

SHORTER CONTRIBUTIONS

GROOVED WARE SHERDS FROM WEST STOW

by *Edward A. Martin*

Three late neolithic Grooved Ware (also known as Rinyo-Clacton ware) sherds were recently discovered by Richard Darrah in a small pit in an area being quarried for gravel at West Stow (S.A.U. Index No. WSW 030). Also in the pit were a flint core, 16 flakes and a finely denticulated flake.

All three sherds (Fig. 30) are from the same vessel and are of a grey-brown vesicular fabric with a black core which gives them a distinct 'corky' appearance. The rim sherd has two ridges on the top of the rim and it and the other sherds are ornamented with horizontal cordons, bridged, on the rim sherd, by an applied piece of clay. In between the cordons are wavy horizontal lines and stab-marks produced by the alternate indenting of a horizontal ridge with a stick or similar pointed object.

The wavy line pattern can be paralleled on Grooved Ware sherds from Woodlands, Amesbury, Wiltshire (Stone, 1949) and from Fimber Church in Yorkshire (Manby, 1974). The two ridges on the rim can be paralleled at Honington, Suffolk (Fell, 1952) and at Flamborough, Yorkshire (Manby, 1974); multiple ridges on the rim are also present at Woodlands and Fimber Church.

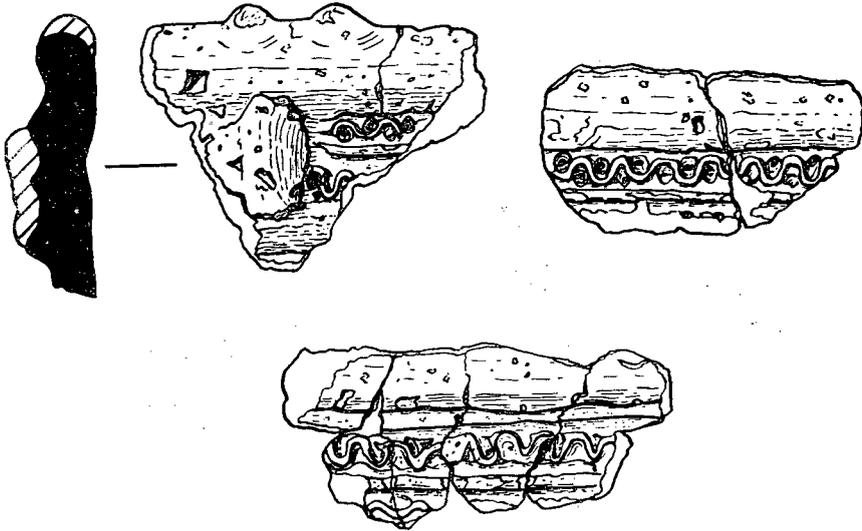


FIG. 30—Grooved ware sherds from West Stow.

The West Stow sherds can therefore be identified as belonging to the Woodlands sub-style of Grooved Ware (Wainwright and Longworth, 1971). This style appears to be mainly centred in the Wiltshire-Oxfordshire area, but it occurs as far south as Dorset, and is also found in the east, in Suffolk, Lincolnshire and Yorkshire, and as far north as Scotland. Within Suffolk the Woodlands style is represented at Honington (Fell, 1952) and at Icklingham (Piggott, 1931), which latter parish is adjacent to West Stow. Sherds of the Durrington Walls sub-style of Grooved Ware, which again is mainly centred in Wiltshire, have also been found at West Stow (Wainwright and Longworth, 1971) and at Ipswich and Pakenham.

No direct dating evidence is yet available for the Woodlands sub-style, but, as a general style, Grooved Ware appears to date from *c.* 2000 b.c. in radiocarbon years (= approximately 2500 B.C. in calendar years).

References

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- Wainwright, G. J. and Longworth, I. H., 1971. 'The Rinyo-Clacton Culture reconsidered', in *Durrington Walls: Excavations 1966-1968* (Society of Antiquaries Report No. xxix).