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FICHE 1: CONTENTS

A HAGGARTY	Machrie Moor, Arran: Recent excavations at two stone circles	A4-A12
T COWIE & G RITCHIE	Bronze Age burials at Gairneybank, Kinross-shire	B1-B8
M DALLAND	A short cist at Grainfoot, Longniddry, East Lothian	C1-C7
E CAMPBELL	Excavations of a wheelhouse and other Iron Age structures at Sollas, North Uist, by R J C Atkinson in 1957	D1-G14

MACHRIE MOOR

HAGGARTY

CONTENTS

Catalogue of Neolithic pottery

Audrey Henshall

4:A5

Machrie Moor, Arran

Audrey Henshall

Catalogue neolithic pottery (external rim diameters given where ascertainable.

* indicates item not illustrated)

Site II

1a Sherds comprising about half the rim and upper part of a bowl, and sherds from the walls and probably the base. A hole through the neck made after firing. Fabric hard, numerous pale grits, slipped surface with traces of burnishing. Diameter 280mm, wall thickness 7mm. One sherd with a cereal impression.

From pit F 521

b and c Two small rim sherds almost certainly from this pot.*
From F 193, 209

2 Two sherds from the rim and body. Fabric similar to 1, rather uneven tooled surface, slight burnishing. Diameter 180mm, wall thickness 5-7mm. Also a small worn rim sherd probably from this pot.
From pit F 521

3a Two small sherds from the rim, and sherds from the neck, carination and lower body. Fabric coarser than 1 and 2 with numerous pale grits, the surface rather rough with some grits protruding. Estimated diameter 360mm, wall thickness 9mm increasing to 15mm near the base.

From pit F 521

b Three wall sherds probably from this pot.*
From pit F 535

4a Three rim sherds, and sherds from just below the rim and from the body. Fabric gritty and most sherds rather friable and worn due to

scorching. Estimated diameter 230mm, wall thickness at the neck 7mm but wall sherds up to 14mm.

From pit F 521

b Wall sherd, similar fabric. *

From F 819

c Two wall sherds, similar fabric. *

From F 686

5a Three small damaged rim sherds, thicker and less regular than those of 4a and seemingly from a different pot but the fabric is indistinguishable.

From pit F 521

b Rim sherd lacking the lip, and three wall sherds, possibly from the same pot. Fabric dark with small pale grits but the outer surface damaged. Diameter about 200mm, wall thickness about 9mm.

From F 106

6 Rim sherd. Fabric hard with fine grits, slight burnishing, striations on the inner surface. Estimated diameter 230mm, wall thickness 5mm.

From pit F 535

7a Sherd from the shoulder, and wall sherd. Fabric hard with pale grits, thick slip. Wall thickness 10mm.

From F 106

b Three small wall sherds, similar fabric.*

From pit F 535

8 Rim sherd, faint fluting on the rim. Fabric gritty with thick slip. Wall thickness 5mm.

From F 413

9a Rim sherd, and small wall sherd. Fabric hard and fine. Wall thickness about 5mm.

From F 413

b Two tiny fragments from the lip of a rim, possibly from this pot.*

From pit F 521

10 Wall sherd from immediately below an everted rim, similar to 4 but the fabric seems harder, less gritty, with a lightly striated outer surface. Wall thickness 11mm, thicker than the upper part of 4.*

From F 272

11 Sherd from the shoulder, a concentric groove and part of another on the neck with transverse nicks in the groove and also on the edge of the shoulder, light vertical grooves on the body. Fabric fine and hard but the surface worn. Diameter of shoulder about 160mm, wall thickness 5mm.

From F 106

- There are also a few miscellaneous wall sherds probably belonging to the pots listed above, from F 103, 106, 266, 413, 535, 821. Two small sherds from different pots, from F 106 and 686, are notable for their very fine quality and thinness, appropriate for the pots represented by the rims 8 and 9.

Site I

12a Rim sherd with fluting across the flange. Fabric hard and fine. Diameter 180mm, wall thickness 8mm.

b Rim sherd and wall sherd, the same profile, diameter and fabric as a but only 5-6mm thick and the rim fluting narrower. Presumably both sherds come from the same pot but the thickness difference is surprising from a relatively small and well made pot.*

a and b from F 1139

13 Two rim sherds, and three wall sherds two of which have an applied lug. Fabric hard, well gritted, with a thick slip. Diameter 280mm, wall thickness 7-8mm. Although there is no join between the rim sherds and the sherds with lugs the thickening of the wall sherds below the lugs indicates that the lugs were roughly 80-100mm below the rim.

From F 1139

14 About three-quarters of the rim and many body sherds from a bowl of irregular profile and diameter. Fabric hard, heavily gritted with some quite large grits, some showing through the slip which tends to break away. Diameter 140-150mm, wall thickness 6-8mm.

From F 213/134

15a Sherd from a shoulder, faint fluting on the body. Fabric fine, hard, with smooth inner surface but outer surface damaged. Wall thickness 5-6mm.

From F 89

b Two small wall sherds, one with very faint fluting, the other with faint wide striations. Similar distinctive good quality fabric.*

From F 236

c Small wall sherd of similar quality.*

From F 1010

d Small wall sherds, similar fabric but thicker, the outer surface damaged. Possibly from the base of this or a similar pot.*

From F 27

16a Rim sherd lacking the lip, and three wall sherds. Fabric similar to 14. Wall thickness 10mm.

From F 1121

b Four wall sherds, similar fabric. *

From F 1006

17a Two rim sherds, and two wall sherds, with elaborate decoration. On the inner edge of the rim is a row of fine slanting nicks. Outside, immediately below the rim is a groove interrupted by a pair of low knobs which barely protrude above the rim edge. Below this are triple slanting grooves above similar horizontal grooves, and along the upper edge of the former is a row of fine oblique incisions overlaid by a row of small curved impressions, and along the lower edge is a row of oval or triangular impressions. Some of the grooves are interrupted. The lower body bears grooved lattice. Fabric hard with rather harsh texture, heavily gritted with large angular tempering, fine slip. Diameter 230mm, wall thickness 8mm.

From F 241, 219, 239

b Wall sherd with slightly curved grooves, probably from near the rim of this pot. Fabric fine, somewhat sandy texture. Wall thickness 5-6mm.

From F 273

c Tiny wall sherd with parallel grooves, one interrupted, possibly from the same pot.*

From F 141

d Sherd from the base angle, two horizontal grooves above the base and part of a slanting groove above. Probably from 17 or possibly from 18. Fabric hard, well gritted, thick slip. Diameter about 130mm.

From F 273

18 Rim sherd, and two wall sherds. On the rim edge are deep slanting nicks crossing faint nicks, and an applied broken upstanding knob. Outside, immediately below the rim are indefinite impressions which have left groups of close-set irregular vertical lines. On the body are rather irregular horizontal and slanting grooves. Fabric similar

to 17 except that the walls break cleanly along the building rings.

Diameter about 230mm, wall thickness 9mm.

From F 1280

19 Rim sherds, and relatively small wall sherds, and one base sherd just preserving the external angle. The inner edge of the rim is decorated with two rows of fine slanting nicks. Striations and faint wide grooves outside do not appear to be deliberate. Fabric pink-buff with many large angular grits, a thick slip, uneven surface except inside the upper part, the walls tending to split apart. Diameter about 280-330mm, wall thickness 9mm at the rim expanding to 20mm or more near the base, the base over 40mm thick.

From F 237

20a Wall sherd, parallel slanting grooves with round impressions between the upper pair and the lower single groove. Fabric hard, dark, heavily gritted with rounded tempering, breaking along the building rings. Wall thickness 9mm.

From F 220

b Wall sherd almost certainly from the same pot, an angled groove with elongated impressions below.

From F 97

c Two wall sherds probably from this pot. *

From F 44

21 Wall sherd with part of an elaborate pattern. Fine deeply incised multiple lines have probably formed diamonds, divided horizontally, one of the resultant triangles filled by lines and very fine dots. Fabric hard, rather sandy texture but including some relatively large grits. Wall thickness variable both vertically and horizontally, 6-9mm.

From F 217

22 Two wall sherds with wide striated horizontal grooves. Fabric heavily gritted, thick slip. Wall thickness 7-9mm.

From F 1276

23 Sherd with fine incised lattice. Fabric greatly damaged by scorching, the inner surface missing. Thickness over 13mm. The outer surface is flat suggesting a base sherd but the incised lines appear to be deliberate decoration.

From F10

24a Rim sherd, and wall sherd from near the base. Fabric rather friable and heavily gritted, a thick slip outside, breaking along the building rings, the surface and profile irregular. Rim diameter roughly 180mm, base diameter roughly 100mm, wall thickness 11mm.

From F220

b Five sherds from the lower walls, probably from the same pot, some sherds curving inwards to the base the outer edge of which was evidently rounded. Rather uneven rough surfaces, breaking along building rings, much carbonised material inside. Base diameter about 100mm, wall thickness 7-10mm.

From F 1279

c Wall sherd probably from this pot.*

From F 235

25 Two rim sherds, and wall sherds, decorated by coarse comb impressions. The outer bevel of the rim with a row of herringbone, below the bevel a row of deep short impressions, on the neck vertical impressions; the wall sherds indicate that there was a cordon below. Fabric very friable, very heavily gritted with angular tempering much of it pale grey, the outer surface damaged but the inside smooth. Diameter 290mm, wall thickness 11-13mm.

From F 1260

26 Seven wall sherds, decorated by light impressions apparently of a coarse comb with very shallow teeth giving the appearance of faint grooves. A wide zone of multiple chevrons bounded by one or two horizontal lines. Fabric friable, heavily gritted but less coarse than 25, the surfaces damaged. Diameter about 230mm, wall thickness 10mm.

From F 1260

27 Rim sherd, and wall sherd, decorated by finger-nail nicks in slanting, vertical and horizontal rows. The wall sherd with a slight cordon may come from immediately below the rim or from lower down the pot. Fabric similar to 25 and 26, the surface damaged. Wall thickness 9mm.

From F 1033, 1073

28 Rim sherd, and three wall sherds, decorated by light coarse comb impressions. Several horizontal rows below the rim and on the shoulder, between them a zone of slanting lines probably forming triangles, similar decoration probably also below the shoulder. Fabric hard with small grits, thin damaged slip outside. Diameter 115mm, wall thickness 8mm.

From F 1033, 1062

29 Rim sherd, three wall sherds, and two sherds from the base angle. A row of crossed lightly incised lines along the rim edge. Outside, fine incised lines, more or less horizontal below the rim, grouped slanting lines below; two horizontal lines on each wall sherd; roughly incised horizontal lines above the base but these sherds are much damaged. Fabric similar to 28. Base diameter 100mm, wall thickness 6-8mm.

From F 1260

30 Small wall sherd with one comb impressed line. Fabric includes larger grits than 29, fine outer surface. Wall thickness 8mm.*

From F 103, site I