

NOTES

1. NEOLITHIC SHERDS FROM DALKEITH

ABOUT twenty-seven years ago the sherds which are the subject of this Note were discovered in the Woodburn Housing Scheme, Dalkeith; they have now been presented to the National Museum of Antiquities by Mr Thomas Wallace.¹

The four sherds come from a large vessel of late Neolithic type, about 14 in. in diameter inside the rim, and narrowing to about 8 in. in diameter at the lowest surviving point (fig. 1). It varies from 0.55 in. thick at the neck to 1.2 in. thick near the base. The rather

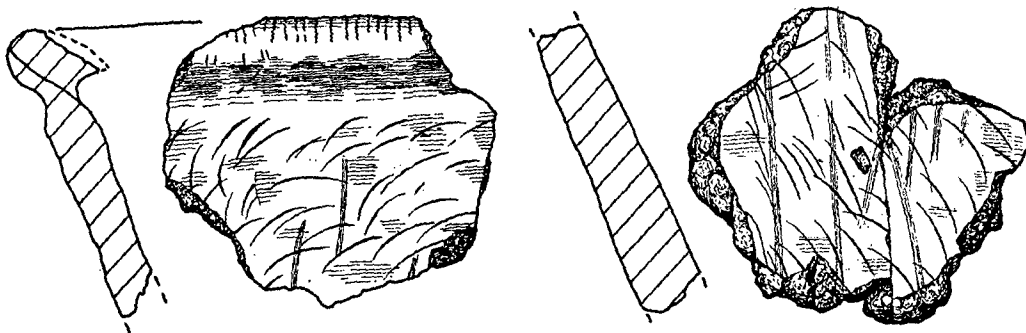


FIG. 1. Late Neolithic sherds from Dalkeith; *left*, rim sherd, *right*, sherd from near the base of the vessel. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$

crumbly ware is tempered with many very large grits, but has a surface slip. It is a buff-pink to dark brown with a dark grey core. The surface is irregular due to pinching, particularly evident on the neck. The thickened rim projects as a flange inside, but the upper surface is missing. A joint in the ring-building is visible running through the rim.

Across the rim there is a row of string impressions, and the body is covered by curved incisions. On the upper part of the body these slant in one direction, and on the lower part in the opposite direction; on one of the small sherds they cross, slanting in both directions. There are also light, roughly vertical score marks.

The closest parallels for this pot are sherds of two vessels from Ford Castle, Northumberland (*Arch. J.*, LXXXVIII (1931), 157). The first of these is very similar in profile except that the rim is rather less developed. Both are decorated, like the Dalkeith pot, with string impressions and incised lines, but the arrangement of the decoration of the second vessel is very close to that from Dalkeith.

The Ford Castle and Dalkeith pots are related to the Fengate ware of south Britain. These pots with straight flaring walls have small flat bases, as illustrated by the finds from West Kennet, Wiltshire, for instance (S. Piggott, *West Kennet Long Barrow*, 1962, 38 ff., fig. 12).

A. S. HENSHALL