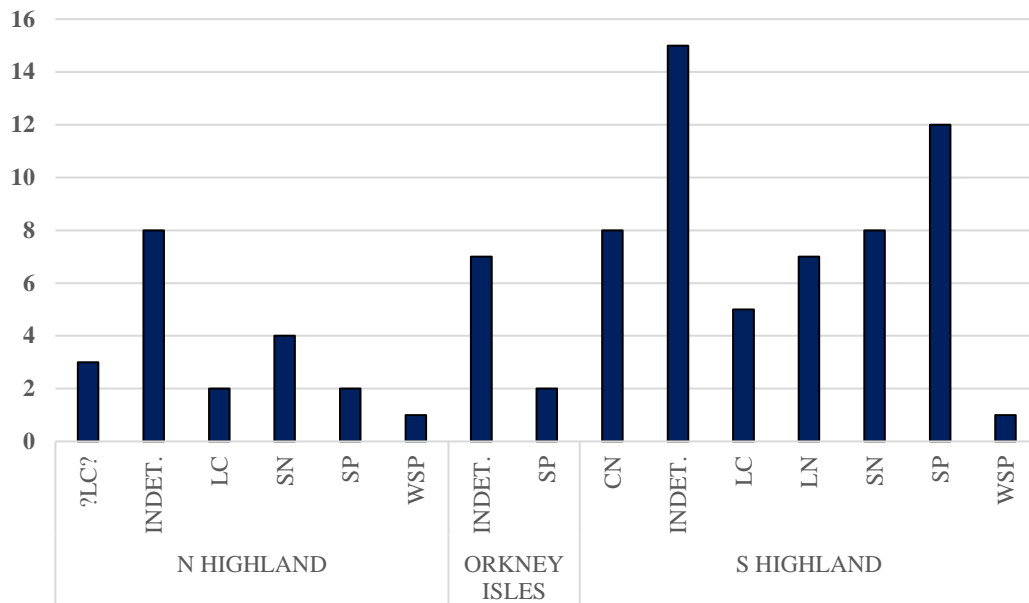


Figure 10.4: *Distribution of Beaker forms by region*

Key: ?LC?. probable low-carinated, INDET. Indeterminate form, LC. Low-carinated, SN. Short-necked, SP. S-profile WSP. Weak s-profile LN. Long-necked, CN. Cupped-necked

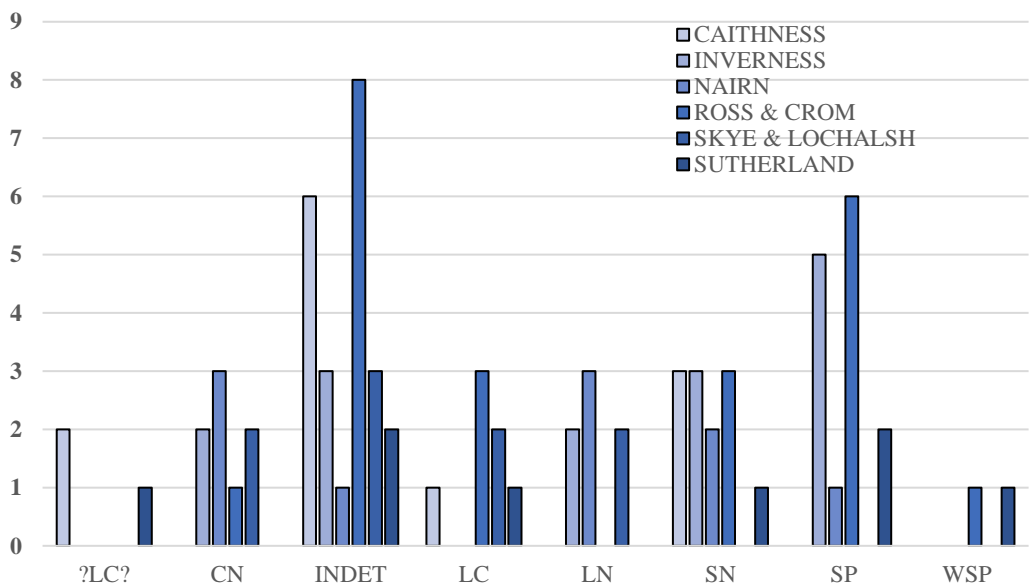


Figure 10.5: *Distribution of Beaker forms by county*

Key: ?LC?. probable low-carinated, INDET. Indeterminate form, LC. Low-carinated, SN. Short-necked, SP. S-profile WSP. Weak s-profile LN. Long-necked, CN. Cupped-necked

20% of the recorded Beakers were of s-profile form, with a further 14% comprising short-necked Beakers (Fig. 10.3). Short-necked Beakers were largely absent within Sutherland, although Beakers were generally rare within the region (Fig. 10.4). A greater range of forms was recorded in the South Highlands, with five different forms identified in Inverness and Nairn (Figs. 10.4 & 10.5). Among these were examples of later cupped and long-necked Beakers, which suggest typo-chronological connections with examples from Aberdeenshire (Curtis & Wilkin *forthcoming*). These connections could be related to expanding networks of exchange, including metalworking in the Buchan region, employing Irish copper (*ibid.* see Needham 2004). In Ross and Cromarty, a high number of indeterminate vessels was documented (Fig. 10.5), primarily comprising the assemblage from Kilcoy South (SH34). Among the assemblage were several sherds that could represent the remains of low-carinated vessels, suggesting an early date for part of the assemblage (Fig 9.57).

Low-carinated

Low-carinated Beakers were recorded from nine sites (Fig. 10.3), including examples from the Ardnamurchan Peninsula and Skye. These vessels can be connected to the wider distribution of low-carinated and AOC vessels across the Western Isles. Examples from the Western Isles include domestic examples, ranging from large jars with sub-rim cordons to examples that closely match those found in funerary contexts (**Section 2.5.2**). This distribution extends to the south, encompassing the early finds from Kilmartin, where AOC and Maritime-style Beakers have been recorded. The latter type is rarely found across Scotland (Fitzpatrick 2015: 52). Maritime-style Beakers have been recorded from Glenluce (Luce Sands) and the Poltalloch Estate near Kilmartin (*ibid.*). Pot 1 from Upper Largie has been described as epi-maritime, linking it to the wider Maritime group ². Pot 2, in contrast, is a cord-zoned maritime Beaker, showing the continued preference for banded decoration, which continues onto later Beakers. At Glenluce, both AOC and maritime sherds occur together but their temporal relationship is unclear. The vessels from Poltalloch and Glenluce employed cardium decoration, which is widely noted across the Atlantic façade. Shell impressions occur among the early material from Ardnamurchan alongside twisted cord. Shell impressions have frequently been interpreted as representing a local element (Case 2001: 367), possibly attempting to replicate the comb-impressed or twisted cord impressions on other Beakers.

² *Epi-maritime Beakers preserve the layout of Maritime Beakers but diverge in terms of their motifs and can be seen as variants within the Maritime group (Lanting 2008: 100)*

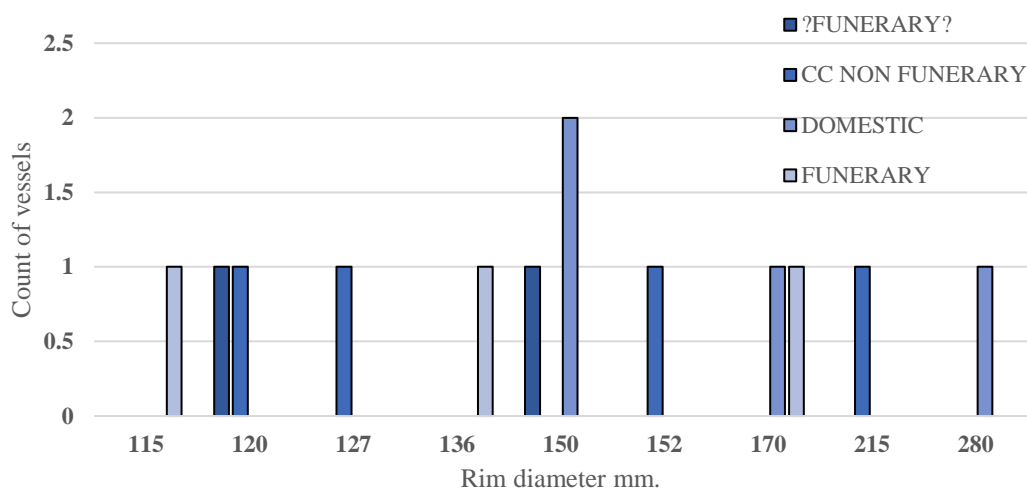


Figure 10.6: Rim diameters of low-carinated Beakers by context (see Table 1.1 for definition of site types)

On the east coast, low-carinated Beakers were recorded at several sites including Culduthel Farm Phase 7 & 8 (SH17), Dornoch Nursery (NH15) and Kilcoy South (SH34) (Fig. 9.1). As on the west coast, potential connections can be drawn with the wider distribution of early vessels, including examples from Culbin Sands, which lies just outside the study area (Fig. 2.21). The Great Glen has previously been postulated to have acted as corridor connecting these two disparate groups (*e.g.* Sheridan 2008a: 66). There is clear overlap with similar decorative motifs and forms occurring on both coasts. Low-carinated vessels on both the east and west coast were recorded primarily from non-funerary contexts, with funerary finds limited to five sites. A similar situation occurs in Ireland and the Hebrides, here Beakers are rarely found in funerary contexts.

The finds from the chambered cairn at Kilcoy South (SH34) were compared with those from Culduthel Farm (SH17) in **Section 9.4.3**. In this light, it was suggested that the vessels could have had a non-funerary use. Instead, vessels could have been deposited into the chambered cairn as part of later infilling or depositional activity. Owing to disturbance at Embo (NH17) it is unclear if the sherds relate to funerary activity, or – as at Kilcoy South (SH34) – represent a structured deposit. These deposits reflect a long-standing association between Beakers and other later pottery types and chambered cairns. This is noted in other parts of Scotland, where sherds of Beakers and other later material are recorded from chambered cairns (Wilkin 2016). These structures clearly continued to play important roles in the later 3rd millennium, being drawn into a series of new relations.

Other probable examples of low-carinated/ all over decorated vessels include EO357 and EO361 from Lower Dounreay (NH13), and the large vessel from the cist/ stone row at Battle Moss (NH7). The twisted cord sherds from the short-cist at Garrywhin (NH19), could be attributed to early low-carinated forms, but this cannot be stated with confidence (see **Section 8.4.2**). The presence of twisted cord is not particularly diagnostic. Examples of sherds with multiple bands of twisted cord have been recorded from several sites including South Yarrows (NH28) and Crossiecrown (ORK6). Twisted cord is also commonly noted on Food Vessels from the region (see **Section 10.3.2**) and to a more limited degree Grooved Ware (see **Section 5.5.2**)

Low-carinated Beakers from the study area have carinated or rounded bellies, overlapping with s-profile forms (*i.e.* Beechwood Park (SH8)). Differences in the belly can stem from construction, suggesting the existence of a fluid continuum between the two types (**Section 4.3.2**). Where bellies were rounded, these tended to be positioned roughly at the mid-point of the vessel. Carinations could range from weak to strongly defined as at Elishader (SH26) and Kilcoy South (SH34) (Figs. 9.55 & 9.53). Carinations were often placed low on the pot with a broad concavity above. Vessels from funerary contexts have rim diameters between 115-150mm, contrasting with non-funerary vessels, which ranged from 150-280mm (Fig. 10.6). These include the large examples from Kilcoy South (SH34), and the smaller vessels from Embo (NH17) and Lower Dounreay (NH13). Vessel heights were difficult to ascertain, but Pot 1 at Battle Moss is around 205mm tall (Sheridan pers. comm.), whilst the vessel from Dornoch Nursery (NH15) is 175mm tall. Decoration was normally by twisted cord, but other modes included:

- Impressed: Battle Moss (NH7)
- Fingernail: Kilcoy South (SH34), Culduthel Farm (SH17)
- Undecorated: Beechwood Park (SH8)
- Comb impressed: EO1046 Kilcoy South (SH34), EO361 Lower Dounreay (NH13)
- Shell (*cardium*) impressed: Ardnamurchan (SH2, SH3)

Within non-funerary contexts the range of forms and decoration tended to be more varied. At Culduthel Farm (SH17), a mix of large and small Beakers were noted from the paleochannel and large vessels were recorded in the midden spreads (Sheridan unpub. a). Based on morphology, it seems probable that the vessels from Kilcoy South (SH34) include large storage vessels with low-carinated profiles and sub-rim cordons. Sub-rim cordons were noted on seven vessels, stemming primarily from domestic (*n.*1) or chambered cairn (*n.*4) contexts.

These were primarily recorded on vessels with rim diameters over 150mm, but in two cases were noted on vessels <150mm. Sub-rim cordons have been argued to be diagnostic of domestic types, an association reinforced by the presence of sub-rim cordons at Culduthel Farm (SH17) and Kilcoy South (SH34) (*cf.* Clarke, D.L. 1970: 37). However, sub-rim cordons are not exclusive to domestic contexts, having been recorded on smaller vessels from other parts of Scotland (Wilkin 2016: 271). Their presence could instead be cited as having a functional role relating to the fixing of covers (Longworth 1984: 6).

Domestic vessels are further defined by varied modes of decoration, including twisted cord and fingernail impressions. The use of fingernail impressions appears to define large Beakers as at Kilcoy South (SH34) and Culduthel Farm (SH17) and are well documented on domestic vessels from across Britain (Needham 2005: 182; Gibson, A. 1982, 1984). In five cases, decoration extended onto the rim, typically comprising horizontal lines. Several low-carinated Beakers have gaps around the waist and belly or the decoration terminates below the rim. In four cases, the decoration terminated below a sub-rim cordon.

Regarding chronology, the vessel from Dornoch Nursery (NH15) is dated to 2470-2200 cal BC (GrA-26515) (**App. F3**) (Figs. 8.19 & 10.10). As discussed in **Chapter 8**, this date is derived from the cremated remains and it is unclear whether the finds relate to the cremation or the inhumation. In **Chapter 8** it was suggested that the cremation could be related to existing funerary practices in the region, with the cist containing two distinct traditions of burial.

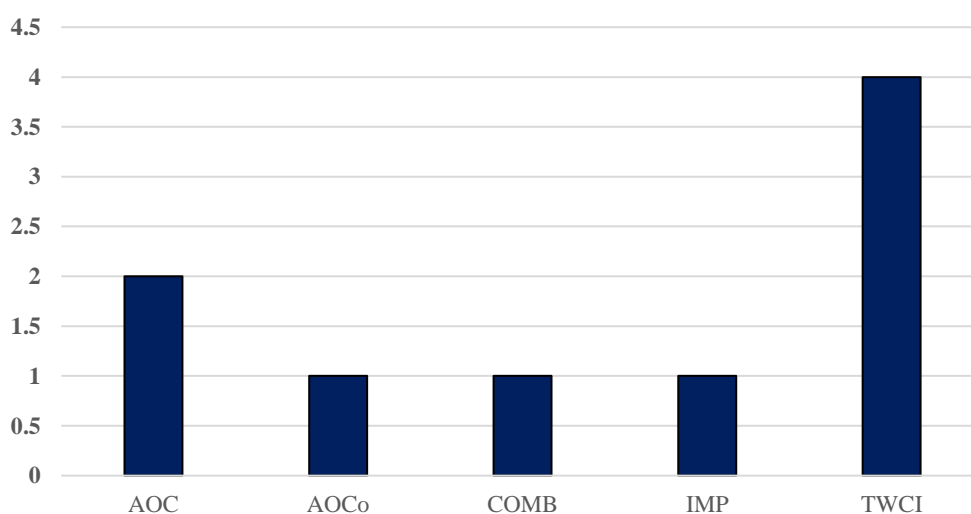


Figure 10.7: *Decoration of low-carinated Beakers from the study area*

Key: *AOC. All-over twisted cord, AOCo. All-over comb, COMB. Comb impressed IMP. Impressed, TWCI. Twisted cord impressions*

Cremations appear to have formed the primary funerary rite during the early 3rd millennium (Sheridan 2012b: 44). At New Broadford (SH41) the burial is dated to 2570-2290 cal BC (SUERC-40469) and 2470-2210 cal BC (SUERC-40468) (**App. F4**) (Figs. 9.34 & 10.10). The date of both vessels statistically overlaps with other early burials from Scotland including Sorisdale, 2470-2200 cal BC (Sheridan 2007b: 109) and Upper Largie 2550-2280 cal BC (Cook *et al.* 2010: 172)³ (Table 2.1). The low-carinated vessels from the paleo-channel at Culduthel Farm (SH17) are dated to 2470-2300 cal BC (SUERC-20236) (**App. F4**) (Figs. 9.11 & 10.10). In **Chapter 9** it was suggested that this date could support the notion of an overlapping early phase of domestic use, but the degree of association is unclear due to the mixed nature of the deposits. If this overlap is accepted, it is possible that the low-carinated Beakers placed into pit burials or short-cists in this region were selected from a larger repertoire of domestic forms. Their selection would have been embedded in wider concepts and assemblages. This includes ideas of appropriateness (this can in part be connected to the affordances of the vessel), the funerary rite, ideas of age and sex, alongside wider cosmological concepts (**Section 3.3.3**, see **Section 11.3**)

As discussed in **Section 2.2**, the evidence from other parts of Britain for an early domestic use of Beakers is ambiguous (see **Section 2.5**). In her review of the limited dating evidence for Beakers in domestic contexts in England, Healy estimates a start date of 2350-2230 cal BC for England (2012: 158). An early phase of use could also be envisaged for Scotland. On stylistic grounds, pottery from coastal dune sites such as Glenluce, Sorisdale and Ardnamurchan (SH2,

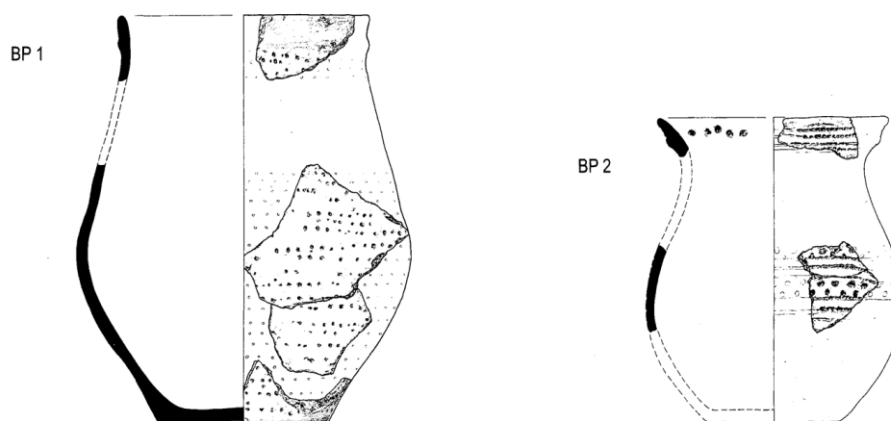


Figure 10.8: Late low-carinated Beakers from Eweford, East Lothian (MacGregor & Stuart 2007: 4.20)

³ This date derives from charcoal at the same level of the grave goods. Two further dates SUERC-15120 and SUERC-15121 relate to the post-pipe in the ring ditch and the fill of the ring ditch (cf. Cook *et al.* 2010.)

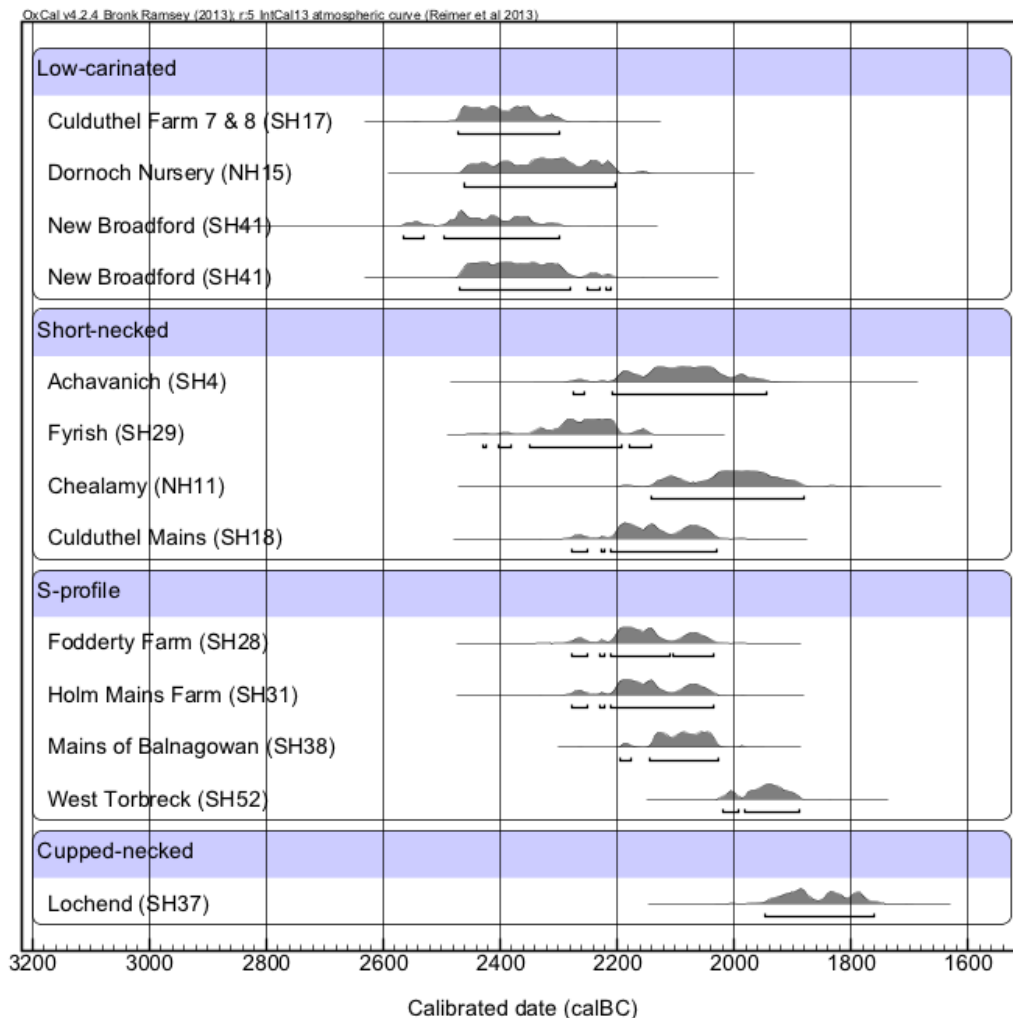


Figure 10.9: Calibrated radiocarbon dates for Beakers from the study area (cf. *Apps. F3 & F4*)

SH3) could belong to an early use of Beakers in a domestic context⁴. Further dating and analysis of domestic sites is clearly needed to refine this picture. Additionally, although low-carinated Beakers are often early in date, they could have continued to be produced into the 22nd century BC, as evidenced at Fox Plantation and Eweford (MacGregor & Stuart 2007: 90). These late Beakers are of similar form, although they lack strong carinations, and employ comparable decorative motifs to earlier low-carinated vessels (Fig. 10.8). The Beaker from West Torbreck (SH53) could also be cited as late example of a low-carinated or low bellied s-profile vessel, dated to 2030-1880 cal BC (SUERC-41922) (**App. F4**) (Figs. 9.37 & 10.9).

⁴ Case noted the large quantities of early AOC Beaker types from across the north of England, included examples from Ross Links (Case 1993: 260, 2001: 367), suggesting potentially rapid and widespread use of early Beaker types. See Tait (1965) and Millson (2013) for an overview of Northumberland Beakers

This suggests that dating based on form alone is unreliable, reinforcing the cautious approach taken to vessel identification adopted in this thesis (*cf.* Sheridan 2007b). This is further reinforced by the potential longevity of certain forms and motifs, especially all-over schemes (Needham 2012: 9).

The relationship between early low-carinated Beakers and later forms within the study area is unclear. This is attributable partly to the lack of chronological resolution and the low number of recorded early Beakers (Healy 2012). While it is tempting to see a direct evolution of necked and other later forms from early Beakers, the evidence for overlap and continuity within the study area is limited. As Case noted regarding his ‘Group C’ - comprising AOC Beakers (Table 3.1) – elements do not appear to persist into other groups. Instead, other techniques – such as comb – are frequently employed (2001: 367). Within the study area twisted cord is rarely

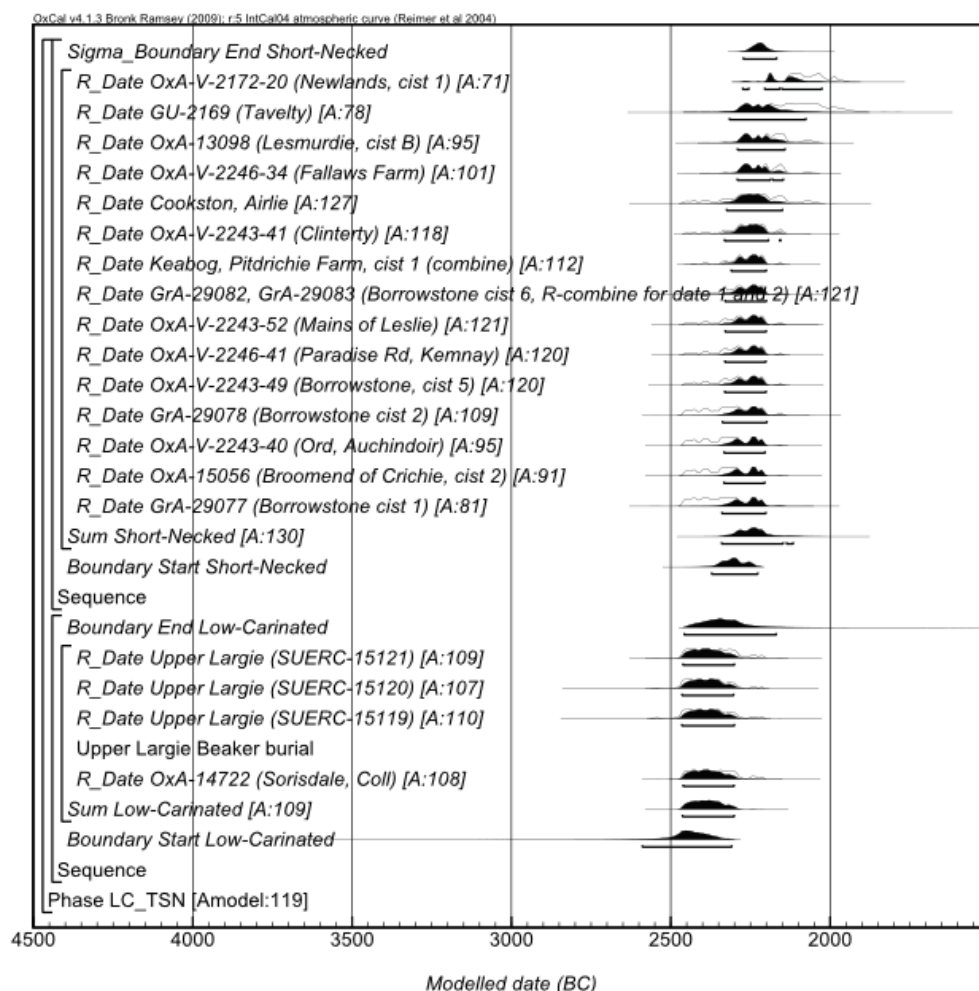


Figure 10.10: Modelled dates for low-carinated and short-necked Beakers in northeast Scotland (Curtis & Wilkin 2012: Figure 16.9)

recorded on Beakers, except on earlier types. Twisted cord was instead common on Food Vessels (see below). There is a disparity between low-carinated Beakers and later forms in Sutherland, with the burial at Dornoch Nursery (NH15) providing the only evidence for early Beaker use in the region. Instead, most of the Beakers belong to later periods, potentially reflecting on different networks to those associated with early Beakers. This includes the development of tin alloying and the emergence of metalworking in areas such as Buchan (Needham 2004: 241).

The final arena of overlap includes the relationship of early Beakers to the existing ceramic repertoire. Evidence for overlap between Beakers and Grooved Ware is limited. In Orkney, Grooved Ware – or vessels developing from Grooved Ware – continued in use beyond the 25th century. These can be related to wider changes in Orkney that likely have their origin in the earlier part of the 3rd millennium, as evidenced in the use and closure of several sites (**Sections 5.2.5 & 7.7**). No evidence for early Beaker use has been recorded from Orkney or Shetland. The cord-decorated sherds from several sites are far too small for accurate reconstruction. Within the Highlands, finds of Grooved Ware are limited and poorly dated (**Sections 5.4 & 5.5**). At Culduthel Farm (SH17) the relationship between the Grooved Ware and Beaker assemblages is unclear, but the site is currently in the post-excavation stage of analysis. Current dating implies that there was no overlap between the two assemblages, with the Grooved Ware dating to the first and second quarter of the 3rd millennium (Fig. 5.41). Grooved Ware at the nearby site of Raigmore (SH44) appears to have continued in use beyond the 25th century, but caution should be expressed regarding these dates, given their wide ranges (*cf.* **App. F4**). The only other possible indication of overlap between early low-carinated Beakers and Grooved Ware comes from the single find at Dornoch Nursery (NH15), but the precise context and relationship of this sherd is unclear. Grooved Ware was found alongside sherds of Beakers at Freswick Sands (NH18), but the overall stratigraphy of the site is unclear. Furthermore, as noted in **Section 8.2.1**, it is not clear that all the pottery derives from the same site.

As highlighted by Needham in his review, these early Beakers form part of a “*circumscribed, exclusive culture*” (2005: 209). The spread and distribution of these could be related to the movement of individuals. This has in part been supported by recent isotopic and genetic analysis, which has identified several migrants. Within Scotland, the young adult from Sorisdale could have come from the Netherlands (Sheridan 2012b: 43), whilst the individual from Culduthel Mains (SH18) may have come from Ireland (*ibid.*: 38) (see also Olalde 2018: Supplementary Table 1 for recent genetic analyses of Scottish burials). Ongoing analysis as

part of the *Beaker People Project* indicates that the actual number of individuals with exotic origins is quite low. Instead, local mobility appears to have been more common (Parker Pearson 2016: 32, see also Parker Pearson *et al.* 2016). A variety of mechanisms must have been at play extending beyond mobility (*e.g.* Fokkens 2012). The potential overlap between the use of stone cists as at Dornoch Nursery (NH15) and New Broadford (SH41) points towards more complex models of interaction (*i.e.* Wilkin & Curtis 2012: 239; see also Anthony 1990). From the outset, elements of assemblages were subject to active processes of negotiation creating a suite of regional outcomes (see Roberts, B. & Frieman 2012). This process of acculturation was driven not only by mobility, but also the exchange of ideas and materials, in a similar fashion to the emergence of Neolithic lifestyles in the 4th millennium (Whittle *et al.* 2011: 848-74) or the spread of Grooved Ware and associated practices in the 3rd millennium. In this regard, the islands and bays of the west coast could have played a key role facilitating the rapid dissemination and movement of ideas and people (see Sturt & Garrow 2017). Maritime havens (see Bradley *et al.* 2015), as at the Ardnamurchan peninsula (SH2, SH3), and the machair sites of the Hebrides would have functioned as key nodal points in these emergent networks, providing loci for the exchange of materials and ideas. Considering this, it is tempting to see these scattered examples as contemporary with those found in funerary contexts, suggesting that from the outset early Beakers were deployed in a domestic context in certain regions.

Short-necked & S-profile

As highlighted by Sheridan, what happens between the 25th and 22nd century is not clear (2012b: 50-1). This lack of clarity is in part attributable to problems of chronological resolution and the limited sample available. From the 22nd century Beakers are frequently deposited in funerary contexts, associated with crouched inhumations. Alongside these funerary finds, Beakers are found in chambered cairns and domestic sites across the study area. Beaker forms are predominantly short-necked or s-profile (Fig. 10.5). The bulk of the dated short-necked Beakers fall post 2200 BC (Fig. 10.9). Given the small size of the sample the possibility of short-necked Beakers being used before 2200 BC cannot be dismissed (*cf.* Wilkin 2011b: 26). Recently modelled dates for northeast Scotland, suggest that short-necked vessels are used from 2340-2110 cal BC, overlapping in part with the use of low-carinated Beakers (Curtis & Wilkin 2012: Appendix 16.2) (Fig. 10.10). The dates from Fyrish (SH29) imply an early date, *c.* 2430-2140 cal BC (**App F4**). Based on its associations, however, it likely overlaps with the tall short-necked Beaker from Culduthel Mains (SH18), dated to 2280-

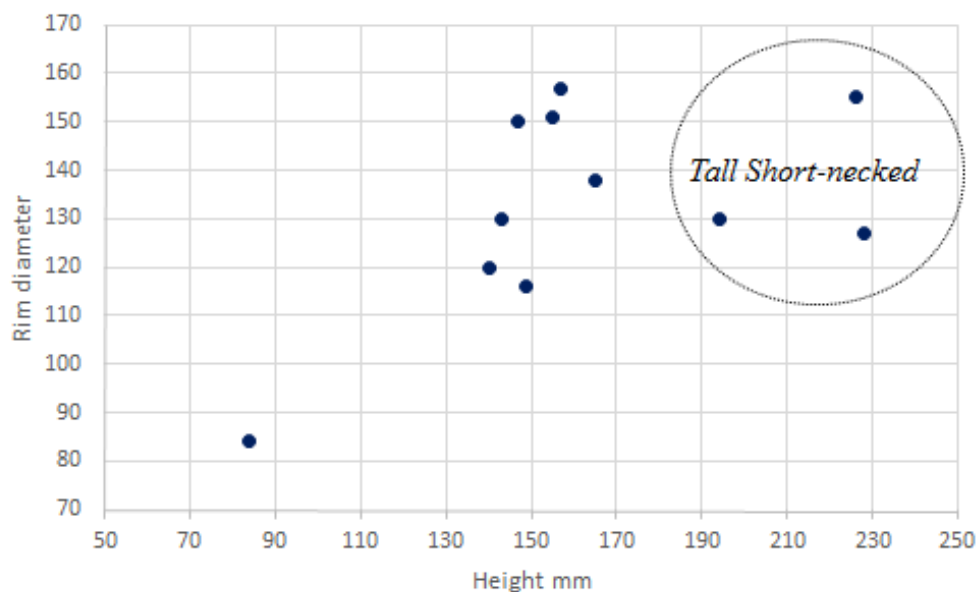


Figure 10.11: Height and rim diameter of short-necked Beakers

2030 cal BC (SUERC-26462) (**App. F4**) (cf. Curtis & Wilkin 2012: Figure 16.11) (Fig. 10.9)⁵. The burial at Culduthel Mains (SH18) forms part of a series of closely related burial practices employing C1 bracers of Langdale rock found in Scotland and England (Curtis & Wilkin *forthcoming*.) (see Fig 11.20). Beakers from these burials show typological similarities (*ibid.*), reinforced further by the recurrent association with male burials.

The available dates for s-profile vessels statistically overlap with short-necked Beakers extending from 2280-1880 cal BC (Fig 10.9). As with short-necked Beakers, the dates relate to a small percentage of the overall assemblage. Given the limited size of the sample further analysis is not possible, but the date would appear to suggest that communities drew on a range of Beaker forms for use in burial from c. 2300 cal BC. This trend mirrors the diversity found in early Beakers, with their varying emphasis on strongly carinated to s-profile vessels. Across Scotland, similar degrees of diversity are encountered, and hint at wider changes in craft traditions including a shift towards comb-decoration and thicker walled vessels, which tend to have a modular mode of construction, following the initial use of low-carinated forms (Curtis & Wilkin *forthcoming*).

In total, twelve short-necked Beakers were recorded, primarily from short-cists in association with inhumations. Evidence for the use of short-necked Beakers in domestic contexts was rare.

⁵ This date would overlap also more closely with the dating of other Scottish Beakers, including the example from Achavanich (NH4), placing it within the primary phase of Beaker use in Scotland.

Probable short-necked vessels were identified at the Links of Noltland (ORK10) and sherds at H1 Ness of Gruting (SFI5) could stem from necked vessels (Fig. 6.15). At other domestic sites, including Freswick Sands (NH18) and Easter Raitts (SH25) sherds from possible necked vessels were recorded but could not be attributed to a specific form (Figs. 8. 3 & 9.56). Short-necked vessels are known from the Hebrides, especially at Northton, where clear overlap between domestic and funerary vessels can be detected. Similar overlap can be seen among vessels from the Highlands, with vessel sizes, forms and decoration closely overlapping. On this basis there was no clear typological difference between those used in funerary and domestic contexts, suggesting that the importance of Beakers lay in its everyday function.

Short-necked vessels demonstrated a high degree of variation in their form. This includes distinctions in the definition of the belly with rounded and sharply carinated bellies recorded. Curtis and Wilkin drew attention to differences in size among short-necked Beakers, noting the presence of tall short-necked and globular short-necked varieties. The latter are particular to the northeast. Rim diameters across the study area ranged between 84-157mm (*n.* 12). Heights ranged from 84-228mm, clustering around 140-165mm (Fig. 10.11). Tall short-necked vessels (TSN) were limited to examples from Culduthel Mains (SH18), Auchindown (SH5) and Acharole (NH1). In contrast to other short-necked vessels, tall, short-necked Beakers have rim-height ratios of 0.55-0.67, supporting the notion of two broad groups of short-necked vessel, tall (> 190mm) and short/medium (<190mm) (Fig. 10.11). The latter group, comprising the vessel from Acharole (NH1) and Culduthel Mains (SH18) shares traits in common with Curtis and Wilkin's tall short-necked Beaker group. Where contextual information was available these vessels were in the Highland associated with adult males, echoing patterns of association in Aberdeenshire.

Short-necked vessels were decorated with a wide array of motifs, primarily created using comb in the North Highlands, and comb and incision in the South Highlands (Fig. 10.12). Further differences were noted, including a general lack of geometric designs on short-necked beakers in Inverness and Nairn, whilst these and metope panels were frequently noted outside these regions. In contrast, geometric patterns are found among Beakers from Moray and Aberdeenshire, including examples with motifs found on Irish lunulae (Curtis & Wilkin *forthcoming*). The vessel from Dalmore (SH19) closely overlaps with this group, with its use of filled triangle motifs. Unfortunately, its exact provenance cannot be stated with confidence (**Section 9.3.2**). Metope panels are frequently noted on both lunulae and Beakers (Taylor, J. 1970: 57; Clarke, D.L. 1970: 98). Both the s-profile Beaker from Blackstand (SH9) and Bruachaig (SH10) sported similar panels, comprising a plain rectangle with diagonal fringing.

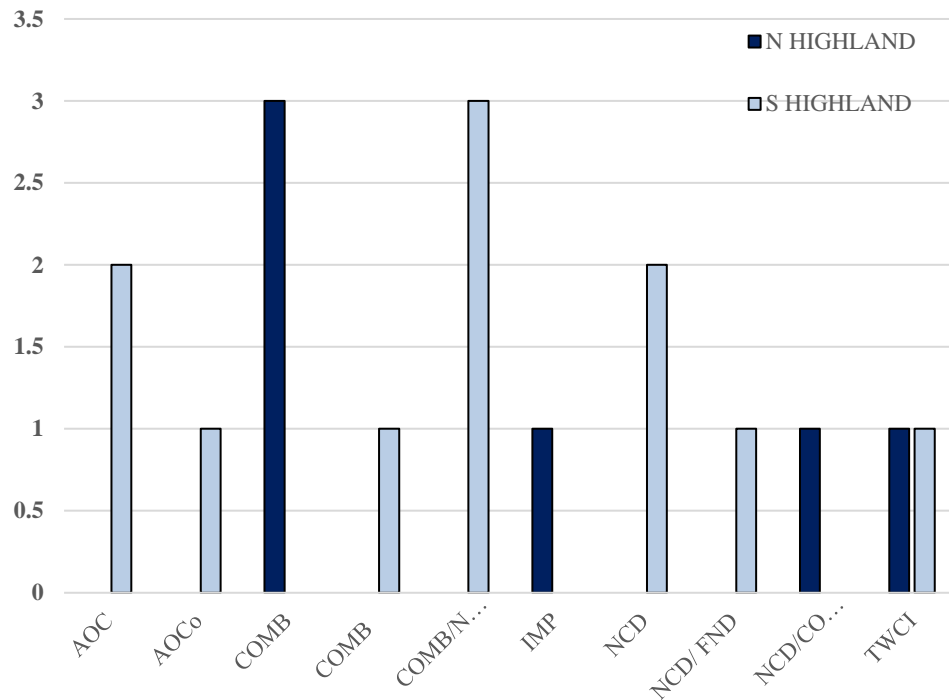


Figure 10.12: Decoration of short-necked Beakers by region

Key: *AOC.* All Over Cord, *AOCo.* All Over Comb, *COMB.* Comb, *COMB/NCD.* Comb and Incised, *IMP.* Impressed, *NCD.* Incised, *NCD/ FND.* Incised and fingernail *NCD/ COMB.:* Incised and comb, *TWCI.* Twisted Cord Impressions

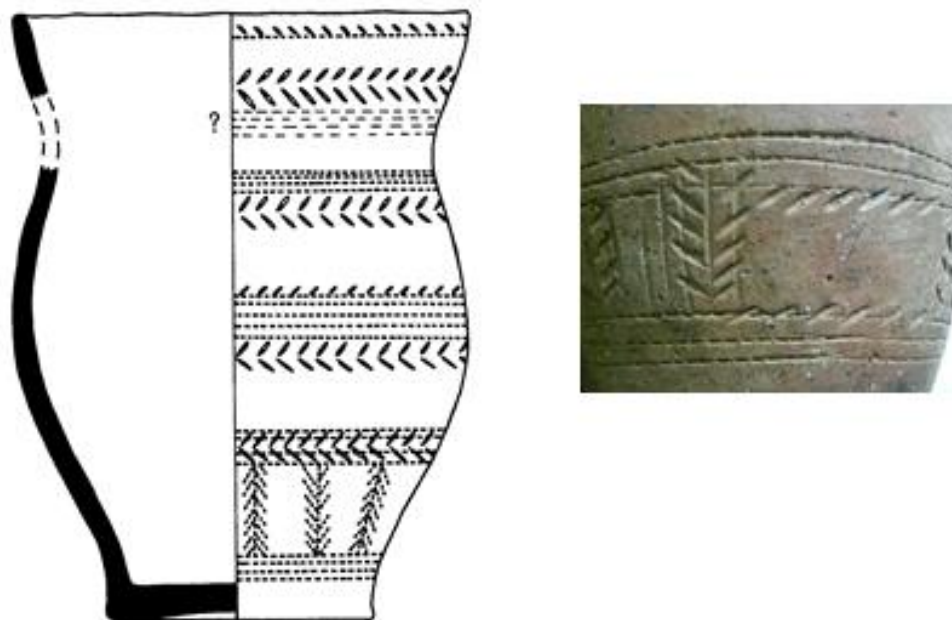


Figure 10.13: 'Feathering' effect on the short-necked Beaker from Auchindown (SH5), Nairn (Clarke, D.L. 1970: no 1727) and detail of 'feathering' effect on the Beaker from Drem, East Lothian (Millson 2013: Appendix 5: 16) (not to scale)

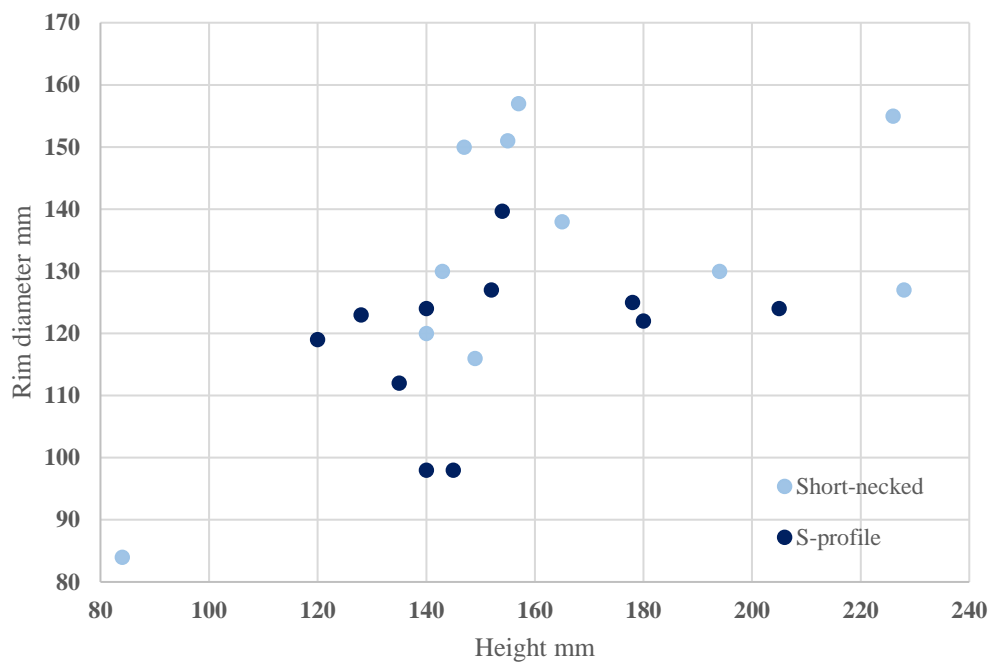


Figure 10.14: Comparison of height and rim diameter of short-necked and s-profile Beakers from the study area

Comparable motifs occur on Food Vessels, including the vessels from Camphouse, Jedburgh in the Scottish Borders and Alwinton, Northumberland. The presence and use of these geometric motifs indicate widespread networks extending to Ireland and Buchan (Curtis & Wilkin *forthcoming*, but see also Roberts, B. & Frieman 2012). Similar motifs occur on other artefact types including jet necklaces, which closely mirror lunulae in terms of form and decoration (Jones, A. 2001: 341). Similar wide-ranging motifs occur in the earlier 3rd millennium among Grooved Ware and rock art, reflecting on broader processes of citation and memory (**Section 5.2.4**).

One unusual motif was the feathered effect on the Auchindown (SH5) Beaker, which is comparable to the barley grain impression recorded on a Beaker from Drem, East Lothian (Millson 2013: 194) (Fig. 10.13). A similar effect was created on the Beaker from Rudh an Dunain cairn, but here the use of the motif creates a fringing effect. Three short-necked vessels were decorated with deep grooves demarcating the neck from the body. At Chealamy (NH11) the grooving extended up to the rim, rather than a narrow band demarcating the neck from the body. Grooving was common on s-profile vessels with at least six recorded examples. The use of grooving was seen by Clarke as a key feature of his Northern group, which primarily included short-necked forms (Needham 2005: 191) (Fig. 3.5).

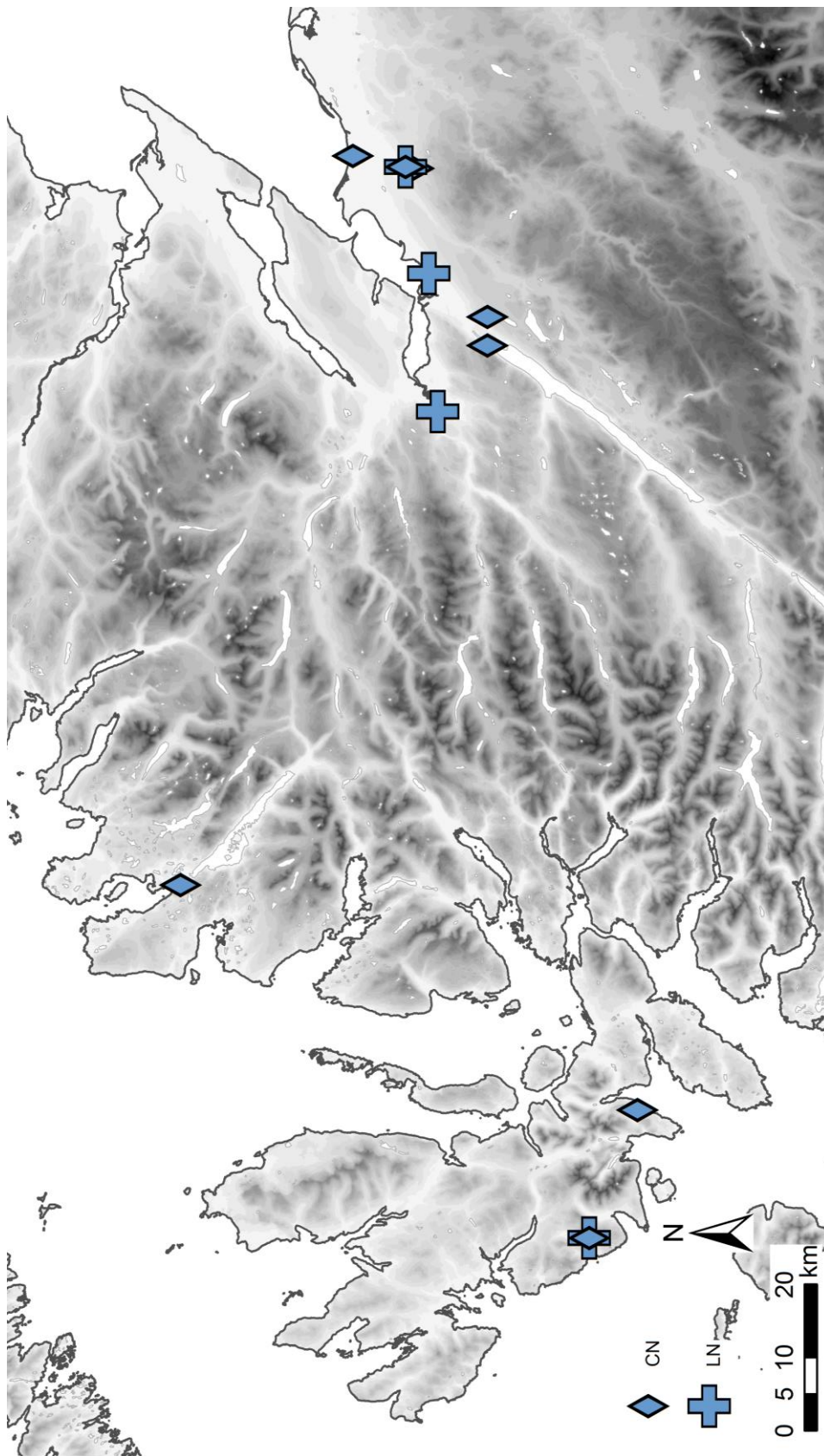


Figure 10.15: *Distribution of long and cupped-necked Beakers in the Highlands*

S-profiled vessels demonstrated similar degrees of variability in decoration and form to short-necked vessels. Fourteen s-profile vessels (including weak s-profile) were recorded from non-domestic contexts across Inverness and Ross and Cromarty (Figs. 10.4 & 10.5). Examples from domestic contexts were noted in Shetland and Orkney, including the large vessel from Rinyo (ORK16). Forms were typically mid-bellied with curving profiles. Heights ranged between 120-205mm in height, occupying a smaller size range than short-necked vessels (Fig. 10.14). Rim diameters ranged from 98-140mm overlapping with recorded diameters for short-necked vessels. As with short-necked vessels, heights were often greater than rim diameters, with rim-height ratios between 0.6-0.96. In several cases, distinguishing between short-necked and s-profile vessels was problematic, where necks were weakly defined from the body (*e.g.* Blackstand (SH9), Achavanich (NH4)). As with the distinction in bellies among low-carinated vessels, such variation in the angle/ definition of the neck would be within the control of the potter (see **Chapter 2**). Based on present evidence, this variation does not appear to correlate with contextual aspects including age and sex (**Chapter 11**). S-profile vessels in contrast to short-necked vessels featured simpler decorative schemes with a preference for simple lines or cross hatching/ lattice. Zig-zag motifs were also unique to s-profile vessels, cupped-necked and long-necked forms.

Cupped & long-necked

The latest recorded Beaker from the study area is the vessel from Lochend (SH37) dated to 1950-1760 cal BC (OxA-V-2172-27) (**App. F4**). No dates were available for the rest of the assemblage. Cupped-necked (*n.*8) and long-necked forms (*n.*7) were only documented from the south Highlands, concentrated around Cawdor, with a second cluster in Skye (Fig. 10.15). Only one cupped-necked Beaker was recorded from Ross & Cromarty, at Poolewe (SH43), but the form and mode of decoration is analogous to those from Nairn (Fig. 10.12). Long-necked forms were created by extending the neck and likely represent a later development of tall short-necked vessels (Curtis & Wilkin *forthcoming*). Most of the long-necked vessels from the study area were defined based on calculated neck length (*i.e.* Balblair (SH6)), but it is important to note that such considerations were not likely taken by the potter. The extension of the neck can be subtle and – as with s-profile and short-necked Beakers – represents a distinct choice on behalf of the potter. Long-necked vessels were broadly divided into two groups:

- **Narrow:** Vessels with carinated profile and relatively narrow proportions. Only recorded at Seafield West (SH48). Decorated in two broad zones.

- **Globular:** Rounded bellies and bodies were more common (*i.e.* Cawdor Estates (SH13), Cnocan Na Gobhar (SH14), Coille Grulla (SH15)).

Cupped-necked vessels were 160-198mm tall, with rim diameters of 134-157mm. Rim to height ratios 0.69-0.92, with RDN where available 0.33-0.46 (*n.* 3). As with the long-necked vessels, bodies were typically globular, in some cases creating a figure of eight-shape, as at Auchindown (SH5), Coille Grulla (SH15), Drumashie (SH21), and Lochend (SH37). Alternatively, vessels could sport shallow cupped-necks with high shoulders, as at Easter Delnies (SH23) and Poolewe (SH43) (Fig. 9.36). Decoration was varied, with clear distinctions between regions. The cupped-necked vessels from Skye were decorated in two broad zones with geometric patterns. Those from Nairn and Ross and Cromarty were decorated in three narrow zones with simple motifs, including criss-cross straight lines and chevrons. The mode of decoration overlaps with long-necked vessels, reinforcing the relationship between the two vessel types. In Skye, long-necked and cupped-necked vessels were found together at Coille Grulla (SH15), suggesting that both forms were in use contemporaneously. This is supported by dating evidence from elsewhere in Scotland, where long and cupped-necked vessels were in use from the 22nd century cal BC (Wilkin 2011b: 30). The sherds from Howe (ORK7) could belong to a similar cupped form, but the overall profile is unclear.

Undiagnostic

Alongside those vessels for which forms could be assigned, 28 of the non-domestic vessels could not be assigned a form. The presence of diagnostic features, including bellies, allowed for the placing of these tentatively to the Beaker group. Examples of indeterminate Beakers were recorded from several chambered cairns in Orkney (**Section 7.5**). In the case of the vessels from the cist at Kewing (ORK8) and the Knowe of Yarso (ORK9) chambered cairn, the attribution to the Beaker group is tentative, given the small and fragmentary state of the sherds. Vessels from chambered cairns in Orkney showed a preference for shell impressed decoration (*e.g.* Papa Westray North (ORK13), Howe (ORK7)). Shell impressions were noted in Shetland and at Ardnamurchan (SH2, SH3). The final unusual form is the Loch More (NH23) vessel. As discussed, it could be assigned to either Beaker or Food Vessel, based on its morphology. The vessel was tentatively described as a double-cavetto Food Vessel and was compared to EQ634 from Embo (NH17). However, parallels were drawn with the vessels from Knockdoon, which are of similar form (**Section 8.3.3**) (Fig. 8.36). In the absence of radiocarbon dating, the date of the vessel and its relationship to Food Vessels remains unclear. Importantly, the vessel could represent a blurring of the two traditions, creating a vessel that is neither one nor the other.

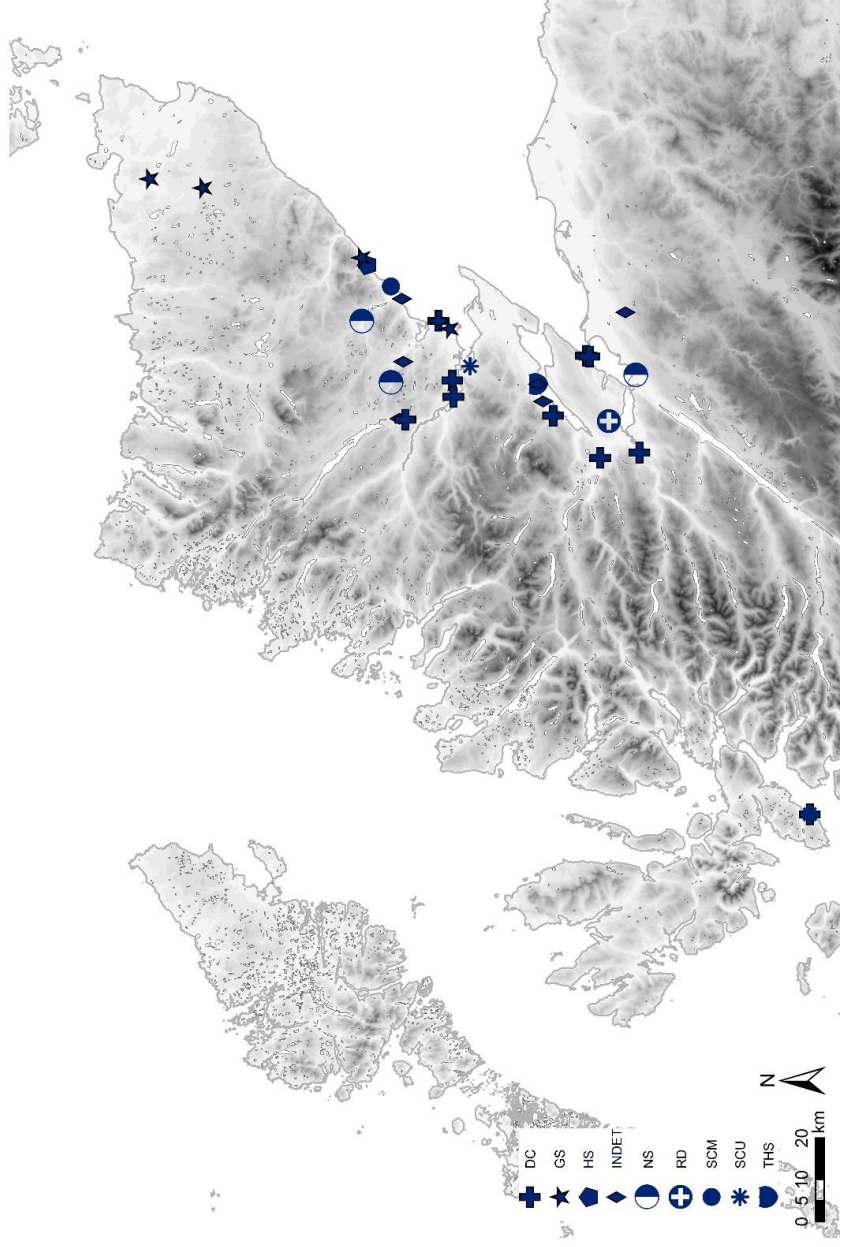


Figure 10. 16: Distribution of Food Vessels in the Highlands

DC. Double-cavetto, *GS.* Grooved-shoulder, *HS.* High-shouldered, *SIMP.* Simple SCM, *Single cavetto middle, SCU.* Single cavetto upper, *THS.* Tall high-shouldered, *HS.* High-shouldered *INDET.* Indeterminate

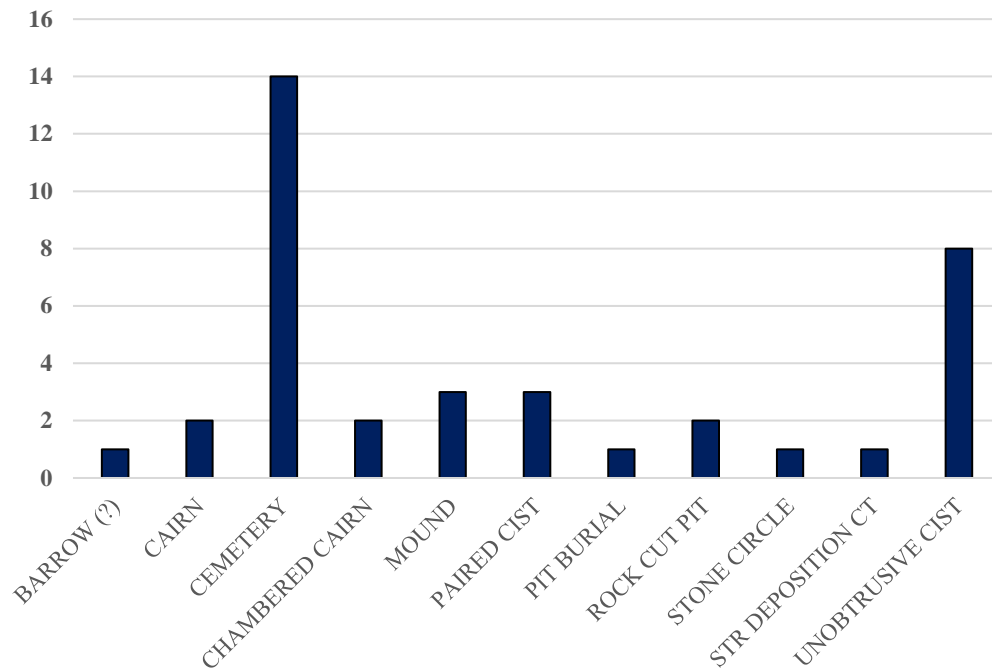


Figure 10.17: *Count of Food Vessels by principal parent context (see App. H1 for definition of parent contexts)*

10.3.2 Food Vessels: Vases & Bowls

Food Vessels were recorded from thirty-one sites across the study area, totalling forty-one vessels (see **App. A**). These were recovered from funerary contexts, comprising inhumation or cremation burials placed in unobtrusive cists or cemetery sites (Fig. 10.17). A single non-funerary example was recorded from a niche in the chambered cairn at Cnoc na Ciste (NH12). Sherds of Food Vessels were recorded from Rosemarkie (SH45), which could derive from domestic contexts. Fragments of shouldered vessels and expanded rims, were noted at Freswick Sands (NH18), Rudh an Dunain (SH47) and possibly Rosskeen (SH46). Expanded rims were common in Shetland, with examples recorded from Sumburgh Airport (SFI12) and the Pund of Burland (SFI8), but the precise nature of these vessels is unclear (**Section 6.2.2**). Finds of Food Vessels were rare outside of the Highlands, except for the high-shouldered vessels from Corrigan (ORK5) and Redland (ORK15), and the tall, high-shouldered vessels from Sand Fiold (ORK17) and Culla Voe (SFI2). The latter vessels share characteristics in common with other Food Vessel Urns. The use of circular motifs on the Sand Fiold (ORK17) is well represented on Food Vessel Urns north of the Forth (Cowie, T. 1978: 385).

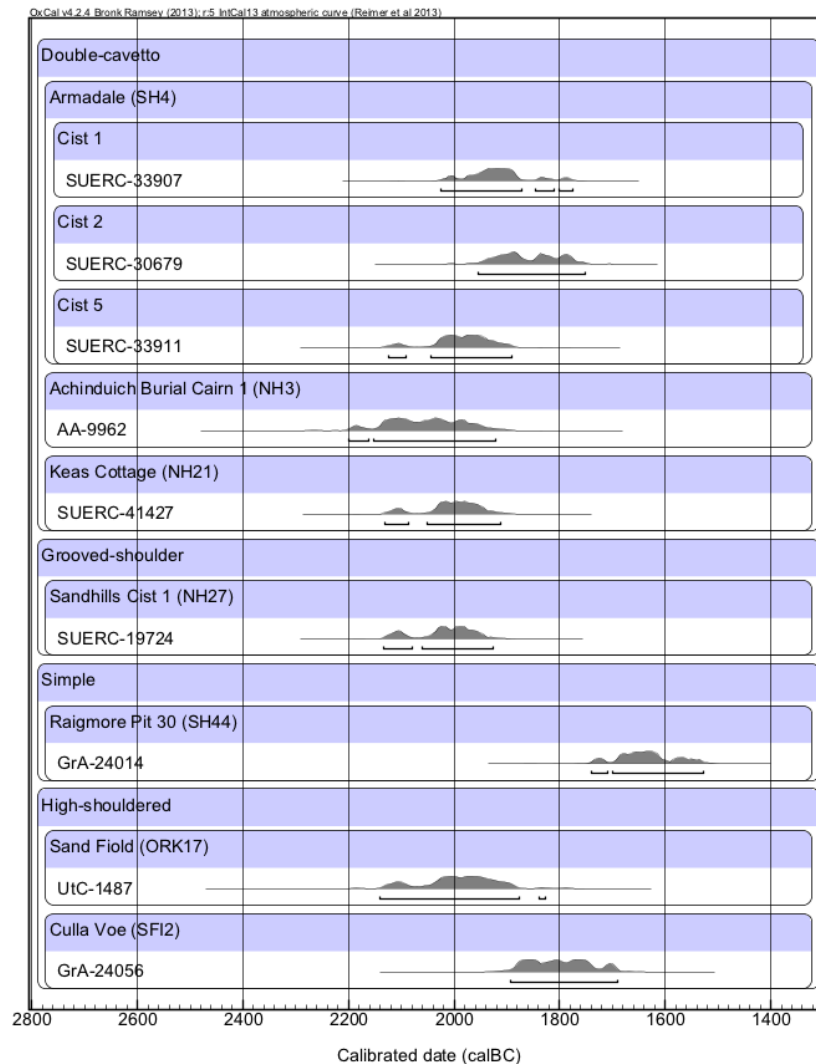


Figure 10.18: Calibrated radiocarbon dates for Food Vessels from the study area (see Apps. F1, F2, F3 & F4 for details)

Food Vessels were primarily recorded north of the Dornoch Firth, extending along the Golspie coast (Fig.10.16). Within this region, double-cavetto forms were preferred alongside grooved-shouldered vessels. A second dispersed cluster of Food Vessels was recorded between the Beauly and Cromarty Firth, comprising double and single-upper cavetto zoned vessels. Within Inverness and Nairn, finds of Food Vessels were restricted to the bowl from Seafeld West (SH48), the simple Food Vessel from Raigmore (SH44), the sherds from Auchindown (SH5) and Balblair Wood (SH7) (Section 9.3.3). Instead late Beaker forms, cupped and long-necked vessels were common, suggesting marked regional differences in ceramics from c.2100 BC. In this light, Ross & Cromarty bridges the Food Vessel employing zones of Sutherland and late Beakers of Inverness and Nairn (Fig. 9.41).

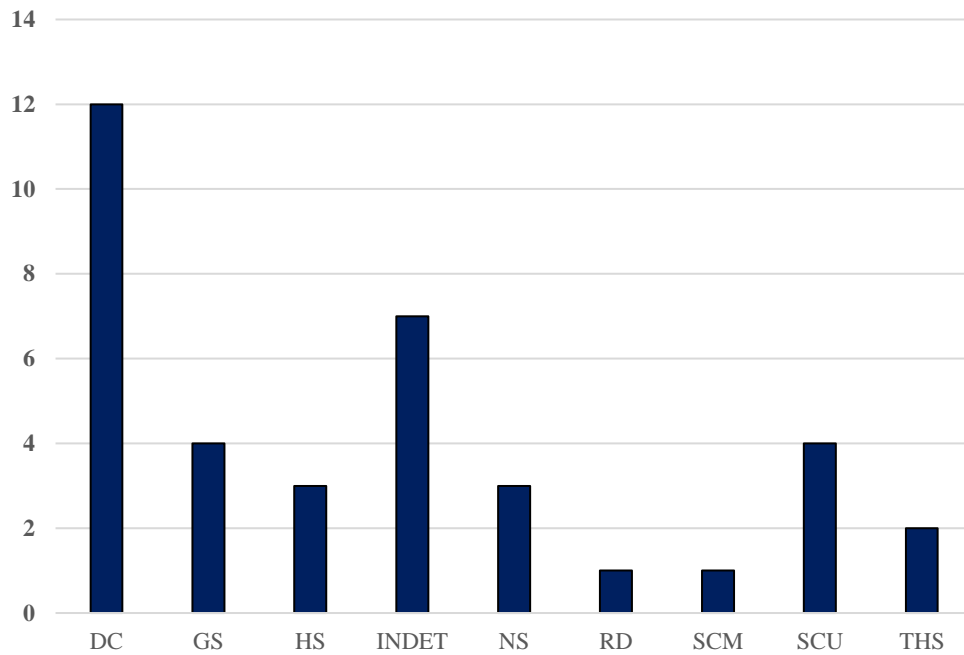


Figure 10.19: *Count of principal Food Vessel forms from across the study area*

Key: *DC. Double-cavetto, GS. Grooved-shoulder, HS. High-shouldered, INDET. Indeterminate, NS. Simple, RD. Ridged, SCM. Single-cavetto middle, SCU. Single-cavetto upper, THS. Tall high-shouldered*

Understanding the temporal relationship of Food Vessels to Beakers is hampered by the limited number of radiocarbon dates (Fig. 10.18). Half of the available dates for Food Vessels relate to double-cavetto vessels, chiefly those from the cemetery at Armadale (SH4). Here, double-cavetto vessels were employed from 2130-1750 cal BC (Fig. 10.18) (**App. F4**). This overlaps with the dates for the double-cavetto zone vessels from Achinduich (NH3), 2200-1920 cal BC (AA-9962) (**App. F3**) and Keas Cottage (NH21), 2140-1910 cal BC (SUERC-41427) (Fig. 10.18) (**App. F4**). Statistically, the single date from Sandhills (NH27), 2140-1920 cal BC (SUERC-19724) (**App. F3**) overlaps with double-cavetto vessels. The tall high-shouldered vessel from Sand Fiold (ORK17) dated to 2140-1820 cal BC (UtC-1487), and Culla Voe (SFI2), 1900-1680 cal BC (GrA-24056) (**App. F1**) fall slightly later. The latter vessel, whilst sharing aspects in common with Vase Urns (Brindley 2007; Cowie, R. 2005), can be positioned within the broader repertoire of vessels in Shetland with deep bevelled rims (**Section 6.3.3**). The simple Food Vessel from Raigmore (SH44) is late in the sequence 1740-1520 cal BC (GrA-24014) but has a wide standard deviation (see **App. F4**). The vessel from Dalmore (SH19) was paralleled with other encrusted urns, including those from Ireland. Irish

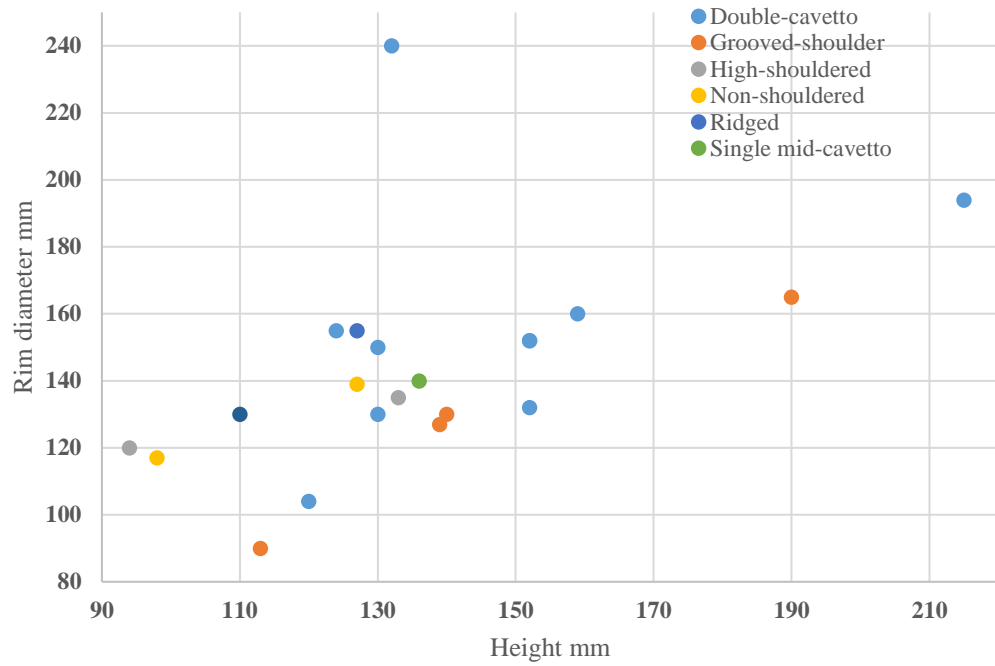


Figure 10.20: Height and rim diameter of Food Vessels from study area (excluding tall high-shouldered)

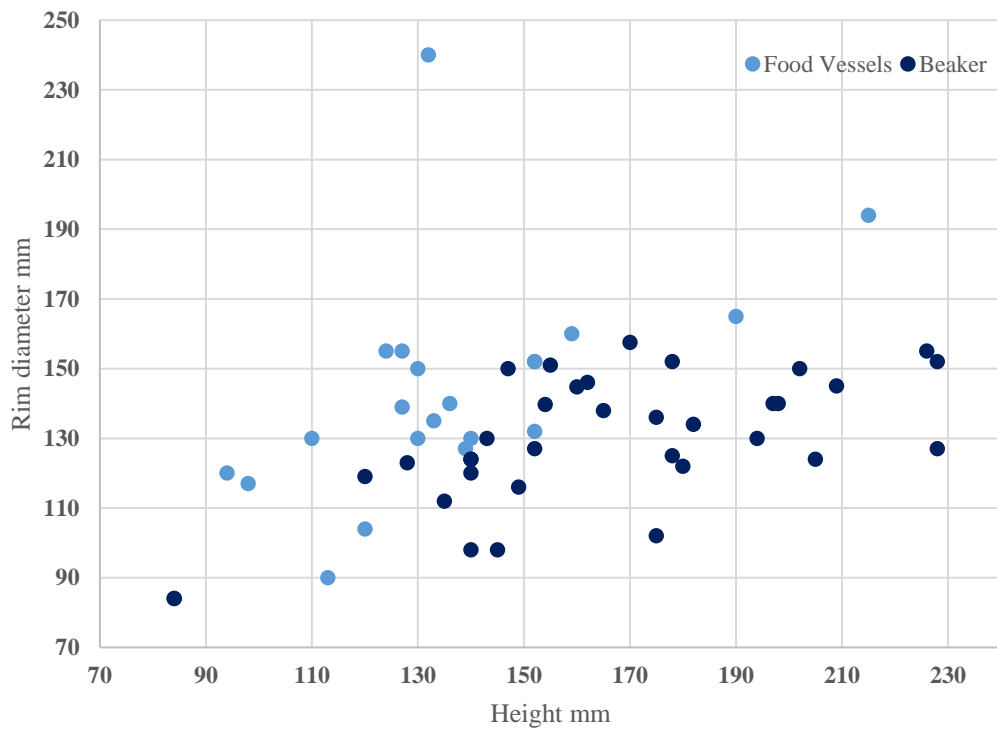


Figure 10.21: Heights and rim diameters of Food Vessels compared to Beakers from the study area

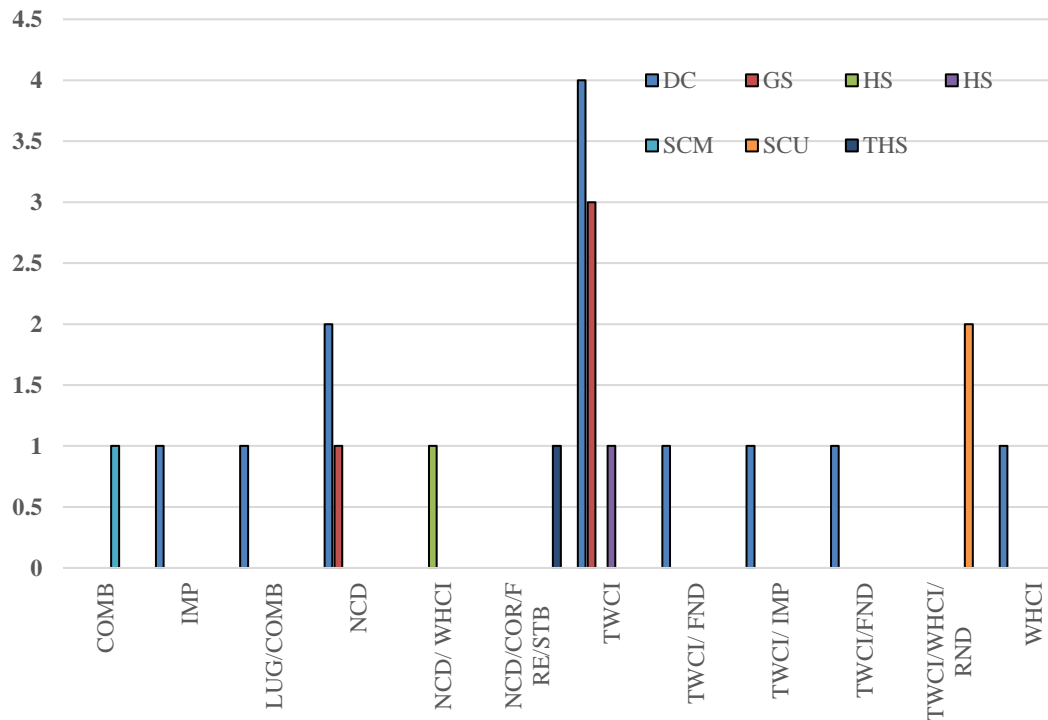


Figure 10.22: Food Vessel principal decorative techniques by form

Key: Forms: *DC.* Double-cavetto, *GS.* Grooved shoulder, *HS.* High-shouldered, *NS.* Simple *SCM.* Single-cavetto middle, *SCU.* Single cavetto upper, *THS.* Tall high shouldered

Key: Decorative techniques: *COMB.* Comb impressed, *IMP.* Impressed decoration, *LUG.* Lugs, *NCD.* Incised, *WHCI.* Whipped cord impressions, *STB.* Stabbed impressions, *TWCI.* Twisted cord, *FND.* Fingernail decoration

Encrusted Urns are in use between 2000 BC and 1900 BC, lasting until c. 1740 BC (Brindley 2007: 274). As noted in **Chapter 9**, the association of the vessel from the Aonach (SH50) with a fragment of bronze could be indicative of a post 2100 BC date. Although limited, the available dates imply a late phase of Food Vessel use, overlapping with late Beaker forms which include cupped-necked and long-necked vessels. In Inverness, the distribution of late Beaker forms overlaps with Food Vessels at Seafield West (SH48), Nairn / Cawdor (SH5, SH13), and Balblair (SH6, SH7). There are points of overlap between the two groups, with similar motifs being cited on both forms, suggesting a sharing and blending of traits across the regions. Importantly, while points of overlap exist, Food Vessels exhibit key differences in form and manufacture, which serve to physically differentiate Food Vessels from Beakers. Rounded bowls – with or without grooves – were rare, with only two examples recorded. A third possible example was recorded alongside a complete bowl from the Ord North (NH26). Of the squat, bowl-like vessels, the vessel from Seafield West (SH48) can be compared to Irish

examples, and those from Ord North (NH26) with Burgess' category of Irish Scottish Bowls (Fig. 2.6).

Double-cavetto

Food Vessel forms were heterogenous but connected through the citation of recurrent elements of form and decoration (Wilkin 2013: 23). There was a general preference for Food Vessels with two cavetto zones (Fig. 10.19). Forms ranged from tall 'vase'-like vessels to squat vessels, with bowl like proportions (Fig. 10.20). The heights of Food Vessels closely overlapped with the lower end of Beakers, with vessels measuring between 80-150mm, suggesting a use in serving roles. In contrast, a large proportion of Beakers measured over 150mm, with narrower rim diameters (Fig 10.21). These sub-forms typically comprised single examples, each with their own "*individual personality*" (Pierpoint 1980: 63). Individuality was expressed through the manipulation of different variables, including form and decoration. This variety stems from choices made by potters of the region rather than being connected to funerary practice (*i.e.* Grogan & Roche 2010: 38) (*cf.* **Chapter 9**). As noted in **Chapter 2**, the construction processes involved in the production of Food Vessels creates a series of key choices as the vessel is built up (Wilkin 2013).

In each of the defined sub-forms the position, width and depth of the cavetto zones varied considerably. At Little Creich (NH22) and Old Manse, Rosemarkie (SH42), the vessels had a wide lower zone with a narrow zone above, whilst the finer vessel from Keas Cottage (NH21) comprised two narrow zones positioned high on the body (Figs. 8.34 & 9.48). In several examples, the definition of the upper cavetto zone was compounded by the relative shallowness of the feature. V155 from Achinduich (NH3), has a narrow (less than 1cm) upper zone, with a prominent ridge separating the upper and lower zones. The vessel from Ness Gap (SH40) also appears to have a narrow upper zone, but this attribution is based on the available photographs. These differences in zone can be related to the way coils were added and joined (Sheridan 1993: 45). This modular approach to construction facilitates the addition and manipulation of a range of features, including shoulders, lugs and rims (Law, R. 2008; Wilkin 2013: 74) (Fig. 4.9).

Double-cavetto vessels from across the region ranged from 120-159mm tall, with rim diameters of 104-240mm. Seven had rim diameters greater than or equal to their height, creating squat, bowl-like vessels, with rim/height ratios of 0-1.8 in contrast to tall narrow vessels, 0.86-0.9 (Fig 10.20). This includes examples previously classed as tripartite bowls, which demonstrate typological links with Ireland and other parts of Scotland. In total, six squat

double-cavetto vessels were defined (Tables 8.8 & 9.8). These showed a high degree of consistency in terms of form, having a roughly tripartite appearance, with the zones of the vessel being marked out by raised ribs. These were often marked out by decoration, creating a series of distinct zones. False relief was employed on the squat double-cavetto vessels from Armadale (SH4) and Easter Moy (SH24), while paired crescentic impressions were used, creating a false relief-like effect on the vessel from Little Creich (NH22). EQ634 from Embo (NH17) sported false relief, but the precise form of the vessel is unknown. The range of decorative motifs and their overall arrangement is similar to Pot 1 from Armadale (SH4). Pot 1 from Armadale (SH4) finds close parallel with examples from southeast and southwest Scotland as well as Ireland (Sheridan unpub; Young 1951). Among these are examples from Barns Farm (Watkins 1982) and Gairneybank (Cowie, T. & Ritchie, G. 1991), both of which sport distinct profiles with two raised ribs. In its use of multiple horizontal twisted cord, the vessel from Cist 2 at Gairneybank provides a close parallel for the decoration at Little Creich (NH22). These vessels share characteristics with Brindley's Stage 1 bowls, dated to 2160-2080 cal BC (**Section 2.3**; Figure 2.8). The Food Vessel from Kishorn is of similar form, although its exact provenance is unknown (Fig. 8.22).

As shown in the case of Rosemarkie (SH42) and Balblair Wood (SH7) tripartite forms occur with vase like proportions where the height is greater than the rim diameter. These comprised vessels with narrow upper and broad lower cavetto zones. At Aonach (SH50) the cavetto zones were filled with alternating lugs, overlapping in part with grooved-shouldered forms, which frequently employed stop gaps and lugs. This overlap is reinforced using a broad expanded rim, creating a roughly square collar with a broad internal bevel. The form of the vessel is outwardly like Manby's Type 1B Yorkshire Vase, as at Hagworm Hill Cist 1 (Coombs 1994). The all-over herringbone decoration of the Old Manse, Rosemarkie (SH42) vessel is not unusual, and occurs widely on Food Vessels, including those from Yorkshire⁶ and Ireland (Wilkin 2013: 58). The use of all-over herringbone on Pot 2 from Armadale (SH4) reinforces this connection, with comparable all-over schemes being widely recorded. Among these are the various examples from Ardnave. The large vessel from Armadale Cist 1 (SH4) is a notable outlier of the group, measuring up to 215mm tall and with a rim diameter of 190mm. On this basis, the vessel could be assigned to Cowie's Food Vessel Urn group (see **Section 2.4**). Rims were typically bevelled; the inner edge being decorated. Decoration of the exterior was predominantly impressed, with twisted cord recorded on seven vessels (Fig. 10.22). In two

⁶ *Examples of whipped cord herringbone decorated vessels were recorded from Lean Low, Cross Low and Wardlow (Manby 1957)*

cases twisted cord was combined with fingernail impressions, and in a single case with triangular false relief.

Grooved Shouldered

In contrast to double-cavetto vessels, grooved-shouldered vessels showed greater consistency in form and decoration. The vessels from Crackaig (NH14), Achinchanter (NH2) and Sandhill (NH27) bore two horizontal grooves above the shoulder (Fig. 8.32). The Sandhill and Crackaig (NH14) Food Vessels bore triangular stop gaps, whilst the Achinchanter (NH2) vessel grooves were filled with perforated lugs. The Achinchanter (NH2) vessel is further separated from the other two examples through its use of incisions instead of twisted cord. In terms of height, the Crackaig (NH14) vessel is 190mm, whilst the others had squat proportions. The latter two were recovered in association with inhumations, whilst at Crackaig (NH14) no details of the burial are recorded. The close similarities between the three vessels suggest they could have been made by the same potter or draw on similar ideas. Outwardly, these vessels share aspects in common with Yorkshire Vases: in the case of Achinchanter (NH2) all-over herringbone was used, which occurs also on double cavetto forms.

A further example from Cnoc Na Ciste (NH12) bore only a single groove around the shoulder but sported a collar-like rim like the other three examples. Furthermore, like the Sandhills (NH27) and Crackaig (NH14) Food Vessels, the exterior is decorated with twisted cord, which extends onto the inner bevel of the rim. The upper section of the body is concave and could equate to a broad cavetto zone, as in the case of the single-cavetto zoned vessel from Armadale (SH4).

Single -cavetto

Five single cavetto zoned vessels were recorded, predominantly from Ross and Cromarty. The example from Brora (NH8) sported a narrow cavetto zone around the waist (mid-cavetto (SMC)), whilst in the remaining examples the cavetto zone was placed above the shoulder (upper-cavetto (SCU)). Two of these were recovered as pair from Dalmore (SH19), whilst a sherd of a further vessel was recovered from Carriblair (SH12). As with double-cavetto zoned vessels, these demonstrated considerable diversity in aspects of decoration, rim and size. The single mid-cavetto vessel from Brora (NH8) was decorated with comb impressions. Two examples from the South Highlands sported mixed decorative schemes, comprising twisted and whipped cord alongside rounded impressions. The sherd from Carriblair (SH2) shares decorative aspects in common with the Keas Cottage (NH21) vessel. In Ross and Cromarty, single-cavetto vessels were associated with cremations, whilst Pot 4 (SF50) from Armadale

(SH4), was found with an inhumation. Owing to the limited number of radiocarbon dates, it is not possible to ascertain whether this relates to chronological or regional differences.

High-shouldered

High shouldered vessels including tall examples (> 190mm) were primarily recorded from Orkney and Shetland. These included the tall high-shouldered vessels from Sand Fiold (ORK17) and Culla Voe (SFI2), and the small high-shouldered vessels from Corrigall (ORK5) and Redland (ORK15). There were marked differences between the two, vessel size being the primary axis of distinction, but further divisions could be made based on decoration and morphology. The smaller vessels from Redland (ORK15) and Corrigall (ORK5) have been cited as examples of Beaker/ Food Vessel hybrids (MacSween unpub. c) but are – following the classifications used in this thesis – be described as high-shouldered vases. The high-shouldered vessels from the Highlands are morphologically distinct from the Northern Isles vessels. The vessel from Lothbeg (NH24) has no defined everted rim, instead having a simple collared-like top, the shoulder marked out with whipped cord maggots. The example from Dalmore (SH19) is more elaborate with applied zig-zag decoration. As noted previously, the form of the vessel is indicative of Encrusted Urns. The example from Dalmore (SH19) is one of twenty-three such vessels recorded by Cowie (1978). A notable cluster of such vessels occurs in northeast Scotland, extending down the east coast (Cowie, T. 1978: Map 1). The Dalmore (SH19) vessel thus represents the most northerly example of this type, highlighting the importance and position of the cemetery in wider networks of the period (see **Chapter 9**).

Simple

Simple Food Vessels, lacking defined shoulders, were limited to three examples. As with the other form groups, these showed considerable diversity. The vessel from Ascoilmore (NH6) had a slightly sinuous profile, whilst the Raigmore (SH44) vessel has a slight carination, with a prominent ridge around the midpoint of the vessel. In contrast to the Ascoilmore (NH6) vessel the Raigmore (SH44) pot is highly decorated with whipped cord maggot impressions. The ridge is marked with a series of square impressions, creating a false relief-like effect. Both vessels had slightly pedestaled bases. The Muie (NH25) vessel is decorated with multiple grooves and all-over herringbone. These are comparable to examples defined by Burgess as Irish Scottish rounded vases or globular bowls, representing an eclectic mix of bowl/ vase forms (1980: 90).

Ridged

The final group, ridged-vessels, comprised only a single example from the Mains of Kilcoy (SH39). The vessel was found with fragments of bone and charred wood, suggesting a cremation.

Indeterminate

Alongside these defined forms were seven indeterminate vessels. 57% of these were recorded from Sutherland and include the sherd from Embo (NH17), and the probable vessel from Carn Liath (NH10). From Dalmore (SH19) an additional Food Vessel was recorded, and a ridged sherd from a probable Food Vessel at Strath Fleet (NH29).

Rounded bowls

Rounded bowls were rare, with only two examples from Seafield West (SH48) and the Ord North (NH26). Fragments of a second bowl were recorded at the latter, although the form is unclear. The bowl from the Ord North (NH26) – in contrast to that from Seafield (SH48) – was simple with a rounded profile, whilst the Seafield West (SH48) vessel bore a distinctive waist. Differences extended to decoration with the Seafield West (SH48) bowl, decorated with twisted cord. The motifs employed overlap with those observed on Beakers. The vessel from the Ord North (NH26) is, in contrast, decorated by incisions and whipped cord impression. The examples from Seafield West (SH48) find close parallel to those from Ireland, and the additional artefacts from the site reinforce connections with Ireland.

10.3.3 Steatite

Examples of steatite vessels were recorded from Orkney, Fair Isle and Shetland. Only the Quandale (ORK14) vessels were dated to the period under study. A score of further examples were noted, but these were either undated or dated to periods later than that under study (Fig. 2.18)⁷. In Orkney, steatite vessels were primarily recorded from funerary contexts, but the possible abstraction of steatite vessels from domestic to funerary contexts cannot be ruled out. In Shetland, fragments were recorded in domestic and funerary contexts. Steatite was employed from an early date in Shetland with examples recorded from Sumburgh Cist and Scord of Brouster (SFI9). The single example from Fair Isle was recorded from a funerary

⁷ *Examples from Shetland were poorly dated, whilst examples were documented from Quarff, Flemington and a score of other cists, the date and precise contexts of these is unclear*

context (**Section 6.1**). Steatite was also employed as a tempering agent in Shetland, its use increasing into the 2nd millennium. During the 2nd millennium, heavily tempered steatite vessels are widely recorded, often in association with burnt mounds. The use of steatite to increase thermal shock resistance could be connected to the emergence of burnt mound technology. In Orkney, steatite is employed as a tempering agent in the Phase 3 assemblage at Tofts Ness (ORK19) (MacSween 2007c: 263).

Forms ranged from bucket/ tub shapes, to broad shallow vessels. Bucket/ tub vessels at Muckle Heog East also included examples of irregular square and oval shaped vessels (Fig. 6.37). Vessels deployed in funerary contexts typically measured 160-180mm tall. Later examples from Linga Fiold and Loth Road, in Orkney measured 630mm tall and 178mm respectively. These also showed evidence for sooting, possibly suggesting their placement on the funeral pyre. Whilst the outer surfaces of the Quandale (ORK14) vessel are discoloured it is unclear if this relates to the placing of the vessel into the pyre.

10.3.3 Bucket/ tub

Bucket/ tub vessels were recorded from ten non-domestic sites and eight domestic sites. Bucket/ tub vessels demonstrated a degree of variability across the study area. Incised bucket tub vessels were recorded from four sites in Orkney, Braes Ha'Breck (ORK3), Ness of Brodgar (ORK11), Tofts Ness (ORK19) and Crossiecrown (ORK6). Based on form and decoration, the vessel from Newhouse (ORK12), can be attributed to this group as well. Vessels were predominantly recorded as wall sherds, deriving from angled or barrel-shaped vessels. At domestic sites in Shetland bucket/ tub vessels tended to have straight sides or curved walls. Examples from H1 Ness of Gruting (SFI5) were decorated with applied/ raised ribs and incision, characteristics that are found on Grooved Ware and, to a lesser extent, Beakers from domestic sites. In the Highlands, probable bucket/ tub vessels were noted at Freswick Sands (NH18) but the dating of these is unclear. In the case of the latter, vessels were highly fragmentary, preventing full reconstruction of form. This coarse undiagnostic pottery has often been overlooked owing to difficulties of dating and recognition. In several cases, vessels have been assigned to the broad group of flat rim ware (see **Section 4.3.5**). It has been suggested that some vessels attributed to this group could be undecorated Grooved Ware (Cowie, T. & MacSween 1998: 54).

Despite their ubiquitous nature these vessels serve a range of important roles, providing the core of domestic assemblages and later overlapping into funerary contexts. Being grouped

under such labels as ‘flat rim ware’, masks the importance of such vessels during the period. This includes their role as storage and preparatory vessels. Given their affordances, these vessels represent a potentially stable category that is employed over an extensive period. This contrasts with specialised forms, such as Beakers and Food Vessels, which are linked to specific contexts and ideas. As highlighted in the case of Orkney, whilst highly decorated Grooved Ware declines, bucket/ tub forms continue to be employed. For a period, these are decorated using incised schemes, employing chevron motifs. By the 2nd millennium, bucket/ tub vessels, as at Liddle and Beaquoy, are increasingly plain (Fig. 7.17). Similar processes can be detected in Shetland, where vessels are highly decorated for a period before eventually giving way to plain forms. These shifts in decoration indicates changes in the wider relations in which pots are involved. Pots during the 2nd millennium are increasingly deployed in less visible contexts, being used as everyday wares. Whilst bucket/ tub vessels are employed in cremation burials their role appears to primarily be as a container for remains, rather than as part of feasts or to contain grave goods. This contrasts with the more visible roles performed by highly decorated Grooved Ware in the 3rd millennium. Bucket and tub shaped-vessels thus provide a useful barometer for considering the wider roles and relations of pottery across the period, including changing fashions and modes of consumption. As discussed in **Chapter 3** through considering these wider engagements and changes in the overall assemblage (*i.e.* contexts of use, other artefact types, wider ideas of consumption and/ or funerary rites) a more nuanced view of ceramic change emerges, one that extends beyond the simple identification of types. The roles of these vessels and their interrelationships will be further considered in the following chapter.

10.3.4 Other forms

In addition to the defined forms, a range of other vessels were recorded, primarily from domestic sites, that do not fit into any of the above categories. These vessels form a key part of fluid ceramic assemblages and are predominantly associated with domestic sites. The use of varied forms, including bucket/ tub vessels in domestic contexts can be linked to the range of roles undertaken. These include roles of storage, consumption and food preparation (**Section 3.3.2**). Crucially, these pots often incorporate aspects of Beakers or Food Vessels, but in distinct and often unpredictable ways. These mixed forms include the regional forms defined for Shetland, and the round-shouldered jars from Kiltaraglen (SH35). The round-shouldered jars from Kiltaraglen (SH35) can be compared with other globular forms, including

Pot 5 from Eweford West (MacGregor & Stuart 2007: 91), and further south at Shoebury (Clarke, D.L. 1970: 325).

The pottery from Shetland can be cited as having elements in common with all the principal traditions discussed in this thesis. As noted in **Chapter 6**, however, in the absence of a clear regional sequence the relationship of these to each other and the long-term sequence within the area is difficult to determine. Distinct forms include the proto-collared vessels from H1 Ness of Gruting (SFI5) and the Pund of Burland (SFI8), as well as the large round-shouldered vessels from Scord of Brouster (SFI9). Deeply bevelled rims were noted at several other sites, attributable to Food Vessels or Beakers (see above). One further point of note is the marked differences between sites as argued in the case of H1 Ness Gruting (SFI5) and Sumburgh Airport (SFI13). Whether this represents chronological or social differences is unclear. Given the high degree of diversity across the region, the significance of these remains to be examined further. That said, the presence of expanded rims on vessels at Sumburgh Airport and from the Pund of Burland (SFI8) overlap in certain aspects with the vessel from Culla Voe (SFI2), suggesting a date post-2100 cal BC.

Overall, the vessels from Shetland represent a range of regional coarse wares with a diverse array of mixed attributes. Disentangling the direction of influences is fraught with complications, but traits traditionally associated with Beakers and Grooved Ware are present in both cases. The presence of thick cordons or grooving could be argued to represent Grooved Ware traits. Alternatively, the use of cordons could be related to the emergence of a suite of large storage vessels. In the absence of detailed stratigraphic information and chronology, unpicking these based on visual similarity should be approached with caution.

10.4 Discussion: Form & Sequence

In the preceding review I have summarised the principal forms from across the study area and their chronology. Across the study area a range of ceramic types are in use, demonstrating degrees of overlap at different scales. This includes typological connections to other parts of Britain, and to a lesser extent the Continent. Beaker forms are deployed in the Highlands from 2450 BC onwards, but the degree of relationship to Grooved Ware is unclear. It is possible that there is an overlap, as shown at other sites of the period. In Orkney and Shetland there is evidence to suggest continuity of form but marked changes in the wider contexts in which vessels are deployed. Beakers, as defined in **Chapter 4**, are rare, although aspects of Beaker and Food Vessel form can be found, along with instances of decoration recorded on a wide

variety of ceramic types. In the case of Orkney and Shetland, these could be argued to derive from external influences, but in the absence of detailed regional sequences the nature of this absorption and renegotiation is unclear. Beakers and Food Vessels are defined primarily by their role in funerary rites, but degrees of overlap with domestic vessels occur. These range from the presence of similar forms to those found in funerary contexts, or the citation of certain aspects. Similar overlap occurs in the Western Isles, where Beaker and Food Vessels occur principally in domestic contexts (**Section 2.5.2**). Alongside these forms, a range of other vessel types were recorded from domestic contexts, which relate to the range of roles fulfilled by ceramic vessels. Coupled with residue analysis, this can aid in understanding consumptive patterns on site, alongside the overall site function. In the next chapter I will consider these differences, further examining the wider assemblages in which pots were situated further. As discussed in the opening section the strength of the interpretations made is hampered by problems with the dataset. Chronological and stratigraphic information was lacking in several cases. Despite this, it is possible to outline a broad chronology of the study area and variations in ceramic types in use:

Early Beaker use 2500-2300 BC

During this period there is a shift towards incised forms. These are in part linked to wider changes in the assemblages in which vessels are deployed. In the case of Orkney these changes have their roots in the earlier 3rd millennium. In Shetland there is a possible continuity of forms. Early Beakers are sparse occurring only at a limited number of sites. This conforms with the established picture of dispersed but wide-ranging early Beaker use across Britain (see **Section 2.1**). The impact of these introductions is unclear, as is the overall role of mobility in as a driver of change. Maritime areas, such as Ardnamurchan (SH2, SH3), could have played important roles as nodal points in emergent networks, highlighting the importance of maritime connections during the period.

Whilst predominantly of a funerary nature, these early finds include possible domestic examples. The dating and relationship of these to the funerary sphere requires further clarification. Importantly, as highlighted, low-carinated forms need not be early in date, as later examples are known. Evidence for overlap between early Beakers and Grooved Ware is unclear and there is limited evidence for spatial and temporal overlap.

Primary Beaker use 2300-2100

Beakers are predominantly found in funerary contexts during this period. Short-necked and s-profile forms are common. These are frequently associated with inhumations, departing from

cremation practices of the preceding period. The link between these burials and those of the preceding period are unclear, but a direct link need not be assumed. The role of shifting networks and wider processes needs to be considered (Needham 2004). Importantly, the introduction and subsequent use of Beakers represents a multi-stranded process, rather than linear progression from one type to another. In this regard, emergent networks in Aberdeenshire and links to the Moray Firth may have played a key role in the dissemination of Beakers in the region. Whilst vessel forms show close overlap there is variation in modes of decoration and patterns of association. With regards to the latter, information was limited (**Chapter 11**). Regional preferences for forms can be detected, with Sutherland favouring s-profile forms. These are associated with female burials, which can be connected to an increased visibility of female burials in the late 3rd millennium (**Section 2.3**). This trend continues with Food Vessels commonly being associated with female burials. The use of Food Vessels probably overlaps with Beaker use, around 2200 or 2100 BC. In Orkney and Shetland, it is probable that Beaker forms – or elements of– are employed in domestic contexts, but evidence for use in funerary contexts is limited. Unlike the Highlands, where forms are strongly articulated, Beakers are weakly articulated, being deployed in regionally specific ways. In this light, the ‘Beaker-like’ forms in Shetland and Orkney represent a series of choices, which need to be situated within the context in which the vessels were deployed.

Late Beakers and Food Vessels

The overall chronological span of Beakers is unclear, but it can be suggested that from 2200 or 2100 BC in certain parts of the study area Food Vessels are deployed. These are found particularly in areas of low Beaker use such as Sutherland and parts of Ross and Cromarty. In areas to the south, Late Beaker forms - long and cupped-necked forms – are employed, suggesting the development of marked regional differences. These can, in part, be linked to the wider networks in which the regions are connected. In the case of Sutherland, the development of the Migdale-Marnoch network played a key role. Potential typologically similarities with Irish Vessels - notable squat double-cavetto forms - hint at further connections with Ireland alongside other parts of Scotland.

Over time there is an increased move towards cremation practice. Food Vessels are frequently deployed as accompaniments, mirroring the previous role of vessels accompanying inhumation. Towards the end of the period, larger vessels are employed, with Food Vessels now acting as containers for human remains. Bucket/ tub vessels are employed in similar ways. The latter are likely drawn from the domestic sphere, suggesting a closer relationship between domestic and funerary types. Towards the end of the period, and into the 2nd millennium BC,

Cordoned Urns are noted at several sites, in association with cremation burials. These are frequently set into pits, or as part of wider cremation enclosures. Collared Urns are absent, although it is possible that examples have been unrecognised. Given the presence of Collared Urns in nearby Aberdeenshire (see Law, R. 2008), the absence from the study area is striking and indicate a preference for Cordoned rather than Collared Urns. This could reflect on the wider relations in which vessels were involved, potentially reflecting a distinct choice, setting the Highlands apart from the Collared Urn using areas of Aberdeenshire.

In this chapter, I have considered the interrelationship of the different types across the study area. In the following chapter I will examine the various ways these vessels were deployed, considering further the importance of the typological differences and connections highlighted here. Importantly, as emphasised in **Part I**, whilst the physical nature of the pottery needs to be understood, this should be situated within a wider understanding of roles and processes. Pots represent assemblages that do not simply evolve, moving from one type to another in an arbitrary fashion. Instead, pots are connected to a wider set of processes, and it is important to consider changes in pottery against these. This includes the changing nature of consumptive practices and funerary rites. In the following chapter I will consider the types defined here further, situating them within their wider processes.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

CONTEXTUALISING THE POTS



11.1 Introduction

Alongside critiquing the physical nature of pottery from the study area a key aim in this thesis was to consider the processes in which vessels were involved. Using the summary's outlined in **Part II**, I will in this chapter examine the wider assemblages in which pots were engaged. This discussion will consider further the key thematic issues raised in **Part I**. As seen in the previous chapters there is across the study area clear overlap in vessel forms and modes of decoration, but in each setting, vessels are deployed along specific lines as part of fluid assemblages. As discussed in **Chapter 3**, each assemblage comprises a range of performative aspects, which create various effects. These allow for either the maintenance or reworking of assemblages. In each of the regional studies, a range of performative contexts were identified. At a broad scale the two primary arenas of performance were domestic and funerary sites. As seen in the previous chapter a variety of pots are used across these, with variations throughout the study area. These similarities and differences can in turn be connected to wider networks of the period.

11.2 Living with the pots

11.2.1 Nature of deposits: Types & Chronology

A range of vessels were recorded from a variety of domestic contexts. None of these deposits were *in situ*, except for the large vessels from Stanydale Temple (SFI12). Pottery was often heavily abraded, suggesting movement and re-deposition of occupation material, making reconstruction of vessel forms difficult (Fig. 11.1). At H1 Ness of Gruting (SFI5) sherds were relatively large suggesting that these were not greatly disturbed. It is possible, as at Sumburgh Airport (SFI13), that occupation refuse was deposited against the wall, with the outer wall added later to contain these deposits (see **Section 6.2**)¹. Similar processes could have occurred

¹ *Similar processes of expansion and use of midden can be observed among Orcadian house sites of the 3rd millennium (Richards, C. 2016: 153). The use of midden in wall core can be seen as incorporating and plugging the midden into new assemblages.*

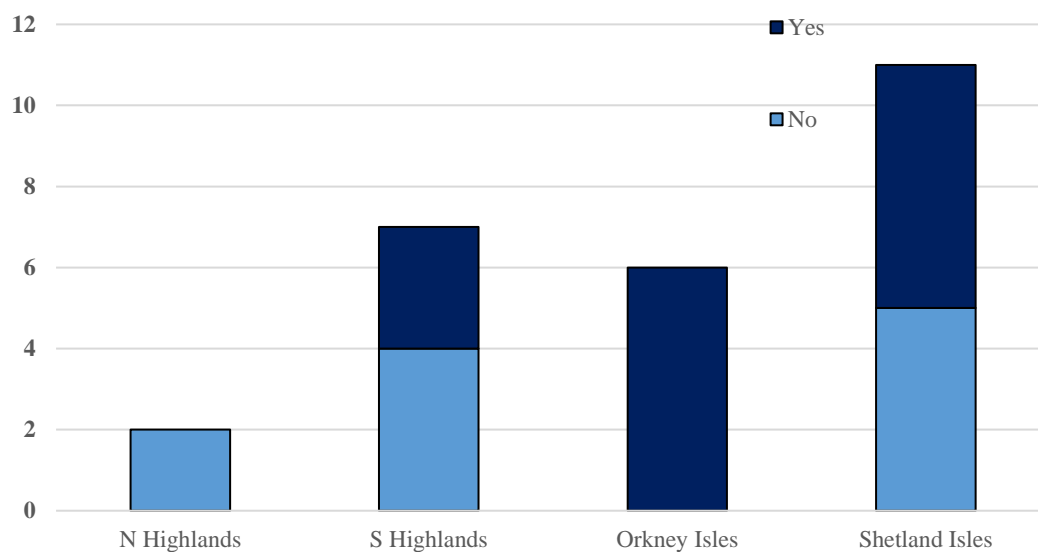


Figure 11.1: *Domestic sites with definable forms*

at H1 Ness of Gruting (SFI5). In the case of Orkney and Shetland, vessels were predominantly recovered from occupation refuse intermixed with other artefact types. These deposits were often employed in the closing of structures. The use of midden as a closing deposit can be observed in the earlier 3rd millennium (see Richards, C. 2016c: 152-8 for a review of midden formation and use). The midden as a residue of past processes could have provided not only a practical resource, but a symbolic one connecting the present with the past (Richards, C. 2016c: 158). In the later 3rd millennium, the hollow at Crossiecrown (ORK6) was levelled and backfilled with midden, in Shetland it is probable that quantities of midden were employed in a similar fashion. This could include successive deposition over lengthy periods of time, based on the incorporation of later pottery types (**Section 6.2.1**, see also **App. B3.5**). Stanydale Temple (SFI12) may have been burnt and subsequently infilled with layers of peat ash. In the Highlands, pots were frequently recovered from pits and spreads of occupation refuse (Fig. 11.2). At Rosskeen East (SH46), fragments of pottery were associated with a timber structure and at Kiltaraglen (SH35) with a probable ritual structure. At Culduthel Farm (SH17) sherds were recovered from mixed deposits, whilst at Rosemarkie (SH45) vessels were recovered from various pits.

A range of forms were employed at domestic sites, but due to the fragmentary state of the material, reconstructing forms was difficult. In Shetland, a high degree of diversity was noted, with a suite of regional forms, alongside bucket/ tub vessels and Beakers (Table 6.7). In Orkney, a restricted range of forms were employed, commonly bucket/ tub vessels and, to a

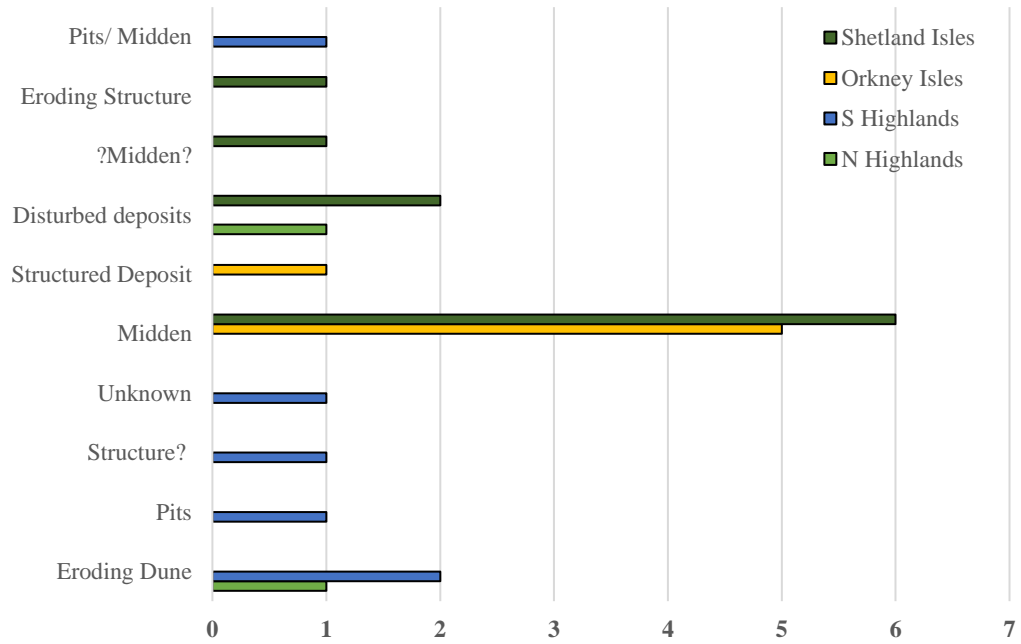


Figure 11.2: *Principal contexts domestic pottery (see App. H1 for definition of parent contexts)*

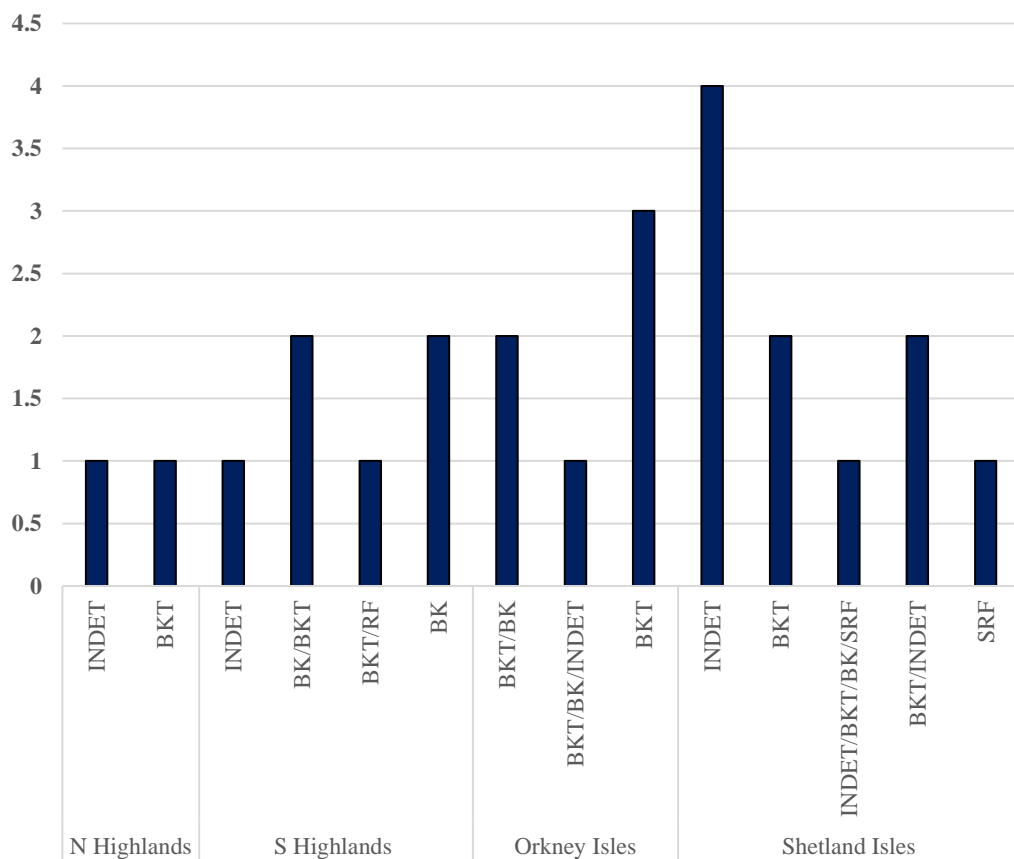


Figure 11.3: *Domestic assemblage composition*

Key: *BKT. Bucket/ tub, BK. Beaker RF. regional form SRF. Shetland regional form INDET. Indeterminate forms*

lesser extent, Beakers (Table 7.11). In the Highlands, Beakers are recorded from domestic contexts alongside a range of other jar forms and bucket/tub vessels (Fig. 11.3). These include the narrow-mouthed jars from Kiltaraglen (SH35). The contribution of these undiagnostic sherds to domestic assemblages is likely underrepresented (**Section 10.3.3**). This problem can be detected in the earlier 3rd millennium, where a range of undecorated vessels of similar form and fabric were in use alongside Grooved Ware (see **Section 5.2.4**). At Ardnamurchan (SH3, SH4), coarse wares from possible bucket/ tub vessels were noted, but their relationship to the Beakers was unclear. Examples of undiagnostic coarse wares are noted among other domestic assemblages, including from Sorisdale (Fig 2.24). Given the fragmentary condition of the former, their precise form is unclear, but could encompass either plain bucket/ tub vessels or shouldered / s-profile vessels. As noted, these plain bucket/ tub vessels fulfil a range of utilitarian roles. Their affordances enable them to act as storage, preparatory as well as serving vessels. Given these utilitarian roles, the form of these vessels is static with little modification over time. Where detailed information on the assemblage composition was available, a range of vessel sizes were employed, reflecting on the domestic roles of the vessels. When compared against vessel sizes from the earlier 3rd millennium, there is a degree of overlap. At Culduthel Farm (SH17), the rim diameters of the Beaker vessels from the later phases overlapped with the earlier Grooved Ware, but larger vessels > 250mm were absent in the later 3rd millennium in the study area. This conclusion is based on a small sample, and the possibility of larger vessels in use cannot be ruled out.

At Crossiecrown (ORK6) the limited information suggests a similar decline of large open vessels with diameters of 100-430mm, with later vessels measuring 130-270mm, although the sample size of the latter is more limited (see **Section 7.2.2**. & Table 7.3). Given the small sample size it is unclear to what degree small vessels were employed in domestic contexts. Rim diameters from sites in the Highlands sites were on the whole lacking. At Culduthel Farm (SH17), the smallest vessel was 150mm overlapping with the upper end of the size range of funerary vessels (Figs. 10.6 & 10.14). Based on the present evidence it is not possible to state whether domestic assemblages comprised a graduated size range of vessels, except for H1 Ness of Gruting (SFI5). Here, rim diameters ranged from 80-381mm, with 80% of the measured sample² over 200mm (**Section 6.2.2**, see also **App. B3.5**). It is possible that while variations in the composition of the assemblage could be attributed to bias in survival, they could also be reflective of site function and broader roles in consumptive practices. As with

² *The measured sample of rims was quite small, and the presence of larger sherds could reflect bias in terms of vessel preservation and survival (see **App. B3.5**).*

Grooved Ware of the preceding period, special episodes of consumption could have taken place at particular locales and need not be indicative of fixed settlement. At Barnhouse Odin (ORK1), a series of fire pits and scoops were excavated, indicating the preparation of foodstuffs (Challands *et al.* 2005a: 211). Some of the pottery at Culduthel Farm (SH17) and Kiltaraglen (SH35) could derive from similarly transient consumptive events.

Domestic Vessels and Consumption

Pottery was clearly employed for a wide range of roles. Vessel sizes suggest an emphasis on storage (including storage over the winter) and food preparation. Direct evidence for the use of vessels in cooking or other consumptive practices can be detected in the form of sooting or residues. Sooting, where recorded in Shetland, was associated with coarse thick-walled vessels. These included V1 from Stanydale Temple (SFI12) (**App. B3.1**). At H1 Ness of Gruting (SFI5), sherds were frequently burnt to a hard, pinkish consistency, suggesting re-burning of pot sherds. Pot 54 and 59 from Culduthel Farm (SH17) bore patches of residue, suggesting a correlation between larger vessels and food preparation. At Crossiecrown (ORK6), vessels were associated with ruminant dairy fats, implying a continuity of use from the earlier 3rd millennium (Jones, A. *et al.* 2016: 396).

In Orkney, it is possible to examine changes in consumptive practice in more detail. During the earlier part of the 3rd millennium, the region is defined by a series of large sites associated with Grooved Ware. Societies during this period can be envisaged as fluid and dynamic, composed of unstable assemblages (Fowler 2004b: 113, see also Richards, C. & Jones, R. 2016) (**Section 5.2**). In **Chapter 5**, the diversity of Grooved Ware during the period was highlighted, including the increased use of complex applied schemes. The use of Grooved Ware in the 3rd millennium provides a clear example of this. Grooved Ware was bound up in a series of wide-ranging relations, including the use of a range of monuments, and, in Orkney, exaggerated forms of domestic architecture. Grooved Ware was deployed in storage roles as well as in highly conspicuous feasting events. In this regard, highly decorated Grooved Ware may have been employed for one-off events associated with key locales. These include the development and use of large hall-like structures. These large structures provided a focal point for consumptive events, drawing together people and materials. Grooved Ware formed a key element of this process. Other key focal points included stone circles, as evidenced at Barnhouse Odin (ORK1). The increased emphasis on decoration over substance highlights the visible roles Grooved Ware was intended to fulfil.

As highlighted in **Chapter 7**, the decline of these large sites, likely from the 28th century, intersects with changes in pottery, notably the switch to incised decorative schemes. It can tentatively be argued that large-scale consumptive events were on the decline in the later 3rd millennium, the inherent instability of the wider Orcadian assemblage serving to undermine it (**Section 5.2.5**). Importantly, the notion of decline should not be equated with a dramatic break but instead emerges from the wider relations in operation across the archipelago. As discussed in **Chapter 3**, each consumptive event creates the potential for continuity or rupture, creating periods of stability and instability. This could have occurred alongside the uptake of Beakers. Caution should be expressed when linking the apparent changes within Orkney to external factors. Instead, as highlighted, changes within Orkney stem from a range of internal factors, principal among them the inherent instability of later 3rd millennium society. Changes in the wider networks in which Orkney participated could have had an impact, but detailed chronological modelling of not only Orkney, but regions beyond, is needed to further understand these. Despite the appearance of new decorative techniques and to a limited extent new forms, these do not appear to be connected to wider changes in the way vessels were used. Continuity of use is mirrored in ceramic technology and vessel form, both of which show little change (Jones, A. 2016: 411). Instead, the scale of consumption appears to have shifted, with a focus now on smaller rather than large scale gatherings. The absence of large hall-like structures from 2300 BC could be cited as further evidence for this.

In the case of the Highlands, mapping long-term trends in the role of domestic vessels is hindered by the size and quality of the available dataset. At Alt Na Fearna (NH5) there is apparent continuity in vessel form, although there are notable changes in vessel fabric (MacSween & Dixon 1998: 142). This continuity can be contrasted with the use of Food Vessels and Beakers in structured deposits at the site (see **Chapter 8**). The nature of activity at sites with possible early domestic deposits - Culduthel Farm (SH17) and Ardnamurchan (SH2, SH3) – is unclear, but locations demonstrate a high degree of continuity. Grooved Ware and plain bucket/ tub vessels were recorded from several areas, but their temporal relationship to Beakers was often unclear. This has in several cases been exacerbated by later mixing and redepositing of material. Several domestic sites were recorded from the Highlands with examples of Beaker vessels. These can be broadly divided into two groups, low-carinated/ AOC and short-necked/ zone decorated. S-profile forms overlap across both groups.

The first group could lie early in the overall sequence and ranges from small vessels to large jars with sub-rim cordons. It is unclear if these represent a set akin to those recorded on the Continent. In Iberia sets comprise larger storage vessels, bowls and the Bell Beaker. The



Figure 11.4: *Reconstruction of commensality feast in Iberia (Garrido-Pena et al. 2011)*

function of each vessel is closely tied to its form and size. Bowls are employed for food, Bell Beakers for drink, and large vessels for storage (see Garrido-Pena *et al.* 2011) (Fig. 11.4). Liquids could have included beer or other forms of alcohol, as evidenced by residue analysis (**Section 3.3.3**). This relationship between pots and alcohol, however, is not new phenomenon. There is evidence for brewing in association with Grooved Ware (**Section 2.2**). Instead the way things are being drunk may have changed in terms of the associated paraphernalia, substances consumed and those taking part. In this regard commensality events could have played a key role in wider unfolding relations and exchange during the later 3rd millennium. The use of similar ceramic sets could have created a common language in which participants understood roles and duties. Through the course of these events exchanges of knowledge and material could have taken place facilitating the spread of new artefacts and ideas. These processes could have played a key role in the initial dissemination of Beaker pottery and associated ideas in the later 3rd millennium

Discard

The final phase of the vessel's use-life, as discussed in **Section 3.4.4**, is discard. Grooved Ware in the Highlands was frequently recorded from pits, including examples associated with cooking activities and cremations (**Section 5.5.1**). Pit deposits dating to the later 3rd

millennium were recorded at three sites, including Kiltaraglen (SH35). The pottery from the pits included sherds that were accidentally incorporated into the fill, deliberately deposited, and sherds from probable disturbed burials (Table 10.1). The function of Pit 168 is unclear but included lithic artefacts (Suddaby 2013: 10). Whether the pit represents the remains of a burial of 'waste' from domestic or other activities in the area is unclear. Similar pits at Kintore were classed as evidence for conspicuous consumption (Cook & Dunbar 2008: 311). Pit deposition poses a variety of interpretive problems when examining their function and nature (**Section 2.5.1**). Functions extend beyond simple rubbish pits and include the structured deposition of a range of materials (Chapman 2000: 61; Cook & Dunbar 2008: 310; see also Thomas, J. 1999: Chp. 4). As emphasised by Barclay, distinctions need to be made between pits containing accidentally accumulated material and those with material intentionally selected for deposition (Barclay, G. *et al.* 2001: 81; see also Noble *et al.* 2016).

Similar arguments can be advanced when dealing with deposits from chambered cairns. These range from the deposition of objects in association with funerary activity, other forms of structured deposition, or as part of general infilling activities. In the case of the latter, whether this was symbolic or practical (or both) can be difficult to understand, given the poor stratigraphy of these sites. In the case of deposits in chambered cairns in Orkney, the fragmentary condition of the sherds suggests accidental inclusion. As noted at Papa Westray North (ORK13), the sherds included in the chamber likely stem from nearby middens (**Section 7.5.5**). At Howe (ORK7) where larger sherds were recorded, the presence of whole vessels, and in turn deliberate deposition can be suggested. A similar argument can be advanced for the material from Kilcoy South (SH34). At least two phases of deposition can be defined, the first involves the placement of a suite of low-carinated Beakers into the chamber. This could have been undertaken to infill the hollow left by the removal of the roof (**Section 9.4.3**).

11.3 Burying the pots

Funerary contexts represent distinct assemblages or inversions, composed of recurrent citations and creative practices (**Section 3.3.4**). Each burial draws in and is constituted of a wider series of assemblages, citing past and present actions. These are drawn together and contained by the funerary setting. Across the study area funerary practices were predominantly inhumation, with a range of vessels deployed as accompaniments. Beakers and Food Vessels are frequently recorded from these contexts (Fig. 11.5). Within this general picture, degrees of

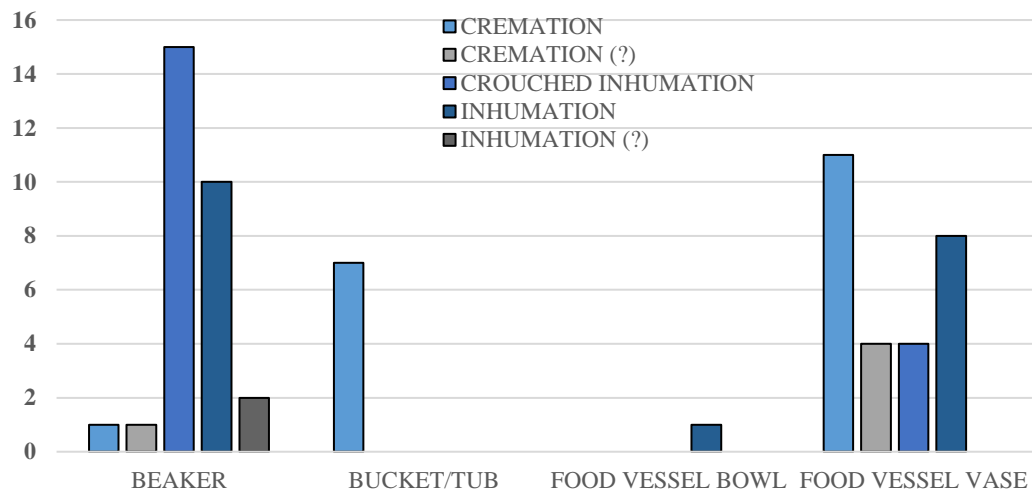


Figure 11.5: *Count of vessel type by funerary rite (61% of total sample, 39% no remains present or no information available)*

variability can be detected that diverge from the broader assemblage of burial practices. This includes differences in form as highlighted in **Chapter 10**, but also in the specific way different elements are combined. Differences in posture placement and additional grave goods were noted across each of the regions in **Part II**. These can be further contrasted against other areas of Britain, including Aberdeenshire. In the following discussion, key aspects and changes in funerary assemblages over time are examined. This enables a consideration of the variation in vessel types summarised in **Chapter 10** within the wider assemblages, and the roles of pots within these. These are intimately related to ideas of death and the fate of the soul (Parker Pearson 1999). As will be stressed, burials are affective compositions, reflecting the responses of the mourners. The placement and selection of grave goods thus need not reflect the ‘real’ identity of the deceased, but the role of the mourners, whose actions may have been carefully prescribed (Brück 2004a). As emphasised in **Section 3.2.2**, burials cannot be simply read to infer the identity or status of the deceased. Instead, the connections and effects generated by the wider assemblage need consideration.

11.3.1 Settings and sequence

Early Burials with Beakers

In **Chapter 10** it was noted that evidence for early funerary deposition of Beakers across the study area is limited. Where early burials were recorded, these were set into or in proximity to earlier activity. At Garrywhin (NH19) and Battle Moss (NH7) the relationship of the cists to

the stone rows is unclear, and it is uncertain whether these are contemporary. At Embo (NH17) the association was more explicit, with the cist set into the chamber, although the precise relationship of the vessel to the cist is unclear. The area of the Beechwood Park (SH8) burial is notable for its density of later and earlier 3rd millennium monuments and burials. The placement of cists in proximity to or within existing monuments echoes similar patterns of distribution in the south of England, where early burials cluster near pre-existing monuments (Garwood 2012: 300; Gibson, C. 2013: 102-104). The significance of this positioning reflects links made by new or existing communities, anchoring new practices within the existing landscape. These relate to wider notions of memory (Jones, A. 2007) or claims of ancestry (Lucas 1996: 108; Braithwaite 1984), reworking residues of past assemblages into the present. This can be seen in the case of Balblair Wood (SH7) where rock art panels were incorporated in the cist construction. Chambered cairns continue to act as key foci throughout the 3rd millennium with funerary and non-funerary depositions. In six cases, Food Vessels and Beakers were recovered from cists set into chambered cairns, including the multiple deposits at Embo (NH17). The latest example from Tulach an T'Sionnaich (NH30) were associated with cremation activity (Corcoran 1967: 3). The setting of multiple burials in chambered cairns echo the development of cemetery sites, which exhibit multiple phases of use (*e.g.* Dalmore (SH19), Seafield West (SH48)).

Early Beakers in the study area were placed within stone cists, except for the pit burial at Beechwood Park (SH8) and the probable example at Drumnadrochit (SH22). The overlap between early pit burials and stone cists suggests a local uptake of novel burial practices, highlighting the importance of internal processes (Curtis & Wilkin 2012: 239). The use of stone cists could represent the translation of organic containers (*i.e.* log coffins) into a megalithic vocabulary³. While evidence of stone cists in the earlier 3rd millennium was noted in Shetland and Orkney, there is no clear evidence of short-cist use in the Highlands prior to the later 3rd millennium. Evidence of covering mounds was absent, although at Battle Moss (NH7) the putative cist was sealed by ring cairn, but the exact sequence is unclear (Baines *et al.* 2003). There was limited evidence for later activity at each site, except for Embo (NH17), where the early Beaker vessel was found with a later Food Vessel (Fig. 8.47). It is unclear if the second cist at New Broadford (SH41) is contemporary with the cist with the Beaker.

The relationship of early burials with Beakers to funerary practices of the preceding period is difficult to map due to a lack of evidence. A wide variety of funerary rites are likely to have

³ *The use of log coffins in themselves could reference canoes or other forms of maritime vessels.*

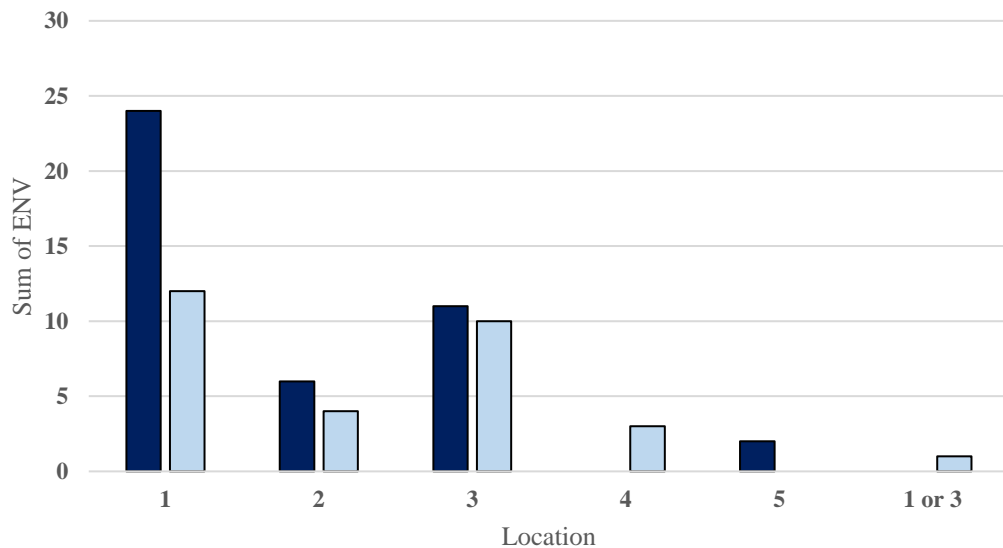


Figure 11.6: *Siting and position of cists associated with Beakers and Food Vessels:*

Key: *1. Overlooking/near river or loch, 2. Upland, 3. Coastal, 4. Hillside
5. Hilltop/ ridge*

been in operation (Lucas 1996; Lawrence 2012: 569-73). As discussed in **Chapter 5**, these included the use of cists in Orkney and Shetland over potentially lengthy periods of time (Dalland 1999). In the Highlands, it is probable that there is a move away from cremation in pits towards inhumation, although in the north inhumations could have been deposited in chambered cairns. In **Chapter 9** it was suggested that the cremation at Dornoch Nursery (NH15) could be assigned to a local tradition of cremation, potentially representing the blending of novel and older forms of burial within a short-cist.

Later burials with Beakers and Food Vessels

Short-cists were the most common setting in which Beakers and Food Vessels were deposited throughout the period. Sites showed a preference for locations near or overlooking bodies of water (Fig. 11.6). In seven cases, burials were recorded from sites in upland areas or positioned on hillsides. Cists were recorded predominantly as unobtrusive single examples, but pairs of cists were recorded. This included the recently discovered examples at Drumnadrochit (SH22) where a second burial is attested by a shallow pit (Peteranna 2015: 9). The cists at Carn Liath (NH10) could have formed a pair or part of a wider cemetery (Love 1991: 157).

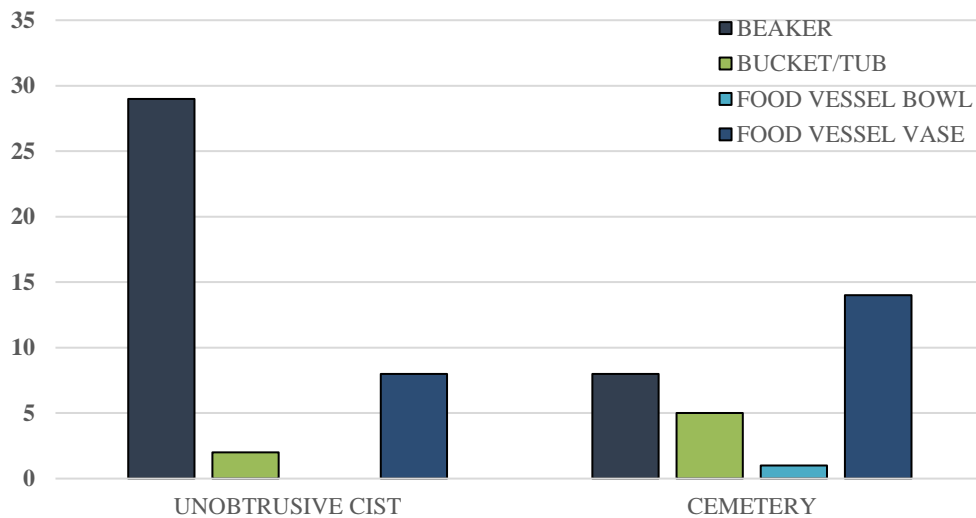


Figure 11.7: *Distribution of vessels at cemetery sites and unobtrusive cists*

Fourteen cemetery sites were identified, in five cases exhibiting a mix of cremation and inhumation burials. Food Vessels and bucket/ tub vessels tended to be associated with cemetery sites, with only a handful of Beakers recorded from such sites (Fig. 11.7). Based on current dating of Beakers these are likely to be primary in the overall cemetery sequence, but their use could overlap with Food Vessels as at Seafield West (SH48). Burials at Seafield West (SH48), included log-coffin burials and short-cists (Fig. 9.53), whilst at Dalmore (NH19) a mix of short-cists and stone-lined pits were documented (Table 9.5, Figs. 9.45 & 9.46). Stone-lined pits were recorded at five cemetery sites in association with cremations. Current dating of these is poor, but their recurrent association with Food Vessels and other late vessel types suggest a post-2100 BC date, connected to the increased preference for cremation during this period (**Section 2.4**).

Most cemeteries were unenclosed. At Dalmore Alness (NH19) the report suggests a low wall enclosed the site, but the date of this feature is unknown. At Glebe (SH30) the cists were set into a d-shaped enclosure (Fig 9.19). The ring ditch at Seafield West (SH48) enclosed the log coffins, whilst the short-cists and pits lay outside (Cressey & Sheridan 2003: Illus 3). The former stone circle at Armadale (SH4) was reconfigured as a cremation cemetery around 2220-1985 cal BC (95% probability) (Krus & Peteranna 2016: 1). This preference for siting cremation enclosures at pre-existing monuments is mirrored elsewhere in Scotland (Noble *et al.* 2017). Cremation enclosures are increasingly documented from the 2nd millennium onwards across Scotland (Bradley 2011). These are similar to examples found across Ireland dated to the 2nd millennium (*ibid.*: 177). The cremated remains from Killmister could represent

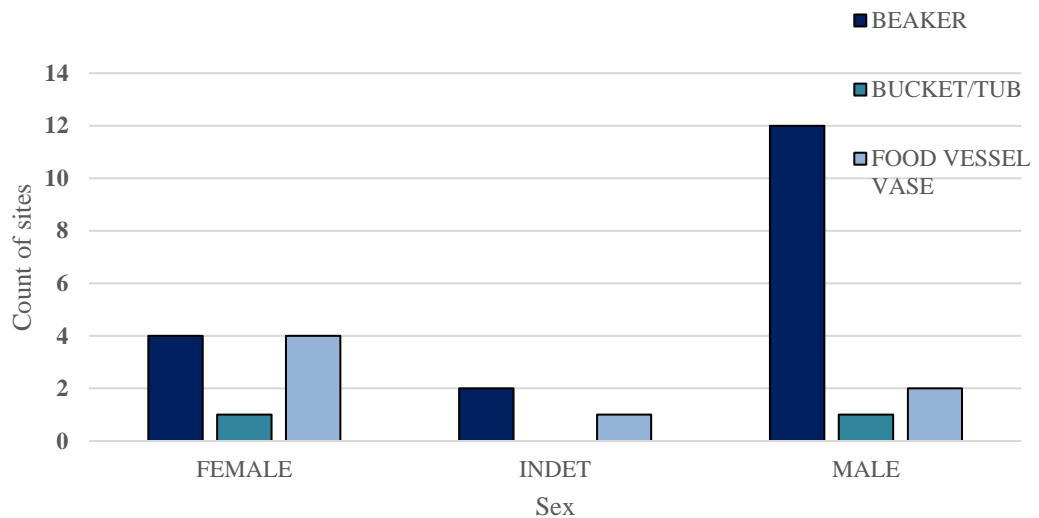


Figure 11.8: Association between sex and vessel type in funerary contexts (n.24 vessels had associated osteological information)

the remains of a further cremation enclosure, although the site is poorly documented (**App. D3**). These sites are increasingly associated with the use of large vessels, including Cordoned Urns and – in the Northern Isles – steatite vessels.

Short-cists ranged in size with internal areas of 0.41-0.9m², the size of the short-cist is in part dictated by the size of the body. In 12 cases cist had formal floors, including:

- **Pebble floors:** Recorded in three examples. Includes the multi-coloured pebbles at Mains of Balnagowan (SH38) and probable pebble floors at Balblair (SH6) and Holm Mains Farm (SH31). The cist from Ascoilmore (NH6) was the only example of a Food Vessel with a pebble floor.
- **Paved/ slab floors:** Recorded in eight instances, deposits include Beaker (n.6), Food Vessel (n.4), and bucket/ tub vessels (n.1). Associated with both cremation and inhumation.

The presence of organic floors cannot be ruled out. Organic deposits were recorded at Keas Cottage (NH21) (Rogers 2013: 13), whilst mats were frequently associated with cremations in Orkney (**Section 7.4.2**). Evidence for other constructional aspects, including clay luting, were poorly documented across the study area.

11.3.2 Placing the dead

Funerary rites

61% of the recorded burials were inhumations, with the remaining 39% comprising cremations (Fig. 11.4). Beakers were primarily associated with inhumation, whilst Food Vessels were recorded with both inhumations and cremations (Fig. 11.4). The single recorded example of a Beaker in association with a cremation comprises the ambiguous information from Coille Grulla (SH15). The degree of association between the Beaker and the cremation is unclear. From *c.* 2200/ 2100 cal BC Food Vessels are increasingly recorded with cremations in the study area (**Section 10.3.2**).

58% of the recorded burials were male, although information regarding sex was limited to 24 sites, representing only 23% of the overall assemblage (Fig. 11.8). Regarding the pottery specific associations between form and sex were rare. Food Vessels showed a slight bias towards female burials, with four recorded examples compared to males with only two examples (Fig. 11.8). The burial from the Aonach (SH50), associated with a bronze pin, could be cited as a further example of female/ Food Vessel association (**Section 9.3.3**). The significance of these items is discussed further below. Three of the four females were young to mid-adults, associated with both s-profile and short-necked forms. It is possible that this trend continues with Food Vessels, with the three available burials relating to young to mid-

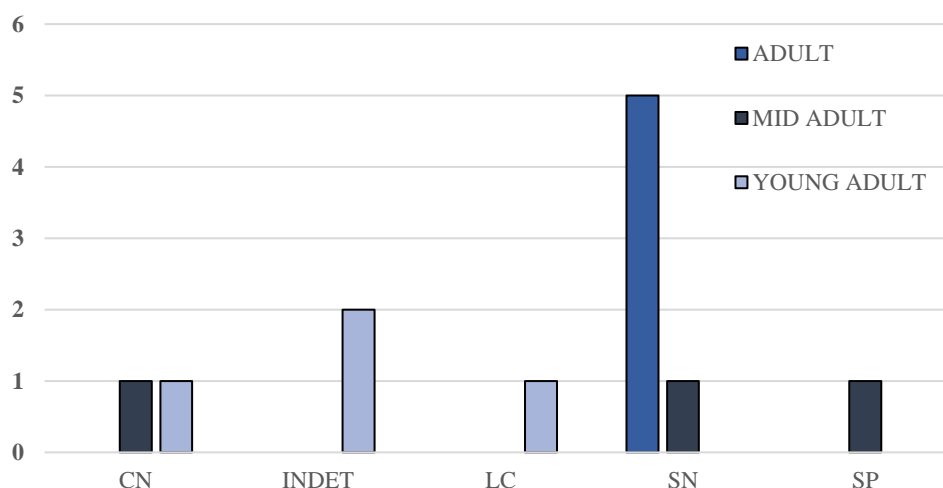


Figure 11.9: *Age distribution of males associated with Beakers*

Key: *CN. Cupped-necked, INDET. Indeterminate, LC. Low-carinated, SN. Short-necked, SP. S-profile*

adults. Rather than reflecting patterns of association, this could be related to mortality rates (Wilkin 2010a: 46; see Walsh 2013 for a review).

Of the 14 recorded males, 86% were associated with various types of Beakers. Regarding form, tall short-necked Beakers were recorded with adult males, but it is unclear if these relate to age differences, as suggested for other parts of north east Scotland (Curtis & Wilkin 2016: 39). Where age was specified, mid-adults were commonly associated with short-necked, s-profile and cupped-necked Beakers (Fig 11.9). Cupped-necked vessels were also associated with a young adult at Lochend (SH37). The remaining Beakers were associated with adults of unspecified age, preventing detailed analysis of patterns of association (Fig. 11.9). Bucket/ tub vessels were evenly associated with both sexes, but this number is likely underrepresented due to their association with unsexed cremations.

Overall, information about the nature of burial was limited, but bodies were in 20 cases tightly flexed, primarily associated with Beakers. In the case of the Achavanich (NH4) burial it is possible the body was bound (M. Hoole pers. comm.). As documented at Langwell Farm (Lelong 2014) and several other cists, hides or organic wrappings were often employed. At Barns Farm the body was placed within a coracle (Watkins 1982: 70). Crucially, the cist provided an arena not only for the disposal of the deceased but for the subsequent access and manipulation of the remains (Lucas 1996: 108). This was evident at Chealamy (NH11) where only the leg bones remained, suggesting the manipulation and removal of remains (Harman 1985: 571). Whether the remains were manipulated prior to placement in the cist, or following deposition is unclear. Manipulation of bodies is well attested in other short-cists across Britain (Brück 2004a, 2006, 2009; Gibson, A. 2004). This suggests that preservation of bodily integrity in certain regions was not important, running counter to ideas of bounded/ defined individuals (Brück 2004a: 311, 2006: 80; *contra*. Thomas, J. 1991: 40) (*cf.* **Section 3.2.2**).

Instead, it can be argued that the cist acted as a temporary container for the decay of human remains (Fowler 2013a: 150). Cists were predominantly placed into acidic soils, possibly indicating a selection of optimum conditions for the destruction of the body. In the majority of cases the cist was sealed with a single capstone, but multiple capstones were recorded at several sites (Fig. 11.11). The provision of multiple capstones could have been deliberate, facilitating the addition and removal of remains or other objects (*cf.* Fowler 2013a: 150). This could have included the monitoring of decay, perhaps in some cases extending to multi-stage burial rites. In these, remains could be curated, added to or removed, and artefacts could also be added and removed. At Sand Field (ORK17) the side slab of the cist could be removed, allowing access to the contents (Fig. 11.10). It is possible that cists in the Highlands could

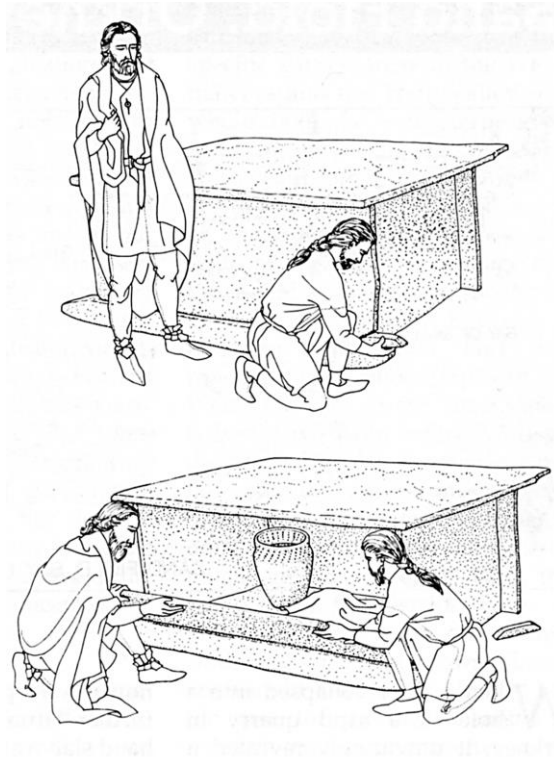


Figure 11.10: Artists reconstruction of the cist at Sand Fiold (ORK17), Mainland (C.A 120)

have held multiple burials over extended periods of time, with earlier burials removed or added to. This could – as at Muie (NH25) and Dornoch Nursery (NH15) – involve the addition of cremated remains. The cist at Balblair Wood (SH7) also showed evidence of having been opened (Dutton *et al.* 2007).

The employment of cremation practices in the late 3rd millennium further emphasises notions of bodily destruction. Cremation has in the past been linked to lower status individuals whilst in contrast inhumation and the preservation of the body has been cited as high status (Rowlands 1980: 51; Brück 2004, 2006) (**Section 2.3**). The process of cremation itself can be more labour intensive, involving the collection of fuel, collection of burnt remains and subsequent internment (Downes 1999; Brück 2006). In some cases, bodies may have been cremated within the cist itself (Mizoguchi 1993: 232). The contrast between the status of inhumation *versus* cremation instead rests on a generalising approach to burial practices that does not consider the existence of regionally varied burial practices (*cf.* Brück 2004; Fowler 2013a). Instead, the treatment of the body is closely allied to changes in perception of the role of the dead (Lucas 1996: 110), wider ideas of cosmology and liminality (Fowler 2013a: 231) and the role of the mourners in negotiating these aspects (Brück 2004a). Funerary rites serve to renegotiate aspects of the individual, evoking memories of the deceased and reaffirming connections

between the living and the deceased (Brück 2004a: 311; Fowler 2013a: 102; Mizoguchi 1993: 225).

The potential of multiple and complex funerary rites includes evidence for the addition of further remains. In nine cases this includes the addition of cremated remains. These cremations are poorly recorded, with most simply stating that charcoal or burnt remains were recovered. It cannot be ascertained if these are human or animal, and indeed their temporal relationship to the artefacts or other burials is unclear. The presence of partly burnt remains adds a further probable category of burial and has been noted from other parts of Britain (Fowler 2013a: 151). The inclusion of additional cremations is documented in other Scottish cist burials associated with both Beakers and Food Vessels (*e.g.* Watkins 1982) At Glengolly (NH20) ashes or remains were found in the Beaker (Anderson 1866: 253; OS 1872), at Muie (NH25) cremated remains were reputed to have been found under the body in association with a Food Vessel (Tait, L. 1870: 530). Near to the Beaker at Cnocan na Gobhar (SH14), incinerated bone was recorded (Callander 1928: 25). A burnt deposit was recorded above the capstone at New Broadford (Birch 2012: 27)⁴. Small amounts of charcoal were recorded from the fill of the cist at Drumnadrochit (DSR: 9). The deposition of quantities of burnt bone could be linked to commemorative deposits⁵. These could involve token deposits of both human remains and

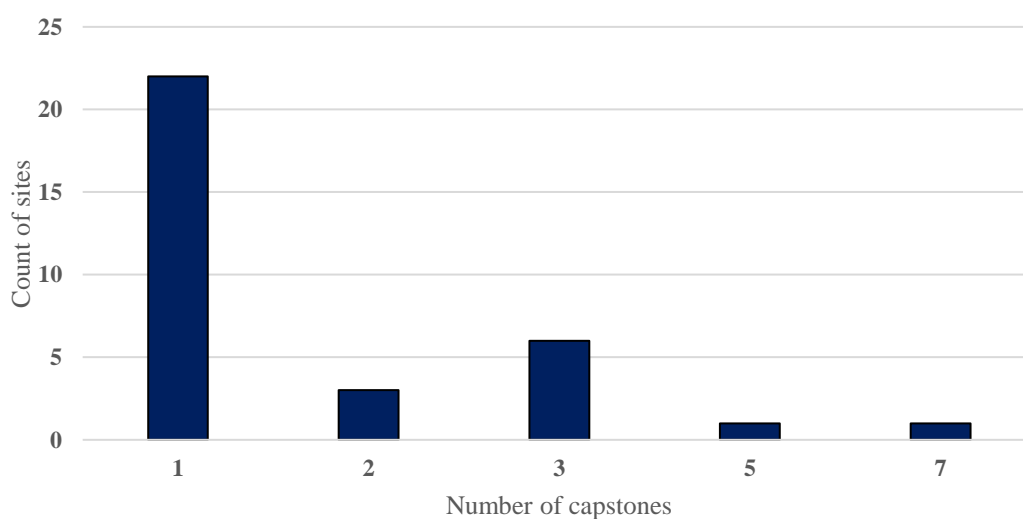


Figure 11.11: *Number of capstones at short-cists where recorded*

⁴ Examples of cists where charcoal or burnt deposits are found in the infilling are noted at several sites in England (*cf.* Fowler 2013a: 153)

⁵ While the term was devised by Wilmott (2010) in a Roman context, a similar notion can be applied to Prehistoric remains, where whole bodies (burnt or unburnt) need not have been deposited. As emphasised in **Chapter 3**, bodily integrity may not have been important in all cases. Commemorative deposits could also contain curated remains, indeed as seen at Sand Fiold such deposits could encompass lengthy periods of time (Dalland 1999).

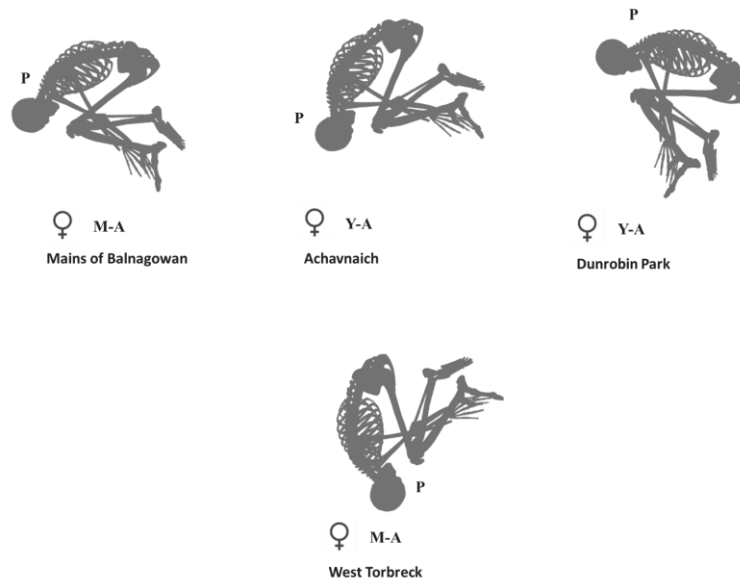


Figure 11.12: Orientation of female burials

Key: P. location of pot (n.b. skeletons do not reflect condition of bodies as discovered)

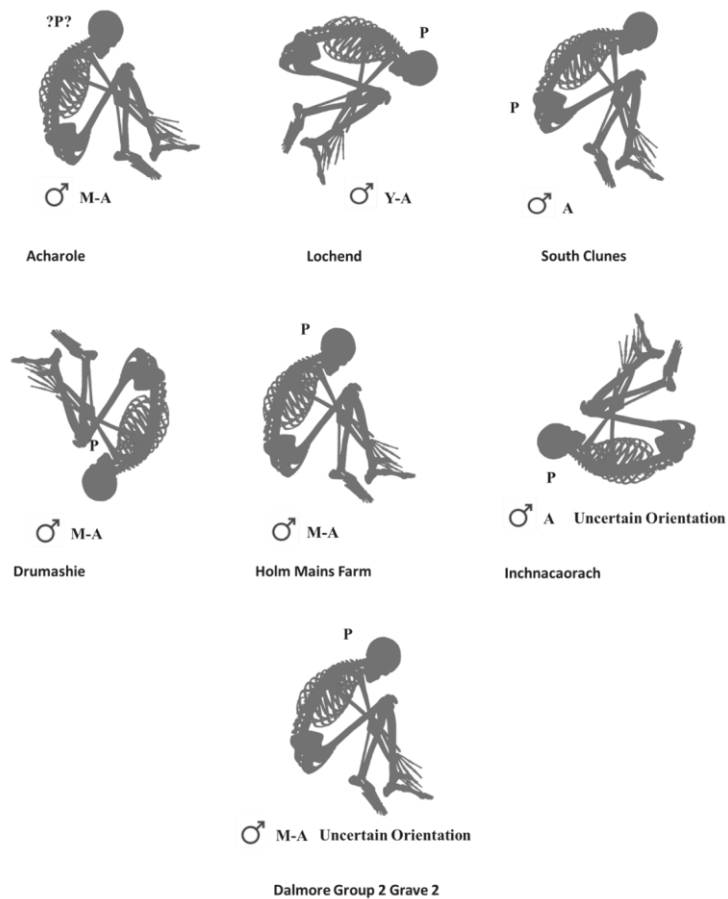


Figure 11.13: Orientation of male burials

Key: P. location of pot (n.b. skeletons do not reflect condition of bodies as discovered)

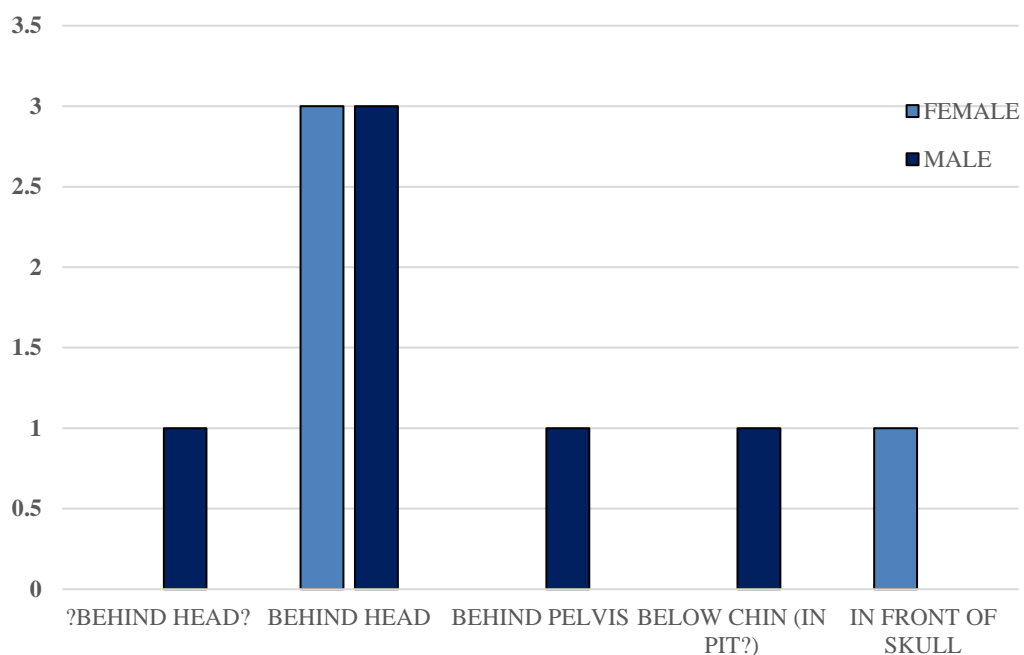


Figure 11.14: Recorded position of Beakers in relation to the body

other artefacts. The absence of detailed dating prohibits detailed understanding of the temporal relationship of these deposits and whether they were placed at the same time as the inhumation. At Sand Fiold (ORK17) the cist was re-accessed multiple times with several cremations added, mirroring the recovery of multiple inhumations from chambered cairns in Orkney (*cf.* Davidson, J.L. & Henshall 1989; for a recent review of human remains from chambered cairns see Lawrence 2012).

The use of a cist as a container for multiple remains creates effects similar to cemeteries, with relationships conveyed through proximity and use of the same space (Jones, A. 2008: 179). Salanova suggests that the use of a single isolated burial and collective burials (either in a cemetery or collective burial), creates a sense of integration with the community in the latter, whilst the former isolates (2003: 165). Lucas in a similar vein suggests that each single burial could be interpreted as a founding event, creating new notions of lineage, challenging the long-term stability of lineages (1996: 110, see also Mizoguchi 1993: 231). Whether the idea of collective burial in the study area represents a continuity of ideas from the earlier 3rd millennium cannot be ascertained. It is possible in Orkney that collective burials in cists overlapped with the use of other funerary contexts, including chambered cairns (Ballin Smith 2014). The sealing of cists by mounds or cairns could represent the final act involving these ossuary's, bringing these potent locations to a close.

Orientations & Alignments

Females were accompanied by Beakers were placed on their right-hand side (*n.4.*), orientated south, southwest or west with the line of sight roughly east (Fig. 11.12). These overlap in part with orientations identified by Shepherd in northeast Scotland. In this region females with Beakers were placed on their right-hand side, orientated west, with line of sight to the south (RWSF) (1989: 79). Males were placed on their left, orientated east with a line of sight to the south (*ibid.*). The one Food Vessel with orientation information from West Torbreck (SH53) was placed on the right-hand side, orientated south (Figs. 9.25 & 11.13). Given the small size of the dataset it is unclear if this presents an overlap with Beakers in the grammar of body positions. Males with Beakers in Inverness were predominantly placed on their left-hand side, orientated north/ northeast, roughly corresponding to patterns defined by Shepherd (1989: 79) (Fig. 11.13). Outside of Inverness information is more limited, the two examples from Caithness were orientated north. The inhumation from Lower Dounreay (NH18) was laid on its back, whilst the male from Acharole (NH1) was possibly placed on its left-hand side. Considering this variation, it is possible that orientation was of less significance. Instead, only the dichotomy between males/ left and female/ right was employed.

11.3.3 Placing the pots

In twelve cases the position of the vessel in relation to the body was recorded (Figs. 11.12 & 11.13). Beakers associated with both females and males showed a preference for positions behind the head (Fig. 11.14). This contrasts with the earlier Beaker at Dornoch Nursery (NH15), which was probably placed by the feet (**Section 8.3.2**) (Fig. 8.14). In only one case, a Beaker was recorded from in front of the head, in association with the female burial from West Torbreck (SH53). Information regarding the placement of Food Vessels was more limited with only the vessel from Keas Cottage (NH21) recorded as placed behind the head (Fig. 8.35). This overlaps in part with the placement of Beakers, reinforcing the notion that Food Vessels were initially deployed in similar ways to Beakers.

In several cases, more than one vessel was deposited. This was common with Beakers, with at least four examples recorded. These include the pair of vessels from Coille Grulla (SH15), Balblair (SH6) and New Broadford (SH41). The smaller of the two vessels from Balblair

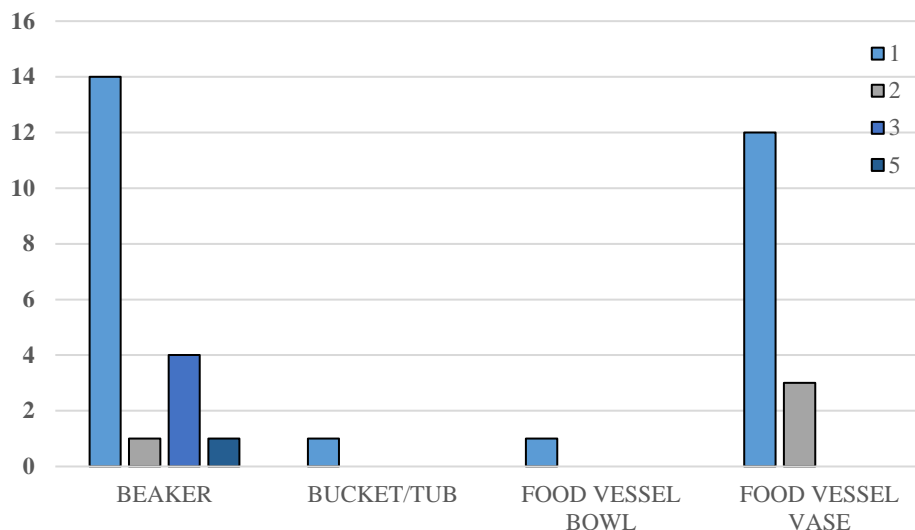


Figure 11.15: *Number of additional grave goods by vessel type*

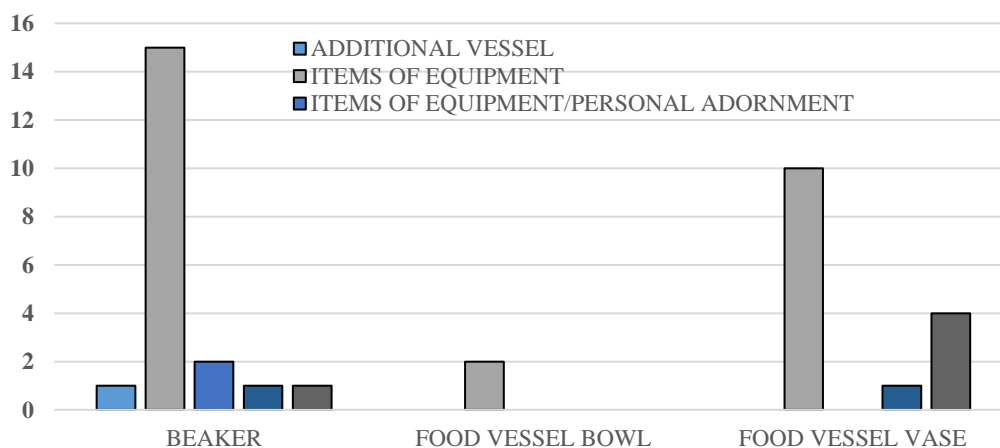


Figure 11.16: *Additional grave good types by vessel type*

(SH6) was suggested to have been made for a child (Hanley & Sheridan 1994: 138)⁶. The use of different sizes of vessel in the burial at New Broadford (SH41) could indicate different functions, with the inclusion of a serving and a larger storage vessel, either for the dead or use by the mourners and subsequently deposited at the end of the funerary rites (see below). Both examples highlight the potentially multiple motivations for the inclusion of sets of vessels in burials. A second ceramic vessel was recorded from Glengolly (NH20), but the context is unknown. The base of a further vessel was also recorded from Findon Mains (SH27), but the nature of the vessel is unknown. The inclusion of multiple Beakers is not unusual, having been

⁶ Hanley & Sheridan identify several further examples of small or miniature Beakers including examples from the N.E of Scotland (1994: 138). Clarke in his review of Beakers noted the recurrent association between females and children in graves (1970: 449)

noted at several other sites. At Amesbury five Beakers were included, two of which could have formed a pair (Cleal 2011: 141). Three Beakers were included in the burial at Upper Largie (Cook *et al.* 2010: 175). Beakers are also recorded as pairs from northeast Scotland (Wilkin 2010c). At Dalmore (SH19) Group 1, Cist 10, contained a probable pair of Food Vessels, comprising a large and smaller vessel (Jolly 1879: 257) (Fig. 9.45, 1 & 2).

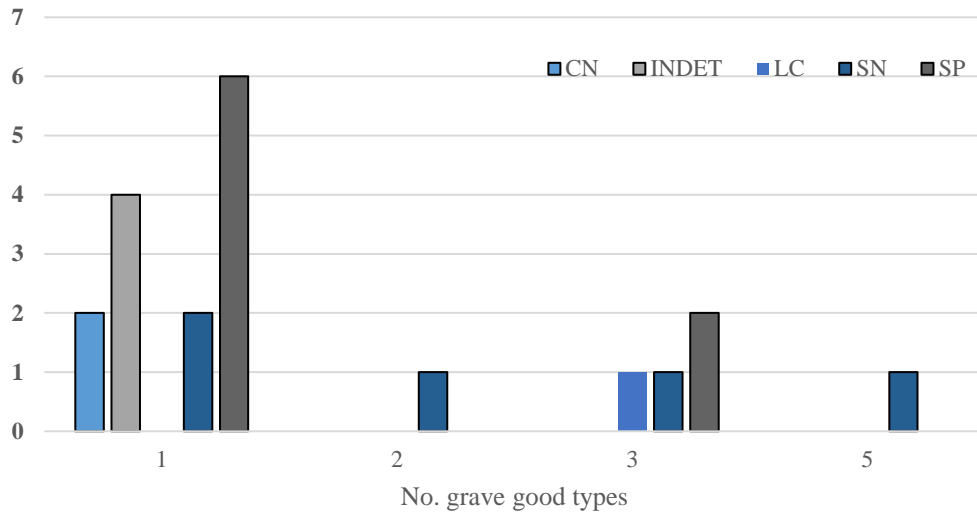


Figure 11.17: *Artefact types associated with Beakers by form*

Key: *CN. Cupped-necked, INDET. Indeterminate, LC. Low-carinated, SN. Short-necked, SP. S-profile*

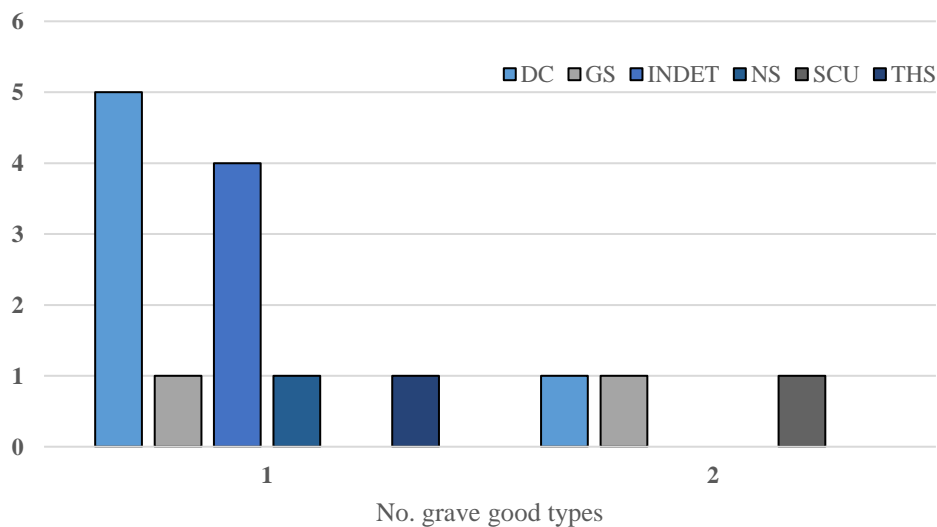


Figure 11.18: *Artefact types associated with Food Vessels by form*

Key: *DC. Double-cavetto, GS. Grooved-shoulder, INDET. Indeterminate, NS. Simple, SCU. Single cavetto upper, THS. Tall high-shouldered*

11.3.4 Associated artefacts

Associated artefacts were rare, with only 40 of the recorded vessels associated with other artefact types (Figs. 11. 15 & 11.16) (**App. H3**). 50% of these were associated with Beakers, while 37% with Food Vessels. Short-necked and s-profiled vessels were commonly deposited with additional grave goods, although – as in other parts of northeast Scotland – these were not particularly lavish, with the notable exception of the ‘Archery Burials’ (Curtis & Wilkin *forthcoming*.) Short-necked Beakers were commonly associated with one or two grave good types (Fig. 11.17). This contrasts with other regions such as Northumberland, where few short-necked Beakers were associated with durable grave goods (Fowler & Wilkin 2016: 117). Grave goods were typically items of personal equipment, with items of personal adornment commonly associated with double-cavetto or indeterminate Food Vessels (Fig. 11.18). Female burials with Food Vessels were typically associated with items of personal adornment (Fig. 11.19). These include various beads and necklaces predominantly associated with female burials. In only two cases were items of equipment and personal adornment found together at Dunrobin Park (NH16) and Culduthel Mains (SH18).

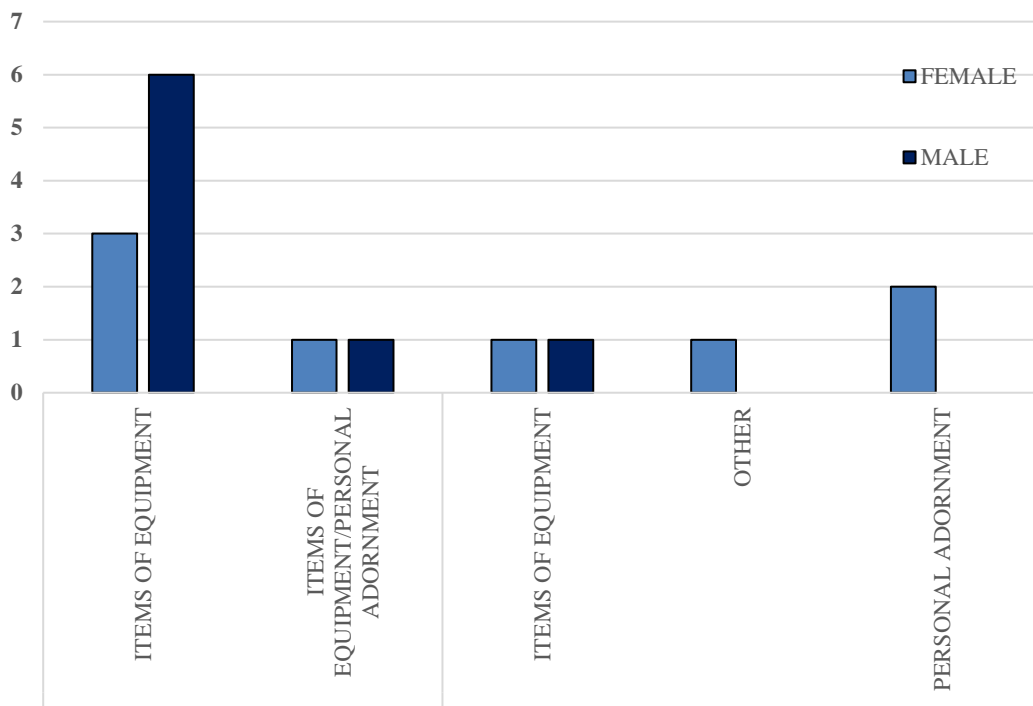


Figure 11.19: Count of grave good types by vessel type and sex

Items of Equipment:

Items of equipment encompassed a series of different types ranging from diagnostic stone bracers to flint tools. Flint was common, with worked and unworked flint recorded. Most of the flint types found in association with Beakers were poorly recorded. Where tool types could be defined, these were typically scrapers or barbed and tanged arrowheads. The large cache of flint at Holm Mains Farm (SH31) could reflect the status of the individual as a flint worker.

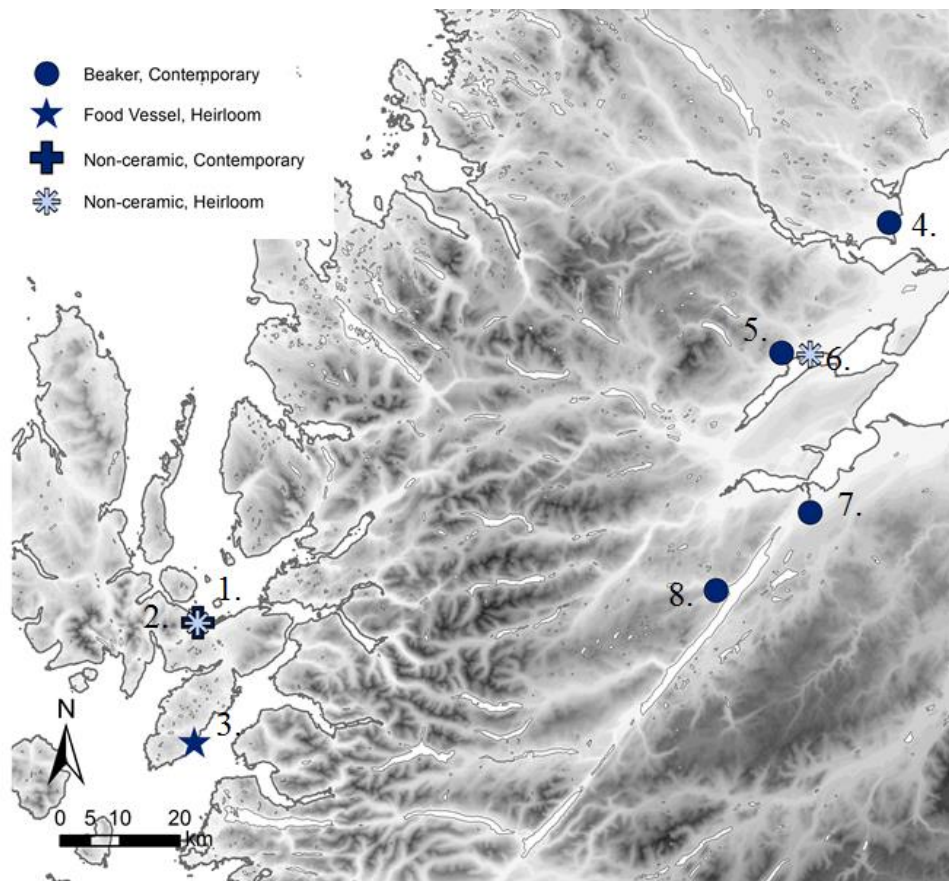


Figure. 11.20: *Distribution of stone bracers in the Highlands:*

Key: 1. Broadford Bay, Inverness-shire, 2. Corry Liveras, Inverness-shire, 3. Armadale (SH4), Inverness-shire, 4. Dornoch Nursery (NH15), Sutherland, 5. Fyrish (SH29), Ros & Cromarty, 6. Dalmore (SH19), Ros & Cromarty, 7. Culduthel Mains (SH18), Inverness-shire, 8. Drumnadrochit (SH22), Inverness-shire

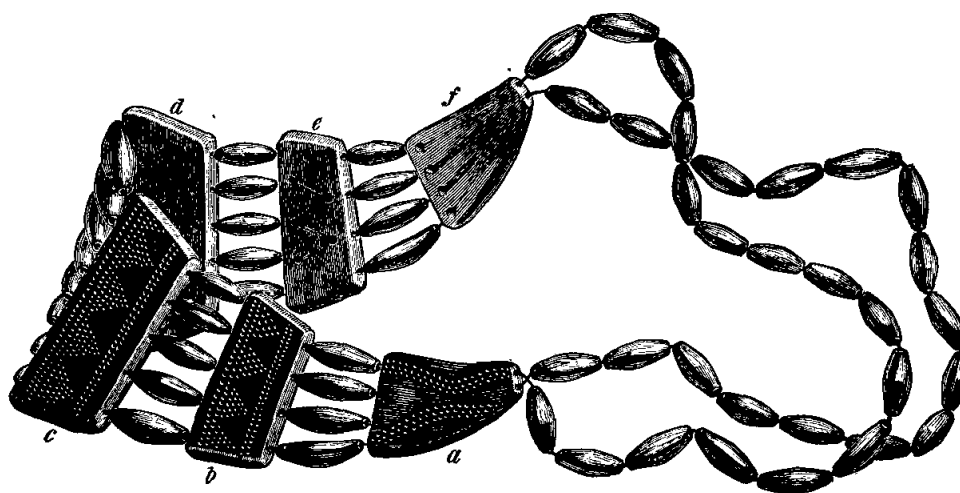


Figure 11.21: *Spacer plate necklace from Torrish, Sutherland (Joass 1871 409)*

The tools from Inchnacaorach (SH32) could have been employed in retouching flint. In other cases, it is unclear if the inclusion of flint was accidental, deriving from the construction of the cist (Fowler 2013a).

Other flint types include strike-a-lights and the plano-convex knife from Beechwood Park (SH8). In the case of Dornoch Nursery (NH15), the strike-a-light formed part of a larger collection of items, including a mix of barbed and tanged arrowheads and a stone bracer. In total, five stone bracers were recorded from funerary contexts across the region (Fig. 11.20). The tall, short-necked vessel from Culduthel Mains (SH18) was also accompanied by a stone bracer comparable to that from Fyrish (SH29). In the case of the Fyrish (SH29) and Drumnadrochit (SH22) bracers, no other grave goods were recorded in association. Broken/worn stone wrist guards were recorded from Armadale (SH4) and Dalmore (SH19), having been curated and probably worn as pendants. The Dalmore (SH19) bracer was not associated with a ceramic vessel, but was associated with an inhumation, several beads, and a flint knife (Jolly 1879: 254) (Fig. 9.43). Bracers were recorded from non-ceramic burials, including at Liveras and Broadford Bay (Fig. 11.20). Bracers were made of non-local materials sourced from distant locations, including from the Langdale region (**Section 9.3.2**). This could, as suggested by the isotope evidence from Culduthel Mains (SH17), imply individuals undertaking long distance journeys to or from the region. Alternatively, materials could have been exchanged over long distances involving complex processes of acquisition and exchange (Reiter 2014). The material from Culduthel Mains (SH18) includes some of the earliest examples of metalwork from the Highlands in the form of gold capped rivets. Metal was rarely

associated with burials, with only three recorded examples. These include the rivets from Culduthel Mains (SH18) the fragments from Embo (NH17) and Aonach (SH50).

Personal Adornment

In four cases beads of various types and materials were found in association with pots. Beads and necklaces were associated with female burials, at Dunrobin Park (NH16), which showed a strong association with bodily ornament, mirroring patterns elsewhere in Britain (Lucas 1996: 113). Except for the jet, the materials for the beads could have been sourced locally, including Oolitic lignite from Brora (Sheridan *et al.* 1998: 126). The shale beads from the spacer plate necklace at Torrish are likely from a similar source (Joass 1871: 408). In terms of form, beads were typically disc-shaped with a central perforation, deriving from simple disc-bead necklaces (**App. H3**). Only in one case at Alt Na Fearn (NH5) were these associated with an additional artefact, comprising a single bone pin. Buttons or necklaces of jet were common; in two cases, these were combined with local lignite or cannel coal. The female burial from Culduthel Mains contained 538 jet or lignite beads, a bronze awl, a small flake of obsidian and fragments of charcoal (Low 1929) (Fig. 2.15). The beads likely formed part of a belt rather than a necklace (Shepherd, I. 2008: 364). These beads and necklaces can be connected to a wider series of necklace/ bead burials within and beyond the study area.

These include the example from Torrish (Joass 1871), North Sutor, and the beads and plates from Assynt (MacKenzie, G 1831; Innes, C. 1862). The beads and plates formed part of elaborate jet spacer plate necklaces (Fig. 11.21). Composed of plates and beads, typically fusiform, these are the most elaborate of the jet necklaces and tend to be more common in Argyll and the northeast than buttons, belt rings and disc bead necklaces (Sheridan & Davis 2002: 816). At Assynt the beads were found with the remains of an ‘urn’, but the nature of the vessel is not stated (MacKenzie, G 1831: 49)⁷. The plates are described by Wilson as being studded with gold spots, suggesting the use of gold inlay (Wilson, D. 1851: 294). Other examples of spacer plates have been recorded as stray finds. A fragment was recorded at Grind in Orkney, suggesting continued links between Orkney and the wider world. At the Knowes of Trotty these links are emphatically demonstrated with finds of Wessex-style metalwork and amber necklace (Fig. 7.20) (**Section 7.4.1**). The jet buttons and few metal finds from the region suggest the maintenance of connections with the wider world (Mason 2011). As demonstrated

⁷ *It is possible that the vessel in question is a Food Vessel given the recurrent association between Food Vessels and jet necklaces (e.g. Callander 1916: 216)*

Burial type	Description
Ceramic only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Typically, single vessel placed in proximity to the body. Position varies typologically and regionally
Ceramic & Additional artefact types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Often single vessel with a range of different artefact types. Number and range of artefact types varies regionally and can be gendered/ aged. These include early ‘Archery Graves’
Aceramic & Additional artefact types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No ceramic vessel, instead a mix of other artefact types often gendered i.e. ‘Wessex Graves’, ‘Dagger Burials’ (daggers associated with ceramics and other artefact types) Female burials with jet artefacts
Unaccompanied	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No grave goods

Table 11.1: *Primary burial types in the later 3rd millennium in the study area*

at the Knowes of Trotty, these networks could have extended to the south of England, while at Isbister the jet button was probably sourced from Strathpeffer near Dingwall (Downes 2012: 81). Further examples of jet buttons are recorded from the Highlands, including those found with the Migdale Hoard in Sutherland (*cf.* Clarke, D.V. *et al.* 1985). Lignite beads were recorded at Balvraid, alongside a probable Beaker (Henshall & Ritchie, J.N.G. 2001: 230-2).

Other

In addition to definable artefacts, other objects found included animal bones and pebbles. A single pebble was recorded from Auchindown (SH5). Collections of quartz pebbles were noted at Dunrobin Park (NH16) and Tomfat (SH50). The usage of quartz in the past has been linked

to wider cosmological ideas and was employed in the flooring of the cist at Forglan House in Buchan (Curtis *et al.* 2010: 2). Coloured pebbles were employed in the floor of the cist at Mains of Balnagowan (SH38) (see above). Animal bones were noted at Holm Mains Farm (SH31) and could represent the remains of offerings of food. Importantly the presence of the latter suggests that offerings of food and drink could be made without being contained in a ceramic vessel.

11.3.5 Discussion: Assembling the dead: Contrasting and overlapping categories

Recurrent patterns of association between vessels, age, sex and other artefacts are weakly articulated across the study area. Burials from across the region express similarities and differences at a range of scales. The employment of short-cists and a ceramic vessel serve to link these at a macro level. At a regional scale, variations in posture, placement and associated grave goods differentiate them. Each burial type reflects on a range of choices made by groups, drawing on an array of materials and possibilities. These could have involved many ways of treating the body, extending beyond cremation or inhumation. Manipulation of remains was noted at Chealamy (NH11), whilst additional burnt or part-burnt remains were noted at several other cists (**Section 11.3.2**). Importantly, the use of a ceramic vessel was not of overriding importance. As highlighted, burials with ceramics represent a small group deployed alongside a wider range of burial types (Table 11.1). In the case of Orkney, unaccompanied burials are prevalent, but these are poorly dated, making it difficult to understand their relationship to accompanied burials. As at Werne (ORK20), the inclusion of additional artefacts was likely unintentional, but could have been mixed in the pyre debris deposited in the cist (Hedges 1981: 48). In Inverness, the emergence of dagger burials suggests alternative grave goods were employed to construct identity. In this regard, the selection of grave goods reflects on wider relations and choices. Taboos and ideas of appropriateness were likely involved, which served to constrain the range of grave goods included.

The emergence of new categories of burial, employing a range of artefacts, could lead to changes in the role and relative importance of ceramic grave goods (Curtis & Wilkin 2012: 249). In contrast, female burials showed a bias towards items of personal adornment. These included jet/ shale necklaces/ belts. As with metal work, female burials associated with only these items are noted from across the study area. These include the previously cited example at Culduthel (Fig. 2.15). Flint was found in male and female burials, including knives and scrapers. This suggests that flint tools were not strongly gender defined and were closely connected to everyday roles (Simpson, D. 2000: 175). With the emergence of cremation there

is a potential shift from grave goods placed as accompaniment to pyre goods placed on the fire (Johnson, M. & Cameron 2012: 45).

Female burials associated with Beakers, appear to lie late in the sequence, as seen at West Torbreck (SH53) and Dunrobin Park (NH16). The Mains of Balnagowan (SH38), is one notable exception to this trend (Fig 10.9). From *c.* 2200 cal BC there is notable diversity in the type of burial setting, including the use of stone-lined pits. Such pits – with or without stone-lining – are primarily associated with cremation burials. The size of the cist can be related to the nature of the burial. There are possible transitional examples where cremations and Food Vessels are deployed along similar lines to Beakers, reflecting on changes in wider funerary assemblages and practices. Beakers and Food Vessels could have initially been categorised in similar ways. The choice of vessel instead reflects on regional preference.

It is tempting to relate the emergence and subsequent use of Food Vessels in Sutherland to the expansion of the Migdale-Marnoch network, connected with the introduction of tin-bronze metalworking (*cf.* Needham 2004). Shared motifs found on metalwork, jet and pottery indicate a wider shared repertoire of motifs across Britain and Ireland (see Roberts & Frieman 2012). At present, the connection of Orkney and Shetland to these changes is unclear, but the presence of Beaker and Food Vessel elements would support the notion of external contact, albeit within a local context. As highlighted in the preceding section, where recorded, these vessels are primarily found in a domestic context. The later use of large, high-shouldered vessels at Culla Voe (SFI2) and Sand Fiold (ORK17) connect the regions with a wider group of similar vessels identified across the Irish Sea (Burgess 1976: 204).

Previous studies have highlighted the importance of age and gender as axis of categorisation (Brodie 2002). There were few correlations between vessel form and sex, due primarily to the poor nature of the information. There is limited evidence to support the notion of tall, short-necked vessels being associated with males, overlapping with other parts of Scotland (Curtis & Wilkin 2016). Across the study area, relationships are weakly articulated. Based on the available evidence it can be stated that Beakers were predominantly associated with males, whilst females appear to show a bias towards Food Vessels (Fig. 11.7). As noted in **Chapter 3**, in parts of Africa, pottery is a female task, drawing on this analogy the increased association of pottery with women could reflect changing notions of pottery and its relation to gender. Pot making, and personal ornamentation may have been ideas linked to women, while males became increasingly associated with daggers and other grave goods. Given the small sample size these remain at present tentative observations. Nonetheless, women are clearly afforded a range of grave goods, increasing their visibility within the record during the period.

Children were underrepresented, but the small vessel from Balblair (SH6) could have been intended for a child (Hanley & Sheridan 1994: 138). Similar small vessels have been recorded from other cist burials, including Rothes (Rennie 2014). Sub-adult remains were recorded from several contexts at Seafield West (SH48), Embo (NH17) and the Ord North (NH26). Crucially, the invisibility of children in the burial record should not be equated with a lesser status in society. Children could have fulfilled a variety of roles, including as craft specialists (Garrido-Pena & Herrero-Corral 2015; see also Turek 2000). Factors such as survival and different treatment of children's remains need to be considered.

11.3.6 Ceramic roles

In the preceding discussion I have considered the funerary assemblage at a macro scale considering the interaction of the various components. As summarised above, strongly articulated relationships are difficult to detect. This is in part due to the quality of the available information but could indicate the existence of distinct regional practices. While patterns can be detected at a macro scale in other regions, the specifics of these at a local level need to be understood. This includes distinct dialects of burial expressing individual and regional components. This creates a series of intersecting relations, which express a range of ideas at multiple scales.

In the following discussion, I will consider the roles of pottery in these assemblages. As highlighted in **Chapter 3**, each of the components of the assemblage have affective or performative properties. Pots in funerary contexts can be viewed as fulfilling specific performative roles. These can be broadly divided into those intended as accompaniments and those containing (or covering) human remains. The use of the pots as well as serving a specific role in funerary rites signal membership of wider networks. This includes shifts in networks during from *c.* 2200 cal BC when Food Vessels were increasingly deployed in burial contexts.

Accompanying the dead

As highlighted in **Section 3.4.3**, past discussions of Beakers have emphasised their role as drinking vessels. The original definitions of Beakers and Food vessels relied on the functional opposition of the vessels. The affordances of pottery overlap with those in a domestic context, serving to contain substances, food, liquid or human remains. In certain cases, this overlap could be reinforced by the abstraction of vessels from a domestic context to a funerary (Needham 2005) (see **Section 11.1**). Evidence for this process is difficult to ascertain. It is

probable that several vessels employed in burials were made for the grave. However, the small size of the domestic sample compared to the funerary needs to be borne in mind.

The provision of larger vessels as noted earlier could have been as storage vessels, holding larger amounts of liquid. The provision of food or drink could have been undertaken for a variety of reasons including:

- Provision of food and drink for the dead on their journey to ancestral realms. In this scenario the deceased are viewed as making a journey and the inclusion of other grave goods could be viewed as preparation for this (*i.e.* Turek 2015). The discovery of animal bones could be linked to similar ideas. Indeed, where no pot is included food and drink may have been provided in organic containers or as joints of meat.
- Offerings of food and drink for cosmological entities to ensure passage or liminal transformation of the deceased. These could have been added at the time of the funerary rite, or at a later point.
- Use of vessels in funerary rites involving feasting. The subsequent deposition of the vessel can be connected to ideas of pollution and close connection of vessel to ideas of death, alongside wider cosmological systems.
- Use of vessels in funerary rites involving cremation or destruction of the body. Sherds of pottery subsequently collected and deposited

In this light, the range of motivations involved could be multiple, even though the use and placement of vessels outwardly appears the same. Fundamentally, however, it is possible to link these to wider changes in beliefs about the role of the dead and wider cosmological notions. At the heart of funerary rites lies a concern with death as a rite of passage or liminal process (Barrett 1994: 51). Funerary and burial rites “*involve the removal of a corpse from among the living and its disposal*” (*ibid.*: 50) but might also involve ensuring “*the departure of a ghost or spirit or ghost which would otherwise haunt the community*” *ibid.*). In Bali, the disposal and treatment of the body is related to broader cosmological schemes, in particular concepts of the sacred and the profane (Downes 1999: 20), illustrating the falsehood in creating a dichotomy between life and death.

As evidenced by ethnographic studies, including Balinese (*cf.* Downes 1999) and Madagascan funerary rites (*cf.* Parker Pearson 1999), this divorcing of life and death is not the only way of conceptualizing the dead. In societies, such as Bali and Madagascar, death is a part of life, representing a rite of passage, the transition from one state to another, such as an ancestor (Barrett 1994: 53). Notions and metaphors of mobility could have been translated into the

burial sphere, with the idea of the dead existing in a separate realm. This distant realm could relate to ideas of homeland and origins, remembered and transmitted through stories. Further to this, the physical body itself appears to be less important, with the body being manipulated and broken down in multiple cases. With the emergence of cremation there is a period where vessels continued to be employed as accompaniments, rather than containers.

Ethnographic analogies show the potential for funerary rites to involve the deconstruction of the social persona (Fowler 2004: 100), or the presentation of a different persona (Richards, C. 1991: 42). This different persona may not be reflective then of their actual living status, activities, or even forms of dress (Parker Pearson 2003: 9). As can already be seen, the nature of funerary rites has a capacity to incorporate and illustrate a plethora of concepts. The deliberate extirpation of the body may be linked to deliberate destruction of the identity, potentially further reflecting upon attitudes towards the body. In this case, the body is not the important feature, but rather the residing 'spirit'. Comparable examples for this view can be found across the world. Among the Ga'anda and Bena peoples, ceramic vessels are employed in place of the body for the storing of the deceased's spirit. In the case of the Ga'anda, the containing vessel is broken as part of a special ceremony occurring one year after death to dispatch the spirit (Berns 1989: 54). In the case of the Bena, the ancestral vessels are retained and placed within shrines, as they believe that the ancestors can bring "*well-being and prosperity*" as long as they properly propitiated (*ibid.*), the nature, the conceptual beliefs, and the views of the dead come to be embodied and represented via architecture and materials, and they can, in turn, influence the nature of funerary rites, creating a series of overlapping and intersecting relations.

While it is typically presumed that vessels were deposited whole, it is equally possible that only fragments of vessels were deposited. These token or commemorative deposits could be either curated or heirlooms, with fragments retained by the wider social group. The retention of fragments of pottery would allow connections with dead (see Chapman 2000). In Bali, pots are smashed, and fragments placed in the ground as part of the funerary rite (Downes 1999: 2). The inclusion of sherds at Kewing (ORK8) could be connected to a similar practice, with the vessel being closely linked to the funerary rites. Drumnadrochit (SH22) could have been smashed deliberately (Peteranna 2015: 11). Excavations at Linga Folds are testament to the potential wide nature of rites. Here, archaeological work uncovered evidence for pyre debris under the mounds, highlighting a series of primary and secondary rites (Downes 1994). This implies that funerary rites may have consisted of several distinct phases, of which the disposal of the body was but one element (Downes 1999: 22).

Containing the dead

Increasingly, with cremation the performative role of vessels is modified to that of containers for human remains. These range from elaborate to cruder examples, including large Food Vessel Urns, steatite vessels and later Cordoned Urns. There is likely a temporal dimension to these changes, but this cannot be fully ascertained based on current dating. As stated in **Chapter 2**, this relates to changes in the role of pots in the wider funerary context. Rather than containing food or drink, vessels contained the remains of the dead. In the case of Orkney, the use of a vessel as a container replaced cists or stone-lined pits, with vessels placed directly into the ground.

11.4 Conclusion

In this chapter I have examined the wider assemblages in which pots were entangled. This has included a detailed analysis of the available domestic and funerary evidence. In the case of the latter, patterns of association were scrutinised. Weakly articulated patterns of association were observable but given gaps in the dataset the significance of these patterns is difficult to understand. Importantly, while similarities were identified it was stressed that the underlying motivations behind this similarity in a funerary context could be multiple. The performative aspect of burial while often formalised can leave a degree of flexibility. This enables mourners to convey personal aspects within the burial.

Domestic assemblages represent a heterogeneous mixture of forms, which include – where identifiable – Beaker and, to a limited extent, Food Vessels. The mixed and generally undiagnostic nature of this material is not unique to the study area. Similar issues have been recorded across Britain and the Continent (*e.g.* Fokkens 2012a: 10; Gibson, A. 1982.) (**Section 2.5.1**). Detailed analysis of the relationship between funerary and domestic pottery is hampered by the quality of the available information. Despite this, overlap between different contexts is evident. In the case of Beakers, overlap between domestic and funerary contexts can be observed from the outset. A range of large storage jars that can be related to low-carinated types were recorded from Culduthel Farm (SH17) and Kilcoy South (SH34). As noted, these occupy a larger size range than those from funerary contexts. They are further defined by different modes of decoration, including fingernail impressions. Alongside these are a range of vessels, which share elements of form and decoration with funerary vessels.

While aspects of commonality were defined, the full significance of these trends is unclear, since domestic evidence is limited. At present it is unclear to what degree vessels were made for burial or abstracted for use in burial. Clear points of overlap were noted among low-carinated types. In most of the domestic assemblages, definable Beakers were rare. Instead, domestic assemblages combined a range of regional types. These types were influenced by the wider assemblage in which vessels were involved. In this regard, vessels cited aspects of form and decoration found in funerary contexts.

CHAPTER TWELVE

CONCLUSIONS & FUTURE DIRECTIONS



12.1 Introduction

In this thesis two broad aims were established, the first sought to identify the range of ceramic types in use and secondly the wider processes in which they were engaged. This examination was framed through a series of relational approaches highlighting the emergence, stabilisation and destabilisation of pot categories, emphasising the fluid and permeable nature of ceramic types. Importantly this approach provided an alternative means to conceptualise relations in the past, but is not in itself interpretive. By examining the context in which vessels were deployed, and the differences across these contexts it was possible to suggest reasons for similarity, but also to account for differences. In each of the regional examinations, marked points of similarity and difference were detected. In a domestic context, the wide range of roles undertaken by pots was noted, alongside possible distinctions in consumptive practice. Within a funerary sphere the use of ceramic vessels represents a particular choice, which relates to choices made by the mourners (see **Chapter 11**). These choices can be related to ideas of cosmology and notions of decay and transformation. A third arena of deposition was identified involving the placement of pots into chambered cairns, either as part of funerary rites or as structured deposits. Chambered cairns themselves represent enduring residues of previous assemblages. In this chapter I will return to the original questions set in **Chapter 1**, summarising the key findings from this research. Following this I will in brief outline further avenues of research identified during this thesis.

12.2 Answering the research question

What are the key characteristics of pottery in terms of their form, fabric and decoration?

A review of past typological schemes and approaches to material culture in general was presented in **Chapter 3**. In this review, normative views of material culture were critiqued. In response, I highlighted the need to consider artefacts from a relational perspective. Relational approaches reposition meaning as generative property created through action and process. This

was followed by a discussion of vessel forms and the definition of a series of form-based categories in **Chapter 4**. These categories employed existing nomenclature, denoting a series of recurrent forms. Beakers were broadly defined as a group of sinuous/ low-carinated vessels (**Section 4.3.2**), and Food Vessels as a series of shouldered vases or rounded bowls (**Section 4.3.3 & 4.3.4**). Other defined forms included bucket/ tub vessels comprising a range of simple forms (**Section 4.3.5**). These labels provided a basis for the construction of regional definitions, allowing for a clearer understanding of vessel types without the importation of pre-existing ideas. These arguments stressed the relational and additive nature of pottery, emphasising the need to consider aspects of manufacture alongside other biographical elements of the vessel (**Section 3.4.5 & 4.2**). The importance of the potting process was emphasised, highlighting the role of memory, citation and transmission. Importantly the functional aspects of pottery and its wider relations were examined.

Food Vessels tended to show more variation, notably in those with double-cavettos, where multiple sub-forms could be defined (**Section 10.3.2**). The positioning and size of these provided a key axis of variability allowing for the creation of series of vessels which on the one hand expressed similarity but on the other differences. Beakers overall were relatively consistent, with the primary point of difference being the types and arrangement of decoration. This consistency as argued can in part be related to the roles in which Beakers were engaged, being primarily recorded from funerary contexts (see below) (**Section 10.3.1**). Local variations in ceramic style are evident, with preferences for certain modes of decoration and form. These draw on the wider artistic repertoire of the period, overlapping with motifs on rock art, metal and other artefact types. Bucket/ tub vessels were common, and argued to have played key utilitarian roles, these roles later overlapping with their use in cremation practices. These forms were long lived, being employed throughout the 3rd and 2nd millennium, being situated in a variety of relations.

In **Chapter 6**, I examined the range of vessel forms from Shetland. These principally comprised a suite of bucket/ tub vessels, alongside several regionally specific forms. Beaker forms were rare but given the fragmentary state of much of the material it is possible that the actual number of Beakers is underrepresented. Where sherds were too fragmentary for reconstruction, a cautious approach was taken to assigning labels (**Section 6.4.1**). Forms showed a high degree of variety from site to site, and it is unclear if this reflects on temporal differences. Decorative motifs and forms overlap in part with those found in Orkney. The pottery from Orkney was reviewed in **Chapter 7**. As in Shetland, Beakers were rare, noted

only from a handful of sites. These include sherds from Rinyo (ORK16) and several chambered cairns. As in Shetland bucket/ tub vessels dominate the record. Whilst elements of decoration found frequently on Beakers were recorded at Crossiecrown (ORK6), the precise form and context of these is unclear (**Section 7.2.2**). Vessels are frequently decorated with incised schemes, which could cite pre-existing motifs within the region, rather than the importation of Beaker motifs. The continued use of bucket/ tub vessels in Orkney draws on previous modes of production among Grooved Ware vessels. Vessel types from funerary contexts were rare, limited to the small high-shouldered vases from Redland (ORK15) and Corrigall (ORK5). Larger vessels are recorded from Sand Field (ORK17) and Quandale (ORK14), the form of the latter overlapping in part with those recorded from a domestic context.

In the Highlands Beakers and Food Vessels are commonly recorded from funerary contexts. The region was due to its size examined in two parts. The North Highlands was reviewed in **Chapter 8** and the South Highlands in **Chapter 9**. Beakers are typically short-necked and s-profile. A small group of early low-carinated Beakers was recorded, alongside a later group of cupped and long-necked Beakers. These chronologically overlap with Food Vessels. Overall Beakers within the Highlands were consistent in their proportions. Decoration was frequently by comb or incision, twisted cord was rarely recorded, instead being common on Food Vessels. In contrast to Beakers these tended to have thicker walls but shared aspects in the arrangement of decoration into zones, motifs and techniques. In this regard whilst Food Vessels represent a distinct form, points of overlap can be defined, highlighting the fluidity of the potting choice. The reasons for these choices stem from regional preferences as well as the contexts in which the vessels were deployed. Importantly as discussed in **Chapter 10**, whilst forms have a distinct regional outlook they can be connected to wider groups or traditions of pottery. In the case of early Beakers these demonstrate links to the continent, while Food Vessels show links to Ireland and the North of England. These broader connections reflect on wider networks in which pots and ideas were engaged in.

How were pots categorised through use and are there consistent patterns of associations in funerary, domestic and other contexts?

In **Chapter 3** the notion of categories was discussed highlighting their emergent and relational nature. As highlighted in **Chapter 11** a Beaker employed in a domestic context will likely have had a different range of meanings than one deployed in a funerary context. This creates

a series of intersecting and overlapping assemblages. As highlighted by Boast the period is one in which groups selectively choose and employed elements from the wider assemblage in which they were engaged (1995), echoing earlier suggestions by Clarke of polythetic categories discussed in **Chapter 3**. This includes the continuation of aspects, such as form and decoration, from earlier pottery types discussed in **Chapter 5** and **Chapter 11**. The recognition and identification of these wider assemblages and choices played a key role in the definition of the regional sequences outlined in **Part II** and summarised in **Chapter 10**. In these chapters whilst a range of similar forms were identified, differences in decoration (motif and schema) were highlighted along with variations in the use of vessels.

The diversity of ceramic types and their involvement in their wider social worlds has been shown through the course of this thesis to be multi-layered, reflecting on regional and inter-regional trends. These processes were examined in detail in **Chapter 11**, considering the range of processes in which pots were engaged. Two principal arenas of use were explored funerary and domestic. As highlighted in **Chapter 10**, elements of form and decoration are found in both funerary and domestic vessels. These as discussed in **Chapter 11** can be related to wider notions of consumption and the affordances of the vessel.

Burial rites & Pottery: Intersections and change

Funerary rites serve to contain ephemeral assemblages, including the body and associated grave goods. As highlighted in **Chapter 11** funerary rites are transformative, renegotiating the position of dead and the living. The use of the cist acts as a centre of gravity, framing the funerary rite. The use of stone cists was argued to cite wooden chambers translated into a ‘megalithic’ form. At an intra-regional level, the contexts and form of funerary rites represent a recurrent citation, this was notable across the Highlands where Beakers placed in graves showed a number of recurrent aspects:

- Single vessel placed behind the head
- Placement in a short-cist, with preference for well drained soils and locations

Within these recurrent citations degrees of variation, including differences in orientation, and evidence for the addition or removal of human remains, but information was limited. The presence of multiple rites challenges the notion of cist as static containers, but rather suggests that short-cist could have acted as centres of gravity attracting further burials, or the manipulation or removal of materials. The inclusion of additional grave goods provided a

further axis of variation. Vessels placed as accompaniments could have been deposited either as part of the funerary rite, disposed of due to negative associations with death, or as accompaniment for the deceased who may have been perceived to be undertaking a journey (**Section 11.3.5**).

As discussed in **Chapter 11** the initial use of Food Vessels is framed within a similar set of recurrent citations, with changes in practice and the use of Food Vessels occurring alongside an increased uptake in cremation practices. In this light it was argued that while Food Vessels represent a distinct vessel type their use could have initially been framed along similar lines to Beakers. The choice to use one or other appears to reflect on regional preferences, with Sutherland and areas of Ross and Cromarty having low numbers of Beakers, instead preferring Food Vessels. Chronologically the degree of overlap cannot be clearly ascertained, but a short period of overlap is probable. This dichotomy becomes potentially more marked over time with late Beakers recorded only from Inverness and Nairn, and Food Vessels north of this. Towards the end of the 3rd millennium pottery is commonly employed to cover or contain cremated remains marking a further shift in the way vessels are categorised. There is a phase, perhaps bridging the two, where pots are deployed as accompaniment to cremated remains. Further dating is required to tease out this sequence further, but in short it is possible to relate changes in pots not only to wider networks but to changes in burial practice and conceptions of the role of pottery in funerary rites.

Domestic pottery: Changing modes of consumption

Change in domestic assemblages over time was difficult to map for the Highlands, with the interface between Grooved Ware and Beakers unclear. The small sample of Grooved Ware sites and lack of detailed chronology prohibits more detailed analysis (**Chapter 5**). Where domestic assemblages in the Highlands were recorded these typically comprised Beaker vessels akin to those recorded from funerary contexts suggesting a degree of overlap. This could as argued extend to an early use of Beakers in both domestic and funerary contexts (**Chapter 10**). As highlighted in **Chapter 3** the properties of pottery allow it to be plugged into a range of different contexts, where its performative qualities create a variety of effects. These range from signalling ideas relating to death to concepts of consumption. Vessels were highly fragmentary prohibiting detailed reconstruction of forms and sizes. In the case of the latter Grooved Ware was shown to be connected to a particular assemblage where it was

involved in signalling a range of ideas alongside serving a practical role in the maintenance and creation of wider assemblages (see **Section 5.6**).

In Orkney and Shetland vessels forms in the later 3rd millennium comprised an eclectic mixture of forms. These were predominantly formed of bucket/ tub vessels, overlapping in part with similar forms from the earlier 3rd millennium. These vessels were argued to equate to utilitarian wares entangled in a range of cooking and storage practices. Importantly within Orkney it was possible to detect distinct changes over time in the use of pottery in a domestic context. Highly decorated Grooved Ware was closely tied into wider consumptive practices, the end of these practices resulted in changes over time to the nature of pottery. This importantly should not be seen as a dramatic break in practice, but a gradual loss of coding over time, with a shift in the social role of pottery. This low-level activity is reinforced by a switch to incised modes of decoration, which unlike applied schemes can be argued to be less labour intensive. These modes of decoration find parallel in Shetland, but commentary on the wider processes in this region is inhibited by the lack of stratified remains and radiocarbon dates. Within Orkney and Shetland pottery was frequently recovered from middens, but the degree of structured placement within these deposits was difficult to ascertain. Midden was frequently employed in the levelling and backfilling of structures, but whether vessels were deliberately placed is hard to detect.

What are the key intra-regional chronological and typological relationships between these ceramic types?

The pottery from across the study area whilst showing variation in form, decoration and usage can be viewed as representing a series of recurrent citations. In this way the use of Beakers or Food Vessels served to link groups together at a broader level.

In **Chapter 10** I reviewed the principal forms from the study area, noting the relative consistency in Beaker forms. There was overlap in motifs and decorative techniques across the regions. Food Vessels while outwardly appearing more eclectic comprised a suite of recurrently cited elements, the manipulation of which as seen in the case of double-cavetto vessels created a series of similar but different vessels. Given the relative lack of radiocarbon dates more detailed examination of links between regions based on visual similarity should as noted in **Chapter 10**, be approached with caution. As noted from 2200/ 2100 cal BC there are

two distinct preferences in the Highlands, with Food Vessels favoured north of the Beaulieu Firth, and Beakers to the south.

Orkney Isles and Shetland whilst remote were connected, and indeed were increasingly connected to each other moving into the 2nd millennium. Orkney Isles had clearly been a key nodal point in the earlier 3rd millennium, but this role was challenged by the emergence of new nodes in Ireland and the south of England. The emergence of new networks in the later 3rd millennium clearly challenged this, and the competitive systems at play in Orkney proved unsustainable. In the later 3rd millennium Shetland Isles were engaged with the Orkney Isles and potentially areas further to the south, leading to distinct regional ceramic styles within the Shetland Isles. Fair Isle as a midway point could have played a role in the development of these maritime networks. A similar role was advanced for coastal sites, which tend to have mixed assemblages, including early Beakers.

There is no singular phenomenon or explanation. Instead the regions can be viewed as engaged in a series of unfolding or emergent relationships, operating within fluid networks. The emergence of the Migdale-Marnoch network is of key importance in the development of the Sutherland region, the exploitation of cannel coal at Brora could have played a role in these networks. The flat axes of the region and the hoard at Migdale underscore the importance of this region as a key nodal point (Curtis & Wilkin 2012: 249). These as discussed in **Chapter 2** can be situated within wider networks of exchange including Irish links to Argyll and the Firth of Clyde region).

Do changes in the ceramic record reflect on long or short-term processes?

Within Orkney short and long-term processes were at play, whilst in Shetland the chronology of changes remains unclear. In the south highlands the arrival of Beakers marks a key point of rupture but are not widespread until 2300 BC. In **Chapter 10** it was suggested that while these dispersed early Beakers could be related to the emergence of later forms, there is no direct evidence to support the notion of evolution from one form to the other. Instead a range of processes could be in play, and the development of Beakers in certain regions could be connected to the development of new networks in other parts of Scotland. This accords with the outline in **Chapter 2** where the early stages of Beaker use are polycasual involving aspects of mobility and integration over time.

Regarding the temporal nature of change, it is important to note that the archaeological record represents points where change is visible and detectable. Between these points a range of processes occur with varying effects. The cumulative nature of these leads to visible change, for example the transition between early and later Beakers likely encompasses an array of regional processes. This culminates in the increased visibility of Beakers in the archaeological record from 2300 BC. The processes underlying these are plural rather than singular, thus attempting to derive an overarching explanation for a multi-faceted phenomenon is unreasonable and unattainable.

12.3 Directions and ways forward

A primary outcome of this project was to provide an up to date record and assessment of material from the area. The information contained in the appendices provides a key resource in this regard outlining the principal sites and providing descriptions of each vessel. In addition, lists of other probable vessels are included, which require further research. Throughout the analysis I have emphasised the nature of similarities and differences across the study area from a relational perspective. The employment of relational approaches facilitated the building of narrative which moved between different scales and contexts, allowing an understanding of the role of pots in wider assemblages and the performative aspects of pottery its self. Several avenues for further research have been identified. Notable among these is the need for further excavation and dating of sites and ceramics from Shetland. Detailed reviews of the variable material have highlighted the diversity of ceramics and potential chronological differences but this require ratification through radiocarbon dating. Unfortunately, there is limited potential within the available resource for further dating. Animal bone or datable material is either unavailable or where available cannot be directly related to contexts. There is a similar need for a programme of further research and dating of human remains from the Highlands. The current record, apart from those recently reviewed as part of the *Beakers and Bodies* project is poor, with age and sex information absent. As demonstrated by the ongoing *Achavanich Burial Project*, there is much potential in revisiting older archives, although the location and state of human remains will need establishing. This can be extended to include cremated remains, to build a robust dataset of all burials. Further research in this arena can be extended to further consider the emergence (or continuation) of bucket/ tub vessels towards the end of the 3rd millennium, alongside the emergence of Cordoned Urns and cremation cemeteries (*cf.* Bradley 2011).

Further work on domestic sites is needed including a review of use-wear on domestic material and identifying further samples for residue analysis. This could be coupled with detailed analysis of changes in the faunal assemblage overtime, examining changes of pottery alongside changes in foods being consumed. This would facilitate a clearer understanding of the wider assemblages in which pots are entangled and their changes over time (*i.e.* Schulting 2000). Further dating and clarification of stratigraphy is required, but with several domestic sites, which are currently in preparation for publication, this need is likely to be met in these cases. Fair Isle has seen little comment in this study due to the lack of information and is clearly in need of further study. This need is reinforced by its potential position and role in networks between Orkney and Shetland.

In summary the approach adopted in this study has been broad and indeed a study of one of the areas or part of the area would have enabled a more detailed consideration of certain aspects, but the project aimed to give a broad flavour of regional diversity. Importantly as emphasised in the preceding section and in **Chapter 10**, the quality of the available information proved highly variable constraining the level of interpretation in several areas. This has ranged beyond a consideration of the physical types of pottery but considered the wider entanglements of these vessels moving through a range of different scales.

A final point worth discussing in brief is the question of labels. As highlighted above a cautious approach was taken to labelling, in attempt to avoid top down labels. Whilst existing nomenclature has been employed this should not be taken to mean that there existed a higher-level concept. Each vessel can instead be seen as reterritorialization of another vessel, itself the outcome of similar processes. This creates a chain of citation and interpretation creating patterns of similarity on the one hand but difference on the other. The degree of reterritorialization can be linked to the wider assemblage in which pots are used. For example, the close association of Beakers and Food Vessels as appropriate for use in burial created a degree of stability in vessel form. This idea of appropriateness in part relates to the affordances of the pot, but again to the wider world of ideas vessels were a part. As stressed during this thesis this involves considering the wide processes and dialogues of pottery. By focusing on these dialogues of clay richer narratives of change and the role of ceramics emerge, moving beyond normative and dualistic narratives.

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JOURNAL ABBREVIATIONS

A.D. Archaeological Dialogues

A.J: Archaeological Journal

A.M.T: Archaeological method and theory

B.I.A.L Bulletin of the Institute of Archaeology London

C.A.J: Cambridge Archaeological Journal

D.E.S: Discovery & Excavation Scotland

G.A.J: Glasgow Archaeological Journal

I.A.R.F: Irish Archaeological Research Forum

J.A.I: Journal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain

J.E.A. Journal of European Archaeology

J.I.A. Journal of Irish Archaeology

J.S.A: Journal Social Archaeology

M.A.S.L: Memoirs Anthropological Society London

N.A.J. Norwegian Archaeology Journal

O.J.A: Oxford Journal of Archaeology

P.P.S: Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society

P.S.A.S: Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland

P.R.I.A: Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy

S.A.J: Scottish Archaeological Journal

T.I.S.S.F.C Transactions Inverness Science Society Field Club

Trans. D.G.N.H.A.S: Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society

W.A. World Archaeology

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APPENDIX A-F:
Regional data supplements:

- A. Index of sites
- B. Shetland Isles
- C. The Orkney Isles
- D. Highlands North
- E. Highlands South
- F. Radiocarbon data



APPENDIX A

INDEX OF PRINCIPAL SITES



A1 SHETLAND & FAIR ISLE (APP. B)

A1.1 Domestic

	CAT CODE	CANMORE ID	PARISH	POTTERY
Cols Ness	SFI1	1281	Bressay	Cord impressed sherd – Form unclear
H1 Ness of Gruting	SFI5	277	Sandsting	Mixed range of forms including a series of site specific forms
Ness of Gruting Workshop	SFI6	278	Sandsting	Cord impressed sherd – Form unclear
Pund of Burland	SFI8	600	Lerwick	Regional styles incorporating possible Beaker/ Food Vessel elements
Scord of Brouster	SFI9	-	Walls & Sandness	?Grooved Ware? Shouldered vases (unique to site)
Stanydale House	SFI11	387	Sandsting	Mix of sherds including incised examples
Stanydale Temple	SFI12	387	Sandsting	?Grooved Ware?
Sumburgh Airport	SFI13	543	Dunrossness	Cord impressed sherds – Form unclear ?Grooved Ware? Regional styles incorporating possible Beaker/ Food Vessel elements
Tougs of Burra	SFI15	633	Lerwick	?Beaker? - Cord impressed sherds
Wiltrow	SFI15	546	Dunrossness	Multiple sherds – Incised decoration, single comb impressed sherd

A1.2 Funerary

	CAT CODE	CANMORE ID	PARISH	POTTERY
Culla Voe	SFI2			?Food Vessel Urns?

Fraga	SFI13	Cord impressed sherd
Giants Grave	SFI4	Cord impressed sherd (lost)
South Nesting	SFI10	?Beaker? - Cord impressed sherd

A2 ORKNEY ISLES (APP. C)

A2.1 Domestic

	CAT CODE	CANMORE ID	PARISH	POTTERY
Braes Ha'Breck	ORK3	288385	Rousay & Egilsay	Incised sherds
Crossiecrown	ORK6	134216	Kirkwall & St. Ola	Grooved Ware ?Beaker? - Incised sherds
Links of Noltland	ORK10	2790	Westray	Grooved Ware
Ness of Brodgar	ORK11	269123	Stenness	Incised sherds
Rinyo	ORK16	2717	Rousay & Egilsay	Grooved Ware Beaker - S-profile
Tofts Ness	ORK19	3576	Lady	Incised sherds

A2.2 Funerary

	CAT CODE	CANMORE ID	PARISH	POTTERY
Blomuir	ORK2	2369	Holm	Bucket/ tub – Indet. form
Kewing	ORK8	306636	Evie & Rendall	Indet.
Newhouse	ORK12	1762	Birsay & Harray	Bucket/ tub vessel – Incised
Quandale	ORK14	2288	Rousay & Egilsay	Bucket/ tub Bucket/ tub – steatite
Redland	ORK15	309547	Stromness	Food Vessel Vase- High-shouldered
Sand Fiold	ORK17	1689	Sandwick	Food Vessel Vase - Tall high-shouldered
Taversoe Tuick	ORK18	2634	Rousay & Egilsay	Bucket/ tub – Indet. form
Upper Bigging, Corrigall	ORK5	271878	Birsay & Harray	Food Vessel Vase - High-shouldered

Werne ORK20 2050 Rousay & Egilsay Indet.

A2.3 Chambered Cairn NF

	CAT CODE	CANMORE ID	PARISH	POTTERY
Calf of Eday Long	ORK4	3151	Eday	Incised sherds – Forms unclear
Howe	ORK7	2369	Stromness	?Beaker? – Indet. form Beaker - ?Cupped necked?
Knowe of Yarso	ORK9	2623	Rousay & Egilsay	Incised sherds – Forms unclear
Papa Westray North	ORK13		Papa Westray	Beaker – Indet. form

A2.4 Stone Circle

	CAT CODE	CANMORE ID	PARISH	POTTERY
Stones of Odin♣	ORK1	2128	Stenness	Beaker – S-profile

♣ *As highlighted in Section 7.3 this could instead represent a burial rather than structured deposit*

A3 NORTH HIGHLANDS (APP. D)

A3.1 Domestic

	CAT CODE	CANMORE ID	PARISH	POTTERY
Alt Na Fearna	NH5		Creich	Bucket/ tub
Freswick Sands	NH18	9293	Canisbay	Grooved Ware ?Beakers? Shouldered vessels

A3.2 Funerary

	CAT CODE	CANMORE ID	PARISH	POTTERY
Acharole	NH1	8804	Watten	Beaker – Short-necked
Achavanich	NH4	317871	Latheron	Beaker – Short-necked
Achichanter	NH2	14836	Dornoch	Food Vessel Vase – Grooved-shouldered
Achinduich	NH3	97111	Creich	Food Vessel Vase – Double-cavetto Beaker – Indet.
Alt na Fearn House cremation 3	NH5	5110	Creich	Food Vessel – Indet.
Ascoilemore	NH6	6611	Clyne	Food Vessel Vase – High-shouldered
Battle Moss	NH7	9021	Wick	Beaker – Low-carinated Beaker – Indet. Beaker – Indet. Bucket/ tub
Brora	NH8	6974	Clyne	Food Vessel Vase – Single mid-cavetto
Camnbusmore	NH9	14754	Dornoch	Beaker – Weak s-profile
Carn Liath	NH10	6546	Golspie	Food Vessel – Indet. Beaker – Indet.
Chealamy	NH11	6360	Farr	Beaker – Short-necked
Cnoc Na H- Uiseig Lower Dounreay	NH13	7300	Reay	Beaker – Indet.
Crackaig	NH14	7106	Loth	Food Vessel Vase - Grooved-shouldered
Dornoch Nursery (Hilton of Embo)	NH15	14841	Dornoch	Beaker – Low-carinated
Dunrobin Park	NH16	6590	Golspie	Beaker – S-profile
Embo	NH17	15376	Dornoch	Food Vessel Vase – Double Cavetto Food Vessel – Indet. Beaker - ?Low-carinated?

Garrywhin	NH19	9016	Wick	Beaker – Indet.
Glengolly	NH20	8442	Thurso	Beaker – Short-necked
Keas Cottage, Spinningdale	NH21	346397	Creich	Food Vessel Vase – Double-cavetto
Little Creich	NH22	13871	Creich	Food Vessel Vase – Double-cavetto
Loch More	NH23	4753	Eddrachillis	Beaker/ Food Vessel – Double-cavetto
Lothbeg	NH24	6936	Loth	Food Vessel Vase – High-shouldered
Muie	NH25	5478	Loth	Food Vessel Vase – Simple
Sandhills	NH27	8236	Halkirk	Food Vessel Vase – Grooved-shouldered
South Yarrows	NH28	9068	Wick	Beaker – Indet.
Strath Fleet	NH29	5981	Rogart	Food Vessel – Indet.
Tulach an T'Sionnaich	NH30	7901	Halkirk	Bucket/ tub – Indet.
Woody Knowe Strathnaver	NH31	6190	Farr	Bucket/ tub – U-shaped

A3.3 Chambered Cairn NF

	CAT CODE	CANMORE ID	PARISH	POTTERY
Cnoc Na Ciste	NH12	8524	Bower	Food Vessel Vase – Grooved-shouldered
Embo	NH17	15376	Dornoch	Beaker – S-profile
Lower Dounreay	NH13	7300	Reay	Indet. Beaker - ?Low-carinated? Beaker - ?Low-carinated?
Ord North	NH26	4954	Lairg	Food Vessel Vase – Simple globular bowl Indet.
Tulach an T'Sionnaich	NH30	7901	Halkirk	Beaker – Indet.

A4 SOUTH HIGHLANDS (APP. E)

A4.1 Domestic

	CAT CODE	CANMORE ID	PARISH	POTTERY
Ardnamurchan, Cul na Croise	SH2	22496	Ardnamurchan	Beaker – examples of AOC and low- carinated Coarse pottery – dating uncertain
Ardnamurchan, Sanna Bay	SH3	22122	Ardnamurchan	S-profile Beaker Mix of AO decorated sherds – possibly from low-carinated vessels
Culduthel Farm Phase 7 & 8	SH17	296069	Inverness & Bona	Beaker – incl.AO decorated sherds Mix of coarse wares
Rosskeen East	SH46	85353	Rosskeen	Beaker – Indet.
Kiltaraglen	SH35	296093	Portree	Beaker Shouldered vase
Rosemarkie	SH45	n/a	Rosemarkie	Beaker, Food Vessel
Rudh ‘an Dunain	SH47	11025	Bracadale	Food Vessel Indet.

A4.2 Funerary

	CAT CODE	CANMORE ID	PARISH	POTTERY
Achnasheen	SH1	12096	Contin	Beaker – short-necked
Armadale	SH4	179120	Sleat	Food Vessel Vase – double-cavetto Food Vessel Vase – double-cavetto Food Vessel Vase – single upper-cavetto Food Vessel Vase – double-cavetto
Auchindown	SH5	15071	Cawdor	Beaker – short-necked Food Vessel Vase- Indet. Beaker – cupped-necked Beaker – long-necked
Balblair	SH6	75185	Kilmorack	Beaker – long-necked Beaker – short-necked
Balblair Wood	SH7	120662	Kilmorack	Food Vessel Vase - ?double cavetto?

Beechwood Park	SH8	273702	Inverness & Bona	Beaker – s-profile
Blackstand	SH9	14539	Cromarty	Beaker – s-profile
Carriblair Edderton	SH12	14642	Edderton	Food Vessel Vase – single upper-cavetto
Cawdor Estates	SH13	15063	Cawdor	Beaker – s-profile Beaker – long-necked Beaker - ?long-necked?
Cnocan Na Gobhar Kilmarie	SH14	11434	Strath	Beaker – cupped-necked
Coille Grulla	SH15	11041	Bracadale	Beaker – long-necked Beaker – cupped-necked
Corran Ferry	SH16	23580	Kilmallie	Beaker – s-profile
Culduthel Mains	SH18	13519	Inverness & Bona	Beaker – long-necked
Dalmore Farm	SH20	293468	Rosskeen	Cordoned Urn ?Beaker?
Dalmore, Alness	SH19	13620	Rosskeen	‘Urn’ – uncertain type Food Vessel Vase – high-shouldered Food Vessel Food Vessel Ceramic Vessel – uncertain type ?Food Vessel? Beaker – n.b. uncertain attribution to site
Drumashie	SH21	13175	Dores	Beaker – cupped-necked
Drumnadrochit	SH22	n/a	Nairn	Beaker
Easter Delnies	SH23	15111	Nairn	Beaker – cupped-necked
Easter Moy	SH24	12483	Urray	Food Vessel Vase - ?double-cavetto?
Findon Mains	SH27	13697	Urquhart & Logie Wester	Beaker – weak s-profile Base of further vessel ?Beaker?
Fodderty Farm	SH28	12805	Fodderty	Beaker – s-profile
Fyrish Kiltearn	SH29	13681	Alness	Beaker – short-necked
Glebe	SH30	14739	Edderton	Beaker – s-profile n.b. several other fragments of baked clay recorded from other cists
Holm Mains Farm	SH31	268936	Inverness & Bona	Beaker – s-profile Beaker – Indet.
Inchnacaorach	SH32	15020	Cawdor	Beaker – short-necked

Kinbeachie Farm	SH36	132693	Resolis	Beaker – indet.
Kinlochewe Bruachaig	SH10	12086	Gairloch	Beaker – s-profile
Lochend				Beaker – cupped necked
Mains Of Balnagowan	SH38	15212	Ardersier	Beaker – s-profile
Mains of Kilcoy Ness Gap	SH39 SH40	12840 n/a	Killearnan Rosemarkie	Food Vessel Vase - ribbed Food Vessel Vase – double-cavetto
New Broadford Medical Centre	SH41	333241	Strath	Cordoned Urn Beaker – weak s-profile Beaker – indet. cord decorated
Poolewe/ Pool Crofts	SH43	11938	Gairloch	Beaker – cupped-necked
Raigmore	SH44	13414	Inverness & Bona	Grooved Ware Food Vessel Vase – simple
Rosemarkie, Old Manse	SH42	14380	Rosemarkie	Cordoned Urn Food Vessel Vase – double-cavetto
Seafield West	SH48			Food Vessel bowl – grooved/ waisted Coarse vessel (?Bucket Urn?) Sherds from smaller vessel (?Accessory vessel) Beaker – long necked
South Clunes	SH49	12711	Kilartily & Convinth	Beaker – short-necked
The Aonach Drummond	SH50	12885	Kiltearn	Food Vessel Vase – grooved-shoulder
West Torbreck	SH53	346424	Dores	Beaker – s-profile
Wester Teaninich	SH52	13661	Alness	?Food Vessel?

A4.3 Chambered Cairn NF

	CAT CODE	CANMORE ID	PARISH	POTTERY
Cadha Riach Garrafad	SH11	11342	Kimuir	Beaker indet. Beaker indet.
Kilcoy Carn Glas	SH33	12837	Killearnan	Beaker indet. Beaker indet.
Kilcoy South	SH34		Killearnan	Multiple Beaker sherds including several low-carinated vessels.
Tomfat	SH51	13152	Daviot & Dunlichity	Beaker - ?undec.?

A4.4 Other Sites

	CAT CODE	CANMORE ID	PARISH	POTTERY
Elishader	SH26	11345	Kilmuir	Multiple Beaker sherds
Easter Raitts	SH25	115699	Rosskeen	Multiple sherds of pottery – poss. Beaker vessels

APPENDIX B

THE SHETLAND ISLES



B1 INVENTORY OF PRINCIPAL SITES (SFI1-15)

SFI1. Cols Ness

Site Type: ?Domestic?

Parent Context: Structure (eroding coastal section)

Parish: Bressay

Canmore ID: 1281

Map reference: HU 5384 4042

Assessed: Yes.

Pot report: n/a

C14: n/a

Ref: Shetland Museums & Archives (ARC 2002.275)

Description. A single rim sherd was recovered from an eroding section and probable structure at Cols Ness (SFI1). Two circular enclosures measuring 10 x 6m have been recorded in the area and could represent foundations of Neolithic/ Bronze Age houses.

Other finds. *Shetland Museum & Archives (ARC 2002.275).*

1. Single bevelled rim sherd with cord impressions on interior of bevel

SFI2. Culla Voe

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: ?Cemetery?, Mound (natural)

Parish: Walls and Sandness

Canmore ID: 244

Map reference: HU 16 61

Assessed: No

C14: GrA-24056 (App. F1)

Description. In 1893 two urns, covered by large stones were uncovered by workmen in a natural hillock. Further excavation exposed a third urn under a large stone in a small circular setting of stones (c.0.6m). Additional finds of cremations and pottery are reputed to have occurred in the area, often in association with small stone settings.

Ref: Barron 1895, Callander 1933b

Human remains. Multiple cremations, no further information.

Other finds. *N.M.S, location not verified.*

1. 'Urn' – form not specified
 2. 'Urn' – form not specified
 3. Tall high-shouldered Food Vessel
 4. Tall high-shouldered Food Vessel
- 4, found in same hill as other 'urns'. 3, covered with stone marked out by low setting of stones

SFI3. Fraga

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Cist, stone cairn

Parish: Dunrossness

Canmore ID: 549

Map reference: HU 3870 1007

Assessed: No

C14: n/a

Ref: Bryce 1933

Description. During the removal of a stone cairn a substantial cist was uncovered. The cist measured c. 1.3 x 0.7m and was orientated E/W. Within the cist fragments of a ceramic vessel were found, along with the remains of a single individual.

Human remains.

1. Inhumation. Male, young adult.

Other finds: *?Lost? (Last located in NMS)*

1. 14 sherds of cord impressed pottery. Form is not stated, but has previously been described as a Beaker, owing to its fabric and the presence of cord impressions

SFI14. Giants Grave, Hestinsetter Hill

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: ?heel shaped cairn?

Parish: Sandsting

Description. In 1866 the remains of a badly ruined cairn were excavated revealing the remains of a semi-octagonal

Canmore ID: 290
Map reference: HU 2920 4572
Assessed: No (finds now lost)
C14: n/a

Ref: Henshall 1962, Hunt 1866

chamber. The chamber, constructed of six stones contained, pottery, calcined bones and a large rough stone.

Human Remains.

1. Cremation no further details. Now lost

Other finds. Lost

1. Sherds of pottery including one with cord impressions
2. Large stone

SFI5. House 1 Ness of Gruting

Site Type: Domestic
Parent Context: Field system, 'settlement', Structure
Parish: Sandsting
Canmore ID: 277
Map reference: HU 28137 48332
Assessed: Yes
Pot report: B3.5
C14: OxA-X-2579-42, OxA-X-2579-41
OxA-X-2575-37, GrN-6168, BM-441, AAR-15646, AAR-15647 (App. F1)

Ref: Calder 1958

Description. Excavated by Calder in the 1950s. House 1 (H1) sports an inner and outer core (Fig. 6.3). The core of the buildings comprised large quantities of peat ash, containing numerous sherds of pottery. The stratigraphy of the site is discussed further in **Section B3.5**. Extending from the house is a probable field system, and other probable house structures, including House 3, which was part dug by Calder, and the possible 'workshop' (SFI5).

Other finds: N.M.S

For discussion and catalogue of the ceramic finds from H1 Ness of Gruting see Section B3.5. Other finds from the site include a variety of stone tools including miniature battle axes, cf. Calder 1958 for further detail.

SFI6. Ness of Gruting 'Workshop'

Site Type: ?Domestic?
Parent Context: Bank, ?midden?
Parish: Sandsting
Canmore ID: n/a

Description. Within the collections held by the Shetland Museum is a small assemblage of artefacts from a workshop c.20 yards from the site of a Neolithic house near the point of Ness of Gruting recovered by William

Map reference: n/a

Assessed: Yes

Pot report: B3.7

C14: n/a

*Ref: Calder 1958, Shetland Museums
& Archives (ARC 65567, 65568)*

Kirkness. The 'workshop' could relate to a structure comprising a stony bank with the remains of debitage from stone working excavated by (Calder 1958: 375)

Other finds. *Shetland Museum & Archives (ARC 65567, 65568)*

1. 2 stone tools, and 2 further fragments, from probable flaked stone bars (ARC65568)
2. Numerous pieces of stone debitage (ARC65567B)
3. Disc shaped tool, c.150mm diameter, though diameter is irregular (ARC65567A)
4. Large steatite vessel (not examined, missing)
5. Bones (not examined, missing)
6. Pot (near complete) (not examined, missing)
7. Stone discs (not examined, missing)
8. Loom weights (not examined, missing)
9. 6 sherds of pottery (NGW1-6, see **Section B3.7**)

Precise location of material on site is unknown.

SFI7. Near Ness of Gruting School, House 1

Site Type: Domestic

Parent Context: Structure

Parish: Sandsting

Canmore ID: 296

Map reference: HU 2819 4985

Assessed: Yes

Pot report: B3.8

C14: n/a

Ref: Calder 1958

Description. A small house of similar layout to that at Stanydale (SFI11) was excavated by Calder. The structure comprised a single main chamber with a small semi-circular recess. Within the interior, a range of features were recorded, including two groups of post holes. Whilst deposits of peat ash were noted, no hearth was located.

Other finds. *N.M.S*

It is possible that the finds HD874-915 in the N.M.S are from this site, owing to HD874 being found in association with a posthole. The sherds are currently attributed to Ness of Gruting House 1 (SFI5), where no post holes were recorded. Importantly, the site appears to have been dug c.

1950, whilst the larger site at Ness of Gruting was dug in 1952/53. The date appended to the finds in Henshall's notes would support the notion of these finds belonging to the earlier of the two sites (N.M.S unpub.). Other finds from the site include various flint and quartz tools and rude stone tools. The ceramic finds from the site are discussed in **Section B3.7**.

SFI8. Pund of Burland

Site Type: Domestic, ?funerary?

Parent Context: Structure

Parish: Lerwick

Canmore ID: 600

Map reference: HU 3901 3751

Assessed: Yes

Pot report: B3.10

C14: n/a

Ref: Unpub notes from Shetland

Museum and Archives, Goodlad pers. comm, Goodlad 1965, 1966,

Description. A small house site of probable Neolithic/ Bronze Age date was excavated in the late 1960s. The site is situated on the East coast of the island of Trondra in the Shetland Isles. The site is located near the natural promontory known as the Pund of Burland. To the south on a further promontory is a broch site, and several other archaeological sites and finds are known from the area. To the North lie the remains of an oval structure that has produced prehistoric pottery from rabbit scrapes (Fojut 2000: 81). Nearby is a further mound, probably composed of midden material or spoil from the excavation, from which a small collection of lithics was recovered during a site visit in the summer of 2013.

The precise layout of the structure is unclear as only half of the structure was excavated. The layout is reminiscent of the structure at Punds Water II (Calder 1965: 40-5). No central hearth was recorded, but deposits of ash were documented from the east end of the structure.

Other finds. *Shetland Museum & Archives*

A range of artefacts were recovered, including an assemblage of pottery and stone tools. Stone tools

included ard points and quartz scrapers. For discussion of the pottery see **Section B3.10**.

SFI9. Scord of Brouster

Site Type: Domestic

Parent Context: Structures, field system, clearance cairns, kerb-cairn

Parish: Walls and Sandness

Canmore ID: 405

Map reference: HU 2560 5165

Assessed: Yes

Pot report: B3.9

C14: CAR-249, CAR-250

CAR-251, SUERC-56459, SUERC-56460, SUERC-56461, CAR-252, CAR-253, CAR-243, CAR-244, CAR-245, CAR-246, HAR-2413, CAR-247, CAR-248, CAR-477, CAR-479, CAR-242 (App. F1)

Ref: Whittle 1986

Description. Comprising three houses, fields systems, various clearance cairns and a probable kerbed cairn, the site was surveyed and excavated by Whittle in the late 1970s.

House 1. The largest and most complex of the three house sites. The earliest phase of H1 corresponded to a layer (L4) that ran under the main occupation deposits. This layer was in part difficult to distinguish from subsoil in the interior. Features associated with this layer include a hearth (F1), a further hearth or pit containing hearth remains (F2) and a scoop feature (F3) which could not be directly related to Phase 1 or 2. The second phase saw the construction of the oval house, likely with little interval, this phase is distinguished from 2a, which represents the primary occupation phase, followed by an additional period of use and development of the structure. As such, 2a and 2b represent a series of successive additions and alterations. The structure took the form of an oval with 6 recesses, a design commonly found among other sites in Shetland.

House 2. As in House 1, the main phase of activity was preceded by a phase of earlier activity. This could include a pre-wall layer on the N side of the structure, the lower part of the interior deposit close to the N side and various features cut into the subsoil beneath the interior deposit (Fig. 5.22). This phase was followed quickly by the construction of the oval stone bank or wall of the Phase 2 'house'. The wall itself measured 9x8 m, with the long

axis aligned west-east. No entrance into the structure was noted. The nature of the interior deposits is further discussed in **Section B3.9**.

House 3. Situated in the upper part of Field 5 the house is defined by an oval wall measuring 8 x 6.8m externally, with the long axis orientated north-south. The external wall was carefully faced with upright stones, the interior was similarly faced. At the centre lay a roughly oval hearth (F2) and evidence of possible footings for timber posts. Near to this structure lay Structure 3b, an oval shaped structure, which could post date House 3.

Kerb-Cairn. Located 5m north of House 1, this substantial cairn of stone, bordered by a kerb of two rings of stones. The inner kerb stood slightly higher than the outer. The kerb itself could represent a later addition to an existing cairn, suggesting a phase of 'monumentalisation'. Very little finds except for a scrap of pottery some burnt bone and charcoal were recovered.

Other finds. *Shetland Museum & Archives*

Assemblages of pottery were recorded from H1, H2 and the kerb cairn. Nearly 8000 pieces of worked quartz were recovered, alongside a range of stone implements.

For a more detailed discussion of the stratigraphy of H1 and 2 and the pottery see **Section B3.9**.

SFI10. South Nesting

Site Type: Domestic/funerary

Parent Context: Structure, cairn

Parish: Nesting

Canmore ID: 73803

Description. Between 1991 and 1994 intensive surveys were undertaken in the South Nesting region. Survey and excavation at South Nesting Hall uncovered evidence for a relict Bronze Age landscape. These included:

Map reference: HU 46 54

Assessed: Yes

C14: n/a

Ref: Dockrill et al. 1998

Site 229 (SFI9.a). a house site, comprising an oval/ sub rectangular structure. From the midden next to this structure 25 sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered.

Site 232 (SFI9.b). Within the same area as Site 229 lay a cairn (232), comprising a central chamber defined by large stone blocks, surrounded by a cairn of smaller stones. From within the chamber came fragments of pottery and cremated human bone, though these, along with the cairn, had been disturbed.

Human remains.

1. Cremated remains. No further details.

Other finds. ?Bradford University?

1. 25 finds of prehistoric pottery
2. Fragments of pottery (incl. possible Beaker)

1, found adjacent to the east wall of 229 in a midden-like deposit, 2, found alongside fragments of cremated bone in (232)

SFI11. Stanydale House

Site Type: Domestic

Parent Context: Structure

Parish: Sandsting

Canmore ID: 387

*Map reference: Centred HU 28535
50240*

*Assessed: Yes (not rerecorded in
detail)*

Pot report: B3.3

C14: OxA-X-2579-43 (App. F1)

Description. In 1950, Calder excavated structures in the Stanydale region, Shetland, as part of his wide-ranging works. This included a probable 'house' site and the 'Temple' (SFI11). These structures form part of a wider relict landscape, which includes several cairns and standing stones.

The 'house' was roughly oval, with a small circular recess at the far end. This recess appeared to have been separated off from the rest of the house by a low wall, of which little remained. Two rectangular recesses were situated in the

Ref: Calder 1958

NE side of the structure with a hearth in the centre. The entrance was defined by a passage, creating a roughly L-shaped entrance way. Appended to this was a roughly square enclosure.

Other finds. N.M.S

Among the finds were several sherds of pottery, including probable Iron Age examples. These are discussed further in **Section B3.3**. Flint and stone tools were also recorded.

SFI12. Stanydale Temple

Site Type: Domestic

Parent Context: Structure, standing stones

Parish: Sandsting

Canmore ID: 387

Map reference: Centred HU 28535 50240

Assessed: Yes

Pot report: B3.2

C14: n/a

Ref: Calder 1952

Description. The temple, so called owing to the perceived similarity between it and examples in Malta (*cf.* Calder 1952: 19), comprises a large oval structure with a concave façade. The form of the structure is akin to that of House 1 at the Scord of Brouster (SFI9), with a roughly oval internal space divided by a series of partitions. The eastern half of the building is simply faced, while the western end is defined by six recesses with radial piers. The interior of the chamber is not paved but is punctuated by several features. The two most conspicuous ones were two postholes positioned along the main axis of the building. The eastern posthole was bottomed with a flagstone, whilst the second rested on the natural stratum. In each, the carbonised stumps of two posts were found (Calder 1952:190), packed with stones. It is probable that the building was modified over several phases, with the presence of the cord impressed sherds, providing a *terminus post quem* for the use of the building. These sherds are discussed in **Section B3.2**.

Unlike H1 there was no identifiable hearth, though Calder identified a small setting of stones, which he interpreted as a possible secondary hearth owing to the presence of a broken saddle quern. Small scoops/ depressions (E, F) were similarly interpreted as small hearths.

Other finds. *N.M.S*

A small assemblage of pottery, including two impressed sherds discussed in **Section B3.2**. Sherds of pots were found in and below the peat ash. Other finds include two porphyritic knives from no. 2 recess, a whetstone (from the peat ash). Various other stone tools were recovered.

SFI13. Sumburgh Airport

Site Type: Domestic

Parent Context: Timber structure, middens

Parish: Dunrossness

Canmore ID: 556

Map reference: HU 3898 1065

Assessed: No

C14: GU-1015, GU-1006 (App. F1)

Ref: Downes & Lamb 2000

Description. The earliest remains on site took the form of timber structures and evidence of cultivation, from underneath the North and South House (Phase 2) These post holes could represent the remains of a structure similar to the structure associated with the early phases at Kebister. Under the south house, the archaeology took a more substantial form comprising the remains of a possible stone-built enclosure and a further set of ard marks (Downes & Lamb 2000b: 24). These early phases had been heavily disturbed by later activity in the Bronze and Iron Age, resulting in highly mixed deposits, with probable 3rd millennium pottery being recovered from Iron Age contexts.

Other finds. *Shetland Museum & Archives*

Range of pottery and stone tools recovered from the site.

SF14. Tougs of Burra

Site Type: Domestic

Parent Context: Burnt mound

Parish: Lerwick

Canmore ID: 633

Map reference: HU 3758 3379

Assessed: Yes

C14: GU-1110, GU-1111 (App. F1)

Ref: Hedges 1986

Description. As at H1 Ness of Gruting (SFI5) and Scord of Brouster (SFI9) the site comprised a suite of features across the landscape. These included two oval houses, a field system and burnt mound. The burnt mound, located close to the shoreline, measured 14 x 8.5m. Between the south end of the burnt mound and the field wall A43, were the remains of a rectangular building with rectangular hearth and cooking trough. This building appears to be of Early Bronze Age date, whilst the oval house is mid-late Bronze Age.

Other finds. *Shetland Museum & Archives (decorated pottery missing)*

Finds included a large assemblage of quartz and stone tools, along with a small assemblage of pottery. These included sherds (1741-1754) from the burnt mound, the wall, floor and trough of the adjacent building and from stones and rubbish piled up against the field wall.

SF15. Wiltrow

Site Type: Domestic

Parent Context: Structure

Parish: Dunrossness

Canmore ID: 546

Map reference: HU53134116

Assessed: Yes

Pot report: B3.4

C14: n/a

Ref: Curle 1936

Description. In 1936, Curle excavated the remains of an Iron Age smeltery and dwelling, which he interpreted as being contemporaneous. It appears, however, that the dwelling is probably earlier, as elements of the structure find parallel within the wider corpus of Shetland house sites, including Punds Water, Scord of Brouster (SFI9) and Jarlshof.

The dwelling comprises a central chamber with a rear chamber, separated by a later secondary wall. Within this chamber numerous flat stones were found, suggested to be the remains of a roof. Similar roofing has recently been noted at the Ness of Brodgar (ORK10) (Card pers

comm.). In the main chamber, a single fire-cracked flagstone was recorded in front of the partition wall, with a drain running to the main entrance. The front two recesses were paved on the right-hand side, the recess having a raised kerb. Evidence of fires were recorded in these foremost chambers. Curle suggested the recesses were roofed, whilst the main chamber was unroofed, the drains serving to carry away surface water.

***Other finds.** N.M.S, S.M.A*

Finds included a range of stone tools and pottery, some of which is probably of 3rd millennium date. See **Section B3.4** for discussion of the pottery held in Shetland Museum & Archives.

B2 POTTERY CATALOGUE



0  2cm

Author (© S.M.A)

Cols Ness (SF11)

Museum: S.M.A (ARC 2002.275)

Find Number: 1

Form: *Indet. possibly of similar form to deeply bevelled vessels from Sumburgh Airport (SF113)*

Rim: *Deep internal bevel with rounded outer edge*

Dec: *TWCI. Decoration recorded on the interior of the rim comprising multiple horizontal lines of twisted cord impressions*

H: *n/a* Int. RD: *n/a*



0  5cm

Grant 1933: Fig. 2

Culla Voe (SF12)

Museum: S.M.A (ARC 2002.275)

Find Number: 1

Form: *Tall high-shouldered Food Vessel.*

Rim: *Deep internal bevel with rounded outer edge*

Dec: *Decoration recorded on the interior of the rim comprising multiple horizontal lines of twisted cord impressions*

H: *c.457mm* Int. RD: *330mm*



Culla Voe (SF12)

Museum: *SMA ARC 2002.275*

Find Number: 2

Form: *Tall high-shouldered Food Vessel.*

Rim: *Deep internal bevel with rounded outer edge*

Dec: UNDEC

H: *c.444mm* Int. RD: *342mm*

Grant, W.G 1933: Fig. 3

B3 POTTERY REPORTS FOR RERECORDED ASSEMBLAGES FROM SHETLAND

B3.1 Introduction

This appendix contains summary reports of the ten sites re-recorded from Shetland as part of the project. Material from Sumburgh Airport (SFI13) was examined in brief and no detailed rerecording took place, owing to the size of the assemblage and limits of time.

Sherds were examined using a x60 currency detecting microscope which allowed for a basic identification of pottery fabrics (see **Section 1.3.2** for methodology). Rims are defined using the following codes SR- simple rims, and BR bevelled rims – see Fig. 4.11 for definitions of different rim types. For definition of decorative techniques see Fig. 4.12.

In the case of sherds from the Pund of Burland (SFI8) the former curator, Tom Henderson, thin sectioned several sherds – but the results of this work could not be located. Each fabric is described according to the nature of their inclusions, sorting and quantity. Inclusions, either natural or deliberately added, were measured to the nearest millimetre and where the size of the inclusions was more mixed a range of sizes is given. Aspects of firing (including the colour) are, where deemed significant, noted in the fabric descriptions. The material was quantified by sherd count, estimated number of vessels (ENV), weight and estimated vessel equivalence (EVE). All of the information was recorded onto pro-forma sheets, which are retained for the archive and entered into an Excel spread sheet (**CD1**).

B3.2 Stanydale Temple (SFI12)

Notes on the stratigraphy

There is little discussion of the stratigraphy at Stanydale Temple (SFI12) in the original report (Calder 1952), but it is possible to make several observations based on published information and notes from Audrey Henshall in the N.M.S. The first and most obvious point is that the site is not single-phase. There is evidence for several different phases of addition and reconstruction. These include the possible changing of the alignment of the site and the addition of the heel shaped façade (Mahler 2013b: 16). Turning to the relative chronology of the site, the following tentative sketch can be given:

P1: Construction of building on ‘original’ alignment as indicated by postholes (Mahler 2013b: 16)

P2: Modification of structure and changing of orientation by roughly 14° (*ibid.*).

P3: Series of internal activities, small hearths/ scoops set into interior.

P4: ‘Destruction’ of building, roof burnt?¹ Cord impressed pottery placed into post holes (accidental). Possible terminus *ante quem* for earlier activity.

P5:? Deliberate? filling of structure with further peat ash (Bronze Age-Iron Age? – ‘late pottery’). Peat ash probable relates to several episodes of dumping. Sheep bones placed into peat ash (Calder 1952: 194).

Regarding dating it is tentatively suggested that the primary phases, including the rebuild, are probably of early-mid 3rd millennium date, with the building having fallen out of use at least by, or sometime after, 2300 BC. This is based on the relative position of the pottery, with the latest material belonging to fills and the peat ash, sealing earlier ceramic types. These include the ribbed vessel, V2 and the large coarse vessel V1. The primary contexts from which the pottery derived are as follows²:

- [1] ?Floor?
- [1A] Front of No.2 recess under peat ash (pre-P4)
- [1B] SW corner of recess No1, floor level (pre-P4)

¹ One possibility to account for the large dumps of peat ash at several sites is the deliberate destruction of houses by fire (see **Section 6.2.4**)

² These are derived from hand-written annotations in the National Museums Scotland Continuation Catalogue, reproduced by permission of N.M.S

- [2] West posthole (infill P4)
- [3] Peat ash on floor level (post/ contemporary with P4)
- [3A] Peat ash on floor level in recess 1 and 2 (post/ contemporary with P4)
- [3B] Peat ash on floor level (post/ contemporary with P4)
- [3C] Between recess No. 5 and 6 in peat ash (post/ contemporary with P4)

The Pottery

In total, 38 sherds were recovered from Stanydale Temple (SFI12), representing around 11 vessels. The bulk of the sherds came from under the peat ash, [1A] and [1B] (Table B3.1, Fig. B3.1). These represented two vessels, including the large pot, V1.

	Sum of Sherds	ENV
Under the peat ash (1A, 1B)	18	4
West Post Hole (2)	3	1
Peat Ash (3A, 3B)	12	3
No context	5	3
Grand Total	38	11

Table B3.1: *Distribution of pottery by find spot at Stanydale Temple (SFI12), Mainland*

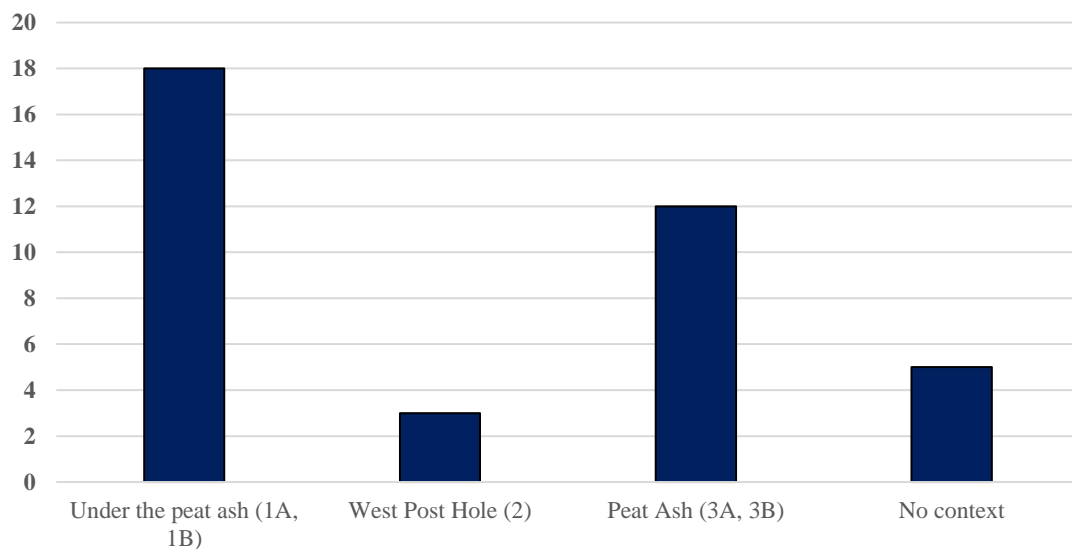


Figure B3.1: *Distribution of pottery by find spot at Stanydale Temple (SFI12), Mainland*

Fabrics

Rocky fabrics, broadly divided into a fine and coarse fabric, dominate the assemblage (Table 2.2). ROCK1 contained moderately sorted, angular inclusions of up to 0.5 cm in size, surfaces were frequently micaceous. The grits are visible to the naked eye, observable in both the section and surface of the

sherd. ROCK2 was coarser, containing a range of angular and sub-angular inclusions often exceeding over 1cm in size. The finest of the ROCK based fabrics was ROCK3, with sparse mixed grits and slightly micaceous surfaces. This fabric was rarer, seemingly confined to the cord impressed sherds from [3]. Several steatite sherds were

present, where the dominant temper (either natural or added), was fragments of steatite. Organic tempering was noted from one vessel (Table B3.2). Some smaller fragments of these fabrics were noted, but were not included in the sherd counts. The principal fabrics are as follows:

ROCK1: Uneven firing, reduced/ oxidised surfaces. Sandy matrix with mixed rock fragments. Overall sorting is moderate, with mixed grits and mica. Mixed grits moderately sorted, up to 0.5mm, visible to naked eye. Mica visible on surfaces.

ROCK2: Coarser version of ROCK1, where inclusions exceed 1cm in size, angular and sub angular inclusions present. Moderately sorted.

ROCK3: Finer fabric, fired to an orangey colour. Sparse mixed grits and slightly micaceous surfaces.

ORG1: Soft sherd with evidence for grass/ straw tempering.

STEAT: Sherds heavily tempered with steatite grits.

Fabric	Sum of Sh	Sum of Env
Org1	3	1
Rock1	10	3
Rock2	17	6
Rock3	3	2
STEAT	3	2
Total	36	14

Table B3.2: *Fabrics at Stanydale Temple (SF112)*

Forms

Only 5 of the 14 vessels could be assigned forms, of these bucket-shaped vessels were common. These include the large example V1, and V2 both from under the peat ash. These

could be contemporary with the initial phase of the structure, being broken *in situ*. The unabraded nature and large sherd size suggests that the pots once broken were not disturbed. The only other two recognised forms were a simple rounded bowl (V5) and a carinated jar (V4). The cord impressed sherds, included a decorated rim and undecorated body sherds. Given the fragmentary state of the vessel no form could be assigned.

Vessel Catalogue

V1 (EO.781, EO.780): ROCK2. This vessel comprised a series of large, thick walled sherds, with well finished outer surfaces. These sherds belong to a large roughly u-shaped vessel with a splayed open profile. The profile whilst angled is rounded towards the lower portion. The rim is roughly triangular shaped with a slight internal bevel, with a raised rib below the rim. **Context:** [1A]. **RD:** 350mm **H:** Unk **Wgt:** c. 346g

V1/V2 (FB YT.582): ROCK2. Coarse sherds, probably from V1 or V2. [1A]

V2 (EO.782): Of similar fabric to VG1 (ROCK2), though the body is decorated with a series of raised ribs. Probably bucket/ tub vessel, with the outer surfaces decorated with a slight slip. The rim is slightly thickened creating a slight point (SR6). From roughly the same area as V1. **Context:** [1A]. **Wgt:** 339g

V3 (EO.777, EO.778): ROCK3. Three sherds of a vessel decorated with three horizontal cord impressions. Undecorated body sherds included, single decorated rim sherd. Highly fragmentary, form unknown. **Context:** [2]. **Wgt:** 25g

V4 (EO.784): ROCK1. Sherds from a carinated jar similar to Sumburgh Type 1 (*cf.* Downes 2000). The vessel is decorated with a series of impressed circles. Possible early Bronze Age vessel based on triangle motifs. **Context:** [3A]. **Int RD:** 280mm. **Wgt:** 390g

V5 (EO.787): STEAT. Smooth rounded sherd possibly containing fragments of steatite. Probable bowl. **Context:** [1B]. **RD:** 160mm **Wgt:** 28g

V6 (EO.793): ORG1. Sherds of grass-tempered pottery, form is unclear. Various sherds of organic tempered vessels were noted from other contexts. **Context:** [3B]. **Wgt:** 68g

V7 (EO.794): ROCK1. Narrow basal sherd from narrow diameter vessel. **Context:** [3B].
Wgt: 228g

V8 (EO.801a): STEAT. Two sherds with abundant steatite temper. Simple flat rim, some sooting on exterior. **Context:** Unknown. **Wgt:** 129g

V9 (EO.801b): STEAT. Abundant steatite temper, simple flat rim. Raised rib below rim. **Context:** Unknown. **Wgt:** 25g

V10 (FB YT. 581): ROCK1. Burnt, slightly friable sherds with slight curve to profile. **Context:** Unknown. **Wgt:** 26g

V11/12 (FB YT.582): ROCK1 Coarse sherds likely from V1 and V2. [1A]. **Wgt:** 591g

Discussion

Considering the current poor understanding of the stratigraphy, interpreting the assemblage is problematic. As noted previously, however, it is possible to crudely divide the assemblage into 'stratigraphic' groups. The precise nature of the peat ash contexts is unclear, as there appear to have been a series of smaller spreads and then larger dumps of peat ash (Calder 1952: 194). The smaller spreads could be related to occupation, with subsequent abandonment deposits (*ibid.*). Whether V1 and V2 are contemporary with the early phases is unclear (P3). The cord-impressed sherds are later in the sequence, and postdate the primary phase of the building and associated with the abandonment deposits (P4). These came from the top of the infilling of the post holes, which were infilled with peat ash (Calder 1952: 191). This implies that the posts were burnt prior to the deposition of the peat ash and subsequent cord impressed sherds. Whilst tentative, this evidence reinforces the chronological sketch given above.

B3.3 Stanydale House (SFI11)

From Calder's excavation a small assemblage of pottery as recorded. These were not re-examined in detail, having been recently reviewed by Sheridan (2013) and Gibson (1982). Unlike the previously described Stanydale Temple (SFI12), pottery was more numerous with several types represented. Among these were Iron Age vessels, which could be analogous to the late examples noted at Stanydale Temple (SFI12). As with Stanydale Temple (SFI12)

there is some slight differentiation in layers, with some vessels coming from the floor whilst others came from within the peat ash.

Vessel Catalogue

Included among the material are:

HD1069: Flattened rim sherd decorated with vertical grooves.

HD1070: Incised/ grooved sherds. From floor level in SE arc.

HD1071: Sherd decorated with broad diamond lattice. From floor level in SE arc.

HD1073: Sherd decorated with incised diamonds. From 6" above floor over peat ash.

HD1076: Rim with slight internal bevel and diameter *c.* 190mm. Walls are around 10-11mm thick. Under the rim are a series of vertical lines with horizontal lines below.

HD1077-79: Sherds decorated with incisions.

HD1080: Base and wall sherds of single vessel, decorated with irregular incised lines between two horizontal lines. This style of irregular patterning was noted at the Ness of Gruting (SFI5)

HD1082: Stab and drag decorated sherd *c.* 8mm thick.

HD1083: Shell impressed sherds 11.43mm thick.

HD1084: Base and wall sherds of vessel decorated with shell impressed chevrons

Discussion

Whilst the material from Stanydale House (SFI11) was not reviewed in detail the modes of decoration and fabric find parallel at the 'Temple' (SFI12), but more closely with H1, Ness

of Gruting (SFI5), where chevrons and shell impressions were noted. Motifs included diagonal lines, irregular lines, or lattice patterns.

B3.4 Wiltrow (SFI15)

A sample of 27 sherds were examined from the site at Wiltrow (SFI15) in the Shetland Museum (ARC 65390). Additional sherds are housed in the N.M.S, but these were not examined. Due to the high degree of fragmentation, determining the exact number of vessels proved difficult and it may be that the ENV is slightly inflated. Whilst better known as an Iron Age smithy, within the extant material there are several artefacts that suggest an earlier occupation of the area. There was unfortunately little stratigraphic information available, leaving typological dating as the best option for assigning a date to the sherds.

Fabric	Sum of Sh	Sum of Env
Rock1	7	7
Rock2	2	2
Rock3	14	13
Rock4	4	2
Grand Total	27	24

Table B3.3: *Fabrics recorded at Wiltrow (SFI15), Mainland*

The Pottery

Fabrics

The fabrics formed a continuum of rocky tempered sherds, typically in a sandy matrix. ROCK1 and 2 represent the coarser end of the spectrum, whilst ROCK3 and ROCK4 the finer end. ROCK 3 contained sparse to common with inclusions up to 7mm, along with moderate rock/ grit up to 5mm was the most common, accounting for 51% of the overall sherd sample (Table B3.3).

ROCK1: Relatively well-fired sherds with diffuse margins, in some cases firing appears uneven. Sherds are coarse and friable tempered with moderately sorted grits, including coarse sand and ‘pebbles’. These range from 1-5mm, typically sub-rounded. Other inclusions include very rare white inclusions, 1-2mm, but this was not present in all samples. Possible calcareous or shell.

ROCK 2: Sandy-feeling sherds with visible mica and quartz in section breaks. Sparse to moderate rock inclusions are present up to 5mm, moderately sorted.

ROCK3: Unlike the previous fabrics, sherds tend to be coarser, with abundant to moderate sub-angular white inclusions. These are typically sub rounded and up to 7mm, possible calcareous or steatite. Rock/ grit inclusions present. Overall sorting is moderate.

ROCK4: Fine fabric often high fired, Well sorted inclusions. Some grits *c.* < 3mm visible.

Forms

Due to the absence of diagnostic elements it was not possible to assign forms to the sherds. Within the report several diagnostic sherds are illustrated, but these were not among the material in Shetland, and are likely with the remaining material in the N.M.S. The bulk of the sherds examined were decorated by incision, commonly creating lattice patterns, herringbone (Fig. 6.27). One sherd, 4, was decorated with comb impressions. This could imply that some of the sherds belong to the earlier phases of the site before the smeltery.

Vessel Catalogue

- 1:** ROCK2. Simple rounded rim sherd (SR2), well fired. **RD:** 160mm **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 7g
- 2:** ROCK2. Rim sherd with flat top and internal bevel (BR1). **Wgt:** 8g
- 3:** ROCK1. Sherd with iron encrustation, probably from within the area of the smeltery. **Wgt:** 7g
- 4:** ROCK1. Sherd decorated with two horizontal lines of comb impressions, one line appears incomplete. Some iron encrustation, possibly from the smeltery. **Wgt:** 7g
- 5:** ROCK1. Uneven firing decorated with vertical herringbone. **Wgt:** 17g
- 6:** ROCK1. Finer incised vertical herringbone (B1), with some iron encrustation. **Wgt:** 10g
- 7:** ROCK1. Broad incised vertical herringbone (B1). **Wgt:** 15g
- 8:** ROCK1. Three incisions in an unclear pattern. **Wgt:** 17g
- 9:** ROCK1. Single sherd decorated with incised x's. **Wgt:** 16g

- 10:** ROCK3. Coarse thick basal sherd showing signs of burning. *Wgt: 33g*
- 11:** ROCK3. Higher fired sherd, with a buff oxidised appearance. Decorated with enclosed chevron pattern. *Wgt: 29g*
- 12:** ROCK3. Sherd decorated with incised lozenges. *Wgt: 25g*
- 13:** ROCK3. Similar decoration to above, possibly same vessel. *Wgt: 34g*
- 14:** ROCK3. Sherd with visible voids in surface from loss of temper. Simple flat rim.
RD: 180mm H: Unk Wgt: 5g
- 15:** ROCK3. Smooth surfaces decorated with two incised parallel lines. *Wgt: 16g*
- 16:** ROCK3. Undiagnostic sherds (2). *Wgt: 29g*
- 17:** ROCK3. Burnished sherd decorated with fine incised lines. *Wgt: 10g*
- 18:** ROCK3. Whilst similar to the above the sherd has a softer sandier feel. *Wgt: 12g*
- 19:** ROCK3. Sherd decorated with deep broad incisions. Surfaces appear to have been burnished. *Wgt: 16g*
- 20:** ROCK3. Sherd decorated with incision. *Wgt: 9g*
- 21:** ROCK3. Incised lattice. *Wgt: 7g*
- 22:** ROCK4. Fine burnished sherds (3 sherds) with deep incisions. *Wgt: 29g*
- 23:** ROCK4. Part oxidised with less well-defined inclusions. Surfaces show signs of burnishing with incised decoration. *Wgt: 12g*

Discussion

Given the limited material, it is not possible to examine the material stratigraphically, and in the absence of form, discussion is dependent on decorative traits. Given the potentially static

nature of some decorative motifs in Shetland, these do not appear as a reliable way to move forward. Some of the motifs do find parallel with the Ness of Gruting (SFI5) and could be posited to be residual 3rd millennium material, as suggested by the presence of a single comb-impressed sherd. A similar situation was noted at Sumburgh Airport (SFI13), where 3rd millennium material was recovered from Iron Age contexts (Downes & Lamb 2000).

B3.5 House 1 Ness of Gruting (SFI5)

Notes on the stratigraphy

A full review of the stratigraphy of the site was not possible, as notebooks pertaining to the relevant years of Calder's activity in Shetland could not be located. Some stratigraphic information is recorded in the NMS Continuation Catalogue (hand-written annotations reproduced by permission of NMS) (Figure B3.2). The principal contexts are as follows:

1952 Excavation season

- [1952/ 1]: Floor level, SE arc
- [1952/ 2]: In front of remaining stone of SW arc
- [1952/ 3]: Peat ash layer at and over well head on SW arc
- [1952/ 4]: Floor level inside entrance and missing facing stones of SW arc
- [1952/ 5]: Main peat ash
- [1952/ 6]: Main peat ash north of grain cache

1953 Excavation season

- [1953/ 1]: Top to bottom of soil and ash core, main wall, 8-15' N of entrance
- [1953/ 2]: Ash core, N. of door in SE arc
- [1953/ 3]: Earth, ash and rubble core, W arc, beyond 1952 operations
- [1953/ 4]: Ash core, SW side (area of 1952 operations) (?= 1952/ 2?)
- [1953/ 5]: Below ash spread in core, between outer and mid wall, W. side
- [1953/ 6]: Ash core, at W side
- [1953/ 7]: Ash core, E side.

The exact position of these contexts is unclear, and the degree of overlap between contexts from 1952 and 1953 is uncertain, but 1953/ 4 could be the same as 1952/ 2. In addition to these 'contexts' several other descriptive locations are outlined, which aid in verifying the

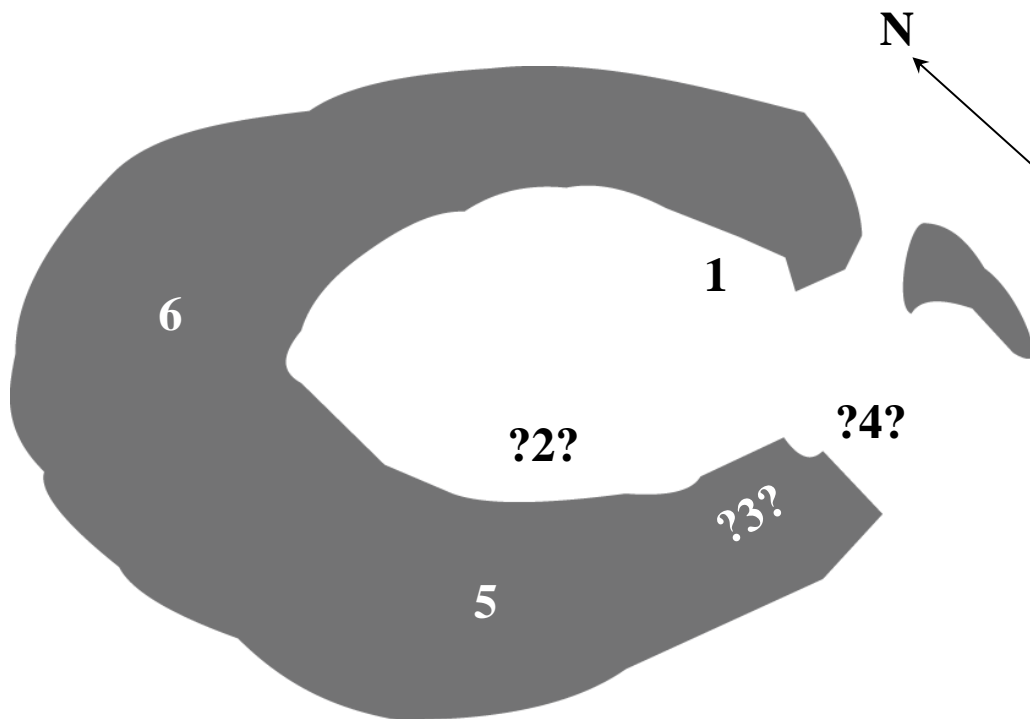


Figure B3.2: *Approximate locations of 1952 contexts, HI Ness of Gruting (SF15), Mainland*

location of several sherds. Unfortunately, 3-D data was unavailable, so the relative depths and positions of artefacts to each other could not be ascertained.

In the past, the site has been presumed to be single phase, as indicated by the wide number of joins across the assemblage. But a closer scrutiny of the limited information suggests that this view could be misleading and stem from a variety of post depositional processes. As argued in the main body of the thesis it is possible that the inner structure predates the outer structure. The material that infills the wall core as Calder suggests likely stems from nearby midden heaps (either piled near the walls, or further away), which could represent a mix of early and later material, subsequently mixed into the wall core. One alternative as seen at Sumburgh Airport (SF113) is the piling of midden against the wall, and the revetting of these deposits later. The relatively ‘fresh’ condition of the sherds suggests that the material was not moved about greatly, preserving some joins among the assemblage, with others being distributed across the wall core. A number of sherds show evidence for burning, which was originally interpreted as evidence of a pottery kiln (Henshall 1958: 381), but this seems unlikely as no evidence of wasters was recorded.

Possible early features could include the pit partly sealed by the upper paving. The position of the pit mirrors the pit from H1 Scrod of Brouster (SFI9). The paving recorded in the entranceway comprised a double layer of paving, whilst the single layer in the chamber was built above the peat ash (Calder 1958: 350). This mirrors the situation in H1 Scrod of Brouster (SFI9) where the floor level was raised and levelled. Spreads of ash were found extending below the later wall, but this could relate to a later phase postdating the grain cache. The dense layer of ash sealing the hearth further indicates the potentially long life-span of the house. The central hearth comprised a single basal slab akin to examples recorded from Orkney (*i.e.* Barnhouse), but no evidence of side stones was found. To both sides ash spreads were noted indicating consistent raking out of hearth material, possibly with a bias towards the left side of the house. Among this was included small burnt stones. The single hearth in the apse was constructed out of multiple stones sealed by deep red peat ash. It is unclear if both hearths are contemporary or represent different phases of use. The addition of the outer core as part of the remodelling could be linked to issues of stability as evidenced by the buttressing of south end of the building, or as at Sumburgh Airport (SFI13) to contain the growing accumulation of ash against the inner chamber.

The Pottery

An assemblage of pottery, amounting to 1212 sherds, representing 246 vessels was recovered from a variety of mixed contexts within the walls and interior of the building (Fig. 6.13). The pottery overall spans the later 3rd millennium, although several possible earlier sherds were recorded. Alongside these earlier sherds were a handful of later Bronze Age and Iron Age sherds. Given the difficulties in interpreting stratigraphy the chronology and phasing of the assemblage is unclear, but could encompass several different phases of activity, which in part can be related to episodes of use and rebuilding. In the absence of further stratigraphic information little else can be said regarding the chronology of the assemblage, but as indicated it seems unlikely that the date for the grain cache dates all the material.

Fabrics

The fabrics comprised two distinct parent groups, coarse wares with larger angular inclusions, and sandy wares with fine metamorphic and igneous inclusions (Table 2.4). The latter included pink granite, quartz and steatite inclusions. Pink granite outcrops occur in the

Fabric	Sherd Count	ENV	Wt. (g)
COAR1	163	45	6052
COAR2	93	25	2704
ORG1	20	2	189
SAND1	206	41	2522
SAND2	162	34	1990
SAND3	296	15	2224
SAND4	267	82	4907
SAND5	1	1	32
STEAT	4	1	72
Grand Total	1212	246	20692

Table B3.4: *Summary of fabrics recorded at H1 Ness of Gruting (SFI5), Mainland*

region, suggesting exploitation of local clay sources. In the case of SAND3 steatite had been added deliberately whilst in the case of SAND1 it was harder to determine. In total nine fabrics were identified, the most common being SAND4, which formed 33% of the total ENV. Coarse fabrics (COAR1 and COAR 2) accounted for 28% of the assemblage collectively. Coarse ‘rocky’ fabrics are well known at other 3rd millennium sites, including the Pund of Burland (SFI7) and the Scord of Brouster (SFI8).

The sandy fabrics whilst generally fine, could as in the case of SAND1 be slightly coarser. Here the general sorting of quartz and other inclusions could be quite poor, giving a coarse appearance to the fabric. Steatite was noted in some examples of this fabric, but in this case could be discounted as naturally occurring. SAND2 in contrast to SAND1 contained rare to sparse sub-angular pink granite grits. SAND 4 tended to be better sorted, but as with the other members of this group the range of inclusions was quite varied. Grass tempering (ORG1) formed a minor component of the overall assemblage and the significance of this fabric will be returned to later on. The principal fabrics defined were as follows:

COAR1: Rock tempered fabric, with mixed grits, visible to eye up to and over 7mm in some cases. Moderately sorted, with common poorly sorted rock inclusions. Sherds tend to be friable

COAR2: Similar to COAR1, but contains in addition common black ferrous inclusions, up to 5mm, along with quartz and other mixed rock fabrics. Moderately sorted with common inclusions.

SAND1: Buff brown to dark grey fabric with sandy matrix. Moderately sorted fabric with common sub-angular quartz inclusions typically over 3mm. Other inclusions include probable fragments of steatite, but these could be naturally occurring rather than deliberate as in SAND3. Black 'ferrous' inclusions present.

SAND2: Similar to SAND1, but contains common red or black inclusions, probable igneous rock, pink granite grits. Inclusions tend to be sub-angular and in some cases visible to eye.

SAND3: Moderate to well sorted fabric. Range of inclusions is similar to other SAND fabrics, but quartz is rare. Instead, steatite is common to abundant up to 10 mm. Inclusions range from angular to sub-angular and unlike the small flecks noted in SAND1 is likely to have been added deliberately.

SAND4: Rare quartz, generally sandy common ferrous inclusions similar to COAR2, but better sorted.

ORG1: Grass tempered fabric with void like appearance.

STEAT: Sherds of steatite or steatite rich clays.

Forms

Due to the fragmentary condition of the sherds, attributing form was problematic in several cases. As noted prior, this was hampered further by the absence of good comparative material from within the Shetland Isles. Only 22% of the total ENV (56 vessels) were

	Form	Sum of Sh	Sum of ENV	Sum of Wt.
INDET	INDET	86	1	2243
Bowl	Bowl, rounded	22	4	306
Beaker	1	97	12	1184
	Weak s-profile	3	1	167
Bucket/ tub		281	24	3461
'Regional forms'	Indet.	2	1	14
	Carinated Jar	30	4	451
	'Proto-collared'	23	7	937
	Ridged jar	43	4	2333
Grand Total		1212	246	41384

Table B3.5: *Principal forms recorded at H1 Ness of Gruting (SF15), Mainland*

assigned forms, and in several cases these classifications are tentative (Table 2.5). Within the assemblage were a number of indeterminate carinated sherds decorated with cordons, which could stem from ridged jars, proto-collared vessels or plain bucket/ tub forms (see Table 6.2 for form definitions).

Bowls

Bowls formed 7% of the overall assemblage (4 ENV). The two clearest bowls in the assemblage are HD942 and HD943, coming from the main peat ash and main peat ash from north of the grain in the 1952 excavations. HD942 has a small rim diameter, c.120 mm, with a simple rounded rim (SR2). The surfaces of the vessel are decorated with diagonal incisions. The other example, whilst similar, is twice the size, with a rim diameter of c. 240mm, with simple rounded rim (SR4). Within this group lie the only diagnostic grass tempered sherds (ORG1). The sherds belong to a bowl with a thin pointed rim. The vessel appears to have derived from the top of the wall core, or fallen stones at the inner end of the ash in the NW arc (Henshall unpub.). Whilst grass tempered vessels are common in the Early and Middle Neolithic (Sheridan 2012), they are also found in the Iron Age (see Murray, J. 2016). Given the relative position of these sherds these could belong to the Iron Age rather than the Neolithic. The steatite bowl sherd from the top of the wall core or fallen stones at 3, appears to be Bronze Age, though again steatite bowls are noted in other periods, as at the Scord of Brouster (SFI9). A second grass tempered vessel, HD1510/1509, was found distributed among [1953/3] and [1953/5].

Catalogue of Bowl Sherds

HD942: SAND4. Wall and rim of simple rounded bowl in sandy fabric. Rim is rounded, with walls on average 10.16mm thick. Surfaces decorated with incision. Originally illustrated in Calder 1956, Fig. 18. **Context:** [1952/5]. **RD:** 120mm **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 72g

HD943: SAND2. Wall and rim sherd in sandy fabric. Decorated with incision on the interior and exterior. Rounded rim with rounded internal face. Incised decoration on the interior and exterior. Originally illustrated in Calder 1956, Fig. 18. **Context:** [1952/6]. **RD:** 240mm **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 45g

HD1508: ORG1. Sixteen organic tempered sherds comprising the wall and rim of a bowl shaped vessel. Rim is thin and tapering. Sherds are worn. **Context:** From on top of core or fallen stones at inner end of ash, NW arc. **Wgt:** 162g

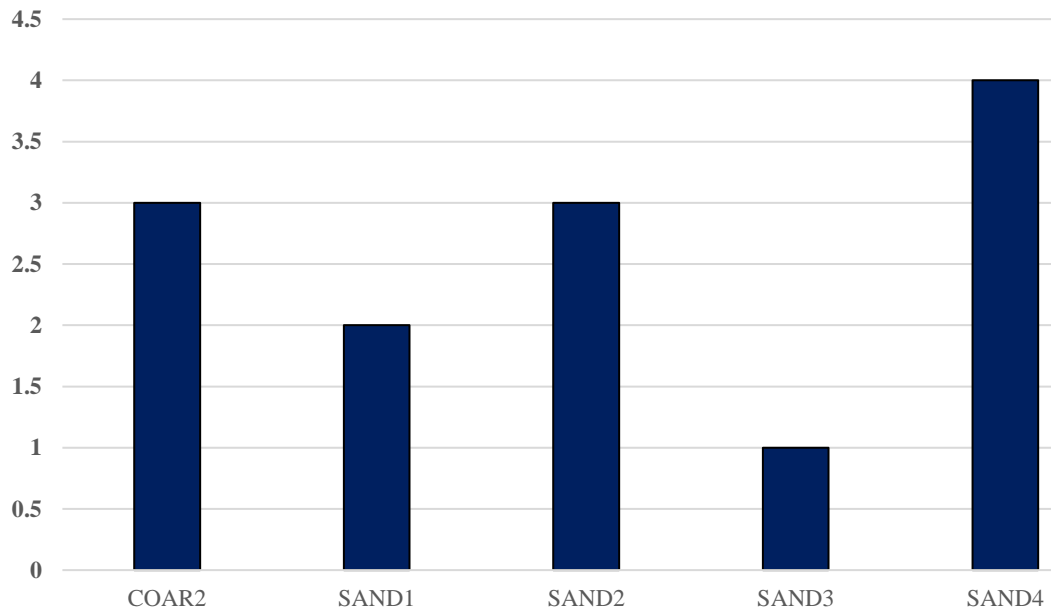


Figure B3.3: *Beaker sherds and fabrics at H1 Ness of Gruting (SF15), Mainland*

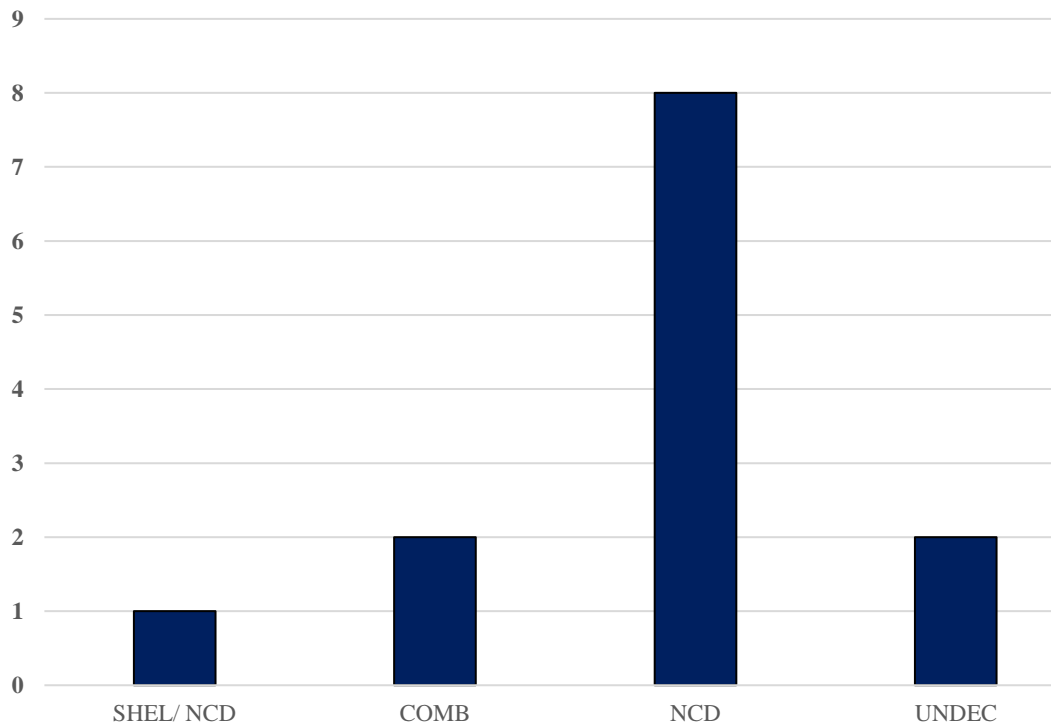


Figure B3.4: *Decorative techniques used on Beaker sherds from H1 Ness of Gruting (SF15), Mainland*

Key: *SHEL/NCD: Shell & Incised decoration, COMB: Comb impressed, NCD: Incised, UNDEC: Undecorated*

HD1510/ 1509: ORG1. Four wall sherds from a single organic tempered vessel with a thicker lower body and thinning out in the upper body. **Wgt:** 27g

Beaker

Beakers formed 23% of the assigned ENV. Owing to the degree of fragmentation in the assemblage and the difficulty in determining sherd joins, Beakers could be underrepresented. 35% of the Beakers derived from the main peat ash [1952/ 5]. These vessels form one of the distinctive elements of the assemblage and have featured in previous discussions of 'Beaker pottery' from domestic contexts (*e.g.* Gibson, A. 1982). It was not possible to precisely define forms except for a single weak s-profile Beaker, HD938. There is a degree of overlap between these vessels and the proto-collared vessels. Other sherds have been attributed to the group based on their rounded bellies (*i.e.* HD1464), although this is a tentative attribution. HD938 is an unusual example, which whilst having a sinuous profile, sports a wide base giving it a baggy appearance. The rim is straight and slightly rounded. The body is decorated with a series of comb impressions creating a vertical herringbone design across the body. The decoration is crudely split into two zones through the use of two parallel horizontal lines. Vertical herringbone was recorded on the majority of vessels. Decoration of the remaining vessels is primarily by incision though examples of comb and shell impressions were recorded as in HD938 and HD939. In one case shell impressions and incision were combined. No examples of twisted cord were recorded. Several sherds showed evidence of burning, probably occurring from post depositional factors.

(77%) of the Beaker sherds were in sandy fabrics, with coarser fabrics making up a small percentage (Fig. B3.3). Vessels of this group tend to have wall thicknesses between 6 – 10mm. One thicker sherd, HD1464 *c.* 12 mm was noted. Rims were frequently rounded, with rounded sloping interiors, whilst simple bevels were also noted. Rim diameters ranged from 100-140 mm. Decoration was principally by incision (Fig. B3.4)

Catalogue of Beakers (including probable examples)

HD931: COAR2. Wall sherd *c.* 8.89 mm thick in coarse fabric. Decorated with series of incisions. Sherd shows evidence for burning, possibly secondary post depositional. Could be from same vessel as HD935 or HD930. Wall thickness *c.* 8.89mm. **Context:** [1952/ 6]. **Wgt:** 34g

HD932: Four wall sherds from probable Beaker decorated with incised vertical herringbone. Fabric is sandy with quartz inclusions (SAND1). Wall thickness *c.* 6.35mm. **Context:** [1952/ 4 & 5]. **Wgt:** 62g

HD935: COAR2. Four wall sherds in coarse fabric similar to HD931. The vessel exterior is decorated with incised chevrons. Sherds stem from the belly of the vessel and have a noticeable rounded profile. Walls *c.* 7.62 thick. **Context:** [1952/ 5]. **Wgt:** 96g

HD938: SAND4. Fragments of the wall, base and rim of a squat Beaker. The vessel has a baggy appearance, with the base forming the widest part of the vessel. The outer surfaces are decorated with two bands of comb impressed vertical herringbone. Henshall originally described the decoration as shell impressed (1956: 389). The upper band of decoration is the narrowest, being separated from the lower by two horizontal lines. Originally illustrated in Calder 1956, Fig. 17 **Context:** [1952/ 5]. **RD:** 100mm **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 206g

HD939: SAND1. Twenty-seven sherds from the wall of a vessel of sinuous profile. Wall thickness on average 9.65mm. Decorated with shell impressions and incision in horizontal bands. **Context:** [1952/ 5]. **Wgt:** 341g

HD1366: SAND3. Wall and rim sherd decorated with incised chevrons, diameter 140mm. **Context:** From under earth core packing in inner part of walling half way along W side, inner recess 1' in from front of mid-wall. **RD:** 140mm **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 50g

HD1340: SAND2. Wall and rim sherd from weak s-profile Beaker. Coil built vessel decorated with incised lattice. Originally illustrated in Calder 1956, Fig. 17. **Context:** [1953/ 4]. **RD:** 200mm **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 167g

HD1366:SAND3. Wall and rim sherds decorated with incised chevrons. **Context:** From under earth core packing in inner part of walling half way along w side inner recess 1' in front of mid-wall. **RD:** 140mm **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 50g

HD1367: SAND2. Rim and wall sherds, *c.* 7.62 mm thick. Decorated with incised vertical herringbone. Rim is slightly everted, with an internal bevel. Decorated with incised vertical herringbone. Originally illustrated in Calder 1956, Fig. 17. **Context:** From core in front of stones at S end in front of two large stones. **RD:** 140mm **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 17g

HD1368: SAND1. Rim and wall sherds decorated with incision. Rim is everted with clear angle between rim and neck on internal face. Possible short-necked form. Originally illustrated in Calder 1956, Fig. 16. **Context:** [1953/ 1]. **RD:** 140mm **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 10g

HD1384: SAND 4. Curved wall sherd c. 8.89mm thick probably from the belly of ?Beaker?. **Context:** [1953/ 6]. **Wgt:** 11g

HD1464: SAND2. Two thick wall sherds c. 12.7mm thick with slight curve, probably from a rounded belly. **Context:** From top of soil east arc, 1953. **Wgt:** 45g

HD1475: SAND4: Thirty-seven sherds from the wall of a vessel with tapering neck, probable Beaker. Decorated with incised chevrons. Sherds show signs of burning. **Context:** From 1953 excavations. **Wgt:** 276g

HD939a:_COAR2 Sherd decorated with comb impressions. **Context:** From 1953 excavations. **Wgt:** 29g

Bucket/ tub

Forming around 42% of the ENV (24 ENV) (Table B3.4) comprising 8 certain vessels and a further 15 probable examples. The probable examples include a collection of rims, which based on analogy with vessels from other areas have been assigned to this form group. Vessels tend to have straight walls, sometimes slightly curved, and are likely to have flat bases, though no bases could be attributed to the vessels. The exact height of the vessels could not be ascertained, but bucket/ tub vessels from other British sites, tend to vary between having a tall, slightly elongated profile, to being quite short and squat. Rims are usually rounded, with a slight inturn or pointed with a shallow internal bevel. With regards to wall thickness these tend to range from 6-13mm.

Decoration is principally by incision, often comprising narrow incisions or wider grooves. HD944 sports ill-defined vertical herringbone/ chevrons like prior examples from the sinuous group, implying a degree of chronological and/ or design overlap. Below the rim of HD944 are three broad incisions or grooves. Vessel HD945 is decorated with applied vertical cordons, creating panels infilled with diagonal incisions. This vessel had the largest rim diameter of the group, measuring around 280mm. The use of cordons to create zones is seen on four other vessels, including HD1468. HD1468 sports a horizontal and vertical set of

cordons, creating a T shape. The sherd has a somewhat rounded profile, though these are not wholly out of place in this group as in the case of HD1338. HD1338 and HD918 are the two most diagnostic and complete vessels of the group. HD918 derived from main peat ash and the peat ash north of the position of the grain. HD918 is decorated primarily by incision. The area below the bevel, is decorated with four wide horizontal grooves with multiple incised chevrons below. The bevel of the rim is as in the case of HD951 is decorated with a series of incised criss-crosses. The form of the rim, forming a rough triangle in cross section is similar to the cordoned/ ribbed vessel HD1337, discussed below. HD1338 has a gently curved wall ending in slightly inturned rounded rim. The vessel lacks the wide grooves of HD918 and is instead decorated by diagonal and horizontal incisions forming an indeterminate pattern. Both HD918 and HD1337 have the largest rim diameters of the group, at 260 and 280mm respectively.

Catalogue of bucket/tub vessels (including probable examples)

HD918: COAR1. Large coarse vessel, wall thickness *c.* 11.5mm, with rim diameter 260mm. The rim is slightly bevelled and inturned, creating a closed form. The inner bevel is decorated with a series of incised x's, whilst the area below the rim is defined by a set of four wide horizontal grooves. Below these, the body is decorated with a incised vertical herringbone. Originally illustrated in Calder 1956, Fig. 17. **Context:** Recovered from [1952/ 5] and [1952/ 6]. **RD:** 260mm **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 509g

HD923: SAND4. Wall sherd 8.89mm thick. Sherd is buff and well fired, decorated with incised lattice (D2). The sherd has a slight rounded appearance, with possible shoulder, though form could be analogous to HD1338. Originally illustrated in Calder 1956, Fig..17. **Context:** [1952/ 5]. **Wgt:** 59g

HD944: SAND4. Rim sherd. The rim is slightly rounded with an internal bevel. Wall thickness *c.* 8.89mm. Decorated with incisions, probably vertical herringbone vertical zig-zags. Originally illustrated in Calder 1956, Fig. 18 **Context:** [1952/ 1] and [1952/ 5]. **RD:** 215mm **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 54g

HD945: COAR1. Sherd decorated with vertical and horizontal cordons. Decorated with diagonal incisions. Whilst vertical and horizontal cordons are noted on the 2nd millennium vessel from Tangwick (V2) these lack the additional decoration of HDF945 and HD1468.

Vessel is thick walled c. 10.16mm. Originally illustrated in Calder 1956, Fig. 18. **Context:** [1952/4] **RD:** 220mm **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 100g

HD953, HD960: SAND3. Rim sherd with slight internal bevel. Decorated with diagonal incisions. Originally illustrated in Calder 1956, Fig. 18. **Context:** [1952/ 1]. **RD:**200mm **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 11g

HD982: COAR2. Base and wall fragment. **Context:** [1952/ 4]. **Wgt:** 28g

HD988: COAR1. Two wall sherds from probable bucket/ tub vessel, 10.16mm thick. **Context:** [1952/ 5]. **Wgt:** 276g

HD999: SAND3. Multiple sherds (c. 166) from the wall and base of a probable bucket/ tub vessel. Surfaces are sorted, and one sherd bears a single incised cross. It is possible that this vessel is Bronze Age or Iron Age based on its stratigraphic position. **Context:** From grass roots in front of SW corner of apse. **Wgt:** 590g

HD1338: COAR1. Wall and simple rounded rim (c. 22 sherds). Wall c. 12.7mm thick. Decorated with diagonal incisions. Sherds show signs of burning, probably post depositional. Originally illustrated in Calder 1956, Fig. 17. **Context:** [1953/ 1]. **RD:**280mm **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 1202g

HD1339: SAND3. Sherds from wall and rim (c. 32 sherds). Wall thickness c. 12.7, with simple internally rounded rim. Decorated with incised lattice. Pieces of narrow cordon visible on surface alongside traces of steatite temper. Surfaces are sooted. Originally illustrated in Calder 1952, Fig. 16. **Context:** From over footing, outer side of wall on SE arc about 4' N of secondary door gap rim from soil in front of outer face SW arc.

HD1346: SAND4. Single wall sherd. Decorated with incised lattice. **Context:** [1953/ 3]. **Wgt:** 62g

HD1347: SAND2. Wall and rim sherds, simple rim with slight internal bevel. Vessel walls are thin, c.6.85mm. Two grooves below the rim with the outer surfaces decorated with a lattice pattern. **Context:** [1953/1]. **RD:**140mm **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 10g

HD1369: SAND2. Wall and rim sherds. Rim has a slight internal bevel with external concavity. Surfaces sport two horizontal ribs, one below the external concavity and a further rib below. Surfaces decorated with incision creating horizontal herringbone. Originally illustrated in Calder 1952, Fig. 18. **Context:** [1953/ 6]. **RD:**120mm **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 19g

HD1370: SAND1. Similar rim to HD1369, with rib below external concavity (BR7). Outer surfaces decorated with incision. Originally illustrated in Calder 1952, Fig. 18. **Context:** [1953/ 7]. **Wgt:** 72g

HD1371: SAND1. Wall and rim sherd of probable bucket/ tub. Rim similar to **HD1370** and **HD1369** (BR7). Single rib and evidence of incised decoration. Originally illustrated Calder 1952, Fig. 18. **Context:** From beside outer wall face, middle of E arc. **Wgt:** 13

HD1372: SAND2. Possible bucket/ tub vessel with similar rim to **HD1371**, **HD1370** and **HD1369**. Single horizontal rib with incised decoration. Originally illustrated Calder 1952, Fig. 18. **Context:** [1953/ 6]. **RD:**120mm **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 13

HD1373: SAND4. Possible bucket/ tub vessel with similar rim to HD1371, HD1370 HD1369 and HD1372. Wall thickness 11.73mm. Originally illustrated Calder 1952, Fig. 18. **Context:** [1953/ 1]. **Wgt:** 13g

HD1374: SAND4. Wall and rim sherd from possible bucket/ tub vessel. Rim sports internal bevel, with longer external bevel. Decorated with vertical herringbone or zig-zag. Originally illustrated in Calder 1952, Fig. 18. **Context:** [1953/ 7]. **Wgt:** 29g

HD1378: SAND1. Wall and rim sherds 7.62mm thick, no traces of decoration. **Context:** [1953/ 5]. **RD:**180mm **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 59g

HD1386: COAR2. Base and wall sherds. Walls expanding quickly after shallow vertical ring. Possible residue encrusted on interior. **Context:** [1953/ 3]. **Wgt:**51g

HD1387: COAR2. Concave base. Base is 1.6cm thick, with walls raising vertically from rounded corner. **Context:** Ash core N-side. **Wgt:** 51g

HD1505: SAND1. Three wall sherds 11.43 mm thick. Fabric contains slightly more steatite than other examples, possibly later sherd. **Context:** From on top of core or fallen stones at inner end of ash, NW arc. **Wgt:** 11g

HD1506: SAND1. Twenty-nine sherds showing evidence for coil building. Worn sherds with outer surfaces missing. Location is similar to **HD1505** and could be later. **Context:** From on top of core or fallen stones at inner end of ash, NW arc. **Wgt:** 215

Regional Forms

Of the total defined forms regional forms make up 11% (16 ENV) of the total. These encompassed a diverse array of forms which in part overlap with the preceding groups. Vessels were commonly ‘proto-collared’, accounting for 43% of the total (7 ENV).

Proto-collared Vessels

The presence of ‘collared’ vessels was noted by Henshall in her initial analysis, but these vessels have in past discussions tended to be subsumed under the category of ‘Beaker’. The presence of ‘collared’ vessels is one of the key traits among the assemblage, and is noted as well among material from the Pund of Burland (SFI7). ‘Collars’ tend to be simple, separated from the body by a narrow groove (*cf.* Chapter 4). ‘Collar’ depths, where recorded, ranged from *c.* 53 – 83mm, with either fairly straight or slightly curved profiles. The indeterminate sherd HD946 could belong to this group and HD1365 as they sport similar decorative motifs, with a single band of incised chevrons on the ‘collar’. The curved sherd HD941 could also represent the remains of a curved collar. One unusual mode of decoration is that on HD941, which sports three horizontal incisions, with a series of short incisions below, almost representing stitching. A similar mode of decoration was noted on a pot from the Ness of Brodgar (R. Towers pers. comm.). One possibility is that this vessel represents a skeuomorph of a leather vessel.

Catalogue of ‘proto-collared’ vessels, including probable examples

HD930: SAND2. Six sherds comprising the wall and rim. The neck is pronounced with an almost cup-like appearance. The form of the neck comprising a wide groove overlaps with those recorded among other ‘proto-collared’ vessels. The decoration of the vessel in two

zones with a plain concave neck reinforces the potential overlap between this and vessel and other 'proto-collared' vessels. Motifs comprise horizontal herringbone, creating a stitching like effect. Originally illustrated in Calder 1952, Fig. 17. **Context:** [1952/ 5]. **RD:** 120mm **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 259g

HD919: COAR2. Wall and body sherd decorated with series of incised vertical herringbone. The groove below the rim is narrow. 'Collar' is deep with rounded rim (SR2). Walls c. 8.89 mm thick. Originally illustrated in Calder 1952, Fig. 18. **Context:** [1952/ 6] . **RD:** 220 **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 343g

HD940: SAND4. Five sherds from wall and rim. Decorated with comb and incision. Vertical herringbone with horizontal comb lines above and below. Rim decorated with series of incised "x"s Rim simple, rounded inner edge Originally illustrated in Calder 1952, Fig. 18 **Context:** [1952/ 2] & [1952/ 5]. **RD:** 140mm **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 145g

HD946: SAND1. Wall and rim sherd. Buff hard oxidised sherds. Decorated with horizontal lines and lattice. Originally illustrated in Calder 1952, Fig. 17. **Context:** [1952/5]. **RD:** 160mm **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 16g

HD951: SAND1. Narrow, concave neck similar to HD919. Rim is internally bevelled. The bevel is decorated with a series of incised x's . Remainder of decoration extends across body and neck, series of vertical herringbone creating stitching effect. Horizontal, combed impressions above and below. Walls 6.35mm thick. Originally illustrated in Calder 1952, Fig. 17. **Context:** [1952/ 2 & 5]. **RD:** 120mm **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 85g

HD1351: SAND 4. Wall and rim sherd decorated with vertical herringbone. Decoration and form is reminiscent of HD919. Rim is internally bevelled. Originally illustrated in Calder 1952, Fig. 17. **Context:** From top of ash backing the N jamb of door. **RD:** 140mm **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 52g

HD1352: SAND4. Wall and rim sherd decorated with incised vertical herringbone. The neck is extended, similar to HD 919, with slight groove below the neck. Originally illustrated in Calder 1952, Fig. 17. **Context:** From main peat ash by outer face of inner wall. **RD:** 140g **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 37g

Carinated jars

This category comprises a range of indeterminate vessels united by the presence of carinated shoulders. It is possible that sherds of this group overlap with those previously discussed in the ridged and proto-collared group. Vessels show a preference for incised decoration and can sport cordons.

Catalogue of carinated jar vessels, including probable examples

HD997: SAND3. 26 sherds including rim of carinated vessel. Rim is rounded internally. Decorated with single cordon. Evidence of coil construction. **Context:** From edge of peat ash point D (1952). **RD:** 180mm **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 244g

HD1504: SAND1. Wall sherd with sharp carination and concave area above (possible 'proto collared'). **Context:** From on top of core or fallen stones at inner end of ash, NW arc. **RD:** n/a **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 37

HD1337a: COAR1. Carinated wall sherd with evidence of burning, probably post depositional burning. Decorated with incisions. **Context:** [1953/1]. **RD:** n/a **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 178

HD974a: COAR2. Carinated sherd with cordon/ rib. [1952/5]. **RD:** n/a **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 178

Ridged Jars

Ridged jars comprise vessels decorated with multiple cordons, usually between two and three. These include the large example HD916 and several further indeterminate sherds.

Catalogue of ridged jar vessels, including probable examples

HD916: COAR1. Wall and rim sherds from large globular vessel. Walls c. 13.97mm thick. Initially compared by Henshall to round bottomed Hebridean jars. Sherds are hard, pinky/orange, possibly burnt post deposition. Surfaces decorated with bands of vertical herringbone. Body is divided into three broad zones by horizontal ribs. The upper zone at the

rim of the vessel is subdivided into two narrow areas through horizontal ribs. Below the lowest rib the belly is globular, whilst the area above is concave. The lower area below the bottom zone of herringbone appears to be undecorated. Originally illustrated in Calder 1952, Fig.15. **Context:** [1952 5&6]. **RD:** 266mm **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 1402g

HD917: COAR2. Thick walled sherds 17.78mm thick, with slightly rounded profile. Surfaces decorated with applied rib and incised decoration. Possible traces of slip. **Context:** [1952/ 4 / 5/ 6]. **RD:** n/a **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 650g

HD957: COAR2. Wall sherds, 11.93mm thick decorated with raised rib and incised lattice. **Context:** [1952/ 5]. **RD:** n/a **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 52g

HD1337: COAR1. Flat, broad rim with internal bevel. Similar to HD916 with the body divided into two broad zones by raised ribs. The internal face of the rim is decorated with incised zig-zag. Body divided with rough incised pattern. Originally illustrated in Calder 1952, Fig.15. **Context:** [1953/ 1]. **RD:** 240 **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 229

Undiagnostic vessels

HD941: SAND3. Possible collar from proto-collared vessel. Rim is rounded internally. Surfaces decorated with two parallel horizontal lines below top of 'collar' with vertical stitching effect below. Originally illustrated in Calder 1952, Fig.18. **Context:** [1952/ 5]. **RD:** 120 **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 14

B3.6 House III, Ness of Gruting

Around 38 sherds of pottery were recorded from HIII (HD1580-1582). These sherds were in similar fabrics to those from H1, with SAND3, SAND1 and STEAT represented.

HD1581 was a coil built vessel, which in terms of form was reminiscent of known forms from the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age. It is likely that the rest of the assemblage is of a similar date.

B3.7 Ness of Gruting Workshop (SFI6)

A small collection of finds from the site were recorded, including six sherds of pottery. The sherds were small and fragmentary representing around 6 vessels. Given the fragmentary state of the material no forms could be defined.

The pottery

Fabric

Only one fabric was defined, SAND 1, which was a reduced fabric typically grey or black in colour. Sherds had a soft, sandy feel. Inclusions comprised very rare quartz, often under 1mm, typically rounded. The only other inclusion noted was mica, which was visible on the surfaces and breaks. Some sherds were slightly high fired.

Vessel Catalogue

NGW1: SAND 1. Small sherd decorated with up to four lines of cord impressions. Inner surfaces missing. Surfaces show signs of burnishing. **RD:** n/a **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 4g

NGW2: SAND1. Outer surfaces are irregularly fired. Possibly from same vessel as NGW1. **RD:** n/a **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 4g

NGW3: SAND1. High-fired sherd with oxidised outer and reduced interior. Micaceous surfaces. **RD:** n/a **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 13g

NGW4: SAND1. Very high-fired sherd similar to NGW3. Possibly same vessel.

NGW5: SAND1. Sherd from probable jar. Encrustations on interior and possible ferrous inclusions in the fabric. Decorated with a series of incised lines. **RD:** n/a **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 19

NGW6: SAND1. Well-fired, reduced sherd with burnished surfaces and a series of incised lines. **RD:** n/a **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 12g

Discussion

On the whole, the assemblage from the workshop is small with only a few diagnostic elements. Among these, the presence of twisted cord decoration suggests that the assemblage should be dated to the later 3rd millennium. Whilst a range of decorative techniques were noted at the nearby House 1 (SFI5), twisted cord was not noted among these. The incised sherds from the workshop can, however, be readily paralleled with the larger assemblage from House 1 (SFI5).

B3.8 House 1 Near Gruting School (SFI7)

A small collection of pottery, totalling 4 sherds, were recovered from the site. Fabrics were similar to those recorded at H1 Ness of Gruting (SFI5) and descriptions for these fabrics can be found above. On the whole the assemblage was undiagnostic, comprising a series of fragmentary decorated sherds.

Catalogue of sherds

HD877: SAND4. Incised sherd from peat ash on denuded west wall. **RD:** n/a **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 20

HD874: SAND1. Sherd decorated with incised lattice, from floor level between SE inner wall face and posthole. **RD:** n/a **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 16

HD875: COAR2. Incised sherd, location not stated. **RD:** n/a **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 11

HD876: SAND3. Sherd contains naturally occurring steatite. Outer surfaces are decorated with incised chevron. From peat ash on denuded west wall. **RD:** n/a **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 19

Discussion

As with the finds from the Ness of Gruting Workshop (SFI6) little can be stated apart from noting the similarities in decoration and fabric to the nearby House 1 Ness of Gruting (SFI5). This could be taken to indicate a degree of chronological overlap between the two sites.

B3.9 Scord of Brouster (SFI9)

Notes on the Stratigraphy & Phasing

In addition to the re-examination of the ceramic material from the excavation it was possible to examine stratigraphic information through unpublished material held in the site archive. This included the original finds lists which provided more detailed information on the stratigraphy of the site. Importantly this enabled a reconstruction in several cases of the relative position of vessels from the site. This was coupled with notes from the daybooks kept during the excavations. In light of this research, the following observations on the stratigraphy of the site can be made.

House 1

House 1 was the largest and most complex of the structures excavated on site. The site was initially identified by Calder as “*oval grass covered bank measuring 43ft by 34ft*” (1958: 370). As with House 2, the site saw an initial occupation with a later stone-built house erected atop.

H1: Phase 1: Layer 4

Layer 4 represented the lowest layer within the interior of the structure, (16) with further subdivisions. The layer was for the most part consistent containing numerous stones³, but was in places difficult to distinguish from the subsoil. The full extent and nature of this layer was difficult to determine (Whittle *et al.* 1986: 4) Within the layer, a number of pre-house features were recognised, including a hearth (F1), surrounded by a layer of compact orange ash (*ibid.*), probably deriving from the hearth. A second probable hearth F2 was noted, cut into the subsoil and overlain by L4 (Whittle *et al.* 1986: 17). This hearth could be earlier than F1, with successive episodes of occupation (*ibid.* 19). Associated with round based pottery. Material from wall cores is likely to be P1 (Whittle *et al.* 1986: 20). Dated by CAR-243, associated with Layer 4, CAR-245, from charcoal at base of L4, CAR-244 associated with F6.

H1: Phase 2: Layer 3

Construction of stone-built house in part atop L4 and the subsoil. Layer 3 main occupation layer. The transition between the two phases appears to have occurred rapidly. The primary

³ *In unpublished notes this appears to have been described as a layer of cobbles*

use of the use (2a) with successive additions and alterations over time (2b). The stone-built house was roughly oval with six recesses aligned north-west to south-east. The construction of the house is dated by CAR-246 from charcoal in the wall matrix in Trench A and C. Early features in the interior associated with P2a include a series of hearths, a gully or drain and several post or other holes (22). The division between this phase and subsequent 2b is arbitrary with features of 2a continuing in use including the hearths and F17. During this phase, further layers of occupation deposits built up with reduction in the size of the hearths over time (26). Recesses 1 and 4 were demarcated from the interior by a line of four large stones, Recess 3 was similarly demarcated. This activity is dated by a single date CAR-248 from the lower part of L3 in recess 6, implying a lengthy timespan.

H1: Phase 3: Layer 2, Decay

Layer 3 was overlain by a dark brown layer with rubble, which is seen as indicating the decay of the walls and roof into the interior (28).

	Phase	Layer	Sherd Count (in report)	Sherd count (examined in Lerwick)	
H1	P1	L4	200	62	
	P2		n/a	3	
	P2a/ P2b	P2	L4/ L3	3	59
			W/C		
		P2 Int	L3	59	37
	P3	?X?	23	4	
Total			354	165	
H2	P1	L3 (incl. L3f, L3d)	61	41	
	P2			5	
	P2 W/C	L2	13		
	P2 Int	L2	192	6	
		UNK			52
Total			266	52	

Table B3.6: *Distribution of sherds by phase at Scord of Brouster (SF118), Mainland*

House 2

House 2 is broadly divided into two phases, the first comprising a period of pre-house activity (possible timber structure) and a second phase, during which a stone structure was built over some of the pre-phase 1 deposits. In the original excavation, these phases were both seen as being broadly contemporary due to the lack of humic soils between the two phases (Whittle *et al.* 1986: 8).

H2: Phase 1: Layer 3

The pre-house phase was defined primarily by a layer of dark soil, Layer 3 (L3) with local concentrations of ash and charcoal (3f, 3a,3b,3c, 3d, 3e). These lenses were broadly contained within the matrix of L3 (Whittle *et al.* 1986: 5). 3f was recorded under the house wall (*ibid.*: 5). An arc of post/ stake holes to the south west was attributed as well to this phase. These features could relate to a timber building (Whittle 1985: 7; Whittle *et al.* 1986: 8). This activity is dated by SUERC-56459, SUERC56460, CAR-249, CAR-250, CAR-251, implying a late 4th millennium date.

H2: Phase 2: Layer 2/3, Layer 2, central interior

The walls of the Phase 2 structure were built partially over L3, principally over 3F, whilst in other areas was built on the old lands surface (OLS) (Whittle *et al.* 1986: 8). The stone structure is associated with Layer 2 (L2), which represents the primary occupation. Layer 2 incorporates the material from within the wall cores, though the boundaries of the lower elements of the wall cores are slightly diffuse, being further confused by the collapse of the house in P3. The top of H2/L3 was hard to distinguish, from H2/L2 and it was suggested in the unpublished notes that the bottom part of Layer 2 and the top part of Layer 3 are the same archaeological layer. The implication of this would be that much of the pottery from Phase 2 is of a single period, with little to no distinction in phasing (*cf.* Mason & Sheridan 2015). Pottery finds from the upper part of the layer could be later, but in light of the problems of unpicking the layers this is unclear. The comb-impressed sherd 200b could have been associated with the tumble.

The construction of the stone house is dated by a single charcoal sample from the wall core, CAR-253, implying a construction of 3340-2890 cal BC. Given the recent dates for L3 a date at the latter end of the range is probable. The single date for the interior CAR-253 is anomalous, falling at 3990-3660 cal BC.

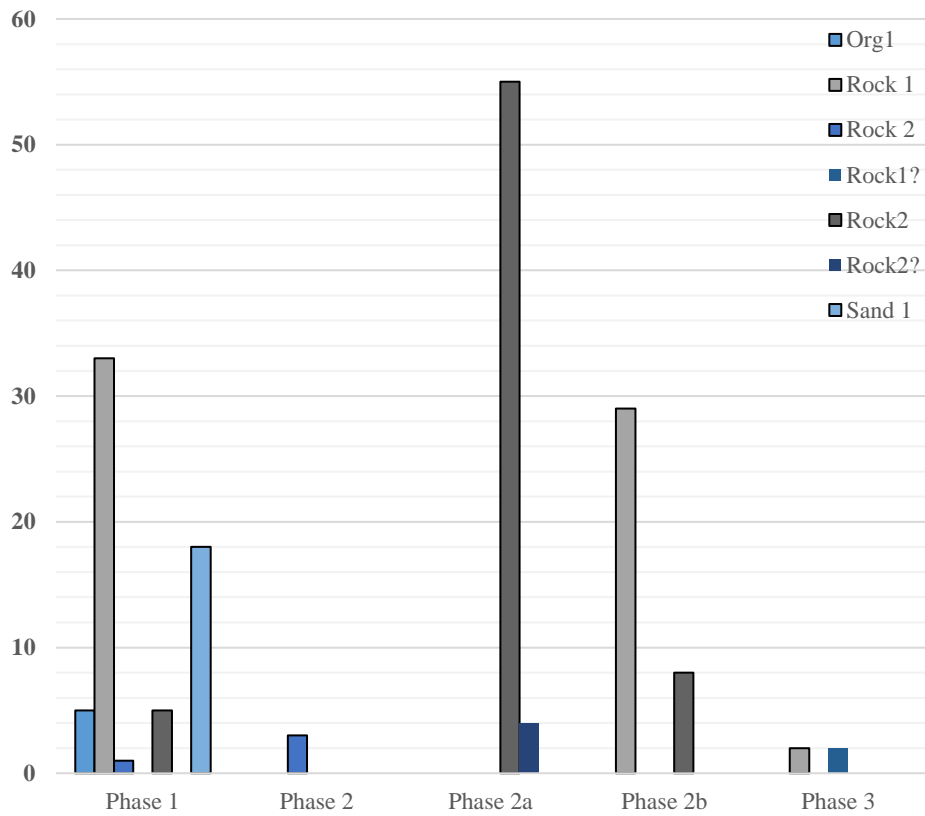


Figure B3.5: *Scord of Brouster (SF118) House 1 Fabrics by phase*

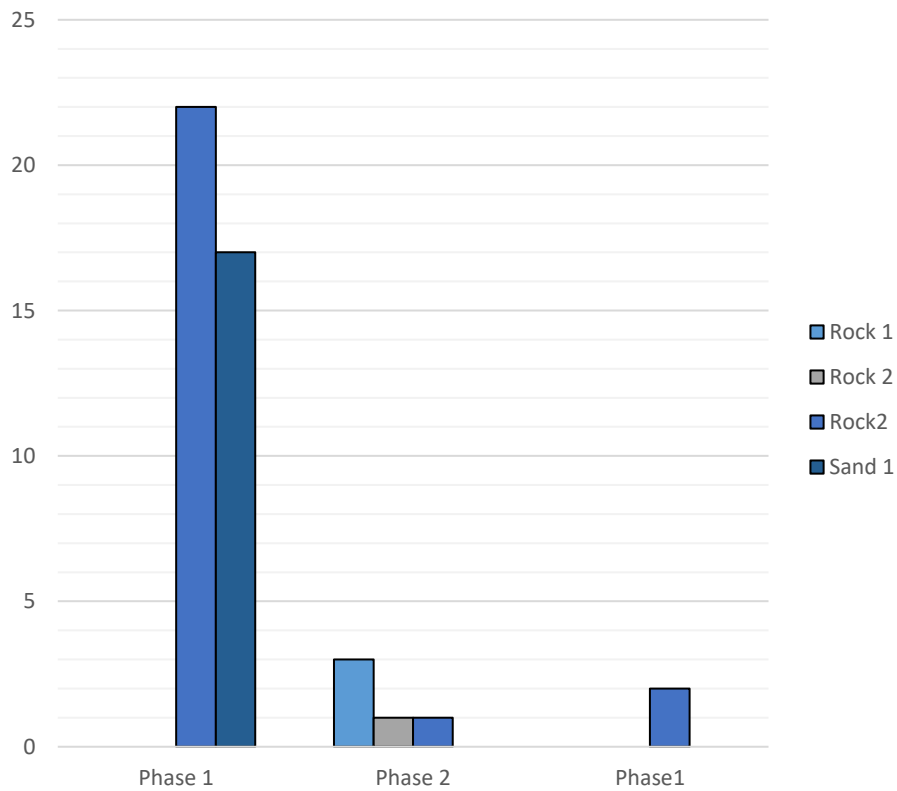


Figure B3.6: *Fabrics by phase House 2 Scord of Brouster (SF118), Mainland*

An assemblage of pottery comprising *c.* 621 sherds⁴, weighing approximately 5 kg (Whittle *et al.* 1986: 58) was recovered during excavations of House 1 and 2 and the kerb cairn, no sherds were recovered from House 3 (*ibid.*: 63). The majority of the pottery came from House 1, and the kerb cairn only produced one abraded sherd. The condition of the assemblage was generally poor, comprising a number of small abraded fragments. Only 35% of the original assemblage was available for examination. A total of 165 sherds from H1 were examined (47% of original) and a total of 52 sherds from H2 (20% of original). A number of sherds were absent due to having been removed for sampling by Lucy Cramp (LC) from Bradford University⁵. Furthermore, several bags containing small crumbs of pottery were omitted given their extremely small size and fragmentary state. Unfortunately, a number of the illustrated sherds were absent, making it impossible to relate these sherds to the original stratigraphic records⁶. Vessels were assigned vessel numbers and related where possible to existing drawings.

Fabrics

In the original report, 11 fabrics were identified. In the course of this analysis, only 4 were defined. The majority of the sherds were tempered with mixed coarse grits. There was a small assemblage of organic tempered vessels, likely deriving from a single bowl-shaped vessel. Further small crumbs of organic tempered pottery were recovered from H1, but their exact location is unknown. As such the principal fabrics defined during the re-appraisal of the assemblage are:

ROCK1: Coarse fabric with common mixed sub-rounded grits typically over 5mm, and up to 10mm in some cases. Among these are probable fragments of steatite. Overall, the sorting can vary from moderate to poor, with surfaces in some cases having a vesicular appearance. In the more heavily tempered examples sherds can be friable. The fabric is similar to other rock tempered fabrics observed at several other Shetland sites and could be analogous to F4 from Sumburgh Airport. Sherds fired to grey/ brown reduced colour.

⁴ *This total is not exact due to the small fragmentary nature of the sherds, and a count of the numbers given in text presents an assemblage of 596 sherds (% of assemblage are based off this number).*

⁵ *Samples were re extracted for residue analysis (cf. X)*

⁶ *Vessels were assigned arbitrary numbers in the illustration, which do not relate to their original finds number.*

ROCK2: Finer than ROCK 1. Inclusions on the whole are better sorted, encompassing a smaller size range. Inclusions as in ROCK1 are mixed sub-rounded grits up to 5mm. As in ROCK1 sherds tend to be fired to grey/ brown colour with hardness tending to vary between well and poorly fired. In some cases, the surfaces can be laminar.

SAND1: Typically, dark grey with brown margins. Sherds tend to be well fired, with well sorted inclusions, of which mica is common, being visible in the breaks and surfaces. In some cases, organic impressions are visible on the inside and outside, suggesting the possible use of organic tempering. The fabric is only found in the early phases, suggesting it could be analogous to ORG1 (Fig.13.4).

ORG1: Vesicular sherds with evidence for organic, likely grass/ straw tempering. Sherds are often fired to a light grey/ brown colour. This fabric is rare and only noted among the early phases of House 1 (Fig.13.4). Comparable organic tempered sherds have been recorded from Jarlshof and Sumburgh Airport.

Forms

Taking the assigned forms based on the analysis of the material detailed above, and the extant illustrations of the rest of the material we can see that two forms are dominant, bowls and large vessels with rounded shoulders (6SB, 6SB?). In the case of the rounded shoulder vessels, the exact numbers of these may be somewhat inflated, but they are primarily associated with the later phases of House 1, dated to the early 3rd millennium. Bowls, typically rounded, form the next most significant percentage in the early phases of both House 1 and 2. In the case of the early phases of House 2, these forms may have been in a minority, indicating that House 2 could be later than House 1. By the latter phases, these appear to have been usurped by other forms, including a possible bucket and tub vessel, decorated with incised lattice, it is possible that some of the other sherds illustrated in Fig.55 and 56 could belong to this group as well. Only one possible sinuous vessel was noted, in the interior of House 2.

House 1: Phase 1 (Layer 4)

62 sherds, amounting to 13 vessels, were examined (Fig.56. 5 (822), 56. 6 (839). 822 was grass tempered, with visible voids where the inclusions have since burned out. A further unmarked bowl sherd was noted as being grass tempered. Given the fragmentary condition of the sherds, the vessel appears to have originally been a bowl, with a slightly inturned

pointed rim. 839 is tempered with rock grits and appears as in the case of 822 to derive from a bowl. Open rounded bottom vessels appear to be the predominate form of the H1, Phase 1 assemblage, as the other illustrated sherds, Fig.56.2 and Fig.56.3, show similar bowl profiles.

Catalogue of recorded sherds

V25/ SF822: ORG1. Single rounded bowl represented by five sherds. Evidence of burnt out organic inclusions grass. Rounded profile slightly inturned rounded rim. Originally illustrated in Whittle *et al.* 1986: Fig.56.5. Recovered from L4, top cobbled surface Alc3 (Recess 3). East of scoop (?F10?) to South of stone pillar. This likely relates to the stony layers observed in the pre-house deposit in Recess 3. **Wgt:** 13g

V26/ SF839: ROCK2. V26. Single bowl-shaped vessel represented by five sherds. A sixth sherd had been removed for residue analysis. As with SF822 the vessel sported a rounded profile, with relatively thin wall <1cm, the rim diameter measured *c.* 170mm. Originally illustrated Whittle *et al.* 1986 Fig.56.6. Recovered from L4, hard packed into surface of cobbles hard up against wall slabs. One rim apparently jutting from underneath wall slabs (Alc1). Recess 1 where L4 extends under wall. **RD:** 170mm **H:** Unk **Wgt:** 51g

V49/SF683: ROCK2. Small undiagnostic sherd, from the fill of F51. **Wgt:** 2g

V50/ SF811, 809, 1214, 510: SAND 1. Six sherds likely from the same vessel. SF811 shows some evidence of organic inclusion could belong to the same vessel. Four unmarked sherds in a similar fabric belong to this vessel. 811 from stony layer east of Alcove 4 (Recess 4), 809 Alc 3 (Recess 3). 1214 (Trench D/E L4 Baulk area), 510 (? Top of cobbles?). **Wgt:** *c.* 45g

V52/ SF752, 728, 756: SAND1. Three small undiagnostic sherds, unclear if part of same vessel. 752 from top of light brown layer of F52 under grey layer, 728 near base of light brown layer, under grey or orange ash layers in Alcove 1 to s of baulk, 756 east of Alcove 4 on top of cobbled surface. **Wgt:** 8g

V55/ SF1210: SAND1. Five small undiagnostic sherds, showing slight curve, probable bowl. Trench D/E L4 just above natural. **Wgt:** 9g

SF471: ROCK1. Thirty-three sherds from a single bowl. This vessel was the most complete example recorded from the Phase 1 contexts. The extant sherds indicate a fairly large vessel with a wide rim diameter. The rim is similar to S822, the outer surfaces bear some organic impressions. Originally illustrated Whittle 1986 *et al.* Fig.56.1. The vessel was recovered from the NW corner of the house, up against, but not under the wall slabs. The sherds derived from above cobbles or from back of recesses feature. **Wgt:** 92g

House 1: Phase 2a: Wall cores

The material from the wall cores likely represents some mixing of Layer 4 and 3 (Whittle 1986: 20). Fifty-nine sherds were examined from the wall cores, representing four vessels. Of these only one was illustrated, the remaining two illustrated sherds were absent. Reconstruction of forms was difficult, though Fig.56 .7 appears to derive from a carinated vessel and could potentially be a round-based vessel from the earlier phase or related to the rounded vessels from the interior of House 1 (Phase 2b).

Catalogue of recorded sherds

V27/ SF256 ROCK2. Single sherd of an expanded rim with no internal bevel, slight groove in top. Given the fragmentary state of the sherd it is not possible to comment further on the form. The inner surfaces are lost. The form of the rim is unusual for late 4th millennium types, which are typically pointed, rim is similar to examples from interior of H1 and could derive from later phases. The carinated sherd in Whittle 1986 *et al.* could also stem from later deposits. Originally illustrated Whittle 1986 *et al.* Fig.56.8. Recovered from the sieving of soil from Trench C from the area of SF250 (pottery sherds) and SF251 (bone fragments). **Wgt:** 8g

V28/ SF265b ROCK2. Four small fragments of a rounded rim. From Trench C middle wall core. **Wgt:** n/a

V32/ SF229 (ROCK2): Numerous small fragments of a single vessel. From Trench C middle wall core. **Wgt:** n/a

V35/ SF235 (ROCK2): Around 19 sherds from a single vessel of indeterminate form. Several sherds have been removed for residue analysis by L. Cramp. The thinner fragments

of the vessel could correspond to the upper portions, perhaps suggesting a bowl like form. From Trench C wall core c 30cm behind front face of wall.

House 1: Interior (Phase 2B)

Around 37 sherds could be related to the deposits from the interior of H1. Of these, only two could be confidently assigned a form, and likely belong to the group of round-shouldered vessels, best represented by the illustrated examples (Fig.57). Among the illustrated examples that were not located during the recording are several further examples of this form. The form has no direct parallels at other Shetland sites. A well persevered base, with a slight pedestal was among the material, and likely belongs to a vase-shaped vessel, but the exact form is unclear.

Catalogue of recorded sherds

V35/ SF616 (ROCK2) Eight undiagnostic sherds from single vessel. From the top of an area of black soil, in NE corner of Alcove 1.

V36/ SF355 (ROCK1) Six sherds from a rounded shouldered jar. The vessel is similar to (or is?) those illustrated Fig.57, 10, 12, 13. Very friable sherds, some iron panning and burning, sherds in poor condition. Found in Layer 3.

V20/ SF199? (ROCK1) (Fig.57.12) Twenty-three sherds from a rounded shouldered jar akin to SF355. The rim has a slight groove in top. Surfaces smoothed. Walls c.16mm thick. Described as being “on” Layer 3.

House 1: Phase 2: Interior I Hearth

Three undiagnostic sherds were recovered from the hearth. The sherds were unmarked and undiagnostic.

House 1: Phase 3:

Only four sherds were recorded from Phase 3, the final episode of activity on the site. These were rock tempered, but otherwise undiagnostic.

Catalogue of recorded sherds

V29/ SF25 (ROCK1). Two sherds of an undiagnostic vessel. Unlike other ROCK1 vessels, larger white sub-angular inclusions were visible. Recovered from Layer 2.

V31/ SF113 (ROCK1) Two small undiagnostic fragments. Recovered from sieving of material from layer 2.

House 2: Phase 1

A total of 41 sherds were recorded, amounting to approximately 12 vessels. In the original report, 61 sherds are recorded from Phase 1 contexts. Given the potential luring of the boundaries between Layer 3 and 2 it is probable that the sherds represent a mixture of early and later forms. The sherd 896 and 158a (?) may represent a further bowl fragment (Fig.54.2). Both of these sherds are plain and tempered with fine rock grits. Whilst too fragmentary for identification, the remaining sherds from this phase are decorated with a variety of incised designs. These commonly take the form of incised chevrons, a common motif at other Shetland sites. Other designs include a lattice pattern, bordered by a series of horizontal incisions 200 (Fig.55.26). The form of the vessel indicates an angled profile, possibly from a tub like vessel.

Catalogue of recorded sherds

V37/ SF224a (ROCK2) (Fig.54.7): Wall and rim sherds from a vessel of indeterminate form. Some larger inclusions are visible. Recovered from Layer 3.

V38/ SF200 (ROCK2) (Fig.55.26): Two sherds from the body of a vessel (?bucket/ tub?) decorated with incised lattice with band of horizontal incision below. From Layer 3.

V2/ SF158b (ROCK2) (Fig.54.13). Single sherd decorated with incised chevrons. Recovered from the west end of Layer 3, similar to Fig.54.9 and Fig.54.10, probably same vessel.

V39/ SF894 (SAND1) (V39: Fig.54.1): Fragment of undecorated bowl vessel, with slightly inturned rim, fired to a reddish/ orange colour. Rim diameter *c.* 120mm. Found in Layer 3b/c from the NW recess, possibly residual as other sherds appear to relate to Beakers or a bucket/ tub vessel. Alternatively, the sherds depicted in Figs. 54.4-11 could stem from the top of Layer 3, which would relate to the horizon between Layer 2/3

V40/ SF896 (SAND1) (Fig. 54.2): Rim sherd fired to same colour as SF894. Rim diameter *c.* 150mm. From N Wall Layer 3b/C, possibly earlier as SF894.

V41/ SF267 (SAND1) (Fig.54.20) Rounded rim sherd, profile is slightly flatter than illustrated. Rim diameter *c.* 160mm. Form indeterminate but is similar to Fig. 54.18, possible bucket/ tub vessel. The rim fragment Fig. 54.15 is of similar form. Recovered from Layer 3.

V1/ UNMARKED (ROCK2) (Fig. 54.4-8) Multiple decorated sherds, likely joining SF (Fig.54.9-10 and Fig.54.14). Decorated with mixture of impressed and incised decoration. The sherd Fig.54.4 upon examination appears to be a rim sherd with slightly bevelled rim, whilst the remaining sherds comprise slightly rounded fragments. One fragment Fig. 54.13 (158b) recovered from west wall section.

V9/ SF224b. (ROCK2) (Fig. 55.24): Seven sherds from same vessel decorated with a series of incised chevrons. From Layer 3.

V46/ SF158a. (SAND1) (Fig. 54.12) Rounded rim sherd, with traces of organic tempering. Diameter *c.* 130mm. Recovered from near west end of L3.

V9/ SF250 (ROCK2) (Fig.55.25): Traces of incised decoration, comprising two diagonals and horizontal, similar to Fig. 55.23 and Fig. 55.24, Fig. 55.28. From Layer 3.

V47/ SF200b (ROCK2) (Fig. 54.21): Small comb impressed sherd, at least two lines of comb impressions. The impressions in the original drawing are depicted as rounded, but are instead rectangular.

V48/ SF178 (ROCK2) (Fig. 55.29): Single sherd decorated with horizontal incision. Probably from Layer 3.

V58/ SF213 (ROCK2) Thick sherd c. 1cm with groove on interior. SF887 Layer 3, NW wall recess.

House 2: Phase 2

Unfortunately, there was little of the Phase 2 material among the recorded material, and the bulk of the illustrated sherds were absent.

SF111 iii (?) (ROCK2) Rim sherd with impressed decoration.

UNMARKED (ROCK1) Undiagnostic, coarse sherd with visible grits. **SF97** (ROCK1): Similar in tempering to SF 213, with visible grits. From Layer 2. Phase 3

B3.10 Pund Of Burland (SFI18)

Stratigraphy

Only a few cursory remarks can be made regarding the nature of the deposits given the truncation of the site. In total, 62 sherds were recovered, primarily from the west recess, which could represent the remains of a hearth. Within this area there was evidence of iron panning with several sherds bearing iron panning stains. The cord-impressed vessel, V4 (ARG7386, B4, B5, B33-42, B43-44), was recovered from this location alongside the large shouldered vessel V5 (ARG7390, B62), and V6 (ARG7387, B57-61). The rest of the sherds derive from either within the wall core, or from outside the walls, suggesting a possible

degree of later disturbance at the site. It would appear that the material in the recess is a consistent layer, which could reinforce the supposition that V4 and V5 are contemporary.

The Pottery

Fabrics

The assemblage is dominated by rock tempered fabrics which make up 87% of the total sherd count. These fabrics include, small moderately well sorted grits (**Rock1**) to coarser end poorly sorted angular grits (**Rock3**). This extreme end of the spectrum is clearly seen in V7 a coil built sherd with coarse grits projecting from the surface. This vessel, likely a large storage vessel, comprised 35% of the overall assemblage. In the case of V2, the surfaces were better finished.

Sandy fabrics were uncommon, and only 2 sherds, probably the same vessel (**ARG7385**) was identified. The sherd was buff in colour with a relatively well-sorted sandy fabric. The form was slightly rounded with a somewhat incurving rim. The sherds derived from the eastern end of the wall section, and could, based on analogy with other sites, be Neolithic in date. Only one sherd (**ARG7394**) was tempered with possible calcareous inclusions, it is broadly similar to the rock tempered fabrics above but contains abundant whitish inclusions instead of rocky inclusions. This type of fabric could be Neolithic in date as other examples of similar fabrics are known from several other sites (Mason unpub.). The nature of the inclusion is unclear but was tentatively identified by Tom Henderson as possibly being bone, shell or limestone (Henderson unpub.). This fabric could be contemporary with the coarse fabric with white grits as seen among ARC65369, ARC65368 and ARC6638. These fabrics though contain a range of coarse white inclusions and could possibly be equated with Fabric 1 at Sumburgh Airport (SFI13). In the case of ARC6638 the surfaces are decorated with incised chevrons, a mode of decoration often linked to the earlier Bronze Age, but could have earlier origins. This matter is returned to later on. In general, these forms could belong to bowls or curved bucket/ tub shapes. Several sherds of steatite are present, and it is likely that they derive from the same vessel. Steatite, whilst frequently associated with the Norse is known from Neolithic and Bronze Age sites. The form of the vessel is similar to other steatite types such as those from Bayanne.

Forms

Jars are the principal type recognised amongst the assemblage, though the rarity of diagnostic sherds prevents more detailed comment. There are, however, several vessels that bear closer discussion. The first of these is ARC 7386, comprising 20 sherds (incl. decorated sherds B35, B41, B34, B5, B4, B43), a fine vessel with cord impressions above the rounded carination in the body. The zone of carination is decorated with two bands of parallel horizontal cord impressions. The neck is decorated with diagonal bands of cord impressions, up to 4 lines wide. These patterns appear to alternate forming a triangular pattern, a technique that is seen among the cord impressed sherds from Sumburgh Airport (SFI13). Determining the original form is compounded by the fragmentary condition of the vessel, but the form could have parallel to the weak s-profiled vessels from the Ness of Gruting or alternatively could be interpreted as a 'proto-collar' vessel. The lower half of the vessel does not appear to be decorated, but these sherds may not have survived, though at Sumburgh Airport (SFI13) a similar arrangement can be seen. The diameter is around 120mm, with the rim being simple rounded with a slight internal bevel. Based on analogy with other known examples of cord decorated vessels, this vessel is tentatively assigned to the late 3rd millennium.

Another vessel worthy of comment is the unusual jar ARC7390. The internal lip of the rim is decorated with two parallel lines of cord impressions. Determining the angle of the vessel, Henderson depicts the vessel as being straight sided, though it is possible that the bottom half of the body is rounded, as a gentle curve is visible in the profile. The sherd was recovered from within the recess, at roughly the same level as ARG7386, and several other sherds. The presence of cord impressions would seem to support such a view. Comparable sherds from Punds Water II, Benie Hoose and the Gruting Houses and are thought to be Iron Age in date, but this isolated example could support the notion of an earlier date for the shouldered bevel rimmed vessel. One other peculiar form to this site is B76, B72, B74. These thick square - triangular in section rims. Tom Henderson draws parallel between these thick undecorated rims from Stanydale Temple (SFI12). The Stanydale Temple (SFI12) sherds though are more triangular but could perhaps be members of the same class. As noted the use of incisions to decorated the rim with diagonal lines marks these sherds out.

APPENDIX C

THE ORKNEY ISLES



C1 INVENTORY OF PRINCIPAL SITES (ORK 1-20)

ORK1. Barnhouse, Stones of Odin

Site Type: Stone circle/ settings

Parent Context: Stone setting, pit (?Stone socket?)

Parish: Stenness

Canmore ID: 2128

Map reference: HY 306 126

Assessed: No

C14: n/a

Ref: Challands et al. 2005

Description. Located roughly east of the settlement at Barnhouse, with the stone circle at Stenness to the south. Near the site lay an area of burning, perhaps evidence for the preparation of food stuffs.

Barnhouse Odin. When excavated in 2005, the site comprised three stone sockets (860, 861, 2000). One of the stones on the site had a hole through the centre, which was still present until the 19th century. The excavated stone sockets consisted of oval pits, with the long axis aligned in a similar direction.

Other finds. ?Tankerness House?

1. Beaker, s-profile
2. Small flint flake (SF4905)

1, from pit (861) 2, from socket (860)

ORK2. Blomuir 2

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Mound (?), cist

Parish: Holm

Canmore ID: 2369

Description. In 1981 during ploughing a large fragment of an urn was uncovered. This cist lay south east of a further cist at Blomuir 1. No cist could be found, and it seems probable the vessel had been

Map reference: HY 4712 0319

Assessed: Yes

C14: GrA-21738 (App. F2)

Ref. Downes 2005: 295

buried upright in a pit like those from Quandale (ORK14).

Human remains.

1. Cremation. Young adult, male

Other finds.

1. Fragment of bucket/ tub vessel. Thick-walled, rock-tempered. High fired, with oxidised outer margins.

ORK3. Braes Ha'Breck

Site Type: Domestic

Parent Context: Structure quarry pit

Parish: Rousay and Egilsay

Canmore ID: 288385

Map reference: HY 43740 25933

Assessed: Yes

C14: SUERC-37960 (GU26232) (App. F2)

Ref. Thomas, A. & Lee, D. 2007, 2008, 2012; Thomas, A. s & Lee, D., A. Thomas pers comm. D. Lee pers comm.; Griffiths 2016

Description. The site is located on the western side of the island of Wyre, itself located 2 miles from Mainland. At present, the site extends over an area of around 1 hectare. To the west of the site are the denuded remains of a burnt mound, whilst to the east are the remains of the Medieval Cubbie Roo's castle. The presence of the probable burnt mound and further burial mounds are indicative of potential settlement in the region during the Bronze Age. During field walking in 2006, sherds of both Bronze and Iron Age date were recovered here.

The primary occupation for the Braes of Ha'Breck dates to the earlier Neolithic, though further dating is currently being undertaken to refine the present sequence. Indicators of a later phase for the site's use come from several incised sherds, recovered from a quarry cutting dated to 2340-2040 cal BC (**App. F2**). The later phases of the site have suffered plough damage, which is visible in some of the earlier phases. This would account for the general lack of later material on site. As such, the possibility of a

phase of settlement associated with this later material cannot be ruled out. Other artefactual material includes a barbed and tanged arrowhead.

Other finds. Assemblage of early round-bottomed vessels, including collared examples. From the quarry pit came a collection of incised sherds from a vessel of indeterminate form.

ORK4. Calf of Eday Long

Site Type: Chambered Cairn (NF)

Parent Context: Chambered cairn,

Parish: Eday

Canmore ID: 3151

Map reference: HY 5786 3861

Assessed: Yes

C14: n/a

Ref. Calder 1937; Davidson, J.L. & Henshall 1989

Description. Large cairn sealing two chambers. The larger stalled chamber aligned on the axis of the cairn is situated at the east end. The second smaller chamber occupies most of the west end of the cairn and may represent an earlier chamber. The Neolithic deposits in the stalled chamber were sealed below a layer of windblown sand, whilst the smaller chamber contained probable Iron Age refuse atop layers of earth stones and peat ash.

Human remains. *cf.* Davidson, J.L. & Henshall 1989 for catalogue

Other finds. *N.M.S*

The assemblage contained round-bottomed pottery including vessel with flanged rims, necks and small collars. Several sherds could derive from elongated baggy forms. A single sherd (EO643) is described as a Beaker and came from the stalled chamber where much of the early pottery derived from. The sherd is decorated with faint incisions.

ORK5. Corrigal, Upper Bigging

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Short-cist, rock cut pit

Parish: Birsay and Harray

Canmore ID: 271878

Map reference: HY 3284 1918

Assessed: Yes

C14: n/a

Ref. Downes 2005: 296

Description. Discovered during ploughing in 1989, the cist contained a single vessel, but no human remains. A small amount of cramp was found in a nearby cranny. The cist forms part of a line of burial mounds which extends across Harray. The cist may originally have had a covering cairn.

Other finds. Tankerness House

1. Food Vessel, high-shouldered

ORK6. Crossiecrown

Site Type: Domestic

Parent Context: Stone structures, midden

Parish: Kirkwall And St Ola

Canmore ID: 134216

Map reference: HY 423 137

Assessed: Yes

C14: AA-51372, AA-51373, AA-51381, SUERC-4852, SUERC-4853, SUERC-4857, SUERC-4858(App. F2)

Ref. Card et al. 2016

Description. Located on the coastal plain between the northern slopes of Wideford Hill and the Bay of Kirkwall. The site was first identified during an extensive programme of field walking which identified a large spread of flint, and subsequently excavated as part of the Cuween Wideford landscapes project in 1995. The site comprises a range of house structures spanning a wide chronological sequence, falling out of use around 1740 cal BC.

The latter phases of the site are dominated by two substantial structures, House 1 and House 2. House 2 predates House 1, but it is possible that both structures were in use at the same time, creating a double house as seen at several Bronze Age sites. House 1, a large sub-circular structure with a central hearth, measured approximately 9m in diameter. The structure itself was underlain by the remains of earlier structures.

ORK7. Howe

Site Type: Chambered cairn (NF)

Parent Context: Chambered cairn, (later Iron Age broch)

Parish: Stromness

Canmore ID: 1731

Map reference: HY 2759 1092

Assessed: Yes

C14: Dates relate to Iron Age phases of activity on site.

Ref. Ballin Smith 1994

Description. Neolithic chambered cairn with extensive later occupation in the Iron Age. The chambered cairn was extensively remodelled in its secondary phase with the creation of a chambered cairn with a bank and outer ditch, akin to that seen at Maes Howe. The subsequent history of the site is unclear but included the deposition of cardium impressed pottery (probably from a Beaker) found in a 10m² area in contexts from the end of Phase 2 to early Phase 7. It is unclear if these sherds were linked into a deliberate decommissioning of the site.

Other finds. Tankerness House

1. ?Beaker? Indeterminate comb decorated (SF6962)
2. Beaker, ?cupped neck? (SF7377)

1,2, found outside the entrance to the Phase 2 chambered cairn in disturbed deposits

ORK8. Kewing

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Unobtrusive cist

Parish: Evie and Rendall

Canmore ID: 306636

Map reference: HY 40070 22240

Assessed: Yes

C14: SUERC-817 (App. F2)

Ref. Ballin Smith 2014: 91-109

Description. A single cist was exposed during landscaping works in 2001. The cist was set into a large irregular pit measuring 2.11.8m. The cist was formed of four slabs with a further large slab forming the base. As at Sand Fiold (ORK17) the cist was designed to allow for the opening of the cist. Within the cist were the remains of a cremation and fragments of pottery. The cremation had been placed centrally on the slab with a mat or basket over the deposits.

Human remains.

1. Cremated remains of single adult c. 35-40 years old. Possible male.

Other finds.

1. Seven fragments of pottery. In the report suggested to be remains of a Beaker.
2. Grass mat fragments

1., from the excavation of the cist and surrounding pit fill, 2, found underneath cremated remains

ORK9. Knowe of Yarso

Site Type: Chambered cairn

Parent Context: Chambered cairn

Parish: Rousay and Egilsay

Canmore ID: 2623

Map reference: HY 4048 2795

Assessed: Yes

C14: Q-1225 (App. F2)

Ref. Callander & Grant 1935; Davidson, J.L. & Henshall 1989

Description. Comprising a single stalled chamber, the site was excavated by Walter Grant and Graham Callander in 1934. The cairn is roughly rectangular with an inner chamber divided into three compartments. From the floor of the chamber and passageway the remains of at least 29 individuals were recovered. The stony lower fill contained animal bone sand some flints. The fill may have been introduced deliberately to seal the chamber. It is possible that the roof was removed to facilitate the infilling of the chamber.

Human remains. *cf.* Davidson, J.L. & Henshall 1989 for catalogue

Other finds. *cf.* Davidson, J.L. & Henshall 1989 for catalogue

1. EO457, wall sherd with incised decoration. Described as Beaker, but overall form is unclear.

2. EO446, five sherds from wall and base of vessel, described as Food Vessel. Fabric is coarse, the exterior is decorated with incised horizontal herringbone
3. EO458, wall sherd with incised herringbone decoration

1,3, found in the lowest layer of the chamber, 2 reputed to have been found near a skull, but unclear if contemporary or stems from mixing of finds.

ORK10. Links of Noltland

Site Type: Domestic

Parent Context: Midden, domestic structures

Parish: Westray

Canmore ID: 2790

Map reference: HY 428 493

Assessed: Yes

C14: GU-1692, GU-1433, GU-1695, GU-1693, GU-1690, GU-1432, GU-1696, GU-1429, GU-1428, GU-1694, GU-1431, GU-1430, GU-1691 (App. F2)

Ref. Clarke, D.V. & Sharples 1985; Moore & Wilson 2011; Sheridan 1999

Description. Comprising an array of structures. The significance of the site has been recognised since the site was partly excavated by Clarke in the 1970s. Excavations focused on the ‘Grobust’ area. Within this area, remains of a stone structure comprising two adjoining rooms, and a series of midden deposits. These include a set of articulated of red deer skeletons. Excavations since have uncovered further structures forming a large multi-period settlement. The material discussed in this thesis is principally drawn from these excavations.

Other finds. Excavations in recent years have uncovered an extensive Grooved Ware assemblage, along with stone tools and a series of small carved figurines. Excavations at Grobust uncovered a range of Grooved Vessels, alongside the remains of at least two Beakers (A. Sheridan *pers comm.*).

ORK11. Ness of Brodgar

Site Type: Domestic

Parent Context: Multi-period nucleated site

Parish: Stenness

Canmore ID: 269123

Map reference: HY 3029 1285

Assessed: Yes

C14: Yes (N. Card pers comm.)

Ref. Towers et al. 2015; Thomas, A. 2016; N. Card pers comm; R. Tower pers comm.

Description. Comprising an extensive array of structures, the site positioned in the middle of the World Heritage Area demonstrates a long biography, possibly encompassing multiple functions. Excavations at this large and complex Neolithic site are still ongoing and thus any discussion of phasing remains tentative. The phasing discussed here derives from Thomas, A. 2016: Figure 113.

The site has an extensive chronology, with early activity occurring around 3300 BC, comprising a series of structures under the SE boundary wall. This activity is associated with a single sherd of carinated pottery. The main complex – comprising the primary phases of Structures 1, 8, 12, 14, 16 and 21 – is likely in use around 3000 BC. Structure 10 is added to the site probably a hundred years later. The interval is marked by phases of collapse and rebuild. Phases of remodelling continue between 2900 – 2500 BC. From around 2400-2200BC activity declines with midden dumping occurring between Structures 8 and 12, alongside the abandonment of Structure 12.

Other finds. The site has produced a large assemblage of decorated Grooved Ware, including probable later examples from higher up in the midden layers around the site (R. Towers pers. comm.). Alongside these, an extensive array of stone tools, decorated stone work, flint and animal bone has been recovered.

ORK12. Newhouse

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Barrow (?), cist

Parish: Birsay and Harray

Canmore ID: 1762

Map reference: HY 2961 2823

Assessed: Yes

C14: n/a

Ref. Marwick 1951

Description. Discovered during ploughing in 1946, the cist was empty save for a small tub shaped vessel. No remains were present, and the cist is undated. Marwick suggests that the cist may have been covered with a mound. The cist measured c. 1.11 x 0.63m (0.69m²)

Other finds. NMS

1. EG89, single bucket/ tub vessel with light incised chevrons

1, position of vessel not stated

ORK13. Papa Westray, Holm of Papa Westray North

Site Type: Chambered Cairn

Parent Context: Chambered cairn

Parish: Papa Westray

Canmore ID: 3243

Map reference: HY 5044 5228

Assessed: No

*C14: Available dates relate primarily to the earlier phases of the monument, with exception of OxA-16471, OxA-17782, OxA-17781 (cf. **App. F2**)*

Ref. Ritchie, A. 2009; Davidson, J.L. & Henshall 1989

Description. Stalled chambered cairn opened in 1849 and re-excavated in 1854. The site appears to incorporate several phases, taking on a rectangular form in its final phase. In the rear of the cairn is a single cell, which was filled in at an early point in the use of the site. The site was similarly filled at the end of its use. A series of secondary structures were identified outside the cairn.

Human remains. See Ritchie, A. 2009 for an overview of human remains from the site.

Other finds. See Ritchie, A. 2009 for an overview of the finds. Plain bowls were associated with the chamber deposits, while Grooved Ware and probable Beakers were associated with the secondary structures.

ORK14. Quandale

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Cemetery

Parish: Rousay and Egilsay

Canmore ID: 2293

Map reference: HY 37329 31661

Assessed: No

C14: GrA-19988, GrA-19989 (App. F2)

Ref. Grant 1937

Description. Large multi-period cemetery site excavated by Grant in the 1930s. The site, comprising twelve mounds, is further divided into five groups: Knap Knowes, Whoom, Sandy Holes, Scabra Head, and Tafts. Alongside these burial mounds are the remains of several burnt mounds. The Knap Knowes group consists of five mounds, aligned slightly east of north to slightly west of south. Within each of the mounds were one or two cists, typically containing fragments of cramp. In three cases burials were accompanied by pottery. For a summary of the finds from the site see Grant 1937: 74. Ceramic finds, and associated material are summarised below.

Knap Knowes

Mound 3

Other finds:

1. Clay urn, no further details

Mound 5

Other finds:

1. Clay urn, no further details

Whoom

Mound 8

Human remains: Cramp

Other finds:

1. Steatite urn
2. Steatite plugs

ORK15. Redland

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Cist

Parish: Stromness

Canmore ID: 309547

Map reference: HY 2647 1319

Assessed: Yes

C14: n/a

*Ref. Downes 2005: 295; MacSween unpub.
c*

Description. Discovered in 1987 during ploughing. Subsequent excavation exposed a single cist. The cist was formed of four slabs, with a further slab forming the base. Within the cist a single pot was found at the southern corner. The base slab was marked by a circular stain, which could represent the remains of a cremation.

Human remains. Absent, but could have originally contained cremated remains

Other finds. *Tankerness House*

1. Food Vessel, high-shouldered

1, from the south end of the cist

ORK16. Rinyo

Site Type; Domestic

*Parent Context: Multi-period nucleated
site*

Parish: Rousay & Egilsay

Canmore ID: 2717

Map reference: HY 4398 3224

Assessed: Yes

C14: Q-1226 (App. F2)

Ref. Childe & Grant 1938, 1949

Description. Rinyo comprises several houses, closely clustered together. Due to modern ploughing, the site had been badly damaged. The houses feature similar architectural elements to those from other Orcadian sites, consisting of a central hearth, dresser and 'box-beds'. The site is principally dated based on its material associations, which suggest a Later Neolithic and earlier Bronze Age occupancy. The former is implied by the presence of large amounts of Grooved Ware, but the stratigraphy of the site is unclear.

Other finds. NMS. A wide array of artefacts was uncovered, including various flint and stone. Finds of Grooved Ware were common. Among these are examples of applied decoration and incision, alongside probable earlier vessel types. A single Beaker (HDA99) was recorded from Structure A.

ORK17. Sand Fiold

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Funerary, cist burial

Parish: Sandwick

Canmore ID: 1689

Map reference: HY 2422 1955

Assessed: Yes

C14: UtC-1484, UtC-1485, UtC-1486

UtC-1487, UtC-1559, UtC-1560, UtC-1483

(App. F2)

Ref. Dalland et al. 1999

Description. Discovered in 1989, the site comprises a large cist, probably dug in the Neolithic. The cist was set into a rock cut pit measuring 2m x 3m, at a depth of 3.4m. The cist itself was designed in such a way that it could be re-accessed. Within the cist were three sets of burials, two cremations and a single inhumation. One of the cremations was contained in a large ceramic vessel, possibly with a cloth or leather cover. Other organic remains included remnants of a grass mat covering the central cremation deposit.

Human remains.

1. Disturbed inhumation. In poor condition, possible remains of a young adult (early teens) and a foetus, c. 32 weeks old
2. Urned cremation. Middle adult (c.30-40 yrs.), probable male
3. Central cremation. Middle adult (25-40 yrs.), probable male

Other artefacts.

1. Two antler tines
2. Grass mat
3. Food Vessel, tall high-shouldered
4. Nine coarse stone artefacts

1, 2, from central cremation, 3, contained cremation placed in south-west corner, 4, likely left after construction of cist

ORK18. Taversoe Tuick

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Chambered Cairn, secondary cists

Parish: Rousay & Egilsay

Canmore ID: 2634

Map reference: HY 4257 2761

Assessed: Yes

C14: GrA-21734 (App. F2)

Ref. Reynolds 1985; Turner 1903; Grant 1939; Davidson, J.L. & Henshall 1989

Description. In 1898, three cists were discovered in a layer of soil in the western compartment of the upper chamber. Unfortunately, these were discovered by workmen before they could be recorded properly. From within the cists came the cremated remains of one or more adults and a child, along with the remains of various urns. It is possible that the two unstratified rim fragments of a steatite vessel also came from these contexts. Grant suggested that the stone beads and perforated pumice pendant also belonged to this collection (1939: 163). Past scholars have tended to assign these to the Bronze Age (Grant 1939: 155).

ORK19. Tofts Ness

Site Type: Domestic

Parent Context: Middens, structures

Parish: Lady

Canmore ID: 3576

Map reference: HY 757 464

Assessed: Yes

C14: Variety of dates relating to multiple phases of the site. Phase 2 dated by GU-2105, GU-2206, GU-2362, GU-2364

Ref. Dockrill 2007

Description. Excavations of Mound 11 at Tofts Ness uncovered evidence for activity spanning the 3rd millennium. Within these, two structures (Str. 1 and Str. 2) were uncovered, along with a series of tips. These are similar in character to those at Pool, comprising layers of ash and midden. These deposits were contemporaneous with the main periods of activity and later, with tips infilling the main structures.

Str. 1 comprised a sub-circular building measuring 4m in diameter. The walls comprised a double stone

wall with an earth core. During the mid-3rd millennium there was a possible hiatus in the site, followed by a phase characterised by decorated pottery, which was absent from earlier phases. The later phases of the site are principally defined by Str.2 and the upper part of the Phase 2 and Phase 3 tips.

Other finds. An extensive assemblage of pottery was recovered, but in contrast to the nearby site at Pool decorated material was absent until the 3rd millennium. The later phase of the ceramic sequence is characterised by the presence of incised vessels, with motifs akin to those observed in Shetland.

ORK20 Werne

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Cists cemetery

Parish: Birsay & Harray

Canmore ID: 2050

Map reference: HY 3217 1800

Assessed: Yes

C14: GrA-21627 (App. F2)

Ref. Hedges 1981

Description. In 1978, three cists were uncovered. The first cist was orientated ENE-WSW, measuring 1.1m x 0.75m. The cist was constructed out of flags, with a flagged base. The cist had a roughly trapezoid shape. The cist showed evidence of having been dug before and, consequently, the fill of the cist was disturbed. The second cist was orientated E-W, measuring 1x0.63m. The construction was similar to Cist 1, comprised of four flags set into a pit. The final cist was orientated NNW-SSE, and was the smallest of the three, measuring 0.4m x 0.26m. No finds were recorded owing to the cist having been disturbed.

Cist 1

Human remains.

1. Cremated remains, 30-40 years

Other finds.

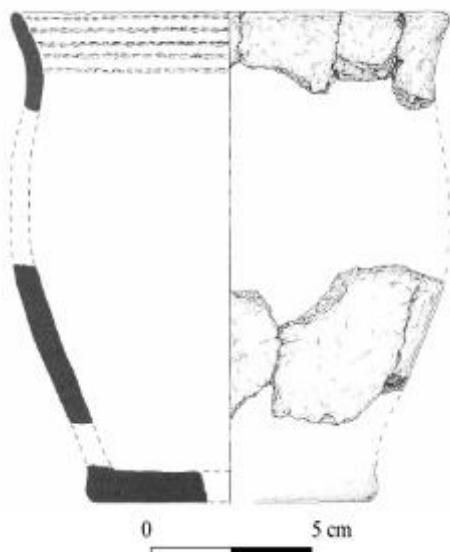
1. Flint chip, irregular could be gravel

2. Two joining rim sherds, possibly from bucket/
tub vessel
3. Textile replacement. Buff-coloured piece of fine
textile and possible second piece

Cist 2

Cremated remains & cramp

C2 POTTERY CATALOGUE



Richards, C. et al. 2005

Stones of Odin (ORK1)

Museum: *?Tankerness House?*

Find Number: *1*

Form: *Beaker, s-profile*

Rim: *Simple, rounded*

Dec: *TWCI. Internal face of the rim is decorated by a series of horizontal, twisted cord impressions. Remainder of the vessel is undecorated.*

H: *n/a* Int. RD: *c.260mm*



© ORCA

Braes Ha'Breck (ORK3)

Museum: *Finds currently held by ORCA*

Find Number: *1*

Form: *?Bucket/tub?*

Rim: *n/a*

Dec: *NCD. Outer surfaces decorated with repeating incised chevron pattern.*

H: *n/a* Int. RD: *n/a*



not to scale

Davidson, J.L. & Henshall 1991: Fig 21

Calf of Eday Long (ORK4)

Museum: *NMS (EO643)*

Find Number: *1,*

Form: *?Beaker? Form overall is indeterminate.*

Rim: *n/a*

Dec: *NCD. Outer surfaces decorated with faint incisions.*

H: *n/a* Int. RD: *n/a*



0  5 cm

© Tankerness House

Corrigal, Upper Bigging (ORK5)

Museum: *Tankerness House*

Find Number: *1*

Form: *Food Vessel, High-shouldered*

Rim: *Simple, rounded*

Dec: *TWCI, Exterior of the vessels is decorated with opposed triangles, infilled with diagonal cord impressions, creating blank, diamond-shaped panels. The rim is decorated with a series of horizontal cord impressions.*

H: *92mm* Int. RD: *87mm*



© Tankerness House

Howe (ORK7)

Museum: *Tankerness House (SF6962)*

Find Number: *1*

Form: *?Beaker? Indeterminate*

Rim: *n/a*

Dec: *COMB, Exterior of the vessels is decorated with vertical and horizontal comb impressions*

H: *n/a* Int. RD: *n/a*



© Tankerness House

Howe (ORK7)

Museum: *Tankerness House (SF7377)*

Find Number: *2*

Form: *Beaker, ?cupped-necked?*

Rim: *Flat, slight internal bevel*

Dec: *SHELL, Exterior of the vessels is decorated with shell impressions, arranged in sets of bands of open diamonds with horizontal borders.*

Decoration continues below this area with series of impressed chevrons.

H: *n/a* Int. RD: *n/a*

Not illustrated

Knowe of Yarso (ORK9)

Museum: *NMS (EO457)*

Find Number: *1*

Form: *Wall sherd, uncertain form*

Rim: *n/a*

Dec: *NCDS, Exterior of the vessels is decorated two horizontal incised lines*

H: *n/a* Int. RD: *n/a*

Not illustrated

Knowe of Yarso (ORK9)

Museum: *NMS (EO446)*

Find Number: *2*

Form: *Wall and base sherds, uncertain form*

Rim: *n/a*

Dec: *NCD, Exterior of the vessels is decorated with incised herringbone pattern*

H: *n/a* Int. RD: *n/a*

Not illustrated

Knowe of Yarso (ORK9)

Museum: *NMS (EO458)*

Find Number: *1*

Form: *Wall sherd, form unknown*

Rim: *n/a*

Dec: *COMB, Exterior of the vessels is decorated with*

H: *n/a* Int. RD: *n/a*



Author © NMS

Newhouse (ORK12)

Museum: *NMS (EG89)*

Find Number: *1*

Form: *Bucket/ tub, u-shaped profile with slightly pedestaled base*

Rim: *Simple, flat rim*

Dec: *NCD, Exterior of the vessels is decorated with nine or ten repeating incised chevrons*

H: *139mm* Int. RD: *120mm*



© NMS

Quandale, Mound 8 (ORK14)

Museum: *NMS (EQ438)*

Find Number: *1*

Form: *Bucket/ tub, u-shaped profile*

Rim: *Simple flat rim*

Dec: *n/a*

H: *n/a* Int. RD: *n/a*



© Tankerness House

Redland (ORK15)

Museum: *Tankerness House (1987.40)*

Find Number: *1*

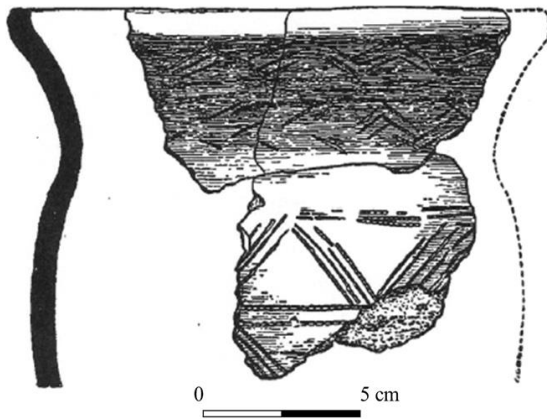
Form: *Food Vessel, high-shouldered*

Rim: *Rounded, slight internal bevel*

Dec: *NCD, Diagonal incisions on internal rim.*

The outer body is decorated in two bands of diagonal incision combined with horizontal lines.

H: *n/a* Int. RD: *n/a*



Childe & Grant 1939

Rinyo (ORK16)

Museum: *NMS (HDA99)*

Find Number: *1*

Form: *Beaker, s-profile*

Rim: *Simple*

Dec: *COMB, Decoration along the neck comprises two narrow bands of triangles with horizontal lines dividing the bands. The belly features two bands of truncated triangles divided by horizontal lines.*

H: *n/a* Int. RD: *160mm*

Clarke, D.L. 1970: no. 1734 fig. 692



© *Tankerness House*

Sand Fiold (ORK17)

Museum: *Tankerness House*

Find Number: *1*

Form: *Food Vessel, high-shouldered*

Rim: *Simple flat rim*

Dec: *NCD,*

H: *n/a* Int. RD: *n/a*

C3 OTHER VESSELS OF INDETERMINATE FORM AND/ OR PROVENANCE

n.b this list represents a sample, and does not purport to cover all recorded finds

CANMORE ID	Site Name	Context/ Burial Type	Notes/ Vessel Description	Reference (not included in main bibliography)
1617	Lyking HY 2699 1549	Cist Inhumation – possible cremation	A short cist was exposed in c. 1940 containing the remains of a crouched skeleton and a single steatite urn. Urn measured c. 165mm tall and 177mm across the rim. The outer surfaces of the vessel are slightly carbonised, possibly cremated remains. The base of the cist may have been flagged. Other cists have been documented nearby, but little is known about these (CANMORE ID 1658)	Marwick 1951
277474	Gyre (Alt. Orphir House) HY 3403 0473	?Barrow cemetery?	Limited information, but suggested to represent remains of a barrow cemetery that could include double cists No further information on the cinerary urn found. The only reference to this site is a map produced by Johnston in 1903, where the urns are marked.	Johnston 1903

1994	Black Knowe, Blubbersdale HY36951988	Cist Probable cremation	Excavated by Petrie and Thomas in 1849, the cist, sealed by a mound, contained cremated remains and a single ceramic vessel, placed originally over the remains. The base of the cist appears to have been paved.	Thomas, F. 1852:92
	Nisthouse, Mirbister HY 3163 1983	Probable barrow cemetery	A steatite urn is reputed to have been found within one of the mounds.	CANMORE
2033	Knowes of Trinnawin HY 3349 1891	Probable barrow cemetery	A number of mounds are recorded in the area. Mound B contained a cavity with a steatite urn that held cremated remains.	Fraser 1913, 1923
2036	Knowes of Wheatlaws HY 318 195	Probable barrow cemetery	Series of mounds, one of which is reputed to have contained an urn	CANMORE
2102	Hill of Heddle HY 3452 1343	Cist Cremation burial	In 1859, a burial was recorded within this well-defined mound. Whilst an urn is reputed to have been discovered in the mound, the degree of association is unclear.	CANMORE
2130	Lower Hobbister HY 328 127	Unknown	A ?stone urn was recorded from a site in the vicinity.	CANMORE

2374	Blomuir HY 4718 0311	Unknown Probable cremation	A bucket-shaped urn was uncovered during ploughing, along with burnt bone and fragments of cramp. Urn is currently in Tankerness House Museum (Acc. No. 1983/ 19)	CANMORE
2377	Holm	Unknown	A fragment of a steatite urn is recorded deriving from Holm	CANMORE
2419	Balfour HY 479 165	Cist, mound	From a slight mound in 1881 fragments of an urn were excavated from a stone cist. The urn (made of steatite) had been broken in antiquity and mended by piercing holes in the sides of the fractures.	PSAS 1882: 13-14
2432	Berstane HY 469 101	?Cremation?	A large steatite urn was found in 1875 during work on a house.	Anderson 1875: 541
2713	Mansies Knowe, Curquoy HY 4215 3127	Cist, cremation	NW of the farm house of Curquoy stood a group of five mounds. One of these contained a cist that contained clay and bone fragments. An urn of steatite was also recovered from the cist.	McCrie 1881
2783	Wilkie Knowe HY 4 4	Unknown	A large steatite urn was discovered in one of two mounds at the site.	Anderson 1883: 76

3081	Shapinsay, Esholm HY 5 1	Unknown	An incomplete steatite urn was recovered from the site in the 1880s.	NMAS 1892: 14
3137	Shapinsay, North Hill HY 5 2	Unknown	A clay cinerary urn found on the north hill of Shapinsay was donated to the NMS in 1885	Callander 1933: 347
3341	Stronsay, Clestrain HY63 27	?Pit burial?	Urn found set into a cavity. Nature of the urn is unclear.	CANMORE
2510	Sanday, Gallow Hill HY 6615 4065	Mound	Several clay urns and one of steatite have been recovered from this probable barrow.	CANMORE
3603	Mackabuster HY 7563 4468	Mound	Probable cairn, a fragment of a steatite urn (originally thought to be Viking) was recovered from the mound.	Anderson 1875: 541
9631	Big Howe, Newbigging Farm ND 4300 9082	Cist	Several cists are recorded from the area. Burnt remains and a cinerary urn were recovered from one of the cists.	CANMORE

<p>311268</p>	<p>Blanster ND 447 929</p>	<p>Cist and cremation. Exact contexts unknown</p>	<p>An inverted urn, associated with cremated remains.</p>	<p>CANMORE</p>
<p>2962</p>	<p>Blows Deerness HY 571 060</p>	<p>Short-cist, cremation</p>	<p>During ploughing in 1929 the remains of a short-cist were exposed. Inside the cist were calcined bones and a steatite urn</p>	<p>Grant 1933</p>

APPENDIX D

THE NORTH HIGHLANDS



D1 INVENTORY OF PRINCIPAL SITES (NH1-31)

NH1. Acharole, Cnoc Sgadain

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Mound (nat.), short cist

Parish: Watten

Canmore ID: 8804

Map reference: ND 2242 5165

Assessed: Yes

C14: n/a

Ref: Bryce 1905; Clarke, D.L. 1970

Description. During gravel extraction in 1904 the remains of a stone cist aligned to the north was uncovered. The cist was discovered in a small mound near a standing stone (CANMORE ID: 8803).

Human Remains:

1 Inhumation, crouched. Male adult. Orientated north.

Other finds. *N.M.S*

1 Beaker, short-necked (tall) (EG43)

1 found on right side, behind the head

NH2. Achinchanter

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Cemetery, cists, cairn

Parish: Dornoch

Canmore ID: 14836

Map reference: NH 7982 9026

Assessed: Yes

C14: n/a

Description. Cist discovered during ploughing. During subsequent excavation, a second cist was discovered. (Davidson, J.M. 1940: 15). The cists appear to have been sealed under a stone-built cairn. The first cist that was opened contained scanty human remains and measured roughly 1.24 x 0.64m. The base of the cist had been laid with pebbles on a gravel base.

Ref. Davidson, J.M. 1940

Within the second cist, measuring 1.06 x 0.7m, were the remains of a Food Vessel, along with a human jaw bone and a barbed and tanged arrowhead

Human remains.

1 Inhumation, crouched

1, from Cist 1. Body had been placed on left-hand side

Other finds. 3 in Dunrobin Museum (1938.1)

1 Barbed and tanged arrowhead of Conygar type
(Green 1980: 292)

2 Fragment of bronze ?pin?

3 Food Vessel Vase, grooved-shoulder

1-3, from within Cist 2, in association with human remains. *1*, by the jaw.

NH3. Achinduich Burial Cairn

Site Type: Funerary

*Parent Context: Kerbed cairn, short cist
(damaged), pits*

Parish: Creich

Canmore ID: 97111

Map reference: NC 581 006

Assessed: No

*C14: GU-3322, AA-9962, GU-3321 (App.
F3)*

Ref: McCullagh & Tipping 1998

Description. Burial cairn 1 – kerbed cairn, sub circular in form, partly revetted. Under the cairn, a series of earlier features, including the vestiges of an earlier building, and a series of ard marks. Following this, an enclosure was created, using large angular blocks of schist and granite. Within this enclosure there were a series of discrete deposits overlying the earlier features. These included a small patch of cremated bone, a roughly central stone pad with deposits of charcoal (dated by AA-9962) (**App. F3**). Slightly to the east of this an oval pit Food Vessel, and thirteen cannel coal artefacts, this pit was overlain by a low dispersed mound of stony sandy loam, into the top of this a small cist appears to have been set. The lower fill of this ‘cist’ contained some fragments of burnt bone. The construction of the cairn across the area sealed all

these deposits and appears to have brought activity in the enclosure to an end. Within the cairn fill were fragments of comb-impressed pottery.

Other finds.

- 1 V17, Indeterminate vessel, described as a “probable Beaker” in the report
- 2 V155, Food Vessel Vase, double-cavetto
- 3 Ten cancell coal disc beads, 1 discoidal ?cancell coal/? bead
- 4 Bone pin
- 5 Discoidal ?cancell coal? Beads
- 6 Four sherds of post-medieval pottery
- 7 Barbed and tanged arrowhead

2,3 from pit, 3 found inside 1, 5 from pit fill. 1, from further pit from the overlying tilled soil and basal layers of the cairn (dated by GU-3322). 4 from Cremation burial 5. 6 from deposits accumulated against the upslope side of the cairn, 7 possibly associated with 1.

NH4. Achavanich, Craig Na Feich

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Short cist, rock cut pit

Parish: Latheron

Canmore ID: 317871

Map reference: ND 178 433

Assessed: Data from M. Hoole

C14: BM-2590 (App. F3)

Ref: Unpublished material Highland

HER, information provided by M. Hoole.

Description. Excavation of a cist set into a rock-cut pit in 1987 revealed the remains of a female accompanied by a ceramic vessel and a collection of flints. The body was tightly compressed, which could imply the body was bound or wrapped in a shroud.

Human Remains.

- 1 Inhumation. Female adult

Other finds. Caithness Horizons

- 1 Flint scraper

- 2 Two further worked flints
- 3 Beaker, short-necked
- 4 Ox scapula

3, from behind the skull, 4, placed over or near to left shoulder.

NH5. Alt na Fearna

Site Type: Domestic/ Funerary

Parent Context: Structure (?domestic?), cremations

Parish: Creich

Canmore ID: 5110

Map reference: NC 584 019

Assessed: No

C14: GU-3310, GU-3308, GU-3162, GU-3300, GU-3299, GU-3141, GU-3304, GU-3303, GU-3152, GU-3150, GU-3298, GU-3302, GU-3301, GU-3148 (App.F3)

Ref: McCullagh & Tipping 1998

Description. A range of deposits, including evidence for burial activity, were excavated within the Alt na Fearna quarry site. The houses were typically oval in plan dating to the 2nd millennium and onwards. Evidence for earlier activity in form of truncated midden and tilled surfaces. Later activity associated with talc-tempered sherds of pottery. House 2 sealed a series of cremation burials – further burial cairn (BC1) in Achinduich section of the survey (see above)

Other finds. Finds from Cremation Burial 3

- 1 Bone pin
- 2 Food Vessel Vase, double-cavetto (V75)
- 3 ?copper artefact?

NH6. Ascoilemore

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Mound (nat.?), short cist

Parish: Clyne

Canmore ID: 6611

Map reference: NC 8167 1102

Assessed: No

Description. Cist found in a mound in 1939 during excavation for road building material. Cist measured 0.9 x 0.5m. As in the case of Cist 1 at Achinchanter the floor of the cist had been lain with pebbles set into a clay surface. No human remains were found, though a

C14: n/a

Ref. Davidson, J.M. 1940

black substance is purported to have come from the 'urn' prior to its removal (Davidson, J.M. 1940: 22).

Other finds.

1 Food Vessel Vase, simple

Location of 1 not given, was removed prior to detailed recording.

NH7. Battle Moss

Site Type: Stone row/ setting , Funerary

Parent Context: Stone row, ring cairn, short cist

Parish: Clyne

Canmore ID: 9021

Map reference: ND 31290 44019

Assessed: No

C14: GrA-26540 (App. F3)

Description. The Battle Moss stone row consists of eight parallel rows of small standing stones. The longest of the surviving rows is 40m in length, and 85m to the north lies a cairn, on which the rows align. From within the ring cairn an assemblage of four pots was recovered, including a late urn associated with a later phase of activity.

Other finds.

1. Pot 1: Beaker, s-profile/ low-carinated
2. Pot 2: Indet. Comb impressed sherds
3. Pot 3: Indet. ?belly?
4. Pot 4: Bucket/ tub

Ref. Baines et al. 2003, *Information on the pottery provided by A. Sheridan,*

4 with associated cremation (dated by GrA-26540)

NH8. Brora

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: ?Cemetery?, cist

Parish: Clyne

Canmore ID: 6974

Description. Found in a grave in a garden in Brora, no further information regarding the circumstance and contents of the burial. Other urns appear to have been found nearby (Serjeantson 1911: 317). The vessel was

Map reference: NC 90 04

Assessed: No

C14: n/a

Ref. Serjeantson 1911

not on display at the time of my visit to Dunrobin Castle and as such its current location is uncertain.

Other finds.

1 Food Vessel Vase, single mid-cavetto

NH9. Cambusmore

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Cist

Parish: Dornoch

Canmore ID: 14754

Map reference: NH 7676 9745

Assessed: No

C14: n/a

Ref. Abercromby 1904

Description. There is little information pertaining to the circumstances of discovery, but it appears that the vessel was recovered from a cist in a gravel bank.

Other finds. In Inverness Museum (955.006)

1 Beaker, weak s-profile

NH10. Carn Liath

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Broch, cist, ?pit circle?, unstratified

Parish: Golspie

Canmore ID: 6546

Map reference: NC 8704 0137

Assessed: No

C14: n/a – anomalous dates

Ref: Love, P 1986, 1991

Description. Overlooking the coast of Golspie lie the remains of an Iron Age broch. The site was first excavated by the Duke of Sutherland in 1868, though these excavations were poorly documented. In 1972 further excavation took place under Corcoran – and then in the 1980s. During the course of these excavations, the chronology of the site was stretching from the Bronze Age to the Iron Age. The earlier features of the site took the form of disturbed remains of a cist and other evidence for earlier activity. To the northeast of Trench 1 were the remains of a cist. The

area was disturbed, both by human and animal activity. The cist comprised a single large slab delineating its southern side (Love 1986: 165). The area between the slab and the northern outer ring wall of the broch was a layer of beach cobbling c. 17cm wide. On this surface lay several fragments of bone, a human molar, around 82 flattened shale-disc beads. Towards the west end of the cist came the remains of a coarse ceramic vessel bearing cord impressions. From the same area, though more problematic to date, was a semi-circular feature that closely skirted the edge of the probable cist. This feature disappeared at its western extent beneath the north wall of the outbuilding and at its easterly limit under the later east cross-wall. Initially interpreted as the remains of a denuded kerb cairn, the presence of slots suggests some form of circular building (*ibid.*). Further pre-broch post holes were excavated in the SW corner of Trench 1. The finds have not been illustrated and are at present housed in Dunrobin Museum.

Finds from EBA contexts were as follows:

Human remains.

- 1 Inhumation. Several bone fragments and a molar.

1 found in putative cist

Other finds. In Dunrobin Museum

- 1 ?Food Vessel Vase?
- 2 82 flat shale disc beads,
- 3 ?Beaker?

1, from disturbed level in trench 1 , Area A. *2*, *3* from W end of cist

NH11. Chealamy

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Short cist

Parish: Farr

Canmore ID: 6360

Map reference: NC 7238 5017

Assessed: No

C14: BM-2512 (App. F3)

Ref. Gourlay 1985

Description. Located in a natural gravel knoll, the cist is roughly d-shape in plan. The cist is formed of eight large slabs, set into the gravel. Within the cist were the remains of an adult male and short-necked Beakers.

Human remains. ?Farr Museum?

- 1 Inhumation. Adult male, comprising only the pelvic and leg bones. No indication of any other remains.

Other finds.

- 1 Beaker, short-necked

The position of *I* is not specified

NH12. Cnoc Na Ciste

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Chambered cairn, cists

Parish: Bower

Canmore ID: 8524

Map reference: ND 1572 6198

Assessed: Yes

C14: n/a

Ref. Davidson, J.L. & Henshall 1991;

Object Name Books of the Ordnance

Survey Caithness 1871-73, Vol 1, 16

Description. Round chamber was partially excavated in 1895 but did not yield any artefacts. Prior to this, a series of cists had been recorded in the top of the mound. During further excavation in 1907, a ceramic vessel was discovered set in a niche in a wall.

Other finds. In N.M.S (EO101)

- 1 Food Vessel Vase, grooved-shoulder

I found in a niche in a wall, with a light slab in front.

NH13 Cnoc, Na H'Uiseig, Lower Dounreay

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Chambered cairn, long cist, unstratified

Parish: Reay

Canmore ID: 7300

Map reference: NC 9969 6772

Assessed: Yes

C14: n/a

Ref. Edwards 1929; Davidson, J.L. & Henshall 1991

Description. When recorded in 1910 the mound was recognisable as a short-horned cairn, but by 1958 the mound had taken on a square appearance. The chamber was of an unusual irregular plan. The whole of the chamber, from the entrance to the back well, was filled with flat slabs that had formed the structure of the chamber. It was in this mass, around 16 feet from the main entrance and 8 feet from the surface level, that a secondary cist was discovered. The long cist had been fashioned out of slabs from the fallen roof of the chamber. The cist aligned NNE/ SSW measured 6 feet by 2 feet. The cist was paved, and a skeleton, lying on its side with its head to the north end, was covered with beach shingle. Within this shingle came two fragments of pottery. These sherds may have been displaced, and there is an indication that fragments of the same vessel were found elsewhere on the site. Other ceramic finds were made in the clay layer near to the skeleton. Within this clay layer came the remains of five bodies and a perforated ox bone. A variety of animal bones were also recovered.

Human remains. Lost

- 1 Inhumation. Male young adult (near SW wall)
- 2 Inhumation Skull, long bones (N corner)
- 3 Inhumation Skull, long bones (N corner)
- 4 Inhumation 'Young individual' Skull (centre)
- 5 Inhumation 'Adult' Skull (centre)
- 6 Inhumation. Male, young Adult (Long cist) Body orientated N/S, head at north

1-5, from underneath rubble from roof collapse

Animal remains. Lost

In the clay layer on the chamber floor, sixty fragments of animal bone were found, largely from cattle. Other species include young red deer and squirrel.

Other finds. In the N.M.S

- 1 Carinated sherd with burnished outer surfaces (EO358)
- 2 Beaker, s-profile (EO361)
- 3 Beaker, indeterminate form (EO360)
- 4 ?Beaker? (EO357)
- 5 Ox phalange with transverse perforation (EO359)
- 6 Axe of micaceous sandstone, outer surface pecked

1-3, 5, 6 from clay layer on chamber floor near the skeleton by the SW wall. 4 was found on 'the floor of the cairn' in the secondary cist, and below turf on the top of the cairn.

NH14. Crackaig

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Cemetery, cist

Parish: Loth

Canmore ID: 7106

Map reference: NC 9686 1128

Assessed: Yes

C14: n/a

Ref. Daniel 1821

Description. Two cairns were opened by W. Daniel in 1818, from one of these came a single pottery vessel. No mention is made of additional finds or human remains in association with the find.

Other finds.

1. Food Vessel Vase, grooved-shoulder

NH15 Dornoch Nursery

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Short cist

Parish: Dornoch

Canmore ID: 14841

Map reference: NH 7980 9081

Assessed: Yes

C14: GrA-26515 (App. F3)

Ref. Ashmore 1990

Description. A trapezoidal cist was discovered during ploughing in 1980 in the parish of Dornoch. The cist measured 0.72 x 1.04m, aligned NW/SE. The cist contained three fills, but there was no clear demarcation between the upper two. It may be that the upper fill represents a later episode of activity. The fills of the cist had been disturbed through animal action, with cremated bone and several finds being found scattered through the layers. The inhumation was badly decayed, the best-preserved element being the skull found to the south. Whether the skeleton had been originally crouched was unclear. Along with the burials were found a series of artefacts. Whether these formed one deposit related to one of the burials, or belonged to spate burials, was unclear. Outside the cist, in disturbed modern fills, a pie crust rim was discovered, like those associated with Grooved Ware. This may, as Ashmore speculates, relate to earlier, possible domestic activity in the first half of the third millennium in the area.

Human remains.

- 1 Inhumation ?crouched?. Young adult, indeterminate sex
- 2 Cremation. Young adult and/ or infant. Sexing and ageing indeterminate

Primary concentration of 2 was in the south west side of the cist. 1 skull originally in south corner, body facing NE.

Other finds. In Inverness Museum (980.15-19)

- 1 Five arrowheads, barbed and tanged, Sutton type.

- 2 Beaker, low-carinated
- 3 Stone bracer
- 4 Flint 'strike a light'
- 5 Iron ore nodule.
- 6 Grooved Ware, rim

1-5 all from the cist. 6 from disturbed modern fills.
Cist finds had been disturbed, but three of 1 appeared to be *in situ* in the N corner, with the rest to the south of these. 2 from the NW corner, with 3 south of this, 4,5 from east side of the cist.

NH16. Dunrobin Park

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Mound (nat.), short cist

Parish: Golspie

Canmore ID: 6590

Map reference: NC 8465 0070

Assessed: Yes

C14: n/a

Ref. Joass 1904

Description. A cist composed of undressed slabs was discovered by workmen in 1880, situated in a "hummocky moraine" (Joass 1904). The cist measuring 1.2 x 0.6 metres, contained an inhumation positioned on its right-hand side.

Human remains.

- 1 Inhumation. Young adult.

Body lay on right-hand side.

Other finds. Finds in Dunrobin Museum, 1882.2-9

- 1 Beaker, short-necked
- 2 118 shale beads
- 3 18 quartzite pebbles
- 4 Flints, 1 scraper

1 was positioned behind the head. 2,3 by the feet. 4, by breast.

NH17. Embo

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Chamber cairn, short cist, cremations

Parish: Dornoch

Canmore ID: 15376

Map reference: NH 8177 9265

Assessed: Yes

C14: BM-442, GrA-770, GrA-771, GrA-772, UB-6876, UB-6877, UB-6878, UB-6879 (App. F3)

Ref: Henshall & Wallace 1965;

Davidson, J.L. & Henshall 1991: 139

Description. Comprising two chambers set back to back, the site appears to have acted as a focus for a series of later activities, including inhumations and the insertion of several cremations. The cairn was badly disturbed with little of the covering mound remaining. In 1956 a cist set into the south chamber was dug, revealing the remains of a female adult, and a probable infant. These were associated with a shouldered vessel, a flint knife, several jet beads, and a probable beaker sherd. Between the two chambers was set a second cist, which contained the remains of two new-borns and a series of pottery sherds. From other areas of the cairn came the remnants of various cremations, including one associated with a burnt bronze razor, and another was associated with a fragment of a bronze blade. Whilst a series of dates are available for the mound it is not possible to relate these to the artefacts.

Human remains. Some in the N.M.S

Numerous human remains were recovered from the chamber, *cf.* Davidson, J.L. & Henshall 1991: 139 for summary. The remains from the 'secondary cists' include:

- 1 Inhumation. Adult female? and infant?
- 2 Inhumation infant

1 from cist in S. chamber

Other finds. In the N.M.S

- 1 Beaker, s-profile (EQ612).
- 2 Indeterminate form (EQ632).

- 3 Beaker, ?s-profile? (EQ633).
- 4 Food Vessel Vase, double-cavetto (EQ611).
- 5 Food Vessel Vase, indet. form (EQ634).
- 6 Flint knife, one steeply retouched edge, opposite edge has a finely retouched surface (EQ613).
- 7 Fusiform bead of jet (EQ614).
- 8 Fusiform bead of cannel coal (EQ631).
- 9 Fourteen disc-beads of cannel coal (EQ615).
- 10 Around half a bifid bronze razor c. 83mm long, by 38mm originally (EQ635).
- 11 Further razor fragment with slight midrib (EQ635A).
- 12 Flat piece of pumice, with groove from use (not registered).
- 13 Sandstone whorl (EQ636).

1, from S. chamber, between the E wall and the cist, above the dark layer, some sherds along with *2* in disturbed material from this area from 1956 excavations. *3* from Cist 2, below and in the silty soil, possibly redeposited from the cairn. *4, 7-9* from the cist in S. chamber, discovered in 1956, two of *7-9* found displaced outside cist in 1960. *6* from S chamber, either in cist or near cist above the dark layer. *10, 11* from cremations, *10* 1.2 m NE of S chamber, *11* from one of the cremations in cairn Se of S chamber in 1961. *10* from floor of S chamber and *13* unstratified

NH18. Freswick Sands

Site Type: Domestic

Parent Context: Midden

Parish: Canisbay

Canmore ID: 9293

Description. Extensive sand dune site with finds ranging from the Mesolithic to Norse period. Multiple excavations have been undertaken across the area, but early works are poorly documented. No structural

Map reference: ND 3760 6762

Assessed: No

C14: n/a

Ref: Scott, W. 1951

remains for the Prehistoric periods have been recorded, but activity is attested through finds of lint and pottery. The pottery could belong to multiple periods from the 3rd millennium.

Other finds. Finds include multiple sherds of pottery, including probable examples of Beakers and Food Vessels. Grooved Ware is also known, but the interrelationships of the assemblage are unclear.

NH19. Garrywhin

Site Type: Stone row/ setting, Funerary

Parent Context: Stone row, cairn, cist

Parish: Wick

Canmore ID: 9016

Map reference: ND 3140 4132

Assessed: No (Lost)

C14: n/a

Ref: Anderson, J. 1886

Description. Cairn associated with diverging lines of standing stones from S.W side. The cist was aligned east/ west. 1.3m in length, broadening from 0.7m on the W to 0.83m at its E end, where it is obscured by loose stones. The cover-slab of the cist lies to the S, and is 1.6m long, 1.15m broad and 0.13m thick. Garrywhin and Battle Moss are part of a dense concentration of stones on the east coast south of Wick, though scattered examples occur across Caithness and Sutherland.

Human remains.

- 1 Inhumation. Indet. remains of a few enamel crowns from teeth (From cist)

Other finds.

- 1 Two worked flints
- 2 Fragments of ceramic vessel, ?Beaker?

1,2 from cist in association with human remains. Note: There is some confusion over the site and attribution of finds.

NH20. Glengolly

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Cist, cremation

Parish: Reay

Canmore ID: 8442

Map reference: ND 102 660

Assessed: No

C14: n/a

Ref: Anderson, J. 1866

Description. A sinuous profiled vessel was recovered from a cist disturbed by ploughing in the 19th century.

Human remains.

The initial find was associated with ashes and human bones (Highland HER).

Other finds. In Thurso Museum

- 1 Beaker, short-necked (ARC 58)
- 2 Clarke lists a second sinuous vessel from the area, but this is now lost.

NH21. Keas Cottage

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Short cist

Parish: Creich

Canmore ID: 346397

Map reference: NH 6754 8934

Assessed: No

C14: SUERC-41427, SUERC-41428

(App. F3)

Ref: Ballin Smith 2014

Description. A cist set into a large pit was discovered in 2011, in the Spinningdale region, Dornoch. The cist measuring 0.96 x 0.48 contained the remains of a female skeleton, a pottery vessel, and a triangular stone. The stone may have been inserted at a later date.

Human remains.

- 1 Inhumation, crouched, Middle/ Older Adult female

Skeleton orientated with head towards SE, lying on right hand side.

Other finds.

- 1 Food Vessel Vase, double-cavetto (SF1)
- 2 Triangular shaped stone (SF2)
- 3 Fragment of stone (SF3)
- 4 Small ring

1 found west of the skull, 2 partly overlying 1 south of the cranium. 3 from beneath the vessel, 4 from within the vessel.

NH22. Little Creich, Bonar Bridge

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Cist

Parish: Creich

Canmore ID: 13871

Map reference: NH 636 891

Assessed: Yes

C14: n/a

Ref: PSAS 1981

Description. Little information is available regarding circumstances of find, except that it was found in a cist in 1907.

Other finds. In N.M.S (EE170)

1 Food Vessel Vase, double-cavetto

NH23. Loch More

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Mound (nat.), short cist

Parish: Eddrachillis

Canmore ID: 4753

Map reference: NC 3357 3628

Assessed: Yes

C14: n/a

Ref: P.S.A.S. 1971: 293

Description. Found in short cist set into a natural gravel mound. The cist measured 0.9m x 0.6m x 0.5m deep, orientated N/S. Within the cist was a single ceramic vessel, there was no trace of a burial. Alt. name = Bealach Lice.

Other finds. In N.M.S (EG104)

1 Beaker, s-profile (applied ribs)

NH24. Lothbeg

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Short cist

Description. A cist containing human remains and a shouldered vessel was excavated during the

Parish: Loth
Canmore ID: 6936
Map reference: NC 9514 0988
Assessed: Yes
C14: n/a

Ref. O.S.N.B 1872: Book 2, 6

NH25. Muie

Site Type: Funerary
Parent Context: Short cist
Parish: Rogart
Canmore ID: 5478
Map reference: NC 67 04
Assessed: Yes
C14: n/a

Ref: Tait 1870

construction of a railway around 1869 (RCAHMS Name Book 1872).

Human remains.

1 Inhumation. No further information

Other finds. In Dunrobin Museum (1869.3)

1 Food Vessel Vase, high-shouldered

Description. A cist was opened in 1870 exposing the remains of a crouched inhumation and, below, (apparently in a different matrix) a ceramic vessel, a flint arrowhead, and the possible remains of a cremation. Tait suggests the cremation and vessel may have been first with the inhumation belonging to a late period (Tait 1870: 530).

Human remains.

1 ?Cremation?

2 Inhumation, crouched, Adult male

2, orientated NW on right hand side. *1*, came from 'layer' below 2

Other finds. In Dunrobin Museum

1 Food Vessel Vase, simple

2 Flint arrowhead

1 appears to have stemmed from same layer as the cremation, *2* is reputed to have come from within the urn, suggested that *1* could have been container for remains.

NH26. Ord North

Site Type: Chambered cairn, Funerary

Parent Context: Chambered cairn,

Parish: Lairg

Canmore ID: 4984

Map reference: NC 57330 05605

Assessed: Yes

C14: GrA-28614, GU-1167, GU-1168,

GU-1169, GU-1172, GU-1173, GX-3274

(App. F3)

Ref: Corcoran, 1965, 1967; Sharples 1982

Description. This site comprises a long chamber with an antechamber and larger rear chamber. The site was dug by Corcoran in 1966. The site is surrounded by a platform, which appears to have been built at the same as the blocking in front of orthostats 2 and 15. The blocking in this region sealed the cremated remains of a six-year-old. The passage behind 2 and 15 was infilled with roof collapse and rubble. Within the antechamber was an arrangement of small stones. The collapse of the chamber appears to have occurred naturally and does not appear to have been deliberately infilled. Within the rubble were deposited a series of cremations concentrated in the west of the main chamber. These cremations comprised four main deposits (A, B, C,D.). Deposit B contained a bone mount and the remains of a 30-year-old adult associated with a bone mount. To the east of these were found small concentrations of cremated bone. From within the infill came various potsherds.

Other finds. For a summary of the pottery and other finds from Ord North *cf.* Henshall & Ritchie, J.N.G. 1995: 123). Later ceramics include:

- 1 Food Vessel Bowl, simple globular
- 2 Food Vessel Bowl, ?simple globular?

2, found about 0.48 m above the floor, SWQ, about 0.2m from wall on SW side, 1, 0.56-0.76m above floor, SWQ spread near SW side of chamber. The burnt bone mount appears to be associated with 1. These finds are associated with GrA-28614, GU-1167.

NH27. Sandhill Dalmore

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Cemetery, cists

Parish: Halkirk

Canmore ID: 8236

Map reference: ND 1353 4923

Assessed: Yes

*C14: SUERC-19724 (GU-16762),
SUERC-19275 (GU-16763), SUERC-
19276 (GU-16764), SUERC-19277 (GU-
16765) (App. F3)*

Ref: MacCallum 1962

Description. In July 1960 four cists were discovered during sand extraction at Sandhill Dalmore. The cists were found in a line on a natural ridge, now since removed. The cists are described as containing inhumations, with two vessels present, though one was lost during excavation.

Human remains.

- 1 Inhumation, crouched. Female, young adult (Cist 1)
- 2 Inhumation, crouched. Male, young adult (Cist 2)
- 3 Inhumation, crouched
- 4 Inhumation, crouched

Other finds.

- 1 Flint knife (A. Sheridan pers. comm.)
- 2 Food Vessel Vase, grooved-shoulder

1,2 from Cist 1 (?)

NH28. South Yarrows

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Chambered cairn, cist

Parish: Wick

Canmore ID: 9068

Map reference: ND 304 434

Assessed: No (Lost)

C14 : n/a

Description. Prior to excavation by Anderson the mound had been used as a quarry causing damage to the monument. The monument originally comprised a horned cairn with a double chamber within. The chamber is accessed through a narrow passage. Within the first smaller chamber a later cist was inserted between the two uprights on the south side. The cist

Ref: Anderson 1866; Davidson, J.L. & Henshall 1991: 140

measuring 0.9 x 0.5m had been constructed on the compact layer in the chamber.

Human remains. Lost

Within the dark layer on the chamber floor were numerous fragments of burnt and unburnt bone. On top of the layer and partly set into it were unburnt broken bones, which included fragments of skulls in the inner compartment. The 'secondary' cist may have held a cremation.

Animal remains. Lost

In the same dark layer containing the human bones were unburnt and burnt animal bones. A small quantity of similar bones was found on top of this layer.

Other finds. Lost except for 2 of the beads, housed in the N.M.S.

- 1 Pot, ?Food Vessel?, decorated with twisted cord.
- 2 Seventy small lignite beads.

1,2 from the cist

NH29. Strath Fleet (alt Davochbeg)

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Mound (?art.), cist

Parish: Rogart

Canmore ID: 5981

Map reference: NC 7200 0100

Assessed: Yes

C14 : n/a

Ref: P.S.A.S. 1871: 50; N.M.A.S. 1892: 173

Description. A tumulus with a cist was opened by L. Tait in 1869. The cist contained a human jaw, a leaf shaped 'spearhead' and a ceramic vessel (Highland HER).

Human remains.

1. Inhumation, ?Male? Older Adult?

Other finds. Vessel is in N.M.S (EE53)

- 1 Food Vessel Vase ?double-cavetto?
- 2 Leaf shaped spearhead (?flint knife?)

NH30. Tulach an t'Sionnaich

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Chambered Cairn

Parish: Halkirk

Canmore ID: 7901

Map reference: ND 0704 6192

Assessed: Yes

C14: GrA-28611, GU-1330, GU-1331

GU-1334 (App. F3)

Ref: Corcoran 1967; Davidson, J.L. &

Henshall 1991: 146-9

Description. The horned cairn of Tulach an t'Sionnaich was excavated in 1961. The cairn consists of two main components, a south facing heel shaped cairn and a later rectangular cairn running northwards from the rear of the heel shaped cairn (Henshall 147). The heel shaped cairn had been constructed in three phases, evolving from a small round cairn, to a larger cairn with a straight façade and finally the extension of the mound into a long cairn. The construction of the heel shaped façade blocked the earlier passage. The construction of the long cairn appears to have taken place sometime after the construction of the heel shaped façade, as slip from this element had accrued to a depth of 1ft in the forecourt.

Human remains. In the N.M.S

- 1 Inhumation. Male, middle adult
- 2 Inhumation. Female, young adult
- 3 Inhumation. 'old' individual
- 4 Inhumation. Fragments of additional individual
- 5 Possible infant
- 6 Cremation. Single individual
- 7 1-5 from lowest layer in chamber. 6 cremations from slips of heel shaped cairn

Animal remains. In the N.M.S

Mixed in with the human remains from the lowest layer of the chamber were fragmentary bones and teeth of cattle, red deer, dog (one mature and another younger specimen), probable remains of birds, fish and limpet shells. Within the deliberate filling of the chamber came further fragments of animal bone, some

heavily burnt. These were mostly unidentifiable but contained deposits of sea and land molluscs. From the upper levels of the cairn came a pig tooth and a single lamb bone.

Other finds. In the N.M.S

- 1 Fluted wall sherd in dark grey fabric (EO1106).
- 2 Collection of 12 sherds and a further sherd from below the rim, representing more than one pot (EO1107).
- 3 Beaker, Indeterminate form. (EO1108).
- 4 Sherds from 'cinerary urn' (EO1109)
- 5 Medieval or later, pottery sherds from wall and base (EO1112).
- 6 Ten flint flakes/ chips, several scorched (EO1110).
- 7 Two flint chips and a possible scraper (EO1110).
- 8 Pitchstone flake (EO1111).

1 came from the lowest layer in the chamber, 2 from between the façade of the heel-shaped cairn and the S wall of the long cairn, below the level of the latter. 3 was found in disturbed layers in the upper level of the cairn N of the chamber. 4, 7 from outside of the S. wall of the long cairn. 5 from above the same wall, 6 was found in several locations, including the chamber, the forecourt, the passage and a further sherd from the body of the cairn. 8 was found 76mm above chamber floor.

NH31. Woody Knowe, Strathnaver

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Cist

Parish: Farr

Canmore ID: 6190

Description. There is little information pertaining to the circumstances of the vessel's discovery, except for a short note in the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland (MacKay 1934: 413). The

Map reference: NC 7027 4577

Assessed: Yes

C14: n/a

Ref: P.S.AS. 1934: 413

vessel is reported to derive from a short cist in a gravel pit at the side of the road at Woody Knowe. No other finds are reported in association with the vessel.

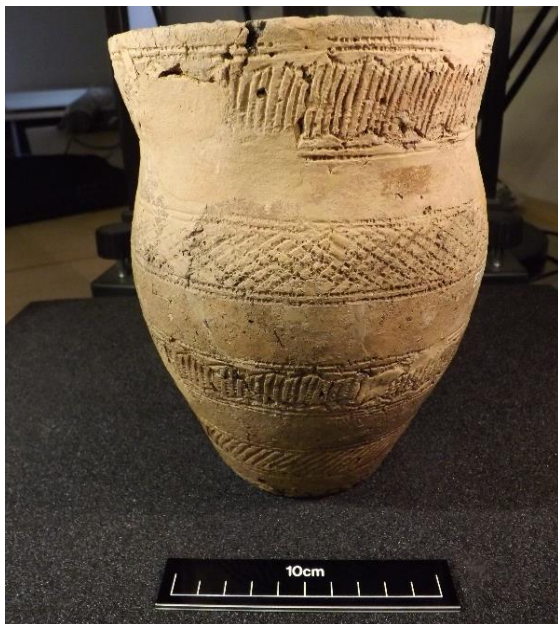
Human remains.

No remains recorded

Other finds. N.M.S

1. Bucket/ tub vessels (alt. late Beaker)

D2 POTTERY CATALOGUE



Author © N.M.S

Acharole (NH1)

Museum: *N.M.S (EG43)*

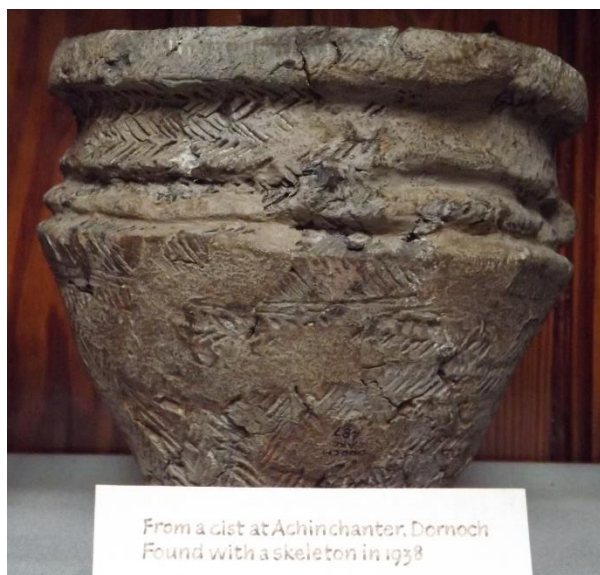
Find Number: *1,*

Form: *Beaker, short-necked (tall)*

Rim: *Simple with shallow rounded inner face*

Dec: *COMB. Decoration is arranged in five evenly spaced bands. The neck is decorated with a band of infilled hexagons, bordered with two bands of horizontal comb impressions above and below. This motif is repeated in the third zone, separated by a zone of lattice on the upper half of the belly. The lowest band comprises a series of comb impressed triangles, with a band of diagonal impressions above.*

H: *194mm* Int. RD: *130mm*



Author © Dunrobin Museum

Achinchanter (NH2)

Museum: *Dunrobin (1938.1)*

Find Number: *3*

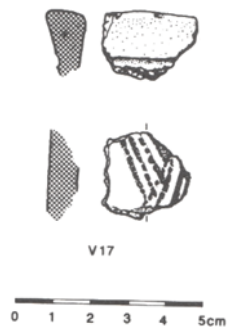
Form: *Food Vessel Vase, grooved-shouldered,*

Rim: *Club/ collar like rim with slight inward bevel*

Dec: *NCD. Incised chevrons in vertical rows, with two horizontal lines below the lower groove.*

Grooves in filled with unpierced lugs.

H: *139mm* Int. RD: *127mm* Ext. RD. *165mm*



McCullagh & Tipping 1998: Figure 90

Achinduich Burial Cairn (NH3)

Museum: *unk*

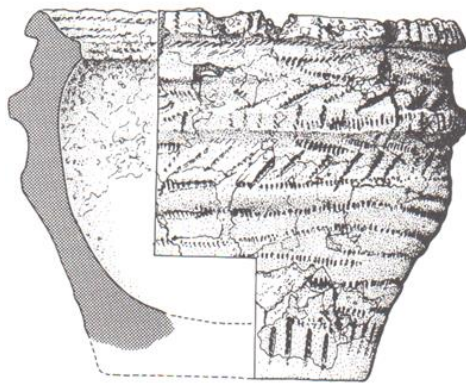
Find Number: 1

Form: *Indet.*

Rim: *Flat upper surface, pointed triangular exterior*

Dec: *Comb impressed chevrons and incised lines.*

H: *n/a* Int. RD: *n/a*



McCullagh & Tipping 1998: Figure 90

Achinduich Burial Cairn (NH3)

Museum: *unk*

Find Number: 2

Form: *Food Vessel Vase, double-cavetto*

Rim: *External face is slightly rounded, interior of rim is bevelled*

Dec: *WHCI, Decoration is roughly divided into several zones, alternating between short vertical or diagonal impressions, bordered by horizontal impressions. The interior of the rim is decorated with around 6 further horizontal whipped cord impressions. The upper narrow cavetto zone is separated from the lower by a pronounced ridge.*

H: *130mm* Int. RD: *150mm*



© Caithness Horizons

Achavanich (NH4)

Museum: *Caithness Horizons*

Find Number: 3

Form: *Beaker, short-necked*

Rim: *Simple flat, no bevel*

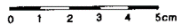
Dec: *COMB. Decoration is arranged in four bands, comprising two broad bands, above and below the shoulder separated by narrower zones.*

The broad zones comprise a band of truncated triangles, creating an effect reminiscent of leather cross binding. Towards the base of the vessel is a further narrow band of decoration comprising a narrow band of X incisions. The area below the rim is decorated with a band of chevrons.

H: 165mm Int. RD: 138mm Ext RD. 153.6mm



V75



McCullagh & Tipping 1998: Figure 91

Alt Na Fearná Cremation 3 (NH5)

Museum: *unk*

Find Number: 1

Form: *Food Vessel Vase, ?double-cavetto?*

Rim: *Pointed with internal bevel*

Dec: *TWCI. Internal bevel of the rim is decorated with set of impressed zig-zags. This pattern is repeated on the exterior just below the rim. Below this is a rough band of lattice/ criss-crossed impressions.*

H: 98mm RD: 117mm



Davidson, J.M. 1940

Ascoilemore (NH6)

Museum: *unk*

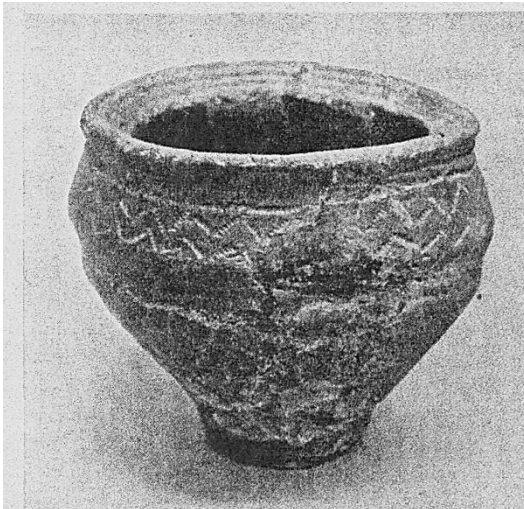
Find Number: *1*

Form: *Food Vessel Vase, simple*

Rim: *Simple ?rounded?*

Dec: *Undecorated*

H: *98mm* RD: *117mm*



Serjeanston R.J 1911

Brora (NH8)

Museum: *unk*

Find Number: *1*

Form: *Food Vessel Vase, single mid-cavetto*

Rim: *Internally bevelled, ?rounded outer edge?*

Dec: *COMB. Area above the shoulder is decorated with double band of zig-zags, defined by horizontal lines. The internal bevel of the rim appears to be decorated as well.*

H: *136mm* Int. RD: *140mm*



Author © Inverness Museum & Art Gallery

Cambusmore (NH9)

Museum: *Inverness (955.006)*

Find Number: 1

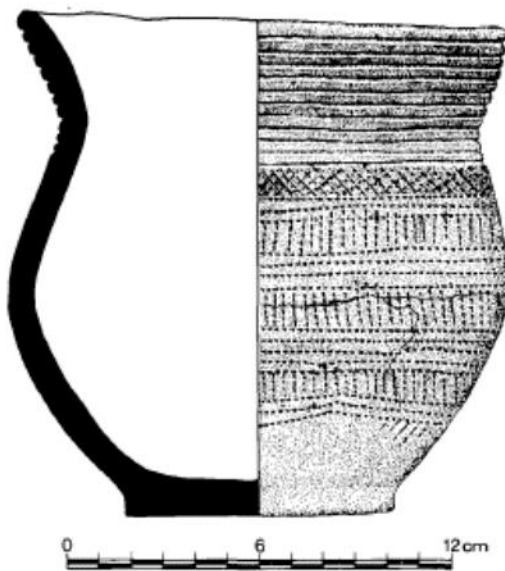
Form: *Beaker, weak s-profile*

Rim: *Simple, slightly everted with a slight internal bevel*

Dec: *NCD. Horizontal incisions, around midpoint of vessel band of small vertical incisions.*

Lower half fringed with short diagonal incisions, mirrored with a further band below.

H: *135mm* Int. RD: *112mm*



Gourlay 1984: Fig 3

Chealamy (NH11)

Museum: *Farr*

Find Number: 1

Form: *Beaker, short-necked*

Rim: *Rounded with rounded inner face*

Dec: *COMB. The decoration is arranged in three zones with the neck defined by a series of horizontal grooves, whilst the body features an alternating pattern of vertical and horizontal comb impressions. The area below the neck sports a lattice pattern.*

H: *151-157mm* RD: *152-157mm*

The measurements for the vessel from Chealamy are variable owing to its uneven profile

Cnoc na Ciste (NH12)

Museum: *N.M.S (EO101)*

Find Number: *1*

Form: *Food Vessel Vase, grooved-shoulder*

Rim: *Thick rim with square outer edge and curved internal bevel*

Dec: *TWCI. Grooved at the mid-point*

accentuating the bi-conical profile of the vessel.

The exterior is decorated all over with cord impressions. The square face and internal bevel of the rim is decorated with horizontal lines of cord impressions. Below the rim are a set of herringbone cord impressions, bordered below by a further set of horizontal cord impressions. These extend into the groove. Below the groove decorated with vertical panels of cord impressions.

Below the groove decorated with vertical panels of cord impressions.

Below the groove decorated with vertical panels of cord impressions.

Below the groove decorated with vertical panels of cord impressions.

Below the groove decorated with vertical panels of cord impressions.

Below the groove decorated with vertical panels of cord impressions.

H: *113mm* Int. RD: *90mm* Ext. RD *120mm*



Author © *N.M.S*

Cnoc na H'Uiseig (NH13)

Museum: *N.M.S (EO361)*

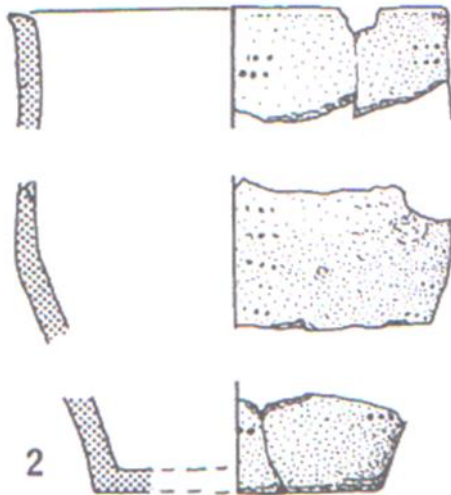
Find Number: *2*

Form: *Beaker, s-profile*

Rim: *Slightly expanded everted rim with slight rounded inner face*

Dec: *COMB. Comb impressions ? vertical?*

H: *n/a* RD: *n/a*





Cnoc na H'Uiseig (NH13)

Museum: *N.M.S (EO360)*

Find Number: 3

Form: *Beaker,,?s-profile?*

Rim: *Simple rounded*

Dec: *COMB. Arranged in several zones with slanting zones of herringbone and diagonal incisions. Zones bordered with horizontal impressions.*

H: *n/a* RD: *n/a*



Cnoc na H'Uiseig (NH13)

Museum: *N.M.S (EO357)*

Find Number: 4

Form: *?Beaker?*

Rim: *n/a*

Dec: *TWCI. Multiple horizontal lines of twisted cord impressions.*

H: *n/a* RD: *n/a*



Author © Dunrobin Museum

Crackaig (NH14)

Museum: *Dunrobin*

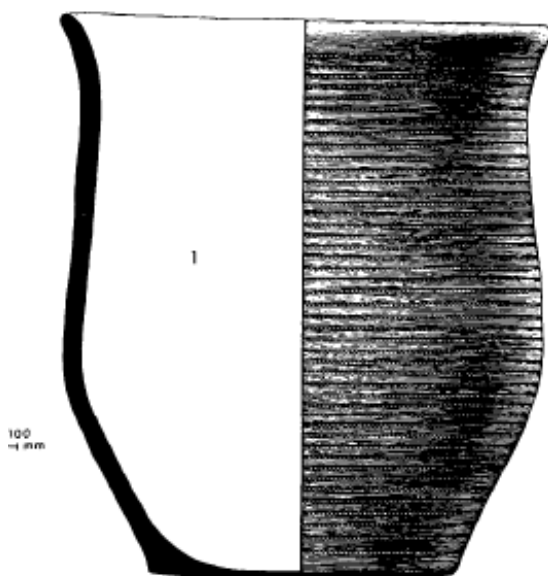
Find Number: *1*

Form: *Food Vessel Vase, grooved-shoulder*

Rim: *Square edged rim? internal bevel?*

Dec: *TWCI. The exterior of the vessel is decorated with multiple horizontal and vertical twisted cord impressions. Decoration extends above and below the pair of shoulder groove. These are decorated with alternating triangular stop-gaps, decorated with twisted cord.*

H: *190mm* RD: *165mm*



Ashmore 1989

Dornoch Nursery (NH15)

Museum: *Inverness Museum & Art Gallery*

Find Number: *2*

Form: *Beaker, low-carinated*

Rim: *Slightly everted, rounded*

Dec: *TWCI/ AO. All over cord impressions*

H: *175mm* RD: *136mm*



id in a short-cist
eads and a female skeleton.
si mound near the Memorial Cross
Park. Found in 1880.
the Reliquary 1904 p61)

A cist is a s
found eith
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Each held
along wit
for the at

Author © Dunrobin Museum

Dunrobin Park (NH16)

Museum: Dunrobin

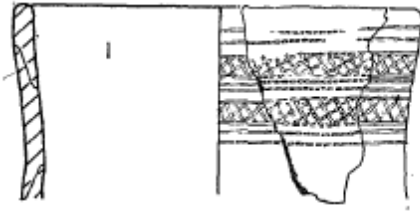
Find Number: 1

Form: *Beaker, s-profile*

Rim: *?simple, rounded?*

Dec: *NCD/ COMB. Decoration is arranged in three broad zones. The area from the neck to the upper shoulder is decorated with incised horizontal lines, infilled with diagonal lines of incisions. The area below is decorated with comb impressed z-shapes which extend to the base of the vessel.*

H: 178mm RD:



Embo (NH17)

Museum: *N.M.S (EQ612)*

Find Number: *1*

Form: *Beaker, s-profile*

Rim: *Simple, flat*

Dec: *COMB. Decoration comprises at least two zones, each zone having two cross-hatched bands, bordered and separated by horizontal lines. Series of faint impressions on the rim.*

H: *n/a* RD: *n/a*

Embo (NH17)

Museum: *N.M.S (EQ632)*

Find Number: *2*

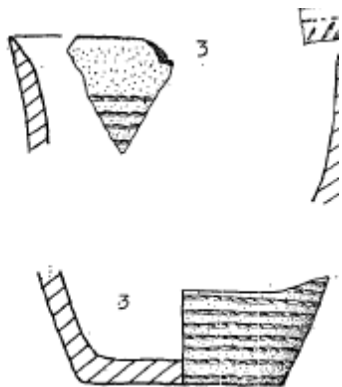
Form: *Indet, ?Beaker?*

Not illustrated

Rim: *Unknown. Sub-rim cordon below the rim.*

Dec: *COMB. Comb decoration arranged in horizontal rows.*

H: *n/a* RD: *n/a*



Embo (NH17)

Museum: *N.M.S (EQ633)*

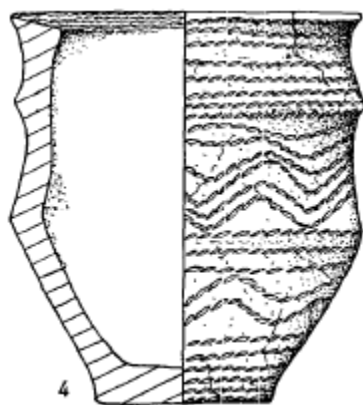
Find Number: *3*

Form: *Beaker, s-profile/ low-carinated*

Rim: *Everted pointed rim with internal face*

Dec: *TWCI/ AO. Decorated with multiple horizontal lines of twisted cord impressions.*

H: *n/a* RD: *n/a*



Embo (NH17)

Museum: *N.M.S (EQ611)*

Find Number: *4*

Form: *Food Vessel Vase, double-cavetto*

Rim: *Shallow internal bevel, pointed rim*

Dec: *TWCI. Decorated in four zones. The lower cavetto zone is decorated with a broad band of multiple zig-zags. A smaller band of zig-zags occurs below the shoulder. The remaining motifs comprise simple horizontal lines which carry onto the internal bevel of the rim.*

H: *120mm* Int. RD: *104mm*

Embo (NH17)

Museum: *N.M.S (EQ634)*

Find Number: 5

Form: *Food Vessel Vase, indeterminate form*

Rim: *Shallow internal bevel rounded outer edge*

Dec: *COMB/ IMP (false relief). Rim is decorated with series of short nicks, with a band of horizontal comb impressions below. Below this is a narrow band of triangular impressions, creating false-relief-effect. A further band of horizontal comb impressions below. The internal bevel of the rim is decorated with slanting comb impressions.*

H: 200mm Int. RD: 200mm



Glengolly (NH20)

Museum: *Thurso (ARC58)*

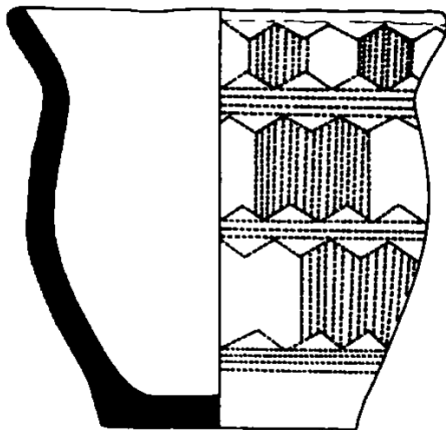
Find Number: 1

Form: *Beaker, short-necked*

Rim: *Rounded, steep inner edge*

Dec: *COMB. Decorated in three zones. The upper zone comprises a series of infilled hexagons. This is bordered with multiple horizontal impressions above and below. The remaining two zones comprise a bridging pattern with alternating bands of horizontal infill.*

H: 147mm RD: 150mm



Clarke, D.L. 1970

Keas Cottage (NH21)

Museum: *unk*

Find Number: 1

Form: *Food Vessel Vase, double-cavetto*



Ballin Smith 2013

Rim: *Flat, expanded internally*
 Dec: *TWCI/ IMP/ WHCI. Decorated in six zones. The upper part comprises a series of triangular impressions like those on EQ634 from Embo. As with the Embo vessel these impressions are bordered above and below with horizontal cord impressions. The lower of the two cavettos is decorated with horizontal whipped cord impressions, with triangular impression between them. The remaining zones are arranged in diagonal patterns creating a herringbone effect across the lower half of the vessel.*

H: *132mm* RD: *240mm*



Author © N.M.S

Little Creich, Bonar Bridge (NH22)

Museum: *N.M.S (EE170)*

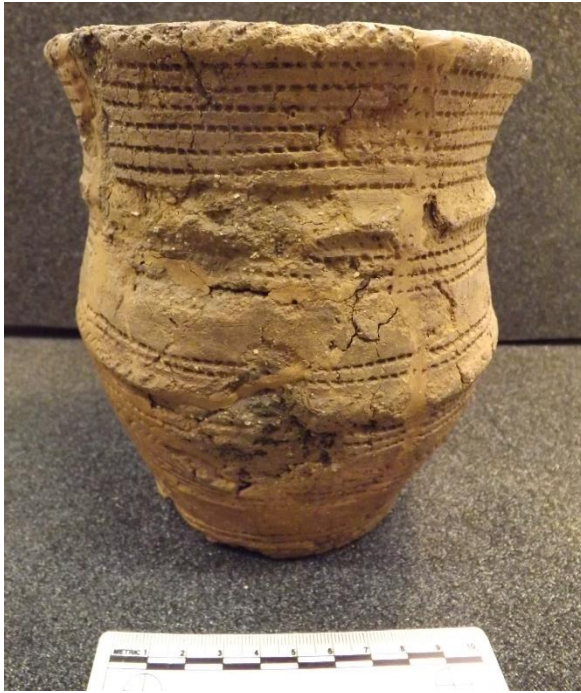
Find Number: *1*

Form: *Food Vessel Vase, double-cavetto*

Rim: *Shallow internal bevel*

Dec: *COMB/ FND. Decoration is divided into three zones of horizontal cord impressions. Ribs marked out with paired fingernail impressions creating elliptical shapes.*

H: *159mm* Int. RD: *160mm* Ext RD: *190mm*



Author © N.M.S

Loch More (NH23)

Museum: *N.M.S (EG104)*

Find Number: *1*

Form: *Beaker, s-profile*

Rim: *Expanded, slightly pointed external projection*

Dec: *COMB. Decorated with multiple horizontal comb impressions. Bands of decoration separated by raised ribs, and a blank zone around the mid-point of the vessel.*

H: *154mm* RD: *squashed profile rim diameter uneven*

H: *n/a* RD: *n/a*



Author © Durnobin Museum

Lothbeg (NH24)

Museum: *Dunrobin (1869.3)*

Find Number: *1*

Form: *Food Vessel Vase, high-shouldered*

Rim: *Simple, flat*

Dec: *WHCI/NCD. Whipped cord impressions on flat-rim top and the shoulder. Area below shoulder decorated with horizontal incisions.*

H: *n/a* RD: *n/a*



Author © Dunrobin Museum

Muie (NH25)

Museum: *Dunrobin Museum (1896.1)*

Find Number: *1*

Form: *Food Vessel Vase, simple*

Rim: *Shallow internal bevel*

Dec: *NCD. Decorated with multiple horizontal grooves with diagonal incisions across the whole of the body, creating a herringbone effect. Several of the incision marks have a slightly rounded end, suggesting possible stab and drag.*

H: *127mm* RD: *140mm*

Ord North (NH26)

Museum: *N.M.S*

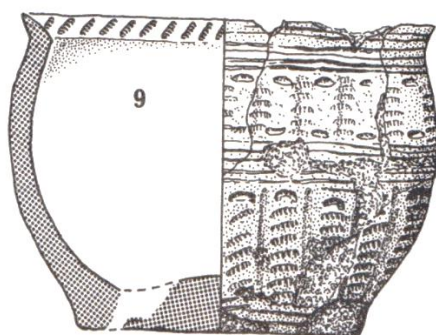
Find Number: *1*

Form: *Food Vessel Bowl, simple globular*

Rim: *Pointed rim with internal bevel*

Dec: *WHCI/NCD/IMPD. Decorated in five zones. The upper zone comprises multiple incised lines. Below this is a broad band of short whipped cord impressions arranged vertically. A further band of horizontal incisions is noted below this, with a second band of short whipped cord impressions below. The base is marked by a final band of horizontal incisions.*

H: *110mm* RD: *130mm*



Sharples 1984

NH26 Ord North

Museum: *N.M.S*

Find Number: *2*

Form: *Food Vessel Bowl, simple globular*



Sharples 1984

Rim: *n/a*

Dec: *IMPD/NCD. Single line of impressed circles with set of incised grooves below.*

H: *n/a* RD: *n/a*

Sandhill, Dalmore Cist 1 (NH27)



Museum: *Marischal (ABDUA:19728)*

Find Number: *2*

Form: *Food Vessel Vase, grooved-shoulder*

Rim: *Club-like rim with straight exterior and bevelled interior.*

Dec: *TWCI. Exterior of the vessel is decorated with horizontal twisted cord impressions; these extend onto the triangular stop gaps. The bevel of the rim is decorated with cord impressions. Horizontal liens interspersed with diagonal impressions, creating herringbone effect.*

H: *140mm* Int. RD: *130mm*

Author © Marischall Museum

Strath Fleet (NH29)



Museum: *N.M.S (EE53)*

Find Number: *1*

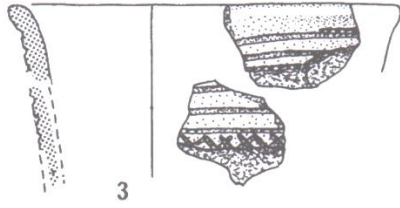
Form: *Food Vessel Vase, Indet.*

Rim: *Rounded rim with internal bevel*

Dec: *WHCI. Whipped cord maggots forming herringbone over the body. Exterior sports two defined ridges.*

H: *n/a* Int. RD: *200mm*

Author © NMS



Davidson, J.L. & Henshall 1991

Tulach an t'Sionnaich (NH30)

Museum: *N.M.S (EO1108)*

Find Number: 3

Form: *Beaker, indet.*

Rim: *Simple rounded rim, slightly expanded*

Dec: *COMB. Dragged comb impressions forming horizontal lines with narrow band of x' shaped impressions*

H: *n/a* RD: *115mm*



Author © NMS

Woody Knowe (NH31)

Museum: *N.M.S*

Find Number: 1

Form: *Bucket/ tub alt. beaker, weak s-profile*

Rim: *Slightly beaded in places stemming from production rather than deliberate*

Dec: *NCD. Horizontal bands of incision with short nicks between on the upper half of the vessel.*

H: *190mm* RD: *130mm*

D3 OTHER VESSELS OF INDETERMINATE FORM AND/ OR PROVENANCE

n.b this list represents a sample, and does not purport to cover all recorded finds

CANMORE ID	Site Name	Context/ Burial Type	Notes/ Vessel Description	Reference (not included in main bibliography)
8774	Bylbster ND 2544 5425	Short Cist Cremation	Urn is illustrated in OS Name book 1871: 98. Present location of vessel is unknown. Urn with everted neck (unclear if neck is decorated), and simple body with rounded shoulder sporting a single band of decoration	OS Name Book 1871: 98
8785	Greystones, Watten ND245543	Short cist Cremation	One of several tumuli in the area. The urn fell to pieces when dug in 1841.	P.S.A.S. 1873: 183-4
9132	Killmister, Skitten ND 3147 5729	Enclosure Cremation	Enclosure with evidence of ?domestic occupation. Fragments of urn were found during the excavation, in association with cremated remains and three fragments of flint. The fragments of the urn are described as reddish yellow, ½ inch thick. The rim is short and overhanging. Decorated with two bands (one above and one below the lip bulge) consisting of impressed vertical lines perpendicular to rim.	Duff-Dunbar 1935

8493	Glengolly ND 1039 6577	Cist Cremation	No details beyond an urn containing ashes discovered in stone cist. Unclear how it relates to the sinuous vessel, but could be a duplicate?	O.N.B (<i>cf.</i> CANMORE)
n/a	Keiss	Unknown	No details on the context. Vessel stated to be undecorated food vessel, 5 inches in height by 5 1/2 inch	P.S.A.S 1909: 19
n/a	StrathSteven NC 88 01		Undecorated ?Food Vessel? with two cordons (Dunrobin museum) No further information	CANMORE
?119244?	Kishorn		Food Vessel, possibly Carn Nam Fiedh (Canmore ID 11924). The dimensions of the Kishorn vessel are unknown, but the exterior is decorated all over with a series of whipped cord impressions.	
n/a	Little Ferry		Urn with cylindrical impressions. A further vessel – probably a Cordoned Urn – is recorded from the region.	Anderson & Black 1888: 343
6498	Gordonbush NC 845 095	Cairn	Three inverted urns containing cremated bones. No indication of a slab above or below. Burials covered by a cairn. Urns are currently held in Dunrobin Castle. One of the urns is probably a Cordoned Urn.	Joass 1871

7142	Lothbeg NC 9477 1003		Urns of uncertain provenance, could stem from Gordonbush. Currently in Dunrobin Castle	CANMORE
14014	Maikle	Cairn, cists	Urn and razor probably 2 nd millennium in date. Razor is currently in Dunrobin Museum	
5986	Tressady NC 701 037	Cist	Urn and human remains discovered in 1871. Nature of urn is unclear, possible inhumation	CANMORE
6465	Alt Nam Burn NC 8577 0791	Unknown	Pair of urns context unknown	Davidson, J.M. 1940: 23
6573	Dunrobin Park NC 8465 0070	Unknown – set into a gravel mound	Late urn? Inverted and associated with fragments of bronze. Possibly from area of burial associated with Beaker	CANMORE
5777	Skerry Mains NC 6603 6314	Soutterain	Two urns were recorded from within a souterrain but crumbled away upon exposure to the air.	

APPENDIX E

THE SOUTH HIGHLANDS



E1 INVENTORY OF PRINCIPAL SITES (SH1-53)

SH1. Achnasheen

Site Type: Funerary

*Parent Context: Short cist, Mound
(nat.)*

Parish: Contin

Canmore ID: 12096

Map reference: NH 1738 5883

Assessed: Yes.

C14: n/a

Ref: Henshall & Longworth 1966

Description. A cist set into a natural gravel mound was largely destroyed before it was recognised during road engineering works in the late 1950's. The cist measured 1.2 x 0.6m, Sherds of a Beaker were recovered along with pieces of charcoal

No human remains are recorded in association with the discovery.

Other finds. *N.M.S*

1. Beaker, short-necked (EG98)

SH2. Ardnamurchan, Cul na Croise

SH3. Ardnamurchan, Sanna Bay

Site Type: Domestic

*Parent Context: Finds spread (dune
site)*

Parish: Ardnamurchan

Canmore ID: 22122

Map reference: NM 444 689

Assessed: No

Description. Located near to the site at Cul na Croise, various finds have been made in the shell middens in this region. It is possible that some of the finds from this site have been confused with those from Cul na Croise (SH2). The remains at Sanna Bay (SH3) were sealed by an upper midden which contained Medieval remains, whilst the lower middens contained a variety of Prehistoric remains

C14: n/a

Ref. Lethbridge 1927; Gibson, A. 1982; Ritchie, J.N.G. 1973

SH4. Armadale

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Cemetery, pits, standing stones (stone/timber circle), cists

Parish: Sleat

Canmore ID: 179120

Map reference: NG 6365 0382

Assessed: No

C14: SUERC-33911, SUERC-30679, SUERC-33907, SUERC-22446 (App.F4)

Ref. Peteranna 2011b; ceramic information A. Sheridan pers. comm

Other finds.

Gibson (1982) describes sherds of all-over-cord decorated vessels being recovered from the site. These sherds, as with the pottery from Cul Na Croise (SH2), are housed in the N.M.S and University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge.

Description. During evaluation work in advance of developments an extensive cemetery site centred around a large cist (Cist 3) was uncovered. Cist 3 was encircled by a ring of interconnected pits and three standing stones. The pits likely represent the remains of a stone/ timber circle, of Late Neolithic date, which was decommissioned prior to the use of the site as a cemetery. F19 may also belong to an earlier phase of activity, comprising a small cairn with a later burial inserted into it. Outside this ring lay a further series of cists containing inhumation and cremation burials, and further pits containing cremation burials were found across the site. Cist 4 (F.7) south of Cist 1 measured 1.06 x 0.6m and contained an inhumation on a bed of cobbles.

Cist 2 (F.2) contained no material evidence of burial and could have acted as a cenotaph. A single decorated vessel was recovered from the south corner. Cist 5 appears to have been constructed in one of the stone/ timber posts, which was extended to accommodate the cist. The fill of the cist contained cremated bone and decorated pottery fragments, likely from one single vessel. Cist 6, set into a sub-oval pit contained a deposit of cremated bone. Ceramic finds associated with funerary contexts are

outlined below (*cf. Peteranna 2011b for details of other graves*). The final phase of the site appears to have involved the construction of a kerbed cairn.

Cist 1

Human remains. Cist 1 (F.1) contained cremated remains. Underlying the cremated bones was an organic deposit with unburnt bone, which could represent an earlier inhumation.

Other finds.

- 1 Food Vessel Vase, double-cavetto (SF 10)
- 2 Flint tool, possible scraper (SF3)
- 3 Polished stone (burnishing) (SF4)
- 4 Bloodstone flake (SF89)

1, from north end of cist, 2, from base deposit of cremated remains inside cist, 3, gravel over cist, 4, Basal gravel deposit of Cist 1 (?residual?)

Cist 2

Human remains. No evidence for burial, possible cenotaph

Other finds.

- 1 Food Vessel Vase, double-cavetto (SF11)
- 2 Quartz or flint flake (SF66)
- 3 Quartz flake (SF72)

1, from S end of cist, 2,3, Shallow remains of earthen mound encircling Cist 2

Cist 4 (F.7)

Human remains. *Degraded bone*

Other finds.

- 1 Food Vessel Vase, single upper-cavetto (SF50)
- 2 Worked flint (SF85)
- 3 Wrist guard (?steatite?), perforated used as pendant (SF28) (?steatite?) . 3.5cm (at longest) x 2.5cm at widest.
- 4 Bloodstone bipolar core (SF101)
- 5 Quartz flake, worked (SF23)
- 6 Quartz flake (SF34)
- 7 Slag/ coke (SF15)

1, from southeast end in lower fill, 2, 4 upper fill of cist construction cut, 3,5, from lower fill, 6, basal deposit in cist. 7, upper layer of fill overlying cist

Cist 5 (F12)

Human remains. Cremation

Other finds.

- 1 Food Vessel Vase, double-cavetto (SF 24-27, SF 29-33, SF 35-49)
- 2 Knife/ scraper (SF93)
- 3 Possible bloodstone knife (SF94)
- 4 Quartz flake (SF51)

1, from redeposited fill, 2,3 fill under cist, 4, redeposited gravel

SH5. Auchindown

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Cemetery, short cist

Parish: Cawdor

Canmore ID: 15071

Description. At least four graves were discovered in a ridge around 1878. Ever since, there has been some confusion regarding which finds should be attributed to the site. At the time of excavation, three of the cists contained gravel, sand, fragments of bone and pottery,

Map reference: NH 838 479

Assessed: No

C14: No

Ref. MacAndrew 1885; Callander

1933a: 223; Walker 1967

whilst the fourth produced a crouched inhumation, a white pebble and 'urn'. Walker in his survey of pottery from Nairnshire, Morayshire and Banffshire attributes three vessels to the site, all of which appear to be vessels of type 2. These do not appear to include the Food Vessel and cinerary urn also attributed to the site. It is unclear, too, if some of the other vessels found within the Cawdor region stem from this cemetery site (**SH13**).

Human remains.

1. Inhumation, crouched

From Cist 4, lain on left hand side facing SW

Other finds. Some finds held by *Inverness Museum & Art Gallery?*

- 1 Beaker, short-necked
- 2 Food Vessel Vase, indet. (N.M.S EE9)
- 3 Beaker, cupped-neck
- 4 Beaker, long-necked
- 5 White pebble

1,5, from Cist 4, exact position of vessel not recorded, but came from beside skeleton. Exact provenance of 2- unclear.

SH6. Balblair

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Short cists

Parish: Kilmorack

Canmore ID: 75185

Map reference: NH 5067 4448

Assessed: Yes

C14: n/a

Description. A small cist, measuring internally 0.65 x 0.45 m, was discovered around 1 km west of the river Beauly in 1990. The cist had been dug into a natural gravel ridge. The base of the cist may have been marked out by a layer of pebbles. Two ceramic vessels were recovered from the interior.

Ref: Hanley & Sheridan 1994

Human remains.

None present, but chemical analysis indicates former presence of human remains.

Other finds. Inverness 1992.0191-2

- 1 Beaker, long-necked
- 2 Beaker, short-necked

1,2 exact location in cist not known

SH7. Balblair Wood

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Cairn, cist

Parish: Kilmorack

Canmore ID: 120662

Map reference: NH 5024 4456

Assessed: No

*C14: SUERC-5811, SUERC-5812
(anomalous post 17th century AD)*

Ref: Dutton et al. 2007

Description. As at Lairg (HN), the burial cairn formed one element of a wider relict landscape, comprising hut circles, a chamber cairn and agricultural evidence.

The cist was located at the centre of a large stone cairn up to 1m high - The cist was constructed using four slabs, three of which were decorated. These slabs have likely been re-used from an older monument. The floor of the cist was laid with a series of smaller slabs.

The cist itself had likely been reopened and disturbed in the past. Within the fill of the cist came the remains of a ceramic vessel. Whilst no human remains were found, the authors suggest that the burial was likely a crouched inhumation.

Human remains.

1. Absent.

Other finds.

1. Food Vessel Vase, ?double cavetto?

1, disturbed

SH8. Beechwood Park

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Pit

Parish: Inverness & Bona

Canmore ID: 273702

Map reference: NH 687 446

Assessed: No

C14: n/a

Ref. Suddaby & Sheridan 2006

Description. During excavation in advance of development work in Inverness a pit on an E/W axis, measuring 1.25 x 09 m was uncovered. Apart from a single carinated vessel and a plano-convex knife, there were no other finds within the pit. The pit was tentatively identified as the remains of a burial despite the absence of skeletal remains.

Other finds.

- 1 Beaker, s-profile
- 2 Plano-convex knife 38 × 23 × 7mm

1, from eastern end of pit, 2, found at base of pit

SH9. Blackstand

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Mound (nat.) short cist

Parish: Cromarty

Canmore ID: 14539

Map reference: NH 7145 6070

Assessed: Yes

C14: n/a

Ref. Stevenson 1951

Description. During the digging of trenches in the Second World War, a short cist was discovered, set into a natural mound. Within the cists were the remains of single individual and a Beaker.

Human remains. (Lost)

Other finds. N.M.S

1. Beaker, s-profile (EG70)

SH10. Bruachaig, Kinlochewe

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Short cist

Parish: Gairloch

Canmore ID: 12086

Map reference: NH 0400 6219

Assessed: Yes

C14: n/a

*Ref. Dixon 1886, Henshall & Walker
1968, Forrest 2007*

Description. Discovered in 1898, the circumstances of the discovery of the cist are unclear, but the cist may have formed part of a larger cemetery, as references were made in the late 19th century to other burials found in the area

Other finds. (N.M.S)

1. Beaker, s-profile (L.1963: 29)

SH11. Cadha Riach, Garrafad

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Chamber cairn

Parish: Kilmuir

Canmore ID: 11342

Map reference: NG 4955 6757

Assessed: Yes

C14: n/a

*Ref: Close-Brooks & Ritchie, J.N.G.
1980*

Description. A chamber cairn was dug in 1970, with a roughly square chamber. Cremated bone was found in association with various pottery sherds, though exact stratigraphy and association unclear. Pottery interpreted as 'Beaker' (CANMORE)

Other finds. (N.M.S. EQ793-4)

1. Thick body sherd with incised decoration
2. Similar to above

SH12. Carriblair

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Stone circle, short cist

Parish: Edderton

Canmore ID: 14642

Description. Short cist set into the middle of a stone circle of which five stones remain. The circle has a diameter of around 12m, with an outer ditch encircling the stones. The

Map reference: NH 7090 8511

Assessed: Yes

C14: n/a

Ref. Joass 1870

cist was found in the eastern half towards the centre of the stone circle.

Human remains.

1. ?Cremation?

Other finds. (In N.M.S)

1. Food Vessel Vase, single upper-cavetto (?squat?) (EP27)

SH13. Cawdor Estates

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: ?cemetery??Short cist?,

Parish: Cawdor

Canmore ID: 15063

Map reference: NH 84 49

Assessed: Yes

C14: n/a

Ref. Walker 1964; Walker & Henshall 1968

Description. At least nine Beakers have been recovered from the Cawdor. The find spots of the following vessels are uncertain, though it would seem to be the case that some (if not all) of these came from burials, two of these were claimed to have derived from the same cist, though little additional information is available, and it is unclear how these relate to those described by Henshall and Walker. It has been suggested that some of the vessels could derive from the cemetery site at Auchindown (SH5).

Other finds. (Three in N.M.S, *below*, others in Nairn museum)

1. Beaker, s-profile. Only the upper portion of the vessel remains (EG99)
2. Beaker, long-necked (EG100)
3. Beaker, probable long-necked (EG101)

SH14. Cnocan Na Gobhar, Kilmarie

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Long cairn, short cist

Parish: Strath

Description. Recovered from a cist measuring 5.3m² the vessel was accompanied by burnt bone, implying a

Canmore ID: 11434
Map reference: NG 5526 1734
Assessed: Yes
C14: n/a

Ref. Callander 1928

possible cremation burial. The cist was set into a large, possibly chambered, round cairn.

Human remains.

?Cremation?

Other finds. N.M.S

1. Beaker, cupped-necked (EG60)

Both the bones and vessel reputed to have been found in southwest corner of the cist.

SH15. Coille Grulla A/B

Site Type: Funerary
Parent Context: Chambered cairn, short cist
Parish: Bracadale
Canmore ID: 11041
Map reference: NG 3779 2394
Assessed: Yes
C14: n/a

Ref. Scott, W 1929

Description. In 1929, the small chamber cairn on the plateau on the slope of Coille Grulla was excavated. The central chamber was found to be pentagonal in shape, formed of six vertical slabs with a floor composed of small, neatly fitted slabs of irregular shape (Scott, W. 1929: 166). As noted by RCAHMS, the structure is likely a cairn with a cist rather than a chambered cairn as originally suggested by Scott.

Other finds. N.M.S.

- 1 Beaker, long-necked
- 2 Beaker, cupped necked

SH16. Corran Ferry

Site Type: Funerary
Parent Context: Short cist
Parish: Kilmallie
Canmore ID: 23580

Description. Discovered in a gravel bank in 1889, this cist is one of several in the local area. The cist is aligned roughly NE/SW. An unusual aspect of the cist was its roof-like structure with the covering slabs set at an incline.

Map reference: NN 0209 6338

Assessed: No

C14: n/a

Ref. Campbell, D. 1890; Mitchell

1934: 183; Ritchie, J.N.G. 1970

No remains were found within, though a flint strike-a-light and ceramic vessel were found. In 1970, a second cist was noted, but no finds are recorded.

Human remains.

1. Absent

Other finds. Ardgour House (Clarke, D.L. 1970)

1. Beaker, s-profile
2. Flint strike-a-light

SH17. Culduthel Farm (Phase 7&8)

Site Type: Domestic

Parent Context: Occupation deposits

Parish: Inverness & Bona

Canmore ID: n/a

Map reference: NH 6663 4164

Assessed: No

*C14: Several dates are available, with a group of dates relating to the paleo channel and occupation spreads. See **App. F4***

Ref. Murray, R. 2008, ceramic information A. Sheridan pers. comm

Description. Located on the southern outskirts of Inverness, the site is situated on a northeast to southwest terrace. Evaluation work undertaken by Headland Archaeology, on behalf of Tulloch Homes Ltd., in advance of a housing development in 2007, revealed a range of features ranging from the Neolithic, to Post Medieval and later Industrial remains. This work followed several earlier investigations which had revealed a panoply of Prehistoric activity. From the Phase 7 and 8 contexts a large prehistoric pottery assemblage was excavated from several of these groups, including late 4th and early 3rd millennium pottery.

From a small pit (181), the fill of the paleochannel (693) and the spreads (571) and 652 these features a range of later 3rd millennium pottery included several low-carinated and later Beaker types.

SH18. Culduthel Mains Cist 2

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Short cist

Parish: Inverness & Bona

Canmore ID: 13519

Map reference: NH 6662 4224

Assessed: Yes

C14: SUERC-26462 (App F4)

Ref. Clarke, D.V. et al. 1985

Description. Cist burial uncovered in 1975 during the construction of the new Inverness Royal Academy. Within the cist were the remains of a single individual and a panoply of grave goods including a ceramic vessel and various stone items including a bracer with gold rivet caps.

Human remains.

1. Inhumation. Adult male

Other finds. N.M.S

1. Beaker, long-necked (EQ843)
2. Bone belt ring. Originally with flanges at each end, with a pair of central ribs, spanned by two or more loops of which only one survives intact. Around the exterior of surviving flange and in the concave zones between ribs row of decorative dots c. 5mm apart. Max dia. 29.5 mm (EQ845)
3. Wrist guard (Langdale), 117.5x37.2x5.5mm . Four perforations with copper rivets and gold caps. Raw material from Langdale outcrops. (Woodward Hunter VI) (EQ844)
4. Eight barbed and tanged arrowheads (EQ848-855)
5. Flint strike a light (EQ847)
6. Amber bead (EQ846)

SH19.Dalmore, Alness

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Cemetery

Parish: Rosskeen

Canmore ID: 13620

Description. The cemetery site at Dalmore, Alness was excavated in 1878 during construction of the branch railway from Alness station to Dalmore distillery. The site is divided into two halves: the first part (above the distillery) appeared to have been defined by a stone wall

Map reference: NH 6660 6878
Assessed: Yes (Beaker finds associated with site were examined)
C14: n/a

Ref. Jolly 1879

which enclosed 10 burials. Among these was one burial in a pit. The pit contained a cremation associated with a decorated, tall high-shouldered Food Vessel. Amongst the second group of burials at Dalmore was a further “*cist of small stones*” with a ‘rough urn’ and cremation. Dating of the Dalmore groups is difficult, and the absence of much of the pottery makes typo-chronological dating difficult.

Group 1.

Cist 1

Formed from several large flat stones, measuring 0.76 x 0.50.

Human remains.

- 1 Inhumation, crouched. Age and sex not stated

Orinetated E/W, with the skull at the west end.

Other finds.

- 1 Flint knife (plano-convex)
- 2 Fifty beads (shale/ lignite? – albertite)
- 3 Stone bracer

1, found at east end of the cist, 2,3, from under the bones

Cist 2

East of Cist 1, formed of large slabs orientated N/S.

Human remains.

- 1 ‘Burnt, broken bones’

The bone comprised a thick layer 2 inches thick, and lay atop “*leaves*”

Other finds.

- 1 Tanged blade

Cist 7

Human remains. None stated

Other finds.

- 1 Fragment of bronze

Cist 8

Stone-lined pit with a flat covering stone. Within the pit lay an inverted vessel on a flat stone of micaceous schist.

Human remains.

- 1 Calcined bones

1, from within the 'urn'

Other finds.

- 1 Food Vessel Vase, high-shouldered
- 2 Bone cylinder ?belt slider? Hollow bone cylinder, with three equal-curved grooves running around it at equal distances. Two circular perforated holes in the middle.

3, from within 2

Cist 10

?Stone-lined pit? Containing two upturned ceramic vessels and burnt bones

Human remains.

1. Cremation.

From within *I* the larger of the two vessels.

Other finds.

- 1 Food Vessel Vase (?EE47?, Aber. 390)
- 2 Food Vessel Vase (?EE46?, Aber. 391)

These are listed in the N.M.S. catalogue for 1892, but their location could not be verified (N.M.S> 1892: 173)

Group 2

Cist 1

Formed of sandstone slabs, measuring 1.06 x 0.51m and orientated east-west.

Human remains.

- 1 Inhumation, crouched. Female middle-aged adult

I, lay on side looking towards east

Other finds. (Inverness Museum)

1. Ceramic vessel

I, found in front of the skull, inverted.

Cist 2

Large well-formed cist made from four sandstone slabs. Measuring 1.27 x 0.7.

Human remains.

Inhumation, crouched. Male middle adult

I, laying on side facing east.

Other finds. (Inverness Museum)

1. Ceramic vessel

1, found inverted behind head

Cist 3

Human remains.

- 1 Inhumation

Other finds.

- 1 'Grinding stone' (?used in cist construction?)

Cist 4

Stone-lined pit akin to Cist 8, Group 1.

Human remains.

1. Cremation

Other finds.

1. 'Rough urn' probable Food Vessel form (based on analogy with other finds).

Two Beakers are also associated with the site but there is some confusion about their provenance:

- 1 ?Beaker, short-necked?
- 2 ?Beaker, weak s-profile? (1955.005)

SH20. Dalmore Farm

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Pits, ?cemetery?

Parish: Rosskeen

Description. As part of large-scale commercial work three trenches were opened in 2005. Trench 35 in Field C contained a disturbed area containing possible pits and

Canmore ID: 293468
Map reference: NH 66106 68937
Assessed: No
C14: n/a

Ref. Ballin Smith unpub.; Wood 2011

fragments of black pottery, probably remains of Collared Urns (see below)

Other finds.

The pottery from Trench 35 in Field C comprised 151 sherds. However, none of these were recovered from secure contexts, owing to natural disturbance. There was a high proportion of rims, suggesting that vessels had been placed upside down into pits. Based on decoration, these could include a suite of Impressed Ware sherds. One vessel is decorated with fingernail and piercing, an isolated sherd with stab and drag. A single sherd of a Beaker and Cordoned Urn were also recorded.

SH21. Drumashie

Site Type: Funerary
Parent Context: Short cist
Parish: Dores
Canmore ID: 13175
Map reference: NH 6352 3783
Assessed: Yes
C14: n/a

Ref. Unpub notes, Inverness Museum;
Small 1962

Description. Levelling work in a field at Drumashie in 1962 exposed the remains of a cist. The cist contained a crouched inhumation along with two small worked flints and a piece of wood or peat under the head (*ibid.*). In the unpublished material it is noted that there was a question as to whether this could have instead been cloth.

Human remains.

- 1 Inhumation, crouched

Other finds. Inverness Museum

- 1 Beaker, cupped-necked
- 2 Two flint scrapers

1, found below chin said to have been in a shallow pit, 2, north of 1

SH22. Drumnadrochit

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Cist

Parish: Nairn

Canmore ID: n/a

Map reference: NH 50879 29173

Assessed: No

C14: n/a

Ref; Peteranna 2015

Description. During construction work on a new medical centre a cist containing an inhumation, as well as a pit containing a ceramic vessel and stone wrist guard were uncovered. It was unclear if the features had originally been covered by a mound or cairn. The inhumation in the cist was crouched and the cist sealed by at least two flagstones. The cist itself was aligned NNE-SSW, 0.76x0.55m.

The elongated pit 2m x0.8m NE-SW the upper fill contained a charcoal-rich area around *in situ* base sherds of a pot from the centre of the pit. The pot appeared to have been crushed. From the same area of the pit a stone wrist guard (broken during excavation) was recovered.

It is suggested by the excavators that the pit and cist are contemporaneous and possibly associated with each other.

Human remains.

1. Crouched inhumation (adult or adolescent)

Other finds

1. Beaker
2. Stone wrist guard

SH23. Easter Delnies

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: ?short cist?

Parish: Nairn

Canmore ID: 15111

Map reference: NH 855 562

Assessed: No

C14: n/a

Ref. Walker 1964

Description. There is little information regarding the circumstance of discovery of the finds from the cist at Easter Delnies.

Other finds. (In Nairn Museum)

- 1 Beaker, cupped-necked

SH24. Easter Moy

Site Type: Funerary

*Parent Context: ?Chambered cairn?,
cist*

Parish: Urray

Canmore ID: 12483

Map reference: NH 49 54

Assessed: No

C14: n/a

Ref. McKenzie 1908

Description. Discovered in 1907, set into the remains of a badly robbed out mound that could represent the remains of a chambered cairn. During further extraction of material for the construction of a road, a cist measuring roughly 0.45 m² was uncovered. From within, fragments of charcoal and some flint were recovered. The cist may have been used for cremation, given its size and absence of human remains.

Other finds.

1. Four small flints
2. Food Vessel Vase, ?double-cavetto?

2, from the west end of the cist

SH25. Easter Raitts

Site Type: Domestic

Parent Context: ?structures?

Description. Excavation of a built platform on the western edge of the old township of Easter Raitts revealed an

Parish: Rosskeen
Canmore ID: 115699
Map reference: NH 7770 0230
Assessed: No
C14: n/a

Ref: Lelong 1999, 2000, Ballin Smith
2004

assemblage of prehistoric pottery. The pottery was not found *in situ*, but could relate to the earliest ground surface, sealed by later prehistoric activity and an 18th century bank. Post holes and a stone-lined pit containing possible early Neolithic pottery were recorded from the pit. Among the probable early Bronze Age finds were a flint bladelet along with several sherds of pottery.

SH26. Elishader, Croft No 7

Site Type: Domestic
Parent Context: Mound
Parish: Kilmuir
Canmore ID: 11345
Map reference: NG 4969 6554
Assessed: No
C14: n/a

Ref. Close-Brooks & Ritchie, J.N.G.
1980

Description. The precise nature of the site is unclear, but multiple sherds of Beakers have been recovered.

Other finds.

Along with finds of barbed and tanged arrowheads came a series of cord impressed sherds representing the remains of several vessels. (not illustrated, fig numbers refer to Close-Brooks & Ritchie, J.N.G. 1980). Vessels include:

- 1 Six sherds, possibly same vessel. Two rim sherds, with slight cordon below. Carinated body sherd, three further body sherds. Sherds decorated with twisted cord impressions (Fig 11. 1-3)
- 2 Two rim sherds decorated with horizontal incisions (Fig 11.4-5)
- 3 Two rim sherds (R4) decorated with incised lines bordered by zig-zag (Fig 11 6-7)
- 4 Body sherds decorated with incision, including filled triangles, and zig-zag patterns (Fig 11 8-10)
- 5 Base sherd with series of horizontal incisions and set of criss-cross incision below (Fig 11 11)
- 6 Sherd with incised lattice (Fig 11 12)

SH27. Findon Mains

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Mound (nat.), short cist,

Parish: Urquhart & Logie Wester

Canmore ID: 13697

Map reference: NH 6112 6165

Assessed: Yes

C14: n/a

Ref. Galbraith 1937

Description. An intact ceramic vessel and the base of a further vessel were recovered from a cist aligned N/S found in small natural mound during ploughing in 1936. No human remains are recorded from the site.

Other finds.

- 1 Beaker, weak s-profile (EG69)
- 1 Base of further vessel, ? Beaker? (EG70) *not illustrated. Slightly coarse with inclusions visible to the naked eye. Base is slightly domed.*

SH28. Fodderty Farm

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Short cist

Parish: Fodderty

Canmore ID: 12805

Map reference: NH 511 596

Assessed: Yes

C14: OxA-V-2172-26 (App F4)

Ref. Gourlay & Harden 1985

Description. Discovered in 1980 during ploughing, the short cist measured 1.1m by 0.7m. Within the cist were the remains of a crouched inhumation, with the head lying in the northwest corner. Along with the ceramic vessel were several flint flakes.

Human remains.

- 1 Inhumation, crouched. Adult, indet. sex

Other finds. *Inverness Museum INVMG 980.11.8*

1. Beaker, s-profile
2. Six flint flakes

3,4, from the SE corner of the cist, location of 3, unknown

SH29. Fyrish, Kiltearn

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Short cist

Parish: Alness

Canmore ID: 13681

Map reference: NH 6182 6899

Assessed: Yes

C14: OxA-13213 (App. F4)

Ref. PSAS 1968

Description. In 1865 two cists at were excavated. One of the cists was empty, the other contained an inhumation and accompanying grave goods.

Human remains.

1 ?Inhumation?

Other finds. (In N.M.S)

- 1 Beaker, short-necked (EQ 131)
- 2 Wrist guard (Langdale) 114x29x5.2mm. Four perforations. Group VI (like Culduthel mains Cist 2 example). (EQ133)

Exact position of finds is not recorded.

SH30. Glebe Edderton

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Cairn/ barrow, d-shaped structure, stone cists

Parish: Edderton

Canmore ID: 14739

Map reference: NH 7133 8450

Assessed: no

C14: n/a

Ref. Joass 1870

Description. A mound containing six cists was excavated in 1866. The mound appears to have been built over Cist 2 and gradually extended. Cist 2 appears to be enclosed within a d-shaped enclosure formed from a double circle of boulders. From within the cists various finds were made including a sinuous profiled vessel from cist no 3. The burials within appear to represent a mix of inhumation and cremation.

Cist 1

Other finds.

Flint flake

Cist 2

Human remains.

- 1 ?Cremation?

Other finds.

- 1 'Fragments of baked clay' not illustrated

Cist 3.

Human remains.

- 1 ?inhumation?, 'Aged person'

Other finds.

- 1 Beaker, s-profile

Cist 4

Other finds.

- 1 Flint arrowhead

Cist 5

Human remains.

- ?Cremation?

Other finds.

- 1 Numerous fragments of baked clay (*not illustrated*)
- 2 Sharpened semi-circular disc of flint

Cist 6

Human remains.

- ?Cremation?

SH31. Holm Mains Farm

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Short cists, linear features, pits

Parish: Inverness & Bona

Canmore ID: 268936

Map reference: NH 656 414

Assessed: Yes

*C14: OxA-V-2166-41, OxA-V-2166-42
(App. F4)*

Ref. Brown 2003; H.A. 2007

Description. During work in advance of a housing development in 2003 two cists were discovered. Cist 1 measuring 1.25 x 0.75 m contained the remains of a crouched inhumation. Associated with the body were a ceramic vessel, two barbed and tanged arrowheads, one by the left hand and the other under the body in the gravel. In the south west corner of the cist ten stone tools had been deposited, and by the left knee was a goat or sheep bone. The cists itself may have been designed to be accessible, the floor had a layer of pebbles. Nearby Cist 1 were two linear features and a further two pits, though the exact relation to Cist 1 is unknown.

The second cist, located 80m west of Cist 1, was badly damaged but was broadly comparable in size to Cist 1, measuring 1.6x 1.1 m. Along with the remains of a further inhumation came sherds of a further vessel.

Human remains.

- 1 Inhumation, crouched. Mid adult, male
- 2 Inhumation, crouched. Young adult, male

1 from Cist 1 associated with OxA-V-2166-41, 2 from Cist 2 associated with OxA-V-2166-42

Other finds.

- 1 Beaker, s-profile
- 2 4 Irregular flint flakes
- 3 Rough out or thumbnail scraper
- 4 Crude bifacial knife
- 5 Backed knife
- 6 Flake

- 7 End scraper
- 8 2 Barbed and tanged arrowheads
- 9 Fragment of probable Beaker

The vessel in Cist 1 was found in a fragmentary condition behind the head. 2-8, found together in southwest corner of cist. Smaller of 9, found NE corner near skull, other below centre of body. 10 from SW corner of Cist 2.

SH32. Inchnacaorach

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Short cist

Parish: Cawdor

Canmore ID: 15020

Map reference: NH 852 494

Assessed: No

C14: n/a

Ref. P.S.A.L. 1861

Description. Discovered during ploughing of a field in 1862, the cist is aligned e/w and contained the remains of a crouched inhumation, a ceramic vessel and three bone implements.

Human remains.

- 1 Inhumation, crouched. Adult, male

Other finds.

- 1. Beaker, short-necked
- 2. Two awls
- 3. Bone chisel

1, from west side of head, possibly behind the head. 2, 3, from ?on the body?

SH33. Kilcoy, Carn Glas

Site Type: Chambered Cairn

Parent Context: Chambered cairn

Parish: Killearnan

Canmore ID: 12837

Map reference: NH 5784 5206

Assessed: Yes

C14: n/a

Ref. Woodham 1956

Description. Badly robbed out chamber cairn. At the time of excavation little remained of the chamber and the passage. Within the remains Neolithic and Beaker pottery were recovered, implying two successive periods of use.

Other finds. Among the pottery finds are several sherds from a Beaker and an early ceramic type. Other finds include flints.

SH34. Kilcoy South

Site Type: Chambered Cairn

Parent Context: Chambered Cairn

Parish: Killearnan

Canmore ID: 12834

Map reference: NH 5701 5160

Assessed: Yes

C14: No

Ref: Henshall & Ritchie, J.N.G. 2001

Description. The chamber was initially dug from 1956-1958 by A.A. and M.F Woodham and re-excavated in 1997. The chamber comprises a long passage, a main chamber, with an antechamber to the rear of this. The use of the chambered cairn can be divided into four phases. The first involves the use of the structure for burial, though little evidence for this survives. This phase was followed by the blocking of access to the main chamber and probably the entrance to the inner compartment. Elements of the roof over the main chamber and inner compartments may have also been removed. Following this the exposed areas filled up with a layer of windblown sand. The rest of the roof was removed after an interval and subsequently infilled with a stony layer. Within this layer came sherds of short necked and low carinated vessels perhaps representing two separate phases of dumping, the short-necked vessel relating to the final phase of the site.

Human remains. see Henshall & Ritchie, J.N.G. 2001

Other finds. From within the chamber came the remains of at least nine vessels, eight of which are stylistically datable to the late 3rd millennium.

See Pottery Catalogue for details of Beaker vessels found within the chamber.

SH35. Kiltaraglen

Site Type: Domestic

Parent Context: Pits

Parish:

Canmore ID: 296093

Map reference: NG 476 444

Assessed: No

C14: GU-17468, GU-17469, GU-17926, GU-17927 (dates relate to "Beaker pits", other dates available for other features) (App. F4)

Ref. Suddaby 2013

In advance of a housing development an extensive programme of fieldwork was undertaken from 2006-2007 at Kiltaraglen, Isles of Skye. During the course of excavation, a range of features were identified including, timber roundhouses, a post alignment and settings, a circular ditch enclosure, miniature souterrains, probable standing stone sockets and an assortment of pits. From the pits came an assemblage of pottery, described as being Beaker, due to the presence of Beaker decorative styles. Two pit features, F134 and F168, and a deposit of human bone were AMS dated to the early Bronze Age. The function of F134 was unclear, but a non-domestic function seems probable. The function of the site during this period remains unclear, but occupation dating to the Late Bronze Age is recognised. Similarly, with Pit F168 interpretations include a possible disturbed cremation burial.

Other finds. Cf. Suddaby 2007 for finds list

SH36. Kinbeachie Farm

Site Type: Funerary

Description. Situated in the agricultural rich lowlands of Ross and Cromarty, the site located on the North side of

*Parent Context: Structure (Neolithic),
Pits -probable burial
Parish: Resolis
Canmore ID: 132693
Map reference: NH 6285 6210
Assessed: No
C14: Yes – but relating to 4th
Millennium activity*

Ref. Wordsworth 1997

SH37. Lochend

*Site Type: Funerary
Parent Context: Short cist, mound
(nat.)
Parish: Inverness & Bona
Canmore ID: 12578
Map reference: NH 5965 3785
Assessed: Yes
C14: OxA-V-2172-27 (**App. F4**)*

Ref. Childe 1944

the Black Isle demonstrates evidence for occupation 3500 – 2900 cal BC, in the form of rectangular structure defined by a series of pits (Barclay et al 2001). During excavations at the site in 1996 sherds of a vessel of a Beaker were recovered from a disturbed pit (Wordsworth 1997?). The function of the pit is unclear owing to disturbance, though a funerary function is suggested.

Description. Excavated in 1941 the cist is located on the Dochfour Estate at Lochend, near Inverness. The cist was set into a natural gravel knoll. Inside the cist were the remains of a young male adult was lying on its left-hand side facing south. Beneath the skeleton small fragments of charcoal and a burnt substance were found, whether this represents the remains of a cremation is unclear. In association with the burial was a single vessel. The cist was aligned NNE-SSW.

Human remains.

1. ?Cremation?
2. Inhumation, crouched. Young adult, male

Other finds.

- 1 Beaker, cupped-necked
I, from behind head

SH38. Mains Of Balnagowan

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Short cist

Parish: Ardersier

Canmore ID: 15212

Map reference: NH 8109 5465

Assessed: No

C14: SUERC-16321 (GU-15917)

(App. F4)

Ref. Shepherd et al. 1985

Description. Discovered during ploughing in 1976, the cist measuring 1m x c.0.6m was set into a sub oval pit in a natural sandy ridge. The floor of the cist was carefully lain with river gravel, with a preference for pebbles of certain colours. Within the cist lay the remains of a crouched inhumation, with a ceramic vessel and a flint knife.

Human remains.

1 Inhumation, crouched ?Adult male?

Remains orientated WSE-ENE and facing SSE

Other finds.

1. Beaker, s-profile
2. Flint knife

2, was recovered from the NE corner of the cist, roughly behind the pelvis (attached to belt?). 1, from behind head.

SH39. Mains of Kilcoy

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Stone cairn (not kerbed), short cist

Parish: Killearnan

Canmore ID: 12840

Map reference: NH 5776 5186

Assessed: No

C14: n/a

Ref. North 1909

Description. A substantial cist, measuring roughly 0.9 x 2.13 m was discovered within a large cairn measuring c. 24m in diameter. The cist was orientated E/W.

From within the cist some fragments of bone were recovered, along with charcoal and wood and a single ceramic vessel.

Human remains.

1 ?Cremation?

Animal remains.

1 ?ox tooth?

Other finds. (Bowes Museum)

1 Food Vessel Vase, ribbed (1118.7)

1, from SW corner of the cist

SH40. Ness Gap, Fortrose

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Cemetery

Parish: Rosemarkie

Canmore ID: n/a

Map reference: NOH 7329 5651

Assessed: no

C14: n/a

Ref. Marshall, N. 2011

Description. In advance of a large house development at Fortrose a series of excavations were undertaken, exposing an array of prehistoric remains. In Field 2 Trench 34, a stone-lined pit pentagonal in shape was discovered to the sw of [019], whilst lacking its capstone, contained an inverted vessel. Within trench 34 came further activity in the form of a further stone-lined pit [019], constructed out of rounded stones, sealed with a capstone, and a patch of burnt bone and pot sherds representing the badly truncated remains of a cremation burial. The vessel rested on a bed of pebbles in a shallow cut. Beads with the burial. Within Trench 24 in the same field the remains of a badly truncated cremation burial with a vessel.

Stone cist (Trench 34)

Human remains.

Absent

Other finds.

1. Food Vessel Vase, double-cavetto

Cremation burial (Trench 42)

Human remains.

Cremation

Other finds.

1. Cordoned Urn

SH41. New Broadford Medical Centre

Parent Context: Short cist

Parish: Strath

Canmore ID: 333241

Map reference: NG 64133 23915

Assessed: No

C14: see App. F4

Ref. Birch 2012

Description. During a watching brief in 2011 at the site of a proposed new medical centre a panoply of prehistoric features was uncovered. Features on the site included a possible cairn, grain pits and grain drying kiln, souterrain and a stone-built cist. Several fragments of a vessel decorated with all over cord were recovered from the upper fills of the cist (SF015), whilst below this thin spit, the crushed remains of a further vessel were recovered. Other finds included a piece of pumice, but no human remains were found, although there was evidence for decayed organic matter

Other finds.

1. Beaker, weak s-profile
2. Further sherds belonging to a second cord impressed vessel

SH42. Old Manse, Rosemarkie

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Short cist

Parish: Rosemarkie

Canmore ID: 14380

Map reference: NH 7343 5732

Assessed: Yes

C14: n/a

Description. A short cist, of relatively small size, measuring 0.9 x 0.6m, was discovered during the excavation of drainage ditch in 1903. Within the cist were the remains of an inhumation, and a ceramic vessel.

Human remains.

- 1 Inhumation

Ref. PSAS 1904

Other finds. N.M.S

1 Food Vessel Vase, double-cavetto (EE92)

1, in the south end of the cist

SH43. Poolewe

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Short cist

Parish: Gairloch

Canmore ID: 11938

Map reference: NG 8600 7973

Assessed: No

C14: n/a

Description. Found in a short cist during road construction in 1938. No human remains were discovered within the cist, though a single ceramic vessel was recovered.

Other finds. (Gairloch Museum)

1 Beaker, cupped-necked

Ref. Henshall & Longworth 1966

SH44. Raigmore

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Clava Cairn,

Cemetery, Pits

Parish: Inverness & Bona

Canmore ID: 13414

Map reference: NH 6878 4549

Assessed: Yes

C14: Phase I: SRR-421, SRR-187,

SRR-424, SRR-432 Phase II: SRR-429,

SRR-425, SRR-428 Phase III: SRR-430

Late features: SRR-422, SRR-420

(App. F4)

Description. Excavated in 1972-73, the site revealed a panoply of features related to funerary activity, though several of the pits containing decorated early 3rd millennium pottery, could have had a domestic function. Four burials were identified, each with a different ceramic accompaniment. These burial activities commenced in the sites second, which continued to see some deposition of Grooved Ware.

Phase II saw the construction of a large Clava style cairn. During phase III further, burial activity took place in the form of a cist burial s (I-IV), with a single ceramic vessel in Cist I. Cist I, II, IV comprised a boulder constructed pit.

Ref. Simpson 1996

During the same phase in which the former was deposited, a pit was dug through the platform cairn during this phase, with a cremation with a Cordoned Urn placed over it. The vessel was associated with a bone toggle.

Human remains. Various cremations (see Simpson 1996)

Other finds. (In Inverness Museum)

1. 35 Grooved Ware vessels, decorated in various styles
2. Food Vessel Vase, simple (P53)
3. Cordoned Urn (P54)
4. Bone toggle

1, mainly from Pits 41, 49 and 50, other sherds from under the cairn surface. 2, Cist 1, 3,4

SH45. Rosemarkie

Site Type: Domestic

Parent Context: ?structures?

Parish: Rosemarkie

Canmore ID: n/a

Map reference: NH 73121 57093

Assessed: No

C14: No

Ref. Fraser 2014

Description. Various finds made during excavation at Rosemarkie. Finds include various pits and spreads. Pottery from the site includes Early Neolithic forms, later Grooved Ware alongside examples of probable domestic Beakers and Food Vessels

SH46. Rosskeen E. Context 23

Site Type: Domestic

Parent Context: ?structures?

Parish: Rosskeen

Canmore ID: 85353

Description. Various finds made during work on gas pipeline. At the base of the slope towards the house of Rosskeen and just above the low terrace running east from the Rosskeen burn were the remains of a probable structure sealed by a series of silts (23/1- 23/3), 23/5)

Map reference: NH 6962 6952

Assessed: No

C14: n/a

containing charcoal. The structure comprised a series of pit and gully features defining an area c.8 in diameter. Structure had a possible hearth.

Ref. Wordsworth 1993a, 1993b, 1993c

Other features uncovered as part of the pipeline work include a series of pits (18)

Other finds.

Assemblage of c.28 sherds. These could have come from across the area under excavation. Finds from the gully include comb impressed sherds of probable post 2500 BC date.

SH47. Rudh' An Dunain

Site Type: ?Domestic?

Parent Context: Cave

Parish: Bracadale

Canmore ID: 11025

Map reference: NG 3995 1625

Assessed: No

C14: n/a

Ref. Scott, W. 1934

Description. Quantities of stone working material and ceramics were recovered from the lowest of the occupation levels by Scott in the 1930's. The large quantities of stone working refuse led Scott to suggest the cave had been used as a "stone-knappers workshop" with smelting occurring in the Iron Age. Apart from this there was little evidence for permanent occupation of the cave. The pottery from the site comprised sinuous and shouldered sherds, suggesting a range of forms at the site.

Other finds.

Quantities of pottery (*cf.* Gibson, A. 1982) and stone working debris (not illustrated)

SH48. Seafield West

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Cemetery, short cist, plank coffin, pit

Description. Excavations undertaken in 1996 in advance of a major housing development revealed a series of features relating to an extensive cemetery. These features

Parish: Inverness & Bona
Canmore ID: 13393
Map reference: NH 6946 4582
Assessed:
C14: GrA-27037, GrA-27039 (App.
F4)

Ref. Cressey & Sheridan 2003

were enclosed by a ring ditch. Inside the ring ditch were two graves with wooden coffins, adjacent to each other. The coffins had both likely contained crouched inhumations. The plank-built coffin was only visible as a dark stain, in a d-shaped cut measuring 2.8 x 1.6m. The plank built grave would likely have been orientated E/W. Within the coffin were a single ceramic vessel and four flints were found. Also present was some residual Mesolithic material.

Nearby lay a further grave defined by a series of large sub-rounded boulders. The proximity of the two graves made it difficult to ascertain when they had been dug in relation to each other, or indeed if they were contemporaneous. As in the case of the plank-built coffin grave, the presence of the log coffin was only noticeable as a dark stain. As before the coffin appeared to have been aligned E/W. The degraded remains of a body in a crouched position were recovered, along with the remains of a dagger.

Within the Southern half of the ring ditch lay the remains of a cist aligned WNW/ ESE. The floor of the cist consisted of a discontinuous layer of beach cobbles. Traces of charcoal and cremated bones were recovered, although there were no other finds. Two metres S of the wooden coffin graves lie a relatively well-preserved cremation pit. Similar burial pits were noted outside of the ring ditch area. Mixed into the remains were three barbed and tanged arrowheads and a dog or fox skull. Nine metres east of the ring ditch on a NW/ Se alignment was a stone-built cist. Within the cist was a complete vessel on its side at southern edge of the cist. No human remains were found in association.

The only other vessel from the site were the fragments of a decorated vessel and possible 'accessory vessel' from Pit 7. The sherds were decorated and likely stem from a bucket shaped vessel.

Plank coffin (231).

Human remains.

- 1 None present, though phosphate analysis strongly suggests the presence of human remains or other rich organic materials.

Other finds.

- 1 Food Vessel bowl, grooved/ waisted (SF17)
- 2 Flint artefact (SF13, lost)
- 3 Large edge retouched knife (SF14)
- 4 Large convex scraper (SF15)
- 5 Tertiary flake (SF16)

Log coffin (232).

Human remains.

- 1 Fragments, badly degraded

Other finds.

- 1 Bronze dagger with scabbard (SF18)
- 2 Flint flakes, residual (SF19-20)

I, found to the northern edge of the log coffin behind presumed position of deceased waist. *I*, is dated by GrA-27037, GrA-27039.

Pit (047)

Human remains.

- 1 Cremation, Adult ?Female?

Animal remains.

- 1 Mandible, ?dog or fox?

Other finds.

- 1 Three burnt barbed and tanged arrowheads (SF24-26)
- 2 Residual flint (SF27-29)

Short cist 2

Human remains. Absent

Other finds.

1. Beaker, long-necked

Pit 1

Human remains.

- 1 Cremation, Adult, female

Pit 2

Human remains.

- 1 Cremation, Adult

Other finds.

- 1 Fragments of antler pin (SF35)

Pit 3

Human remains.

- 1 Cremation, adult

Other finds.

- 1 Bone toggle (SF37)
- 2 Burnt animal bone

Pit 4

Human remains.

- 1 Cremation, adult

Animal remains.

- 1 Burnt/ unburnt animal bone.

Pit 5

Human remains.

- 1 Sub-adult

Pit 6

Human remains.

- 1 Sub-adult

Pit 7.

Human remains.

Cremation, adult

Other finds. Not illustrated

2. Base of a coarse vessel (SF45)
3. Sherds from a smaller vessel (SF45)

Pit 8

Human remains.

- 1 Sub-adult

Pit 9

Human remains.

- 2 Sub-adult

SH49. South Clunes

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Short cist

Parish: Kilarlity and Convinth

Canmore ID: 12711

Description. Discovered in 1933, the cist contained the remains of a middle adult male positioned at the NE end of the cist, which was aligned NE/SW. The cist was set into a natural gravel bank.

Map reference: NH5560 4151

Assessed: Yes

C14: n/a

Ref. Low 1934

SH50. The Aonach, Drummond

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Mound (nat.), short cists

Parish: Kiltearn

Canmore ID: 12885

Map reference: NH 591 652

Assessed: Yes

C14: n/a

Ref. Watson 1889

Human remains.

1 Inhumation, crouched, Middle adult, male

Other finds.

1. Beaker, short-necked

I, found at the N/W side by the pelvis.

Description. In 1858 two irregular shaped cists were discovered near the summit of a gravel mound, known locally as the Aonach (Watson 1889: 138). The first cist was disturbed prior to recording but appears to have contained a crouched inhumation, in a similar position to that from the second cist. The second cist was located 24 yards from the first.

Cist 1

Human remains.

Inhumation

I, placed on right hand side, with head in SE corner facing east.

Cist 2

Human remains.

Inhumation

I, placed on right hand side, with head in SE corner facing east.

Other finds. (Dunrobin Museum)

1. Food Vessel Vase, grooved-shoulder

1, found in front of head with rim near chin. Suggested that vessel was placed on its side.

SH51. Tomfat

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Chambered cairn

Parish: Daviot and Dunlichity

Canmore ID: 13152

Map reference:

Assessed: Yes

C14: n/a

Ref: Woodham 1966

Description. A badly damaged chambered cairn was dug by Woodham in 1966. The cairn had mostly been robbed out. The chamber was overall ruinous, there was some evidence for blocking to the east. Sherds of undecorated pottery and some quartz pebbles were recovered from the interior.

Other finds.

- 1 Small sherds of undecorated pottery, probable Beaker
- 2 Four of five pieces of white quartz

1,2, both from the interior. *1* was near a patch of charcoal sealed by a flat stone.

SH52. Wester Teaninich

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Short cist

Parish: Alness

Canmore ID: 13661

Map reference: NH 6252 6756

Assessed: Yes

C14: n/a

Description. A short cist was discovered whilst a drain was being dug in 1963. The cist was orientated NW/SE

Human remains.

- 1 Inhumation

No details available regarding age and sex.

Ref. RCAHMS 1979

SH53. West Torbreck

Site Type: Funerary

Parent Context: Short cist

Parish: Dores

Canmore ID: 346424

Map reference: NH 64149 40441

Assessed: No

C14: SUERC-41922 (GU28053) (App. F4)

Ref. Arabaolaza 2013

Other finds. (Hunterian Museum)

1. Rim sherd from probable Food Vessel (A.1963.42-44)

Description. In 2012 during landscaping works a cist set into a sub oval pit was uncovered. There was evidence for a small cairn having covered the cist originally. The cist contained a single inhumation, a ceramic vessel and several flints.

Human remains.

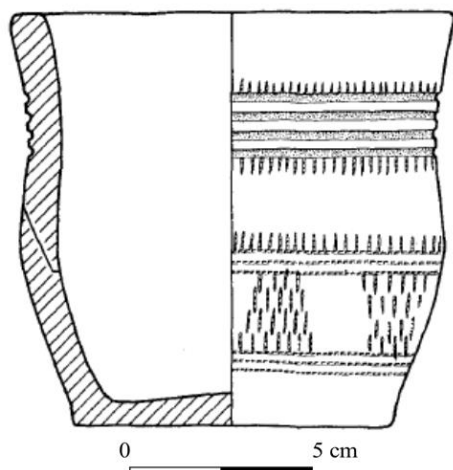
1. Inhumation. Mid adult, female.
1, right side facing towards the east

Other finds.

- 1 fragments of flint (SFs 009 - 01)
- 2 Beaker, s-profile (SF001)
- 3 Flint SF008

1, north-east area of cist 2, from in front of head, 3, next to 2

E2 POTTERY CATALOGUE



Henshall & Longworth 1964: Fig 4

Achnasheen (SH1)

Museum: *N.M.S (EG98)*

Find Number: *1*

Form: *Beaker, short-necked*

Rim: *Simple flat rim with slight rounded external edge*

Dec: *COMB/NCD. Two zones. Neck grooved. The upper zone is decorated with broadly spaced horizontal grooves, with vertical incisions forming an upper and lower fringe. The lower zone is decorated with an upper line of vertical comb impression creates a complimentary fringe mirroring the lower fringe from the upper zone. A series of 'pyramid' shapes made from short comb impressed lines occupy the middle of the lower zone and are bordered on the bottom with three horizontal comb impressed lines.*

H: *c.114mm* Int. RD: *120mm*

Armadale (SH4)

Find Number: *Cist 1, 1(SF10)*

Form: *Food Vessel Vase, double-cavetto*

Rim: *Steep flat internal and narrow external bevelled rim*

Dec: *TWCI/FND. Slipped and smoothed prior to decoration. Impressed twisted cord and fingernail decoration, zoned.*

H: *200-215mm.* RD: *190-194mm*

No illustration

No illustration

Armadale (SH4)

Find Number: Cist 2, 1 (SF11)

Form: Food Vessel Vase, double-cavetto

Rim: Rounded external, internal bevel

Dec: NCD. All over incised decoration arranged in herringbone pattern, extending to the internal bevel of the rim.

H: 130mm RD: 125-130mm



Peteranna 2011: Plate 10

Armadale (SH4)

Find Number: Cist 4, 1 SF50

Form: Food Vessel Vase, single upper-cavetto

Rim: Internal (dished) and external bevel

Dec: TWCI/WHCI/RND. Loss of surfaces owing to spalling. Impressed decoration comprising twisted cord, whipped cord and oval jabs made probably with a stick

H: 155mm Int. RD: 155mm



Not to scale

Armadale (SH4)

Find Number: Cist 5, 1 SF24-7, 29-33, 35-49

Form: Food Vessel Vase, double-cavetto

Rim: Internal, external bevel

Dec: LUG/COMB. 3/4 Lugs around lower cavetto zone, impressed decoration using comb and zig zag false relief. Internal and external rim bevel decorated with comb impression.

H: 124mm Int. RD: 155mm

Auchindown (SH5)

Museum: ? *Inverness Museum & Art Gallery?*

Find Number: 1

Form: *Beaker, short-necked (tall)*

Rim: *Simple pointed, deep internal edge*

Dec.: *COMB. Decorated in a series of narrow zones.*

The upper zone on the neck comprises a single horizontal line with a series of short diagonal impressions. A further band of short diagonal impressions occurs below this. The second zone on the upper part of the shoulder comprises a set of short lines with a narrow band of chevrons/ herringbone below. This is repeated around the mid-point of the Beaker. The base comprises a set of vertical herringbone, creating a feather like effect, bordered with horizontal impressions.

H: c. 228.6mm RD: 127mm



Walker 1967

Walker 1967

Auchindown (SH5)

Museum: *N.M.S. EE9*

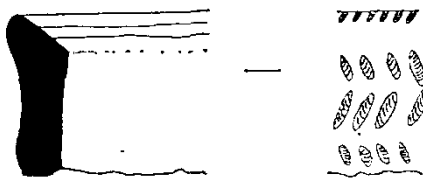
Find Number: 2

Form: *Food Vessel Vase, indet.*

Rim: *BR4 Internal bevel, rounded outer*

Dec. ?*NCD/ IMPD?* *Exact nature of decoration is difficult to determine, but impressions on exterior arranged in a herringbone motif.*

H: n/a Int. RD: n/a



Not to scale

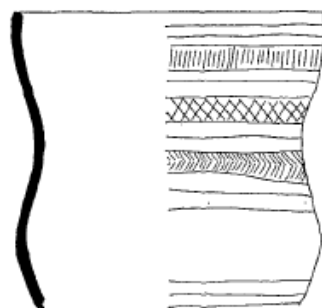
Walker 1967

Auchindown (SH5)

Museum: ? *Inverness Museum & Art Gallery?*

Find Number: 3

Form: *Beaker, cupped-necked*



Not to scale

Rim: *Simple, flat*

Dec.: *COMB. As with F/N 1 the exterior of the vessel is decorated in a series of narrow bands executed using a comb. The neck is decorated with a band of vertical impressions bordered by horizontal lines above and below. Below this is a narrow band of lattice, with a band of chevrons below. The remaining band comprises a set of horizontal lines.*

H: *n/a* Int. RD: *n/a*



Not to scale

Auchindown (SH5)

Museum: *? Inverness Museum & Art Gallery?*

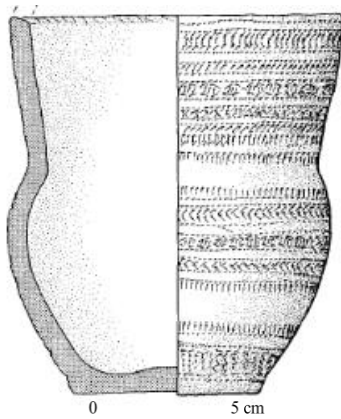
Find Number: *4*

Form: *Beaker, long-necked*

Rim: *Simple, pointed*

Dec: *?COMB? Decorated with multiple narrow bands. The neck is decorated with bands of horizontal lines. Between these is a single band of vertical impressions and two bands of lattice decoration. Lattice decoration occurs on the shoulder as well. The lower half towards the base is decorated with multiple zig-zags.*

H: *n/a* Int. RD: *n/a*



Hanley & Sheridan 1994

Balblair (SH6)

Museum: *Inverness 1992.0191-2*

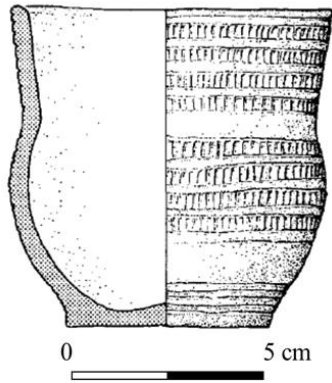
Find Number: *1*

Form: *Beaker, long-necked*

Rim: *Internal rim has shallow/ slight internal bevel*

Dec: *COMB Three zones using fine tooth comb. Motifs include s-shape, chevrons and a narrow band of vertical herringbone. Single narrow band of filled 'lozenge'*

H: *140mm* Int. RD: *124mm*



Hanley & Sheridan 1994

Balblair (SH6)

Museum: *Inverness 1992.0191-2*

Find Number: 2

Form: *Beaker, short-necked*

Rim: *Internal rim has slight/ shallow internal bevel*

Dec: *NCD. Three zones ladder design created through incision*

H: *84mm* Int. RD: *84mm*



Not to scale

Dutton et al. 2007

Balblair Wood (SH6)

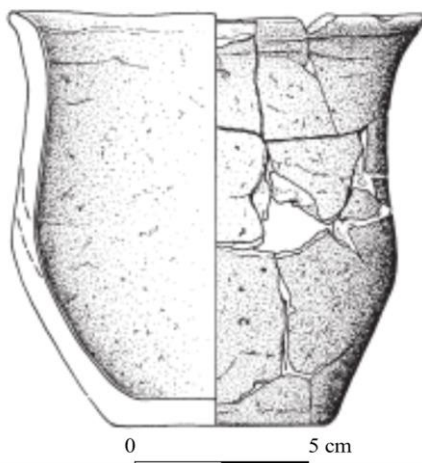
Find Number: 1

Form: *Food Vessel Vase, double cavetto*

Rim: *Shallow internal bevel, rounded outer edge*

Dec: *IMP. Series of impressed decoration extended to the rim, possibly confined to above the shoulder*

H: *n/a* Int RD: *n/a*



Suddaby & Sheridan 2006

Beechwood Park (SH8)

Museum:

Find Number: *1*

Form: *Beaker, s-profile*

Rim: *Rounded with shallow internal bevel poss.*

Dec: *UNDEC. Undecorated*

H: *120mm* RD: *119-120mm*

Blackstand (SH9)

Museum: *N.M.S EG70*

Find Number: 1

Form: *Beaker, s-profile*

Rim: *Simple outturned*

Dec: *NCD/COMB. Two zones - incised*

Upper zone: Comprising two parts the upper a series of incised x's with three horizontal incised lines. This is bordered by two horizontal incised lines with a set of short vertical incisions below, bordered by a further two horizontal lines, a line of x's and a set of lines below.

Lower zone: The lower zone comprises two ones the upper bordered above and below with two horizontal lines comprises vertical chevrons, with blank metopes. The lower after a short gap comprises vertical and diagonal incisions.



Author © N.M.S

H: *180mm* Int. RD: *122mm*

Bruachaig (SH10)

Museum: *N.M.S Q.L1963.29*

Find Number: 1

Form: *Beaker, s-profile*

Rim: *Internal bevel, slightly rounded*

Dec: *COMB/NCD. Upper part of the vessel is decorated with five horizontal lines, the middle of the body sports a set of metope panels bordered with diagonal incisions (comb impressions) and divided by sets of vertical herringbone.*



Author © N.M.S

H: *155mm* Int. RD: *139mm*



Author © N.M.S

Cadha Riach (SH11)

Museum: *N.M.S EQ793-4*

Find Number: 1, 2

Form: *?Food Vessel?*

Rim: n/a

Dec: *NCD Incised chevrons*

H: n/a RD: n/a

Carriblair (SH12)

Museum: *N.M.S EP27*

Find Number: 1

Form: *Food Vessel Vase, single upper-cavetto*

Rim: *Shallow internal bevel rounded edge*

Dec: *TWCI/WHCI/RND. Set of 'oval' impressions (stick/bone), space between this and shoulder bears a transverse zig-zag line with four straight lines above and two similar lines and a short row of vertical lines below. Below this further line of zig-zag with horizontal lines below.*

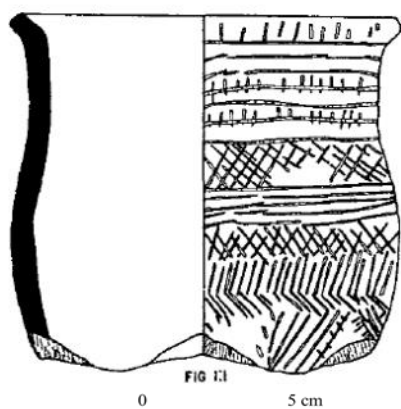
Impressions made with twisted cord.



0 5 cm
Author © N.M.S

H: n/a Int. RD: 158 mm

Cawdor Estates (SH13)



Walker & Henshall 1968

Museum: *N.M.S EG99*

Find Number: 1

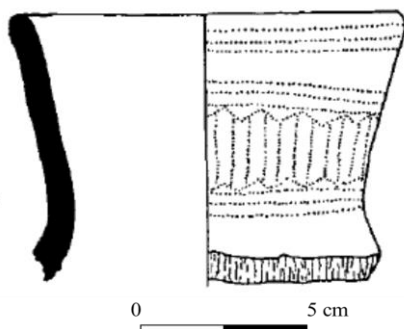
Form: *Beaker, s-profile*

Rim: *External and internal bevel*

Dec: *NCD/COMB. Decorated in at least three zones. The upper comprising horizontal lines with vertical nicks in between. The second zone comprises a sough lattice, the final zone has a lattice and a series of chevrons in a rough pattern.*

H: *n/a mm* RD: *127mm*

Cawdor Estates (SH13)



Walker & Henshall 1968

Museum: *N.M.S EG100*

Find Number: 2

Form: *Beaker, long-necked*

Rim: *Simple rounded*

Dec: *COMB. Single zone of infilled hexagon. Area below the rim is demarcated with a set of comb impressed horizontal lines*

H: *n/a* RD: *110mm*

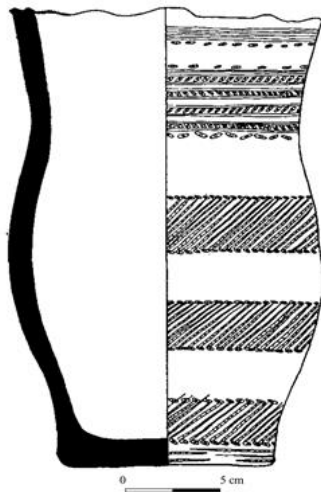
Cawdor Estates (SH13)

Museum: *N.M.S EG101*

Find Number: 3

Form: *Beaker, long-necked*

Rim: *n/a*



Walker & Henshall 1968

Dec: *COMB*. Decorated in five zones. The lower three zones comprise simple bands infilled with diagonal comb impressions.

H: *n/a* RD: 139mm



Author © N.M.S

Cnocan Na Gobhar (SH14)

Museum: *N.M.S EG60*

Find Number: 1

Form: *Beaker, cupped-necked*

Rim: *Simple, flat*

Dec: *NCD*. Two broad zones comprising am portion of incised lines with multiple triangles. Lower band repeats this pattern.

H: 209mm RD: 145mm

Coille Grulla (SH15)

Museum:

Find Number: 1

Form: *Beaker, long-necked*

Rim: *Simple, internal bevel*

Dec: *COMB*. Decorated in five zones. The lower and upper zone comprise multiple zig zag pattern. The middle zone

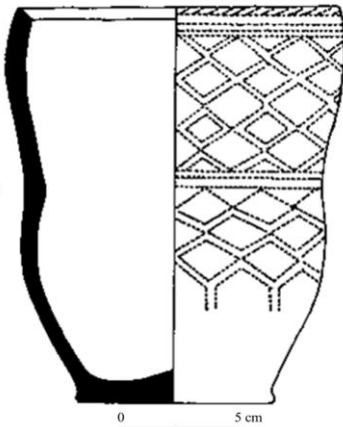


Not to scale

Clarke, D.L. 1970.

split into two by a narrow band of horizontal comb impressions, comprises a lattice pattern.

H: n/a RD: n/a



Clarke 1970, D.L.

Coille Grulla (SH15)

Museum:

Find Number: 2

Form: *Beaker, cupped-necked*

Rim: *Simple, bevelled*

Dec: *COMB. Honeycomb pattern divided into two zones with set of horizontal lines. Set of notches in rim/ diagonal.*

H: 182mm RD: 134mm



Ritchie, J.N.G. 1970

Corran Ferry (SH16)

Museum: *Ardgour House*

Find Number: 1

Form: *Beaker, s-profile*

Rim: *Simple, rounded rim*

Dec: *COMB. Notches on the rim, upper band composed of horizontal lines with a broad band of lattice decoration, underscored with three horizontal lines and a set of near upright marks and all over band of three horizontal lines.*

H: 140mm RD: 127mm



Author © N.M.S

Culduthel Mains Cist 2 (SH18)

Museum: *N.M.S (EQ843)*

Find Number: 1

Form: *Beaker, long-necked*

Rim: *Simple, rounded on outer edge*

Dec: *COMB. Bands of horizontal comb impressed lines, alternately with vertical/ oblique stamps*

H: 226mm RD: 155mm



Anderson 1886

Dalmore (Group 1, Cist 8) (SH19)

Museum: *N.M.S (EQ632)*

Find Number: 1

Form: *Food Vessel Vase, high-shouldered*

Rim: *Angled top with internal projection, cordon/ rib below rim*

Dec: *NCD/COR/FRE/STB. Small triangular to D-shaped jabs on projection of rim, on exterior of the rim and on both horizontal cordons. Relief decoration comprises two applied cordons with applied chevrons between with pellets on lower angle of chevrons. The rim sports a series of triangular incisions. Below the rim are three holes.*

H: 350mm RD: 360mm



0 5 cm

Dalmore (Group 2, Cist 1) (SH19)

Museum: *Inverness Museum & Art Gallery*

Find Number: 1

Form: *Beaker, short-necked*

Rim: *Internal edge dished forming slight cup like profile.*
 Dec. *COMB/NCD. Divided into several zones covering the whole of the vessel body. The upper area below the rim consists of a narrow band of lattice, below are up to seven horizontal comb impressions circling the neck. Below are a series of vertical chevrons creating a horizontal herringbone effect. These are bordered below by five horizontal lines of comb impressions and a series of filled triangles below.*

H: 149mm RD: 116mm

Attribution of these to the Dalmore site is tentative



0 5 cm

Dalmore (Group 2, Cist 2) (SH19)

Museum: *Inverness 1955.005*

Find Number: 2

Form: *Beaker, weak s-profile*

Rim: *Simple rim, slightly everted*

Dec: *Decorated in three zones. Upper and lower zones consist of multiple incised horizontal lines. The middle zone is plain, apart from a fringing element formed of short diagonal lines.*

H: 140 mm RD: 98mm

Author © I.M.A.G

Drumashie (SH21)



Author © I.M.A.G

Museum: *Inverness*

Find Number: 1

Form: *Beaker, cupped necked*

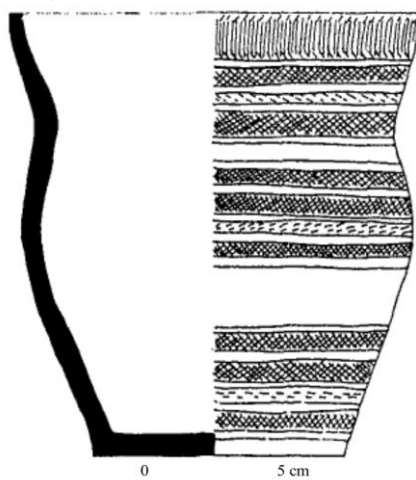
Rim: *Simple, rounded*

Dec: *COMB. Decorated in three zones the upper zone on the neck and the middle zone on the belly comprise three lines of horizontal comb impression, set of zig zag comb impressions, a further band of three horizontal comb impressions, a further set of zig zag and a final lower set of horizontal lines. The lower half towards the base comprises horizontal comb impressions.*

(horizontal chevron)

H: 198mm Int RD: 140mm

Easter Delnies (SH23)



Walker 1964

Museum: *Nairn*

Find Number: 1

Form: *Beaker, cupped-necked*

Rim: *SR1*

Dec: *NCD. Decorated in three bands of decoration, formed of further narrow bands. Each band comprises at least two to three bands of lattice, with a band of short incisions. The upper section of the rim decorated with set of c shaped incisions.*

H: 170mm RD: 158mm



0 5 cm

<http://www.archhighland.org.uk/news.asp?newsid=225>

Easter Moy (SH24)

Museum: *Dingwall*

Find Number: 2

Form: *Food Vessel Vase, double-cavetto*

Rim: *?Internal bevel?*

Dec: *NCD. Parallel incised lines all over the cavetto zones are picked out by raised areas marked with triangular shaped impressions. (false relief)*

H: *152mm* Int. RD: *152mm*



0 5 cm

Author © N.M.S

Findon Mains (SH27)

Museum: *N.M.S (EG69)*

Find Number: 1

Form: *Beaker, weak s-profile*

Rim: *Simple*

Dec: *NCD. Decorated in two zones the upper below the rim has a series of vertical incisions underscored with a horizontal line below. A further band of vertical incision with a set of transverse herringbone below. The second one comprises a set of horizontal lines with a set of x's below.*

H: *178mm* Int RD: *125mm*

Fodderty Farm (SH28)

Museum: *Inverness*

Find Number: 1

Form: *Beaker, weak s-profile*

Rim: *Shallow internal bevel*



0 5 cm
 Author © I.M.A.G

Dec: NCD. Decorated in four bands. The neck is decorated with a set of horizontal grooves. The area below with infilled hexagons. This pattern occurs towards the base, below a band of lattice.

H: 145mm Int. RD: 98mm

Fyrish (SH29)



0 5 cm
 Author © N.M.S

Museums: N.M.S EQ134

Find Number: 1

Form: Beaker, short-necked

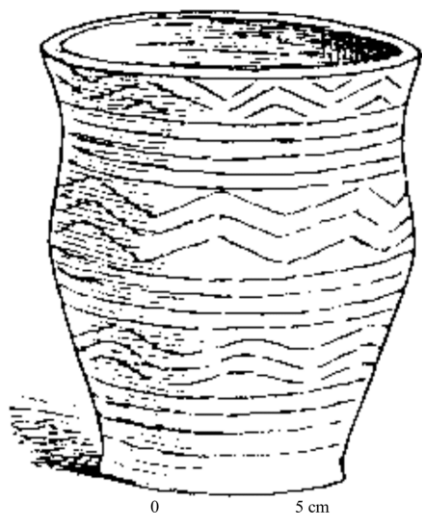
Rim: Simple, slight internal bevel

Dec: NCD. Divided into three zones. The neck is decorated with a set of metope panels. The area below the neck is plain, except for a series of short diagonal incisions.

Below this is a single band of infilled hexagons.

H: 143mm Int RD: 130mm

Glebe Eddertoun, Cist 3 (SH30)



Museum: N.M.S (EG104)

Find Number: 1

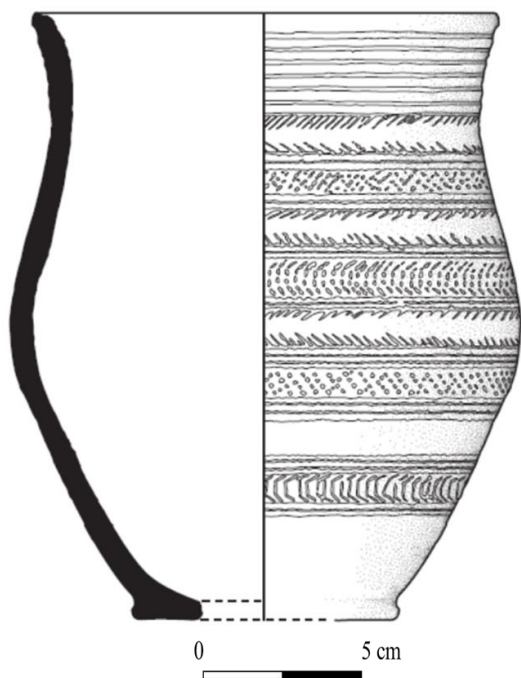
Form: *Beaker, s-profile*

Rim: *Simple, ?flat top?*

Dec: *Pattern is reminiscent of SH21*

H: 154 mm RD: n/a

Holm Mains Farm Cist 1 (SH31)



Museum: *N.M.S*

Find Number: *1*

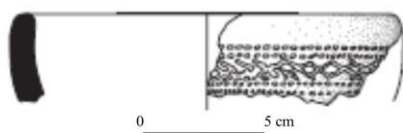
Form: *Beaker, s-profile*

Rim: *Simple, rounded*

Dec: *NCD. Decorated in five bands. The neck is decorated with multiple horizontal incisions. The lowest band is fringed with a set of diagonal incisions, mirroring a further fringe below. The band below comprises random incisions, this pattern is repeated in the fourth band. The remaining two bands of decoration comprise c-shaped incisions.*

H: 140m RD: 124mm

Holm Mains Farm Cist 2 (SH31)



Museum: *N.M.S*

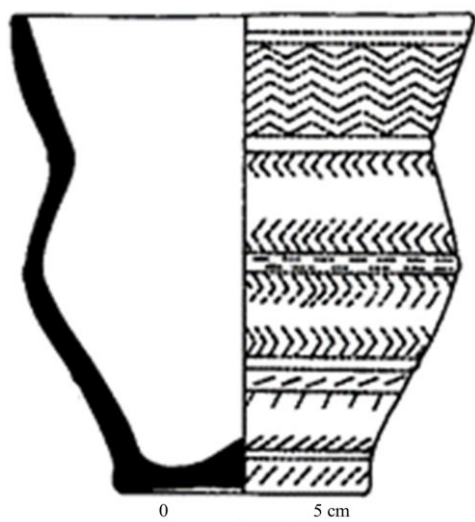
Find Number: 1

Form: *Beaker, indet. form, only a section of the rim remains.*

Rim: *Simple, rounded, slightly inturned.*

Dec: *COMB*. Only a single band of decoration survives, comprising *x* impressions bordered by horizontal lines.

H: 127mm RD: 140mm



Clarke, D.L. 1970

Inchnacaorach (SH32)

Museum:

Find Number: 1

Form: *Beaker, short-necked*

Rim: *Simple, rounded*

Dec: *COMB/NCD* Four zones. Upper zone bordered by lines of horizontal comb impressions, containing a broad band of horizontal herringbone. Four bands of chevrons, with broad plain zones in between.

H: 165mm RD: n/a

Aber. No. 273



Author © I.M.A.G

Lochend (SH37)

Museum: *I.M.A.G*

Find Number: 1

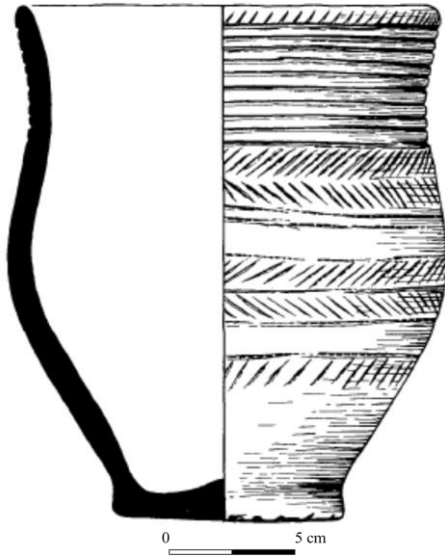
Form: *Beaker, cupped neck*

Rim: *Simple, rounded*

Dec: *NCD*. Split into three zones. Zones of diagonal incision, with two bands of 'c' shaped hatching.

Misc impressions on lower half

H: 162mm RD: 146mm



Shepherd et al 1985

Mains of Balnagowan (SH38)

Museum: *Cawdor*

Find Number: 1

Form: *Beaker, s-profile*

Rim: *Simple rounded, outturned*

Dec: *NCD/COMB Neck is decorated with incised lines, with bands of vertical chevrons and a lower band of diagonal incision.*

H: 205mm RD: 124mm

Mains of Kilcoy (SH39)

Museum: *Bowes Museum*

Find Number: 1

Form: *Food Vessel Vase, ridged*

Rim: *?flat?*

Dec: *TWCI, NCD. The three ribs are decorated with incised herringbone patterns, with two lines of horizontal cord impressions separating the ribs. Four more lines of horizontal cord impressions are located between the rim and the upper rib. The lower portion of the vessel appears to be decorated with a series of impressed designs, arranged broadly into zones. These include two zones of diagonal incisions with horizontal dividing lines and in between these two zones a further band of single diagonal incisions.*

H: 127mm RD: 155mm



North 1909



Not to scale

© Headland Archaeology

Ness Gap (Trench 32) (SH40)

Museum: *n/a*

Find Number: 1

Form: *Food Vessel Vase, double-cavetto*

Rim: *Internal bevel*

Dec: *TWCI/ WHCI. Upper part of the vessel decorated with a herringbone pattern. The lower half divided into panels by vertical whipped cord impressions.*

H: *n/a* RD: *n/a*



Not to scale

© Headland Archaeology

Ness Gap (Trench 42) (SH42)

Museum: *n/a*

Find Number: 2

Form: *Cordoned Urn*

Rim: *unk*

Dec: *APP. Pair of ribs applied to exterior*

H: *n/a* RD: *n/a*



0 5 cm

New Broadford Medical Centre (SH41)

Museum: *n/a*

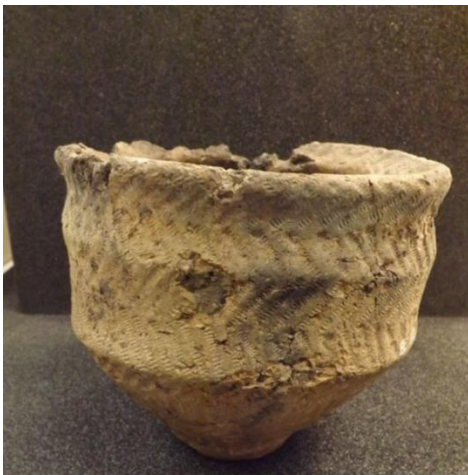
Find Number: 1

Form: *Beaker, weak s-profile*

Rim: *Internal bevel*

Dec: *TWCI. twisted cord decoration in two zones.*

H: *119mm* RD: *115mm*



0 5 cm

Old Manse Rosemarkie (SH42)

Museum: *N.M.S EE92*

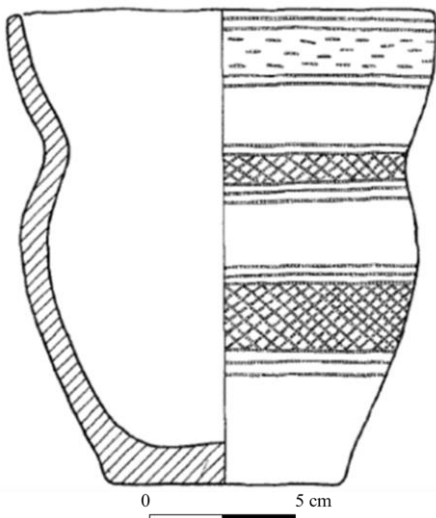
Find Number: 1

Form: *Food Vessel Vase, double-cavetto*

Rim: *Rounded exterior with internal bevel*

Dec: *WHCI. Exterior decorated all over with whipped cord herringbone pattern. Decoration extends onto the rim.*

H: *152mm* RD: *132mm*



Poolewe (SH43)

Museum: *Gairloch*

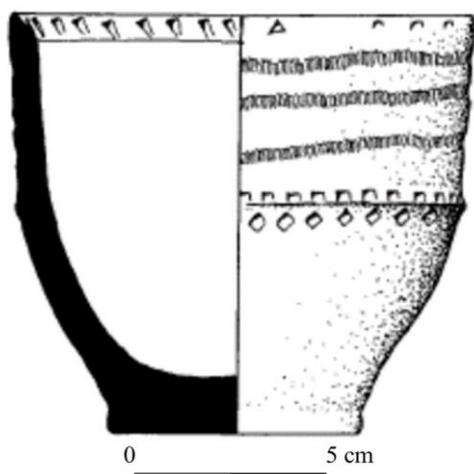
Find Number: *1*

Form: *Beaker, cupped-necked*

Rim: *Simple, rounded*

Dec: *NCD. Two bands of lattice, bordered with horizontal lines. The upper part of the rim decorated with short incisions.*

H: *160mm* RD: *144mm*



Raignore (SH44)

Museum: *I.M.A.G*

Find Number: 3

Form: *Food Vessel Vase, simple*

Rim: *Internal bevel*

Dec: *WHCI/IMP. Exterior and interior of the rim marked out triangular impressions. The upper half of the vessel is decorated with roughly horizontal lines of whipped cord impression. The shoulder is marked out with a set of diamond/ square impression, creating a false relief effect. The lower half (not illustrated) is decorated with further whipped cord impressions.*

H: *110mm* RD: *68mm*

South Clunes, Kilartily (SH49)



Museum: *Marischal*

Find Number: 1

Form: *Beaker, short-necked*

Rim: *Simple, rounded*

Dec: *NCD/FND Narrow band of herringbone, bordered above and below with two horizontal incised lines, with diagonal incisions creating a fringe. Upper band comprises 4 to 5 horizontal lines with band of fingernail impressions.*

H: *155mm* Int RD: *151mm*

Author © *Marischal Museum*

Stonifield House Plank Coffin 231 (SH48)

Museum: *I.A.M.G*

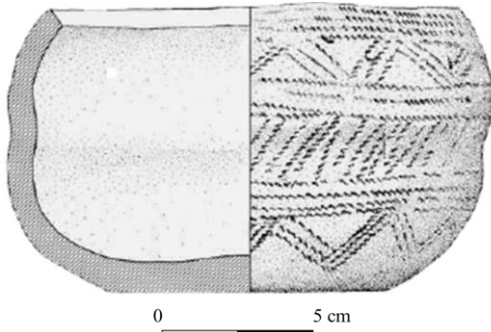
Find Number: 1

Form: *Food Vessel bowl, waisted*

Rim: *Internal bevel*

Dec: *TWCI. Arranged in a series of broad zones. Area just below the rim is decorated with up to three horizontal lines of twisted cord impressions, with running chevron design. This pattern is repeated on the lower half of the vessel. The middle area of the pot is decorated with diagonal cord impressions.*

H: *95mm* Int RD: *128mm*



Cressey & Sheridan 2003

Stonifield House Short Cist 2 (SH48)

Museum: *I.A.M.G*

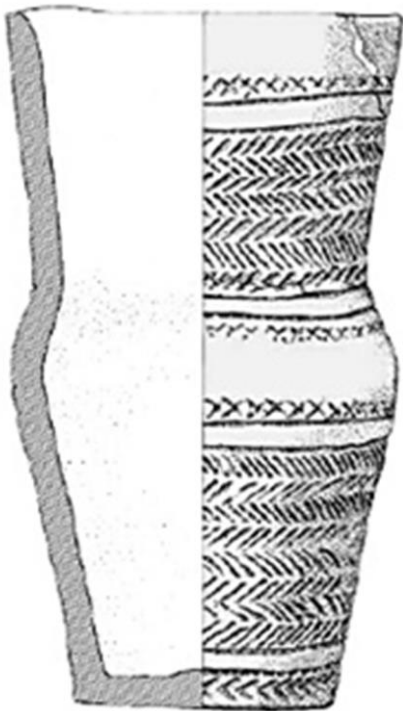
Find Number: 1

Form *Beaker, long-necked*

Rim: *Rounded internal bevel*

Dec: *COMB. Exterior decorated in two broad zones of herringbone, with smaller bands of criss-cross impressions.*

H: *175mm* RD: *102mm*



Cressey & Sheridan 2003



The Aonach, Drummond Cist 2 (SH50)

Museum: NMS

Find Number: 1

Form: 3MCI

Rim: R11

Dec: TWCI/LUG

H: 152 Int. RD 152

0 5 cm



Wester Teaninich (SH52)

Museum: *Hunterian*

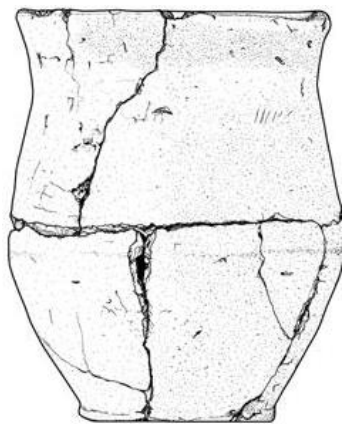
Find Number: 1

Form: *Food Vessel indet.*

Rim: *Internal bevel*

Dec: *NCD*

H: *n/a* Int RD: *n/a*



West Torbreck (SH53)

Museum:

Find Number: 1

Form: *Beaker, s-profile*

Rim: *Simple, rounded*

Dec: *UNDEC*

H: *205mm* Int RD: *136mm*

E3 OTHER VESSELS OF INDETERMINATE FORM AND/ OR PROVENANCE

n.b this list represents a sample, and does not purport to cover all recorded finds

CANMORE ID	Site Name	Context/ Burial Type	Notes/ Vessel Description	Reference
15097	Nairn NH 88 56	Unknown	No further details regarding provenance of vessel available. Illustrated in Abercromby's 1912 corpus. Present location of vessel is unknown Tall vessel c. 177.8 (7 inches). Probable tall short-necked Beaker . Decorated in three zones, by incision. Lower band includes filled triangle motifs. Globular belly.	Abercromby 1912: 91, no. 266
15112	Nairn NH 88 56	Unknown	There is a degree of confusion regarding the find. Walker suggests that this vessel could have been confused with the above	Walker 1962: 36
	Auldearn	Cremation?	Walker fig 7c Description given by Walker suggests cremated bones were not found in association. Illustrated sherd shows probable Food Vessel, with ridged external appearance decorated with alternating bands of diagonal incised decoration (rough herringbone?).	Walker 1967

	Brahan Castle		<p>Illustrated in Abercromby (290) – listed in both Mitchell (258) and Clarke (1970), 1762.</p> <p>Little detail regarding circumstance of discovery.</p> <p>National Museum Scotland stated as last known location, EG22.</p> <p>Weak s-profile Beaker decorated in three zones, using panels. Decorated by incision.</p> <p>Height c. 134 (5 ¼ inches).</p>	
	Tarradale, Princes Cairn		<p>Vessel is presently housed in V & A. CM 259,</p> <p>Vessel was found under a ‘tumulus’ Vessel measured 165.1mm tall (short-necked), with a similarly broad diameter. Decorated in at least three zones.</p>	Crichton-Mitchell 1934: no.259
10802	Dunvegan NG 2500 4700	?Cremation?	<p>Little information is available.</p> <p>Date of the site is unclear but comprised a number of ‘urns’ and cremations.</p> <p>The urns are described as having “several rude ornaments upon them, or rather are notched and scalloped throughout.</p>	CANMORE

15580	Broomton NH 965 544	Unknown	Several urns were found in the region but were subsequently buried by the farmer. No further information.	Jolly 1882
13771	Stittenham NH 6505 7430	Cemetery	Extensive cemetery site, comprising several cists with cinerary urns. Possible inhumation, but further details lacking.	CANMORE
12877	Cnoc A'mhargadaidh NH 5568 6779	Unknown	Possible Beaker, no further information	CANMORE
11315	Snizort NG 42 56	Cist ?inhumation?	A cist was uncovered c.1790. The contents of the cist included a possible, knife and awl as well as an urn of brunt clay (CANMORE suggests this urn could be a possible Beaker).	CANMORE
13595	Cnoc-na- gonnan NH 65 53	Inhumation	Within a cist a complete Skelton and highly ornamented urn were found.	Beaton 1882
13809	Ardvannie NH 6855 8747	Cremation	Mid bronze age cremation? – possible Cordoned Urn	Joass 1882
13805	Dalnavie	Cremation	Possible cremation cemetery, enclosure. At the centre of the enclosure was a large urn with a stone axe. Fifteen other urns were found but destroyed. No further information.	Maclean 1886
15236	North Sutor 1 NH 80 69	Cremation	Cinerary urn with necklace of jet.	

14536	Callachy Hill NH 7385 6050	Inhumation?	At the centre of a stone cairn a stone cist was found, with fragments of an 'urn' decorated with punctuated dots. The vessel is not illustrated. ?Secondary insertion?	MacKenzie, W. 1908
12886	Mains of Assynt NH 5906 6704	Inhumation?	Cist containing remains of skeleton, urn and jet beads. Urn was not preserved and is not described.	Innes, C. 1862
132437	Glenmorangie NH 763 840	Cremation	Evidence for disturbed cremation, fragment of urn recovered. No further details.	CANMORE
12410	Strathpeffer, Croch Fionne		Cemetery site comprising three short cists and a separate cinerary urn. Cists contained inhumations, but the urn is not further described.	Turner 1907
14728	Torran Dubh	Cemetery	Cemetery site – nature of urns is unclear.	Joass 1868
15586	Kinsteary NH 92 54	Unknown	Plain urn (currently held at the Hunterian Museum). Found in a cist in 1888 along with a 'necklace of glass beads'	CANMORE

14531	Flowerburn NH 7360 6020	Inhumation?	<p>Burial appears to have comprised an inhumation, with a strike a light (possible Beaker) In Rosemarkie parish.</p> <p>Urn described in Nat Museum Cat (EQ189) as ornamented by raised ridge around circumference. The urn may not have been found in the cist. Later descriptions appear to describe the burial as an urned cremation, but this does not seem correct, based on the original report.</p>	CANMORE
12154	Ardochy		A simple Food Vessel vase from Ardochy, Inverness is documented by Abercromby but lacks provenance	Abercromby 1912

APPENDIX F RADIOCARBON DATA



F1 THE SHETLAND ISLES

SITE	Sample ID	CONTEXT	Sample Type	Date (BP)	68.2%	95.4%	Ref
Culla Voe	GrA-24056	Cremated bone in association with urn	bone, human (homo sapiens)	3475 +/- 40	1880-1740	1900-1680	Sheridan 2007: 184
	OxA-X-2579-42	Not stated	Large mammal	4043 +/- 28	2620-2490	2840-2470	Schulting, Sheridan 2015
	OxA-X-2579-41	Main peat ash deposit	Large mammal	3964 +/- 31	2570-2460	2580-2340	
OxA-X-2575-37	Main Peat ash deposit	Sheep goat	3857 +/- 33	2460-2230	2470-2200		
Ness of Gruting House 1	GrN-6168			3710 +/- 55	-	-	n.b. these dates supplanted by AAR-15646, AAR-15647
	BM-441	Grain cache under wall	Charred grain (Hulled/naked barley)	3514 +/- 120	-	-	
	AAR-15646			3736 +/- 35	2210-2040	2280-2030	Sheridan <i>et al.</i> 2012: 202
	AAR-15647	3668 +/- 35	2140-1970	2150-1940			
Scord of Brouster House 2 Phase 1	CAR-249	Base of layer 3f	Charcoal (mixed)	4495 +/- 75	3350-3090	3370-2920	Whittle 1986
	CAR-250	Layer 3f above CAR-249	Charcoal (mixed)	4455 +/- 70	3340-3020	3350-2920	

	CAR-251	Layer 3d (in later house interior)	Charcoal (mixed) and charred barley	4540 +/- 65	3370-3100	3500-3020	
	SUERC-56459 (GU35545)	Layer 3 (SF no. 242)	Mammal (calcined)	4499 +/- 38	3340-3100	3360-3030	
	SUERC-56460 (GU35546)	Layer 3 (SF no. 566)	Mammal (calcined)	4400 +/- 38	3090-2920	3320-2900	Sheridan <i>et al.</i> 2015
	SUERC-56461 (GU35548)	Layer 3 (SF no. 255/256a)	Mammal (calcined)	4372 +/- 38	3020-2920	3100-2900	
Scord of Brouster House 2 construction	CAR-252	Wall matrix N/W side	Charcoal (mixed)	4390 +/- 80	3310-2900	3340-2890	
Scord of Brouster House 2, Phase 2	CAR-253	Layer 2 central interior	Charcoal (mixed)	5050 +/- 85	3960-3760	3990-3650	
Scord of Brouster House 1, Phase 1	CAR-243	Layer 4 Trench E		4095 +/- 70	2860-2500	2880-2480 ¹	Whittle 1986
	CAR-244	F6	Charcoal (mixed)	4460 +/- 70	3340-3020	3360-2920	
	CAR-245	Layer 4 Trench E		4345 +/- 85	3100-2880	3340-2710	
Scord of Brouster,	CAR-246	Wall matrix, Trenches A & C		4145 +/- 70	2880-2630	2900-2490	

¹ This date is later than the other two dates for Phase 1 and could instead belong to Phase 2 activity.

House 1, construction							
Scord of Brouster House 1, Phase 2a	HAR-2413	Area of hearth F19		2200 +/- 80	2870- 2580	2920- 2490	
	CAR-247	Base of layer 3 in recess 6		2180 +/- 80	2190- 1940	2900- 2490	
Scord of Brouster House 1, Phase 2b	CAR-248	Lower part of layer 3 in recess 6		3665 +/- 75	2190- 1940	2290- 1780	
	CAR-477	Cobbled floor	Charred barley	3310 +/- 60	1660- 1510	1750- 1450	Whittle 1986
CAR-479	3420 +/- 70			1880- 1630	1910- 1530		
Scord of Brouster Kerb cairn, primary phase	CAR-242	Lower part of cairn	Charcoal (birch?)	4220 +/- 75	2910- 2670	3020- 2570	
	Stanydale House	OxA-X- 2579-43	From peat ash	Ox	3983 +/- 29	2570- 2470	2580- 2460
Tougs	GU-1110	From small structure by burnt mound	Wood	3525 +/- 75	1950- 1740	2120- 1660	Hedges 1980
	GU-1111		Wood	3610 +/- 60	2120- 1880	2150- 1770	
Sumburgh Airport	GU-1015	from the destruction of	Charred rope	3500 +/- 153 ²	2030- 1630	2280- 1450	CANMORE

² Weighted mean 3620 +/- 50 BP (CANMORE) but veracity of date is questionable and probably should be discounted.

GU-1006	the timber			
	house			
	underlying	Charcoal	3629 +/-	2120-
	the stone		53	1910
	house			2200-
				1830

F2 THE ORKNEY ISLES

SITE	Sample ID	CONTEXT	Sample Type	Date (BP)	68.2%	95.4%	REF
Blomuir 2	GrA-21738	Human bone	bone, human (homo sapiens)	3540 ± 60	1950-1770	2040-1690	Downes 2005
Braes Ha'Breck	SUERC-37960 (GU26232)	Cereal grain from quarry fill	Hulled barley	3780 ± 35	2340-2040	2460-2030	Thomas pers. comm.
	AA-51372	Ashy floor deposit associated with hearth in H1	Charcoal (<i>prunus</i>)	3895 ± 40	2470-2340	2480-2210	
Crossiecrown	AA-51373	From a lens of burnt material, possibly from the pre-House 1 midden, in the floor deposit adjacent to the hearth in House 1	Charcoal (<i>willow</i>)	3830 ± 40	2390-2200	2460-2140	Griffiths 2016
	AA-51381	Associated with a layer of ash and compact clay SE of H1, sealed by midden	Charred grain (<i>barley</i>)	3535 ± 40	1940-1770	1980-1740	

deposits
relating to
later activity
on site

		Upper layer					
	SUERC-4852	of of S. midden in trench 3	Charcoal	4100 +/- 40	2850- 2670	2870- 2500	
	SUERC-4853	Intermediate layer of SE midden	Charred grain (<i>barley</i>)	4155 +/-40	2880- 2670	2890- 2610	
	SUERC-4857	Basal layer of midden in Trench 3	Charred grain (<i>barley</i>)	4315 +/- 35	3010- 2890	3020- 2880	
	SUERC-4858	Basal layer of midden in Trench 3	Charcoal (<i>betula</i>)	4405 +/-30	3100- 2930	3330- 2910	
Knowe of Yarso	Q-155	No specific context is given	Bone, animal (Red deer)	4225 +/-60	2910- 2690	2930- 2600	Renfrew 1985: 264-9
	GU-1692		Bone, animal (Red deer)	3850 +/- 65	2460- 2200	2490- 2060	
Links of Noltland ('Grobus Excavations')	GU-1433	Trench A	Bone, animal (mixed)	3840 +/-60	2460- 2200	2470- 1920	Moore & Wilson 2011
	GU-1695		Bone, animal (Red deer)	3750 +/-100	2340- 1980	2470- 1920	
	GU-1693	Trench C	Bone, animal (mixed)	3990 +/-85	2830- 2340	2870- 2210	

		Bone, animal (Red deer)	3760 +/-85	2300- 2030	2460- 1960	Moore & Wilson 2011
		Bone, animal (Red deer)	3722 +/-60	2210- 2030	2300- 1940	
		Bone, animal (bos)	4360 +/-125	3330- 2880	3370- 2630	
		Bone, animal (bos)	4270 +/-75	3020- 2700	3100- 2620	
		Bone, animal (bos)	4215 +/-65	2910- 2680	2930- 2580	
	Trench D	Bone, animal (bos)	4140 +/-65	2870- 2620	2890- 2340	
		Bone, animal (ovicaprid)	4040 +/-80	2850- 2460	2880- 2340	
		Bone, animal (bos)	3950 +/-65	2570- 2340	2630- 2200	
		Bone, animal (bos)	3860 +/-60	2460- 2230	2480- 2140	
	Trench E	Bone, animal (bos)	4315 +/-80	3090- 2870	3330- 2670	
Taversoe Tuick	GrA-21734	Bone (human)	3580 +/- 60	2030- 1780	2140- 1750	Sheridan 2007: 184

Quandale	GrA-19988	Mound 3	Bone (human)	3600 +/-50	2030- 1890	2140- 1770	Sheridan 2003a: 222
	GrA-19989	Mound 8	Bone (human)	3660 +/-50	2140- 1960	2200- 1900	Sheridan 2003a: 222
Holm of Papa Westray North³	OxA- 16471	From 5.1 later filling of Cell 5	Bone (animal) red deer	4046 +/-38	2630- 2490	2850- 2470	
	OxA- 17782	From IV.1 associated with later	Bone (animal) red deer	4111 +/-32	2860- 2580	2870- 2570	Ashmore 2009
	OxA- 17781	activity round the cairn	Bone (animal) red deer	4073 +/-30	2840- 2500	2860- 2490	
Sand Field	UtC-1484	Inhumation on NW corner of cist. Mixed deposit also containing neonate bones (UtC 1485), and fragments from cremation in urn (UtC- 1487). Possible cross contamination	Bone, Human	3530 +/- 40	1930- 1770	1980- 1740	Dalland 1999
	UtC-1485	Bone from neonatal burial in cist. Mixed deposit with fragments of	Bone, Human	4100 +/- 50	2860- 2570	2880- 2490	

³ Dates omit those for human remains associated with earlier phases of monument cf. Ashmore 2009: 60

UtC-1484 and
UtC-1487)

	Charcoal from backfill of trench cut for the W side slab of the cist	Charcoal	3660+/- 50	2140- 1960	2200- 1900	
						Dalland 1999
UtC-1487	Plant fibres lining interior of large high- shouldered Food Vessel	Plant fibres	3620 +/- 50	2120- 1900	2140- 1820	
UtC-1559	Plant fibres covering inhumations in NW corner of cist	Plant fibres	3600 +/-60	2120- 1880	2140- 1770	
UtC-1560	Plant fibres from over slate fragment, probably contemporary with UtC- 1559	Plant fibres	2730 +/-60	930- 810	1010- 800	
UtC-1483	Charcoal in cramp from outside cist, probably contemporary with construction		4090 +/- 40	2850- 2570	2870- 2490	

Rinyo	Q-1226	Animal bone, context	Animal bone (<i>bos</i>)	3850	2460-	2550-	
		unknown and overall relationship to site unclear		+/- 70	2200	2050	
				3650	2130-	2200-	
				+/- 50	1940	1890	
Tofts Ness	GU-2105	Area A, from primary midden	Animal bone (<i>bos</i>)	4160	2880-	2920-	Dockrill 2007b
	GU-2206			+/- 90	2630	2480	
	GU-2362	4230		2920-	3090-		
		+/- 90		2660	2500		
				3550	2020-	2140-	
				+/- 90	1760	1660	
Kewing	SUERC- 817	Cremation in cist	Bone (human)	3520	1910-	1960-	Ballin Smith 2014: Table 21
				+/- 40	1770	1700	
Werne	GrA-21627	Cist-adult cremation	Bone human	3750	2280-	2400-	Sheridan 2003a: 222
				+/- 60	2040	1970	

F3 THE NORTH HIGHLANDS

SITE	Sample ID	CONTEXT	Sample Type	Date (BP)	68.2%	95.4%	Ref
	GU-3322	TPQ for old ground surface beneath cairn		3700 +/- 150	2340-1880	2560-1690	
Achinduich Burial Cairn V155	AA-9962	Lowest level in mound that supported a setting of small slabs. TPQ for stone setting.		3670 +/- 50	2140-1970	2200-1920	McCullagh, Tipping 1998: 87
	GU-3321	Latest fill of box like structure		1350 +/- 70	620-770 AD	550-870 AD	
Achavanich	BM-2590	Bone from female inhumation	bone, human (<i>homo sapiens</i>)	3700 +/- 50	2200-2020	2280-1940	Ambers, Matthews Bowman, J, K and S (1991)
	GU-3310	Fill of ?late? dishd hearth		3390 +/- 90	1880-1540	1930-1440	
Alt Na Fearn House 1	GU-3308	Fill of ?early? dishd hearth		3380 +/- 60	1760-1610	1880-1520	McCullagh, Tipping 1998
	GU-3162	Fill of post hole – exact relationship uncertain	Charcoal	3380 +/- 100	1870-1530	1930-1460	

	GU-3300	Early use of building, or early activity in area	3480 +/- 70	1890- 1690	2010- 1620
	GU-3299		3430 +/- 70	1880- 1640	1930- 1540
	GU-3141		3420 +/- 70	1880- 1640	1930- 1540
	GU-3304	Later occupation	3300 +/- 50	1630- 1510	1730- 1450
Alt Na Fearna House 2	GU-3303		3290 +/- 50	1620- 1500	1690- 1450
	GU-3152		3200 +/- 100	1620- 1320	1740- 1220
	GU-3150	Post abandonment contexts	3190 +/- 50	1510- 1410	1620- 1310
	GU-3298		3250 +/- 50	1610- 1450	1640- 1420
Alt NA Fearna Ext. House 2 Truncated context	GU-3301	Truncated context from outside of House 2	3520 +/- 80	1950- 1740	2120- 1640

Cremation 1 below House 2	GU- 3297			3300 +/-70	1670- 1500	1750- 1430	
Cremation 3 Under House 2	GU- 3148	Charcoal from fill associated with cremation burial	Charcoal	3440 +/- 80	1880- 1680	1950- 1530	
Battle Moss	GrA- 26540	Cremation associated with bucket/ tub vessel		3275 +/- 40	1620- 1500	1650- 1440	Sheridan pers. comm.
Chealamy	BM- 2512	Bone from male inhumation	bone, human (<i>homo sapiens</i>)	3630 +/- 50	2120- 1920	2150- 1880	Sheridan 2007b: 109
Dornoch Nursery	GrA- 26515	Bone from male cremation	bone, human (<i>homo sapiens</i>)	3850 +/- 40	2440- 2200	2470- 2200	Sheridan 2007b: 114
Embo	BM- 442,	Bone from deposit thought to be contemporary with building of south chamber	Bone, animal	3870 +/- 100		Large standard deviations, not processed	
	GrA- 770	Infant skull from pocket of sand NE of Stone F, under a corbel stone	bone, human (<i>homo sapiens</i>)	4010 +/- 70			

		of south chamber	bone, human	4340 +/-			
GrA-771		Behind Stone D, under corbel stone	(<i>homo sapiens</i>)	70			
GrA-772		of south chamber	bone, human	3720 +/-			
			(<i>homo sapiens</i>)	70			
UB-6876		Floor of north chamber	bone, human	4023 +/-	2580-2480	2630-2470	
			(<i>homo sapiens</i>)	32			
UB-6877		Upper layer of south chamber	bone, human	4633 +/-	3500-3360	3520-3350	
			(<i>homo sapiens</i>)	35			
UB-6878		Lower layer south chamber	bone, human	4433 +/-	3320-2940	3330-2920	
			(<i>homo sapiens</i>)	36			
UB-6879			bone, human	4645 +/-	3500-3360	3520-3350	
			(<i>homo sapiens</i>)	35			
Keas Cottage	SUERC-41427	Bone from female inhumation	bone, human	3635 +/-	2040-1950	2140-1910	Arabaolaza 2013
			(<i>homo sapiens</i>)	30			

	SUERC- 41428	Fill sealing cist	Charcoal (<i>betula</i>)	3700 +/- 30	2200- 2020	2280- 1940	
	GrA- 28614 (P5)	From burial A deposited on or among the collapse of the chamber roof	bone, human (<i>homo sapiens</i>)	3360 +/- 35	1700- 1610	1750- 1530	
	GU- 1167	secondary cremation on the collapsed corbels of the main chamber of a chambered tomb.	Charcoal (<i>mixed</i>)	3435 +/- 65	This date supplanted by GrA-28614		
Ord North	GU- 1168 (P1)	Antechamber	Charcoal (<i>mixed</i>)	4620 +/- 60	3520- 3340	3630- 3100	CANMORE
	GU- 1169 (P1)	Above floor deposits and below a layer with Unstan pottery in the antechamber	Charcoal (<i>mixed</i>)	4665 +/- 70	3620- 3360	3640- 3130	
	GU- 1172 (P2)	Lying directly on the floor of the chambers	Charcoal (<i>mixed</i>)	4510 +/- 100	3370- 3030	3510- 2910	
	GU- 1173 (P3)	Sealing structure in main chamber	Charcoal (<i>mixed</i>)	4465 +/- 60	3340- 3020	3360- 2930	

		under final deposit					
	GX- 3274	From fallen roof timber	Charcoal	2100 +/- 140			
Sandhill, Dalmore	SUERC- 19724 (GU- 16762)	Cist 1		3645 +/- 30	2120- 1950	2140- 1920	Wilkin <i>et al.</i> 2009: 217. Additional dates for other cists incl. SUERC-19275 (GU- 16763) SUERC-19276 (GU- 16764) SUERC-19277 (GU- 16765)
Tulach an T'Sionaich	GrA- 28611	From inside badly decayed vessel 'cinerary urn')	bone, human (<i>homo sapiens</i>)	3705 +/- 35	2140- 2030	2210- 1980	CANMORE

F4. THE SOUTH HIGHLANDS

SITE	Sample ID	CONTEXT	Sample Type	Date (BP)	68.2%	95.4%	REF
		Cist 1, cremation overlying inhumation	bone, human	3570 +/- 35	1980-1880	2030-1770	
Armadale	SUERC-22446	Cist 4. Date probably applies to intrusive material. From basal deposit.	charcoal, (<i>hazel</i>)	1930 +/- 30	20-130 AD	1-140 AD	Krus & Peteranna 2016
	SUERC-33911	Cist 5	Bone, human (cremated)	3620 +/- 35	2030-1930	2130-1890	
	SUERC-30679	Cist 2	Residue	3535 +/- 35	1930-1770	1960-1750	
Balblair Wood	SUERC-5811, SUERC-5812	Charcoal from later cutting into cairn (<i>terminus ante quem</i> for Food Vessel)	charcoal (betula)	135 +/- 35	-	-	Dutton <i>et al.</i> 2007
	SUERC-20236	Dates for paleochannel fill		3910 +/- 30	2470-2340	2480-2290	Sheridan pers comm.

		containing late 3 rd millennium pottery					
Culduthel Farm Phase 7 & 8	SUERC- 20235	Dates for spread 571 containing late 3 rd millennium pottery		3795 +/- 30	2290- 2150	2340- 2130	
Culduthel Mains Cist 2	SUERC- 26462	Bone from male inhumation	bone, human	3735 +/- 35	2200- 2040	2280- 2030	N.M.S. cited in Woodward & Hunter 2011
Fodderty Farm	OxA-V- 2172-26	Human bone from inhumation	Bone, human	3745 +/- 32	2210- 2050	2280- 2030	Sheridan 2007b:112
Fyrish	OxA- 13213	Human bone from inhumation	Bone, human	3816 +/- 29	2300- 2200	2430- 2140	Curtis et al 2007
Holm Mains Farm Cist 1	OxA-V- 2166-41,	Human bone from inhumation associated with Beaker, weak - sprofile	bone, human (homo sapiens)	3743 +/- 33	2210- 2050	2280- 2030	NMS cited in Woodward & Hunter 2011
Holm Mains Farm Cist 2	OxA-V- 2166-42	Inhumation burial associated with sherd of Beaker	bone, human (homo sapiens)	3755 +/-32	2270- 2060	2290- 2030	
Kiltraaglen	GU- 17468	Beaker pits	Charcoal (alder)	3945 +/- 30	2550- 2340	2570- 2340	Suddaby 2013

	GU- 17469		Charcoal (<i>alder</i>)	3845 +/- 30	2410- 2200	2460- 2000	
	GU- 17926		Charcoal (<i>hazel</i>)	3910 +/- 40	2470- 2340	2550- 2230	
	GU- 17927		Charcoal (birch)	3905 +/- 40	2470- 2340	2490- 2210	
Lochend	OxA-V- 2172-27	Bone from male inhumation	bone, human (<i>homo sapiens</i>)	3534+/- 31	1930- 1770	1950- 1760	Sheridan 2007b: 112
Mains of Balnagowan	GU-16321	Human bone from a crouched burial of a man	bone, human (<i>homo sapiens</i>)	3700 +/- 22	2140- 2030	2200- 2020	DES 2009
	SUERC- 40468	Charcoal from Beaker	Charcoal	3880 +/- 35	2460- 2300	2470- 2210	
New Broadford	SUERC- 40469	Charcoal from primary floor	Charcoal	3935 +/- 35	2490- 2340	2570- 2290	Birch pers. comm.
Raigmore Cist 1	SRR-430	Charcoal from Cist I with a Food Vessel	Charcoal	3720 +/- 100	2290- 1970	2460- 1880	Simpson 1996
West Torbreck	SUERC- 41922			3592+/- 22	1980- 1910	2030- 1880	

F5. SUPPLEMENTARY DATES FOR CHAPTER 5

SITE	Sample ID	CONTEXT	Sample Type	Date (BP)	68.2%	95.4%	REF
	GU-15568	SD77/L21/56		4560 +/- 40	3370- 3110	3500- 3100	
	GU-15569			4450 +/- 40	3330- 3020	3340- 2930	
	GU-15570	SD77/L54		4615 +/- 40	3500- 3350	3520- 3130	
Sumburgh Cist	GU-15571	SD77/L2	Dentine	4555 +/- 40	3370- 3110	3490- 3100	Walsh <i>et al.</i> 2011
	GU-15572				4555 +/- 40	3370- 3110	
	GU-15573	SD77/ L23		4630 +/- 40	3500- 3360	3620- 3340	
	GU-15666	SD77/L1		4625 +/- 35	3500- 3360	3520- 3340	
Alt Na Fearn Dyke 2	GU-3132	Buried soil horizon	Charcoal (unstated)	4410 +/- 50	3270- 2920	3340- 2900	
Achinduich Clearance Cairn 1	AA-17460	Buried soil beneath	?Charcoal?	4665 +/- 60	3520- 3360	3640- 3340	McCullagh & Tipping 1998
	AA-17461	Clearance Cairn 1	?Charcoal?	4775 +/- 60	3650- 3380	3660- 3370	
	GU-2862	Below AA-17460 and AA-17461	?Charcoal?	4410 +/- +50	3270- 2920	3340- 2900	

Milton of Leys	GU-9610	45 (Hearth 24)	Charcoal (hazel)	4540 +/- 65	3370- 3020	3360- 2930	Conolly & MacSween 2003
	GU-9611	36 (Pit 21)	Charcoal (hazelnut shell)	4470 +/- 65	3340- 3020	3360- 2930	
	GU-9612	216 (Post hole/ Pit 217)	Charcoal (hazelnut shell)	4445 +/- 75	3340- 3010	3350- 2920	
	GU-9613	210 (Pit 211)	Charcoal (hazelnut shell)	4490 +/- 50	3340- 3090	3360- 3020	
Culduthel Farm 7 & 8	SUERC-20308	Cremation pit 808	Bone (human)	4215 +/- 35	2900- 2710	2910- 2670	Sheridan unpub b
Culduthel Flood Relief Phase 3	SUERC-34576	Pit 20	Charcoal	4365 +/- 30	3020- 2920	3090- 2900	Sheridan 2011a
	SUERC-34575	Pit 23	Charcoal	4335 +/- 30	3020- 2900	3030- 2890	

APPENDIX G:

Blank data collection forms:

1. Site Record Sheets
2. Individual finds record sheets
3. Assemblage record sheets
4. Fabric record sheet



APPENDIX G

BLANK DATA COLLECTION FORMS



G1 SITE RECORD SHEETS

SITE NAME:		CANMORE ID:	
NGR:		COUNCIL:	
PARISH:		FORMER COUNTY:	
C14			
NOTES:			
REFERENCES:			

G2 INDIVIDUAL FINDS RECORD SHEETS

SITE NAME:		SITE CODE:	
CONTEXT:			
MUSEUM:			
TYPE:		FORM:	
RIM TYPE:			
INT RIM DIA:		VESSEL HEIGHT:	
WAIST DIA:		BASE DIA:	
NECK DEPTH:		RDN:	
DECORATION:			
FABRIC:			
COLOUR:		CONDITION:	

OTHER INFORMATION:

POSITION OF VESSEL:		HUMAN REMAINS PRESENT?	
ORIENTATION OF REMAINS:			
OTHER ARTEFACTS:			

G3 ASSEMBLAGE RECORD SHEETS

Site Code:				Comments:											
Context:		Period:		Comments											
Date range:				Size:		Comments									
				Name:	Comp:	Comments									
				Date:	Comments										
Fabric		Form		Dec	Sh	Smp	ENY	Stat e	I/R	Comments	Link	RimD	EVE	Wt	

G4 FABRIC RECORD SHEET

SITE CODE:

FABRIC NAME/CODE.

SAMPLE (Y/N)

COLOUR:

Core:

Margins:

COMMENTS:

Hardness:

Feel:

Inclusions:

Overall sorting:

Type	Frequency	Average Size	Sorting	Rounding	Comments

OTHER COMMENTS:

APPENDIX H:

Glossary key definitions in text:

1. Parent contexts
2. Sub contexts
3. Other artefact types



APPENDIX H

GLOSSARY: KEY DEFINITIONS IN TEXT



H1 PARENT CONTEXTS (PC)

Parent contexts denote the primary – sub if the context in which pot was found was set into (i.e. mound = parent cist = sub). In several cases the parent and sub context are the same, reflecting either on the level of information available or that it was only possible to define a single context for the associated ceramic material.

H1.1 Domestic

Parent Context (PC)	Description
<i>Eroding dune</i>	Coastal sites often without defined structures. Deposits are frequently mixed, comprising midden spreads. These typically contain a range of artefacts including lithics and pottery.
<i>Structure/s</i>	Identifiable remains of timber or stone-built structures.
<i>Burnt Mound</i>	Encompasses a range of structures/ features including mounds of burnt stone and associated structures.
<i>Stone Working site</i>	Sites with evidence of stone working, predominantly in the form of debitage.
<i>Pit</i>	Pits associated with structured deposits or other deposits. In some cases these could represent the remains of post holes.
<i>Quarry</i>	Remains of cut where material has been extracted for use elsewhere.
<i>Cave</i>	Employed for a range of possible functions, precise definition is difficult but deposits incorporate a range of midden and other domestic refuse.
<i>Midden</i>	Midden deposits that cannot be explicitly associated with structures

H1.2 Funerary

Parent Context (PC)	Description
<i>Barrow</i>	Man-made mound with cists under/ or set into mound. Burials can range from single to multiple.

<i>Burial (?)</i>	Recovered from probable burial. Precise details regarding nature of burial are absent.
<i>Cairn</i>	Mound of rough stones some examples have kerbs (see kerbed cairn/ pit). Can cover single or multiple burials.
<i>Cemetery</i>	Site comprising three or more burials. These can be placed within a variety of settings. In several cases cemetery is sealed by Clava Cairn, mounds or kerbed cairns.
<i>Chambered Cairn</i>	Burials set within or into the mound of a chambered cairn.
<i>Mound</i>	Natural mounds of earth. Burials can be set into the mound. Not covered as in barrow
<i>Paired cist</i>	Set of two cists found near each other
<i>Pit burial</i>	Burial placed within a simple pit. Often associated with cremation burials where remains are placed in pit either within a ceramic vessel or covered by.
<i>Rock cut pit</i>	Cist set within a pit cut into bedrock.
<i>Stone circle</i>	Circular or oval setting of freestanding stones. Can be further defined by a ditch and/ or bank
<i>Stone row</i>	Alignments of stone arranged in single or multiple rows.
<i>Unobtrusive cist</i>	Cist with no detail of associated setting or covering.

H1.3 Chambered Cairn Non-Funerary (NF)

<i>Chambered cairn fill (CC FILL)</i>	Artefacts recovered from the fill of the chamber. Precise contexts not stated. Can closely overlap with structured deposition
<i>Chambered cairn</i>	Context of deposition not stated or unclear
<i>Structured Deposition</i>	Formal placement within the chamber but not associated with burial

H1.4 STONE CIRCLES

<i>Standing stone</i>	Structured deposition of non-funerary nature at stone circle
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H2 SUB CONTEXTS (SC)

Burnt Mound	<i>Definition:</i> Mound of heat affected stones, examples can be associated with structures, including wooden troughs. <i>Site Type:</i> Domestic
Cave	<i>Definition:</i> Various mixed deposits from caves. Precise function or role of these deposits can be difficult to interpret (<i>cf.</i> Gibson 1982). <i>Site Type:</i> Domestic
Chambered Cairn Fill	<i>Definition:</i> Deposits from within a chamber cairn, related to a variety of events including disturbance created as part of backfilling or insertion of burials. Deposits associated with this parent context cannot be related to a specific event such as a structured deposit or burial. <i>Site type:</i> Chambered Cairn NF
Chamber floor	<i>Definition:</i> Material relating to basal deposits of chambered cairn. Unlike the above context these finds can potentially be related to more specific locations. <i>Site Type:</i> Chambered Cairn NF
Cinerary Urn (Cinerary Urn)	<i>Definition:</i> Burial set within a cinerary urn rather than placed within a cist. Typically set in pits or within older monuments. <i>Site type:</i> Funerary
Cist Fill	<i>Definition:</i> Material recovered from cist fill, possibly disturbed or secondary material. <i>Site Type:</i> Funerary
Clava Cairn/ Stone- Lined Pit	<i>Definition:</i> Stone lined pit set into a Clava Cairn. <i>Site Type:</i> Funerary
Disturbed	<i>Definition:</i> Context disturbed, deposits could potentially be mixed incorporating residual material. <i>Site Type:</i> Funerary

Kerbed Cairn/ Pit	<i>Definition:</i> Burial within pit associated with a kerbed cairn. Kerbed cairns typically seal several burials acting as cemetery sites. <i>Site Type:</i> Funerary
Long Cist	<i>Definition:</i> Long rectangular stone-built box-like structure containing inhumed or cremated remains. Typically, rectangular, constructed of on average four slabs. Some cists have floors. <i>Site Type:</i> Funerary
Midden Spread	<i>Definition:</i> Spreads of midden material not associated with any defined structures. These can in certain cases exhibit signs of structured deposition. <i>Site Type:</i> Domestic
Mound	<i>Definition:</i> These are typically natural mounds rather than artificial as in the case of barrows. <i>Site Type:</i> Funerary
Pit/s	<i>Definition:</i> Various types of pits are recorded from domestic sites, including refuse and structured deposits. <i>Site Type:</i> Domestic
Pit Burial	<i>Definition:</i> Burial set in a pit rather than a cist. These are frequently associated with cremation burials. <i>Site Type:</i> Funerary
Quarry Fill	<i>Definition:</i> Backfill of quarry. <i>Site Type:</i> Domestic
Rock Cut Pit	<i>Definition:</i> Pit cut into rock rather than earth, pit can act as a setting for a cist. <i>Site type:</i> Funerary
Short Cist	<i>Definition:</i> Short rectangular stone-built box-like structure containing inhumed or cremated remains. Typically, rectangular, constructed of on average four slabs. Some cists have floors. <i>Site Type:</i> Funerary

Standing Stone	<i>Definition:</i> Single standing stone. Stone could originally have formed part of larger stone setting, including stone rows or stone circles. <i>Site Type:</i> Stone Circle
Stone Circle	<i>Definition:</i> Circular or oval setting of freestanding stones. Can be further defined by a ditch and/ or bank. <i>Site type:</i> Stone circle
Stone Row	<i>Definition:</i> Alignments of stone arranged in single or multiple rows. <i>Site type:</i> Stone Circle
Stone working site	<i>Definition:</i> Site with debitage likely associated with stone working. <i>Site type:</i> Domestic
Structured Deposition Chambered Cairn	<i>Definition:</i> Structured deposit placed into chamber tomb. <i>Site type:</i> Chambered cairn NF
Structure/s	<i>Definition:</i> Stone or timber structure. <i>Site Type:</i> Domestic
Structure/ Midden	<i>Definition:</i> Structure with associated midden deposits. <i>Site Type:</i> Domestic Associated SC: Structure/s
Unknown	<i>Definition:</i> Unknown site – little information to define site type
Unobtrusive Cist	<i>Definition:</i> Cist without covering mound. In most of the recorded cases it is difficult to define whether the cist was originally covered or not. <i>Site Type:</i> Funerary
Unstratified Chambered Cairn	Unstratified find from chambered cairns

H3. OTHER ARTEFACT TYPES

In total 25 additional artefact types were recorded in association with pots. The following list and definitions is not intended as an exhaustive review. Instead definitions are only provided for those artefacts recorded in association with pots from the study area.

AMBER BEAD:

Artefact type: Items of equipment

Definition: Bead made from amber. Single beads tend to be rare in burials, occurring throughout the late 3rd millennium and early 2nd millennium (Woodward & Hunter, J. 2015: 187). Amber is also employed in the manufacture of spacer plate necklaces, including the example from the Knowes of Trotty (Fig. 7.20). Amber was likely sourced from washed up deposits (see Shepherd, I 1985: 204; Woodward & Hunter, J. 2015: 382).

Database code: AB

Recorded examples from study area: Single example recorded from Culduthel Mains (SH18) in association with long-necked Beaker and male inhumation. Other artefacts include a bone belt ring, stone wrist guard, eight barbed and tanged arrowheads and a flint strike a light.

Principal reference:

ARROWHEAD:

Artefact type: Items of equipment

Definition: Arrowhead of unspecified type.

Database code: AR

Recorded examples from study area: Single example recorded from Muie (NH25), precise nature of artefact unstated. Associated with a simple Food Vessel. Examples of arrowheads are widely recorded from across the study area as stray finds.

Principal reference: Green 1980

AWL:

Artefact type: Items of equipment

Definition: Made of metal or bone. Simple pointed object. Suggested functions have ranged from leather working to tattooing. Awls have in the past been associated with female burials (Clarke, D.L. 1970: 265, 448), but are also found in male burials (Woodward & Hunter, J. 2015: 95). In some reports, it may be possible that awls have been confused for pins.

Database code: AWL

Recorded examples from study area: Only one example was recorded from the burial at Inchnacaorach (SH32). Made of bone. Found in association with a bone chisel and short-necked Beaker. Associated with a male burial. A single awl was recorded with a Cordoned Urn from Rosemarkie (SH45).

Principal reference: Woodward & Hunter, J. 2015; see also Thomas, N. 2005: 220-22

BARBED AND TANGED ARROWHEAD:

Artefact type: Items of equipment

Definition: Common form of arrowhead employed in the later 3rd millennium. Sub-divided by Green into several varieties including Sutton, Ballyclare, Conygar and Green Low types (see Green 1980).

Database code: BTA

Recorded examples from study area: Barbed and tanged arrowheads were recorded from seven sites. Six of these were funerary in nature whilst a further example was recorded from Kilcoy Carn Glas (SH33). The degree of association between this and the pottery is unclear (Abercromby 1906). Stray finds are recorded widely, multiple examples have been recorded from Orkney (Mason 2011: 6). In burial contexts recorded primarily in association with Beaker vessels (*n*.5). Single example recorded with an Accessory Vessel at Seafield West (SH48) and a Food Vessel at Achinchanter (NH2). Frequently occur in sets of 2 or more.

Principal reference: Green 1980; Edmonds; Butler 2005

BONE MOUNT:

Artefact type: Items of equipment/ personal adornment

Database code: BONE MOUNT

Recorded examples from study area: Only one example recorded from Ord North (NH26). Compared in the past to the bone mounts from Bush Barrow (Sharples 1981: 42; but see Section 8.4.6).

Principal reference: Woodward & Hunter, J. 2015

BONE PIN:

Artefact type: Items of personal adornment

Definition: Longworth divided bone pins into nine types, skewer, skewer with rectangular perforation, ring-headed, perforated or imperforate splinters of bone where articular end is retained, perforated or imperforate splinters of bone where articular end is not retained, chisel end and with decorated shank (1984: 63-4). Additional types include miscellaneous forms and those of unknown form.

Database code: BOP

Recorded examples from study area: Single example in association with a cremation and food vessel at Alt Na Fearná (NH5). A second pin was recovered from cremation burial 5 (Battley 1998: 131). Bone pins are commonly recorded from cremations (Longworth 1984: 63). The pin from the latter is equated with Longworth's Type 4, perforated or imperforate splinters of bone where articular end is retained, whilst the spatulate pin is of an uncommon type (Battley 1998: 131).

Principal reference: Longworth 1984; 63-64

BRONZE (UNDIAGNOSTIC):

Artefact type: Items of equipment

Definition: Fragment of bronze or bronze object where form is not stated.

Database code: BRO

Recorded examples from study area: Fragment of bronze recorded from the Aonach, Drummond (SH50) in association with a grooved-shoulder Food Vessel. In the original report the fragment of bronze is described as the size of a "darning needle" (Watson 1889: 139). The form of the fragment is not described. A second possible bronze pin was recorded from Achinchanter (NH3)

Principal reference: n/a

CHISEL

Artefact type: Items of equipment

Definition: Bone chisel.

Database code: CHIS

Recorded examples from study area: Single example from Inchnacaorach (SH32) in association with two bone awls and a short-necked Beaker.

Principal reference: n/a

DISCOIDAL BEADS

Artefact type: Items of personal adornment

Definition: Fragment of bronze or bronze object where form is not stated.

Database code: DB

Recorded examples from study area: Achinduich (NH3)

Principal reference: n/a

FLINT:

Artefact type: Items of equipment

Definition: Undiagnostic flint objects, where form is not stated in report

Database code: FLINT

Recorded examples from study area: Three examples recorded from Mains of Balnagowan (SH38), Werne (ORK20) and West Torbreck (SH53). At the Mains of Balnagowan (SH38) and West Torbreck (SH53) recorded in association with s-profile Beakers and female inhumation. At Werne (ORK20) the flint was associated with a cremation. Various flint flakes were recovered from Tulach an t'Sionnaich (NH30), but their relationship to the other artefacts from the chamber is unclear.

Principal reference: n/a

FLINT KNIFE:

Artefact type: Items of equipment

Definition: Knife made of flint, precise form is unclear. Other examples of flint knives include plano-convex knives, recorded from one further funerary site.

Database code: FKN

Recorded examples from study area: One example recorded in association with the grooved-shoulder Food Vessel from Sandhills Dalmore (NH27). Several examples were recorded from Armadale (SH4). Further example from Embo (NH17) but relationship to

other finds from the chambered cairn is unclear. The 'spearhead' from Strath Fleet (NH29) could represent the remains of a further knife.

Principal reference: n/a

FLINT SCRAPER:

Artefact type: Items of equipment

Definition: Simple flint tools used for a variety of purposes.

Database code: FSCR

Recorded examples from study area: Occur frequently as single or paired examples. At least two examples were recorded from Garrywhin (NH19), whilst single examples were recorded from Easter Moy (SH24), Strath Fleet (NH29) and Dunrobin Park (NH16).

Principal reference: n/a

FLINT, WORKED:

Artefact type: Items of equipment

Definition: Flint objects where form is not stated.

Database code: FLW

Recorded examples from study area: Examples were recorded from Achavanich (NH4), Drumashie (SH21), Fodderty Farm (SH28).

Principal reference: n/a

FLINT NODULE:

Artefact type: Items of equipment

Definition: Unworked nodules of flint

Database code: FNO

Recorded examples from study area: Only one example recorded from Lochend (SH37)

Principal reference: n/a

IRON ORE NODULE:

Definition: Nodules of iron ore. Often associated with flint strike-a-lights. Interpreted as forming part of fire starter kits.

Database code: ION

Recorded examples from study area: Only one example recorded in association with a Beaker at Dornoch Nursery (NH15)

Principal reference: Teather & Chamberlain 2015

JET BEADS:

Artefact type: Personal Adornment

Definition: Beads can derive from simple single strand necklaces, or more complex spacer plate necklaces. Contemporary with range of other jet artefacts including jet buttons.

Database code: JB

Recorded examples from study area: Examples of jet beads were recorded from several sites, including at Embo (NH17). More complex jet spacer plate necklaces were not recorded in association with ceramics. Examples of necklaces recorded from North Sutor and Assynt. Jet buttons found as part of separate deposits including examples from Isbister and the hoard from Migdale.

Principal reference: Sheridan 2015

LIGNITE BEAD

Artefact type: Personal Adornment

Definition: Beads made of lignite forms overlap with jet beads. Other forms include disc beads. .

Database code: LB

Recorded examples from study area: Multiple beads were recorded from South Yarrows (NH28) probably from a single strand necklace.

Principal reference: Sheridan 2015

PEBBLE

Definition: Unworked pebbles

Recorded examples from study area: Single white pebble from Auchidown (SH5)

Principal reference: n/a

PLANO-CONVEX KNIFE

Artefact type: Items of equipment

Definition: Flint knives typically with leaf shaped outline and a slightly elongate form

Database code: PCK

Recorded examples from study area: Single example recorded from Beechwood Park measuring 38 x 23 x 7mm

Principal reference: Edmonds 1995

Shale Beads

Artefact type: Items of personal adornment

Definition: Disc beads made of shale. Form overlaps with lignite and jet examples

Database code: SBE

Recorded examples from study area: Worked and unfinished shale beads were recorded from Durnobin Park (NH16)

Principal reference: n/a

STRIKE A LIGHT:

Artefact type:

Definition: Often associated with nodules of haematite these sets have typically been interpreted as fire starter kits (Tether & Chamberlain 2015)

Database code: STRIKE

Recorded examples from study area: Several examples recorded from across the study area including Corran Ferry (SH16), Dornoch Nursery (NH15) and Culduthel Mains (SH18)

Principal reference: (Tether & Chamberlain 2015)

STONE BRACER

Artefact type: Items of equipment

Definition: Stone bracers comprise small rectangles of stone with perforations at either end, often between two and six. Distinctions occur within the group based on shape and rock source. As highlighted by Woodward & Hunter these reflect different temporal trends within the group (see Woodward & Hunter, J. 2011: Chp.7).

Database code: SBR

Recorded examples from study area: In total 4 bracers are known from contexts in association with pottery. Several further examples are known, including the fragment from Armadale. Further fragmentary examples are known from Skye. Where found in burials often associated with other archery equipment, primarily barbed and tanged arrowheads.

Principal reference: Woodward & Hunter, J. 2011