

PREHISTORIC CERAMICS RESEARCH GROUP RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

Agenda and Strategy



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FRONT COVER

Mortlake Ware jar from Kingsmead Quarry, Berkshire. The motifs are more familiar on vessels found in East Yorkshire.

BACK COVER

Iron Age ceramics from Gamston, Nottinghamshire.

Foreword

I applied my imagination to my observation.
– Shelagh Delaney¹

The *Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group* (PCRG) (www.pcr.org.uk) was created in November 1988. This decision combined two existing later prehistoric pottery special interest groups; the *Iron Age Pottery Research Group* – first formed in eastern England in 1976 – and the *First Millennium BC Ceramic Research Group* – first formed in central southern England in 1985. In 1994, the scope of the PCRG was widened to include the ceramics of the Neolithic and earlier Bronze Age periods, thus extending its interests to the whole of prehistoric ceramics in the UK. Indeed, the membership now extends outside of Britain: international conferences have been organized, the Group has published monographs of international scope and members have undertaken research not just in this country but also overseas. Nevertheless, the main focus of the PCRG remains domestic, and this Research Framework is specifically aimed at the study of

British prehistoric ceramics. However, it is interesting to note the similarities both in format and content of the Research Agenda and Strategy in this Framework and the “...series of questions and statements grouped by general topic...” (Matson 1966, 277) presented 50 years ago as pertinent to ceramic research from a world-wide perspective. It is pleasing that research questions conceived in the context of the study of British prehistoric pottery should resonate with wider concerns, but perhaps a little disconcerting that they should appear similar to issues raised half a century ago. Therefore, we present this Framework document in 2016 as our latest combined effort to progress the study of prehistoric ceramics. The Framework is intended to supplement the PCRG *Guidelines for the Study of Prehistoric Pottery* (PCRG 2010) and, like those Guidelines, will be periodically reviewed and revised.

1. Quoted by Jeanette Winterson, in a short essay ‘The start of the Possible’, in the programme for the National Theatre’s 2014 production of *A Taste of Honey*. In a 1960 interview for ITN replying to the question “Your play has a rather sordid theme. Where did you get your information?” Delaney said “I just applied my imagination to my observation”.

1. Introduction

Numerous Research Frameworks have been compiled since recommendations for their preparation were advanced in the 1996 English Heritage publication *Frameworks for Our Past* (Olivier 1996). That document was produced in the light of quite widespread criticism (Buckley 1997; Last 2012) of the research value of much of the developer-funded archaeological work being undertaken following the issue of *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16) by the Department of the Environment in 1990. Although the upsurge in fieldwork resulting from the implementation of PPG16 provided the immediate context, a desire to sharpen the research focus of development-led fieldwork was by no means new (e.g. Renfrew 1978). Similarly, the desire for clearly defined sets of research priorities had been demonstrated repeatedly by period societies in the 1970s and 1980s (Olivier 1996, 16–17). The Council for British Archaeology had also set out research objectives in the early 1980s (Thomas 1983), following its earlier work in the post-war period (Hawkes and Piggott 1948), while the Society of Antiquaries had produced *A Research Policy for Field Work* as far back as 1929 (Peers 1929).

Frameworks for our Past set out a tripartite structure for Research Frameworks consisting of:

- *Resource Assessment* – The current state of knowledge and understanding;
- *Research Agenda* – Research topics, potential of resource, gaps in knowledge;
- *Research Strategy* – Priorities and methods for implementing the agenda.

In general this structure has been followed by most of the Research Frameworks that have been prepared since 1996. These have been mainly regional, but a variety of period- and topic-based Frameworks has also been prepared. From the ceramic viewpoint, Research Frameworks have

been produced by both the Study Group for Roman Pottery (Willis 1997, 2002, 2004; Perrin 2011) and the Medieval Pottery Research Group (Irving 2011).

At its 2012 AGM in Rochester, the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG) voted to prepare a Research Framework for prehistoric pottery in order to focus upon the key questions that could be addressed by pottery research with a recommended strategy for achieving them and, in so doing, promote the role of prehistoric ceramics in furthering public understanding of and engagement with the past.

Creating a Research Agenda was considered to be a more urgent need than attempting to summarise the current state of knowledge and understanding through preparation of a Resource Assessment. A steering group, consisting of Alistair Barclay, Ina Berg, Nigel Brown, Matt Brudenell, Grace Jones, David Knight, Elaine Morris, Sarah Percival, Patrick Quinn and Isobel Thompson, was established to coordinate the preparation of the Framework. Following the circulation to PCRG members of a request for views and opinions, the Research Framework was discussed further at the October 2012 meeting in Manchester. Subsequently, the Steering Group met in London in January 2013 and drew up a list of questions, structured around the themes in the PCRG Guidelines (PCRG 2010, 4–5). These questions, augmented with text from the Guidelines, formed the basis of the Agenda. The draft Agenda was circulated to PCRG members and discussed at the October 2013 meeting in York and at a meeting of the Steering Group in January 2014, which also discussed the Strategy. A revised Agenda and the first draft of the Strategy were prepared and circulated to PCRG members for discussion at the 2014 AGM in Oxford. Revised in the light of those discussions, the Research Agenda and Strategy document is set out below.

2. Research Agenda – Themes and Topics

What song the Syrens sang, or what name Achilles assumed when he hid himself among women, though puzzling questions, are not beyond all conjecture
– Sir Thomas Browne²

The above quotation is from *Hydriotaphia, Urne-Burial*, and it is entirely appropriate that Browne's short treatise on the past, life and death should have been inspired by the discovery of ancient pots. Pottery can be used to explore many of even the most 'puzzling questions' that prehistorians may wish to ask. Members of PCRG scarcely need to be reminded of that, but while much imaginative and important work on prehistoric pottery continues to be produced, it is perhaps fair to say that lately the full potential of ceramic studies has not always been explored. In many cases, pottery work has tended to become routine in nature and constrained to address a fairly narrow range of issues, often dominated by chronology. This problem appears to be most acutely felt with regard to archaeological work arising from the planning process. It is anticipated that this Research Agenda will help in directing resources toward a more fruitful and dynamic approach when working with prehistoric ceramics. The Agenda is not intended to be prescriptive. It is not part of a cage, but rather part of a framework on which to build. It suggests lines of enquiry intended to help those dealing with prehistoric pottery to explore the full benefit of the information which may be extracted from it.



*Collared Urn containing human cremated remains.
Amesbury, Wiltshire*

Theme A. Archaeological deposits and finds assemblages

Consideration of the preservation of pottery and the kinds of archaeological deposits in which it is found can contribute to an understanding of deposit formation processes, including re-deposition. Pottery is of particular value in this regard because of its physical characteristics and common occurrence. Such studies can contribute to the understanding and interpretation of sites and deposits, and can also have considerable implications for specialist studies of other materials and wider issues of archaeological

interpretation. Examination of the patterns of pottery deposition can elucidate refuse disposal processes and should enable the definition and identification of structured deposits and the development of explanations for their occurrence. When interpreting structured deposits, it would be useful to consider the contexts in which they occur and whether the form, function, size and decoration of the vessels are significant in their selection for structured deposition. Such deposits might include heirlooms in the form of curated pots, while both the occurrence and nature of structured deposition may vary both regionally and chronologically.

2. The wording is taken from the version edited by Patrides 1977.



*Iron Age vessel placed in a pit with objects of metal.
Orchard Hill, Surrey*

Summary

Topics which could usefully be addressed include:

1. What is the condition of the pottery and from what kinds of archaeological deposits has it derived?
2. How can we enhance further our understanding of deposit formation and processes of redeposition?
3. What can we deduce from refuse disposal processes?
4. How can we enhance our identification and interpretation of structured deposits after establishing a definition of this concept?
5. What can we deduce about variations in the contexts of structured deposits?
6. Which attributes of pottery (including form, function, size and decoration) play a part in it being selected for structured deposition?
7. Is there evidence of curated pots in the pre-Roman archaeological record?
8. How do the occurrence and nature of deposition practices vary regionally and chronologically?

Theme B. Chronology

It is interesting in this context to recall O. G. S. Crawford's observation that

... while it is often possible to recognise and date potsherds at sight, it is often difficult or tedious to give a reason... In most cases the difficulty of giving a reason for one's opinion is due, not so much to confused thinking as to the fact that one's knowledge has become subconscious or intuitive through long familiarity with one's subject; one's memories are tactile derived from the handling of thousands of other potsherds. In most cases it would be possible to give reasons, but it might take time and involve lengthy explanations. Often one bases one's opinion upon a kind of negative foundation, on the improbability of the sherds in question belonging to any other period than that to which one attributes them (Crawford 1921, 75–6).

Most pottery specialists will recognise that this reflection is a fair description of that ubiquitous and sometimes mystifying practice of 'spot dating', although it is to be hoped that the chronological opinions of ceramic specialists have a factual basis that is in fact capable of clear expression! While this Research Agenda is partly intended to counter the view that chronological questions are almost the sole aim of pottery studies, Crawford's comment serves to emphasise the key role of pottery as a tool in the dating process. The information derived from prehistoric pottery chronologies affects the refinement of all other archaeological studies, as great reliance is placed on pottery dating for the primary detailed phasing of many prehistoric sites.

The identification, recovery and detailed analysis of diagnostic groups of prehistoric pottery in stratigraphic sequences is of fundamental importance for all regions, but questions remain regarding the ceramic sequences of many areas of Britain and, in particular, the relationship between regional and national period chronologies (e.g. Knight 2002). It would be useful to identify stratified sequences that would benefit from Bayesian analysis, as conducted, for instance, at Cliffs End Farm, Isle of Thanet, Kent (Marshall *et al.* 2014). Similarly, any assemblages that contain well-stratified sequences of pots with internal burnt food residues, which would benefit from multiple radiocarbon dates, should be identified. On the other hand, in order to refine our chronology, it may be necessary sometimes to date small groups from apparently isolated pits or other features, such as are commonly associated with early Neolithic pottery (Cleal 2004; Healy

2012; Barclay 2014) or from one or more pits on settlement sites as in the Iron Age (Barclay and Stephens 2011). In addition, it would be useful to review the chronological significance of particular vessel forms, types, classes and/or fabrics. Consideration should also be given to any new scientific methods which could be used in dating pottery.

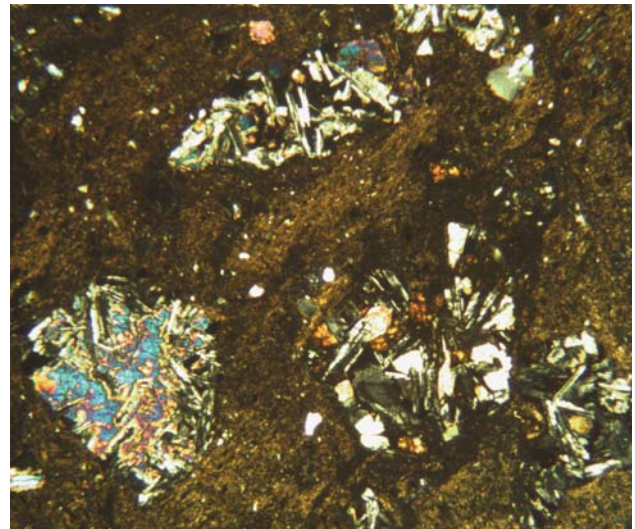
Summary

Topics which could usefully be addressed include:

1. Is the ceramic chronology of any particular period well understood in any region of Britain?
2. Can we identify stratified sequences that will benefit from Bayesian analysis?
3. Can we identify and date pottery groups which may be of particular value in refining chronologies, including assemblages that contain good sequences of burnt residues?
4. What is the chronological significance of particular ceramic forms, types, classes and/or fabrics?
5. What new scientific dating methods may be applied to pottery?

Theme C. Manufacture and ceramic technology

The clarification of pottery manufacturing methods is an important requirement, enabling consideration of issues such as why certain clays and tempering agents were selected and the relative significance of cultural as well as functional factors. Fundamental to this is an understanding of who the potters were, whether manufacture was carried out by specialists and how skills were passed on or acquired. In terms of vessel formation, it is necessary to review the evidence for the use of various production techniques, including whether different production techniques were used for vessels that appear similar in form. In particular, since the majority of prehistoric pottery in Britain was handmade, it would be useful to consider our ability to identify the variety of forming techniques for hand-built pottery and the role of scientific approaches such as thin section petrography (Quinn 2013) and X-radiography (Berg 2008) in assisting the study of these techniques. This would facilitate consideration of whether certain forming techniques are culturally specific and whether the range of forming techniques changes over time. For instance, large



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Photomicrograph of a basalt-tempered Bronze Age fabric. Gardom's Edge, Derbyshire (image width 3.8 mm)

assemblages of early Neolithic pottery from central Essex have a very restricted range of formation techniques, whereas Late Bronze Age assemblages from that area display much more variety (Brown 2008, 2012, 2013). Different forming techniques were also used to make later Iron Age pottery in the northeast of England (Morris 2012). Hand-built pottery, which is often but not always domestically produced (cf. Morris 1994a), might suggest considerable variability, but functional or cultural factors may result in similarities of form. Accordingly, the issue of standardisation might be a fruitful area of study.

Since for most of British prehistory kiln-firing was not used, evidence for firing tends to be rare (Hamilton 2002). Following the recent publication of a well-preserved Late Bronze Age production site at Sherborne in Dorset (Best and Woodward 2012), it may be timely to review the evidence for the firing of prehistoric pottery, particularly since such evidence as there is appears to be mainly of Late Bronze Age date. To demonstrate conclusively kiln-firing, evidence of the structure of the kiln is required in addition to information on firing conditions deduced from examination of the pottery. Given the elusive nature of the evidence, what can be done to refine our knowledge of early firing techniques and bonfire firing? Can we clarify our identification of wasters? How can we tell the difference between firing failures and post-depositional burning? Can we trace the introduction of new firing technologies? Does the shift towards kiln-firing happen more quickly in some parts of the country than others? How can we consistently and with confidence identify changes from open firing to



A possible potter's mark or ideogram made from finger-nail impressions on a Collared Urn of Early Bronze Age date. Windsor, Berkshire

kiln-firing and other changes in technology, such as the appearance of wheelthrown pottery, which relate to changes from household production to more complex and perhaps commercial production (cf. Peacock 1982)? Experimental work has shed light on many aspects of prehistoric pottery manufacture, and it would be useful to consider how it could further enhance our understanding.

Summary

Topics which could usefully be addressed include:

1. Can we recognise apprenticeships, and how far can we use ethnographic studies to identify issues such as handedness?
2. Can we identify ceramic specialists and how can we define them?
3. How may decoration have added value to pottery?
4. Why are certain clays and/or tempering agents selected and can we identify cultural as well as functional reasons?
5. What is the evidence for the use of various production techniques?
6. Can we elucidate the variety of forming techniques for hand-built pottery, and how may scientific approaches assist in this endeavour?
7. Are certain forming techniques culturally specific?
8. How and why does the range of forming techniques change over time?
9. Are standardised forms produced in any period of prehistory, where are these found and what might be the significance of such standardisation?
10. What evidence has been obtained for the firing of prehistoric pottery?
11. What can be done to refine what we know about early firing techniques and bonfire firing?
12. How securely can we identify wasters, and in what contexts and quantities do these occur?
13. What are the differences between firing failures and post-depositional burning, and how can we distinguish them?
14. How might we trace the introduction of new firing technologies?
15. Does the introduction of kiln-firing happen quickly in some areas of the country but not in others?
16. How can we establish the criteria for identifying a change in technology from bonfiring to kiln-firing in a region, and is there confirmation of evidence for this with other aspects of technological change which relate to a transition from household production to more complex and perhaps commercial production?
17. Bearing in mind the contribution of experimental work to studies of prehistoric ceramic technology, how far may further work of this kind enhance our understanding of pottery manufacture?

Theme D. Organisation of production, distribution and exchange

Further work is needed to clarify the social and economic contexts of production, distribution and exchange. This should include comparisons of distribution patterns relating to wares of different quality, based upon regional studies. The distribution and exchange of pottery and its contents should be studied within the context of wider economic considerations. Hamilton (2002) has summarised the modes of pottery production likely to have been operating in British prehistory. In earlier prehistoric pottery assemblages, the works of individual potters have been identified (Gibson 2002; Tomalin 1995), and this aspect of past production deserves greater research for both earlier and later prehistoric pottery through the distributions of vessels with combinations of distinctive fabrics/clays, vessel forms and decorations as well as markers such as handedness and imprints of individuals (cf. Cotton and Johnson 2004).

Identification of the general location or source of manufacture of vessels through scientific fabric analysis remains a fundamental procedure (Morris and Woodward 2003). However, style and decoration may provide significant clues in this respect, while various scientific characterisation methods are likely to be more definitive in identifying imports and their places of origin. Such imports can help define links within Britain and with continental Europe. A few well-known examples of widely distributed ceramic artefacts in Britain include Neolithic to Iron Age gabbroic-tempered pottery (Peacock 1969 a–b), Grooved Ware (Cleal and MacSween 1999), Trevisker Ware identified in Kent (Gibson, Macpherson-Grant and Stewart 1997), Neolithic to Iron Age granitoid-tempered pottery originating from Charnwood Forest (Knight, Marsden and Carney 2003), a range of Iron Age Malvernian wares (Peacock 1968; Morris 1982), and Droitwich and Cheshire salt drying and transporting containers (Morris 1985, 1994). With regard to European connections, the continental sources of Early Neolithic pottery have long been of interest and have recently formed the focus of several studies (e.g. Cleal 2004, 2012; Sheridan 2003, 2010, 2012; Whittle *et al.* 2011) and Beaker pottery is perhaps the classic example (e.g. Case 1993; Needham 2005; Fitzpatrick 2011). Pottery from the later Bronze Age to Early Iron Age has been discussed extensively from the perspective of general stylistic similarities with continental ceramics (e.g.



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Augering of alluvial clays in the Soar floodplain. Mountsorrel, Leicestershire. Conducted as part of an on-going project to investigate the raw material sources of granitoid-tempered prehistoric pottery from the East Midlands

Brown and Couldrey 2012; Champion 2007; Longley 1980, 1991; Marcigny *et al.* 2007; Macpherson Grant 1992; Morris 2006), in addition to the identification of individual imports (Brown 1999). Once a type of import is identified, consideration of whether it is common in that area or period will help to register its level of significance between places over time.

Summary

Topics which could usefully be addressed include:

1. How can imported vessels help to define links within Britain and with continental Europe?
2. Is imported pottery common in a particular area or period?
3. How does the varying occurrence of imported pottery relate to the changing intensity of contact between places over time?
4. What are the social and economic mechanisms underlying the importation of pots?
5. How do we determine the origin of the pottery in assemblages as a whole?
6. How does the distribution, trade or exchange of pottery differ regionally?



Late Bronze Age pottery broken along the horizontal strap joins. Cliffs End Farm, Isle of Thanet, Kent

Theme E. Functions of pottery

The intended functions of vessels and the evidence of their actual use are obvious fields of study to pursue; however, it is clear that a range of further work would be beneficial (Morris 2002). Factors determining the choice by potters of particular clays and tempers undoubtedly include the practicalities of making and using the pots but may also have cultural or symbolic components (e.g. Brown 1995; Gibson 1995; Morris and Woodward 2003). Similarly, the selection of different tempering materials in particular periods may reflect more than just practical considerations, as exemplified by the predominance of grog temper at widely different times (Morris and Woodward 2003). It has been suggested that grog was incorporated in certain Bronze Age vessels for symbolic purposes as links perhaps with pottery associated with a community's ancestors (Brown 1995; Morris 1994b), whereas it may have been used in the Late Iron Age primarily for practical reasons (Brown 1995). Consideration of use-wear and analysis of residues, including variations between vessels of different forms and sizes and embellished with different decorative styles,

are critical factors for investigation. Examination of the occurrence of different types and sizes of vessels and the variations in ceramic traditions on different kinds of sites (e.g. settlements and cemeteries), both chronologically and regionally, could prove useful in studies of vessel function.

It may be that some pots were made for special purposes. For example, were some pots made specifically for funerary use, as Boast (1995) has suggested for Beakers? Similarly, specific pots may have been produced for a variety of other special purposes, such as the very large globular urns from a number of Bronze Age sites in central southern England that have been identified as feasting vessels (Ladle and Woodward 2003), raising the question of whether such pots were made by specific suppliers. Other questions arise from consideration of the distribution of hand-modelled and wheel-made pots. For example, where and when do we find hand-built and wheel-thrown pots in the same period or area; does this have any relationship to functional forms; and might this indicate specialist production of specific types of pot?



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Similar but different Bell Beakers from Amesbury Down, Wiltshire. Found in the graves of the 'Amesbury Archer' and the 'Boscombe Bowmen'

Summary

Topics which could usefully be addressed include:

1. Is there a functional reason for potters selecting particular clays or tempers over others?
2. Why are different tempering materials used in specific periods?
3. What may use-wear and analyses of residues indicate regarding vessel functions and, in particular, functional variations between vessels of different forms and sizes and bearing different styles of decoration?
4. To what extent may particular ceramic vessel types correlate with different kinds of site?
5. Were contemporary pots made using different technologies of manufacture by different potters/suppliers for specific purposes?

Theme F. Settlement organisation

Where relatively complete or reliably representative ceramic assemblages are available, consideration should be given to the extent to which study of ceramic artefacts can contribute to understanding of the internal organisation of

settlements (Woodward 2002). For instance, spatial variability in the quantity, forms and condition of pottery can be used to interpret patterns of activity important in understanding how particular sites may have been used. Investigation of the range of pottery from different types of site may elucidate, therefore, both site functions and the nature of intra-site organisation. A review of the existing evidence where scale of excavation is sufficient to address questions about the use of pottery to study settlement organisation is overdue.

Summary

Topics which could usefully be addressed include:

1. How far can we identify patterns in the distribution of pottery within sites, and what may we deduce from this evidence about intra-site spatial organisation?
2. What can pottery tell us about the activities carried out on the site and the locations of these activities?
3. Can we observe correlations between variations in settlement morphology and pottery types?
4. What differences are there in pottery distribution and use between different types of settlement and between monumental sites and domestic sites?



Middle Bronze Age Globular jar with external sooting and internal carbonised food crusts

Theme G. Social and economic status and the expression of cultural and social traditions

The role of pottery in overtly or indirectly reflecting social and economic status, social hierarchies and the expression of cultural and social identities and traditions will continue to be a fruitful area of study (e.g. Hill 2002). 'You do not want your children to be unlike other people's children; they should be the same but better. So it is with pots' stated a Dowayo potter quoted by Barley (1994). The impact of cultural traditions upon methods of pottery manufacture and upon ceramic technology and vessel fabrics, forms and styles of decoration is a matter of

considerable importance and interest. It is also of particular interest to consider the mechanisms by which such traditions were perpetuated or changed. Re-examination of the existence, nature and extent of regional style zones (e.g. Cleal 1992; Brudenell 2012) will be of interest in that regard. Clearly, this requires consideration of issues beyond the individual site or assemblage, involving the examination of material at a regional level, beyond modern administrative boundaries. It also requires examination of the theoretical foundation of our pottery classifications. Are there, for example, pots which had specific symbolic or ritual uses, perhaps linked to the expression of prestige? How far is the form and decoration of pottery an imitation of vessels made in other materials? Storage, preparation, cooking and the presentation of food and drink are perennial uses for pottery, and therefore questions of new dietary habits and the social contexts of cooking, eating and drinking are important elements of pottery studies.

Summary

Topics which could usefully be addressed include:

1. What are the mechanisms by which ceramic traditions are maintained, or changed?
2. How valid are interpretations of pottery distributions as evidence of regional ceramic style zones?
3. Can we identify pots which had specific symbolic or ritual uses?
4. How far is the form or decoration of pottery an imitation of vessels made in other materials?
5. How far do changes in pottery form and decoration relate to changes in the social context of cooking, eating and drinking?

3. Research Strategy – Priorities

*Where intuition is combined with exact research
it speeds up the progress of research*
– Paul Klee³

During discussion of the Research Strategy at the Steering Group meeting in January 2014, up to two priority action points were selected for each of the seven Agenda themes. This preliminary draft was enhanced following discussion with PCRG members attending the 2014 AGM in Oxford, and the measures agreed at that meeting form the basis of the current document.

It should be emphasised that the Strategy presented here is intended as a tool to develop research rather than constrain it, and should not be regarded as prescriptive. We propose on-going review of the strategies recommended in this document as Agenda topics are addressed and as research priorities change. We should take account too of the significant role of serendipity in archaeological research, for chance discoveries or unexpected insights can open hitherto unexpected lines of enquiry and suggest new targets for research. We gain information through our interpretation, which requires imagination and is shaped by our habits of thought and theoretical frameworks, and our research strategies must consequently be open to constant review.

We present here our current priorities which are:

A. Archaeological deposits and finds assemblages

- i. To undertake a literature review of sites where 'structured deposition' has been suggested and provide a definition of depositional practice and how this is expressed in the archaeological record.
- ii. To promote the development and practice of recording condition of sherds (abrasion, burning, etc.), sherd size and thickness.
- iii. To encourage the consideration of pottery alongside other artefacts to enable better interpretation of depositional practices.

B. Chronology

- i. To identify assemblages from all periods of prehistory which are suitable for radiocarbon-dating and the application of Bayesian analysis.
- ii. To undertake an audit of ceramic assemblages with associated material which has been radiocarbon-dated.
- iii. To undertake an audit of vessels with residues which have been radiocarbon-dated.

C. Manufacture and ceramic technology

- i. To identify and promote methods available to characterise variations in technology and practice in the manufacture of ceramics throughout the prehistoric period.
- ii. To explore the mechanisms driving the invention and adoption of ceramic innovations, such as the Beaker package or later Iron Age wheel-made pottery.

D. Organisation of production, distribution and exchange

- i. To produce a synthesis of existing evidence for the production and distribution of pottery in British prehistory.
- ii. To explore ceramic interactions with the Continent in earlier and later prehistory.

E. Pottery Function

- i. To collate and evaluate information on the sampling selection procedures, techniques and interpretations applied to the study of pottery functions.

3. Quoted on the information board at the entrance to one of the rooms in the *Paul Klee: Making Visible* exhibition at Tate Modern, London 16th October 2013 – 9th March 2014

- ii. To encourage the development of guidance in the application of scientific techniques in ceramic analysis, with particular consideration of the development of understanding of archaeological questions and assemblages.
- iii. To investigate how ceramic technology relates to intended and subsequent vessel function.

F. Settlement organisation

- i. To identify sites with potential for the study of settlement organisation.

- ii. To promote the use of techniques and strategies (especially GIS) that will enable the examination of 3D spatial patterning and undertake site, regional and period-based studies to investigate the potential value of this kind of analysis.

G. Social and economic status and the expression of cultural and social traditions

- i. To evaluate the value and significance of ceramic style zones in prehistory.
- ii. To investigate how ceramic traits and contexts can inform understanding of prehistoric societies and economies.

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