

S3: OMPHALOS BOWLS AND JARS WITH CURVILINEAR DECORATION

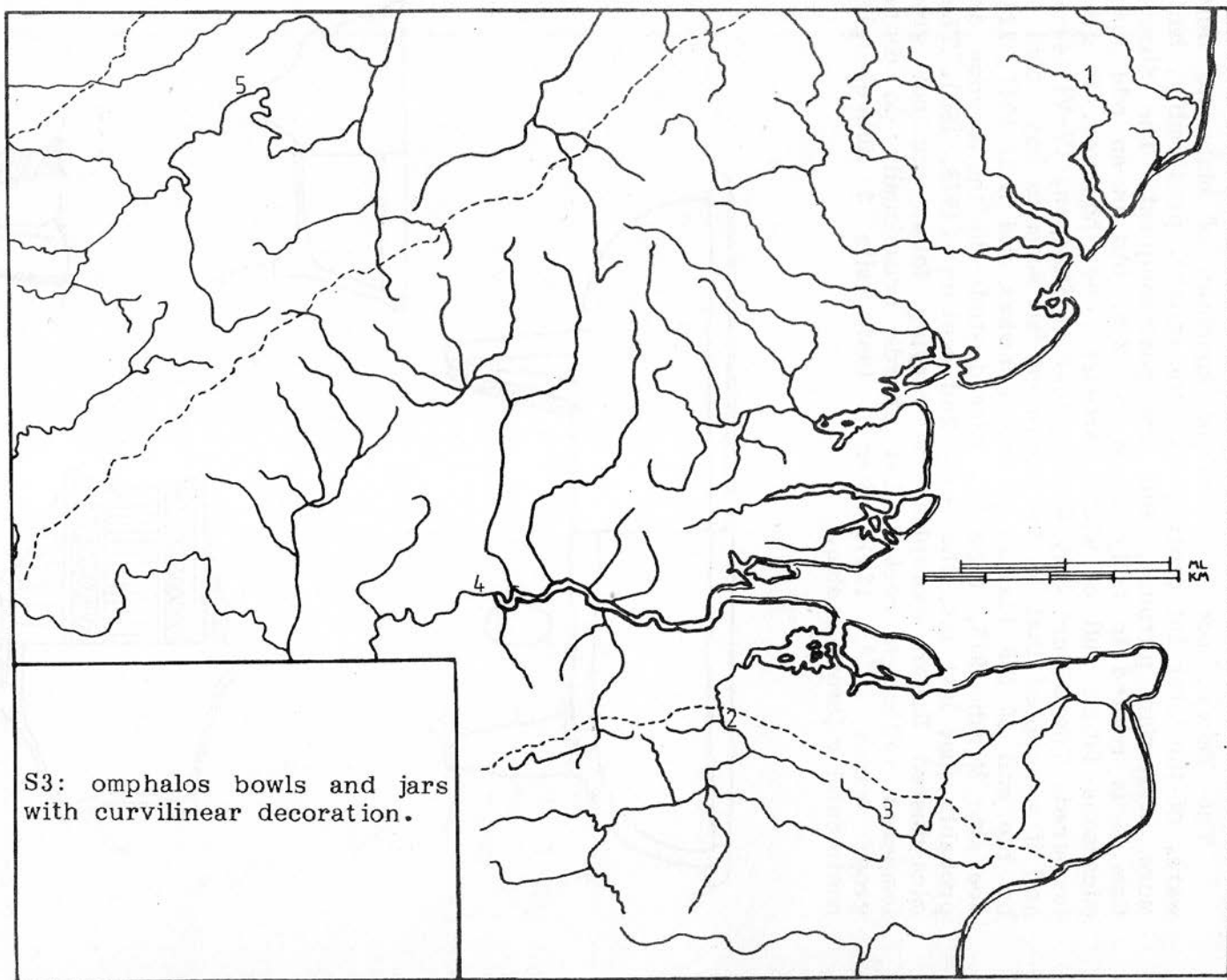
The base is pushed in to form the 'omphalos'.

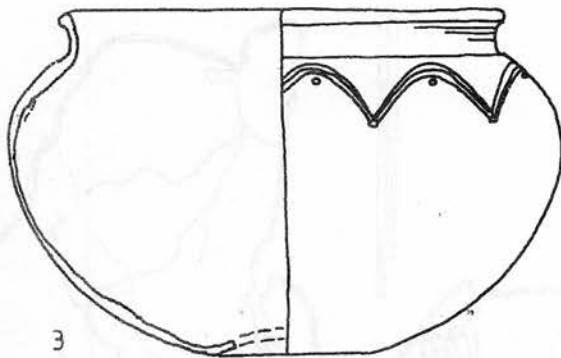
1	Hacheston, one sherd (not illus.).	post-43	●
2	Maidstone, Northborough School [974]. Cherry Orchard Way [1175].	-S	●
3	Hothfield Common pot C [1012].	HM2B	●
4	London, Fetter Lane, 1892 [777].	1B	●
5	Odell, ditch (not illus.).	-B	●
		3S	●

Notes

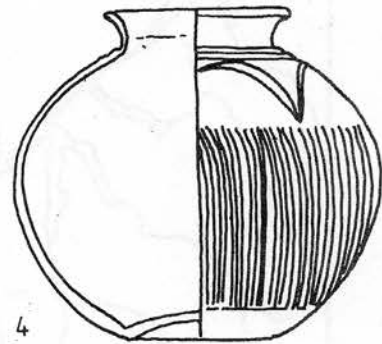
There is also an omphalos base in the Campen Collection from Kelvedon. The standing arc is the motif used on those vessels illustrated. The omphalos base and the decoration link this class with the whole tradition of decorated Iron Age pottery of eastern England, which is older and far more widespread than that of grog-tempered wheel-made pottery (Elsdon 1975). The standing arc is one of the plainest forms of this decorative tradition, which can be elaborate with stamped -and rouletted motifs. These grog-tempered omphalos jars constitute an odd overlap between the wheel-made 'Belgic' forms and the HM, variously gritted Iron Age decorated vessels, of which the omphalos jar is one of the two predominant forms (Elsdon 1975, 38). Dating of the Iron Age non-'Belgic' vessels is uncertain, but they evidently last long enough to overlap with the end of the Iron Age. Elsdon found several local groups in her overall survey, the relevant one here being the Thames estuary and lower Thames region; but the pots of this region are distinguished by an elaborate pattern of interlocking arcs and circles. The standing arc pattern of the grog-tempered omphalos jars is related not to this Thames estuary group but to the Sussex group, where it is predominant. Compare Elsdon's fig.11 (Sussex, especially no.10, from Saltdean) with fig.13 (Thames estuary including Mucking, Canewdon, Langenhoe, Great Wakering, Canvey, etc.). The latter are all sites which also have grog-tempering (except perhaps Canvey); but the decorated vessels of fig. 13 are all HM, tempered with quartz or shell, and suffer from a lack of secure stratification. Without secure dating evidence for the Thames group it is impossible to say why the area covered by grog-tempered pottery should develop a distinctive local variety of Iron Age curvilinear-decorated wares and yet have a grog-tempered version that is related not to this but to the Sussex Iron Age tradition (which is also undated).*

*See C. Green (1980, 72) for a suggested 1st century AD date for the East Sussex pots.





3



4



2 [1175]



2 [974]