# Of whorls and weights

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REDACTIE:
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E.H.L.D. NORDE & N. DE VRIES

STICHTING METAALTIJDENONDERZOEK NEDERLAND

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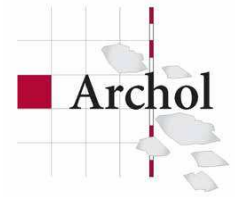





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# Inhoudsopgave

# Of whorls and weights

## Examining archaeological contexts of textile-related ceramics

*Hester Kamstra*

*Keywords: spindle whorls, loom weights, Bronze/Iron Age, textile production*

### Introduction

Ceramics constitute a prominent find-category in most archaeological excavations. Due to their material properties (fairly durable; relatively good preservation; recognizable as a product of human activity), archaeologists have conducted countless studies into pottery, ranging from detailed technological research to studies into mass-production and societal hierarchy. Not all ceramic artefacts are equally well-studied, however. In this paper a specific category of ceramic artefacts – those associated with the production of textiles (*i.e.* spindle whorls and loom weights[1]) – will be highlighted in order to gain insight into the role and function of these objects in Bronze and Iron Age society.

For this period, textile-related ceramics can roughly be placed into one of two broader research traditions: they are either part of research into *prehistoric textile production*, or considered in the context of *(ritual) depositions*. In both cases, however, they are not the subject of typological investigation. This is partially due to a lack of datable characteristics: while loom weights can be crudely dated on the basis of their shape (Grömer 2010, 117), spindle whorls are not fit for a typochronology since their form has varied very little over millennia (Grömer 2010, 87; but see Belanova-Štolcová & Grömer 2010 for an indication of chronological variety).

The consideration of Bronze and Iron Age textile production in the Netherlands is often limited to the presence of spindle whorls and loom weights as ceramic indicators

1 It is an ongoing point of debate whether all 'ceramic weights' are indeed loom weights; an alternative function as net weights has been suggested previously, especially in the case of triangular shaped objects (Van Kerckhove 2009, 194-195).

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of household textile crafts. The artefacts are also included in research into prehistoric deposition practices: when present in postholes or isolated pits containing large amounts of pottery, spindle whorls and loom weights are sometimes considered to be part of special depositions (Gerritsen 2003, 97; Taayke 1993). Their meaning as part of such deposits is often sought in representing domestic activities (*i.e.* ceramic and textile production), in a practice of deposition that has been related to the 'house life'-model (Van den Broeke 2002; Gerritsen 2003, 50; De Vries 2015; De Vries 2016).

Spindle whorls and loom weights have been given limited regard otherwise. Why then, should we consider these objects to be of special importance? The Bronze Age and Iron Age are both periods in which significant social change appears to take place. Textile production and its associated artefacts take on an important position within these broader socio-cultural developments. Not only does textile production require considerable time, energy and material investment – it would also have been an intrinsic part of daily life (Bergerbrant 2008). In an attempt to shed light on this part of late prehistoric life, this study will provide an insight into the distribution and treatment of ceramic artefacts related to textile production in the Dutch Bronze and Iron Age. How and why have these artefacts ended up where we find them?

## Easily recognized, easily discarded: considering textile-related ceramic artefacts

To understand the contexts the whorls and weights ended up in, it is important to briefly examine the *chaîne opératoire* that preceded their ultimate incorporation into the archaeological record. At the start of the entire production process lies the sourcing and harvesting of raw material needed for making textiles. Both plant fibre (nettle, hemp, flax) as well as animal fibre (wool) was used during the Bronze and Iron Age (Belanová-Štolcová & Grömer 2010; Grömer 2010, 326; 346; Rast-Eicher 2005). Both types of fibre need extensive pre-treatment in the form of washing and combing (wool), or retting and hackling (plant fibre). The fibres are then spun into thread with a spindle, a tool consisting of a stick and a heavier spindle whorl, which uses gravity and centrifugal force to strand the fibres together into string (Bender Jørgensen 2012). One spindle only needs a single spindle whorl, meaning that one expects to find just a single whorl in a functional context.

When the thread has been spun it can be woven into a piece of fabric with the use of a weight-warped loom (Rast-Eicher 2005, Bender Jørgensen 2012). This contraption uses multiple clay loom weights to put tension on vertical threads, while another thread is woven through horizontally. Since one loom needs multiple weights, we would expect to find a series of these artefacts when encountering an *in situ* weaving site, as weaving is most often restricted to one place – the location of the loom. Spinning, on the other hand, can be a highly *mobile* activity (Bender Jørgensen 2012, 129).

Both spinning and weaving are time-consuming processes, and they would have been continuously present among other daily household chores. It should therefore come as no surprise that we encounter remains of these domestic activities in the archaeological record.


*Figure 1. Left: two examples of loom weights recovered during archaeological evaluation accompanying the Betuwelijn railroad construction (from: Schutte & Vermeer 2002, 34 fig. 39). Right: loom weights hanging from a warp-weighted loom in a reconstructed Iron Age farmstead in Dongen, the Netherlands (picture: Simone Bloo, 2020).*

## "They just roll around the settlement", or why context matters

> "Spindle weights are often lost as the women follow flocks on rocky trails or visit about the village, which may account for ancient stone and clay whorls being found in the most unexpected places. The simple potato is more easily replaced than the hand-carved wooden whorl." (Koster 1976, 35).

The treatment of objects is of equal importance to their creation. Cultural tradition is not limited to the production and use of material goods, but also includes the practice of *discarding*, by which an object is essentially taken out of circulation. The recovery context of artefacts is one indicator of this process; we thus need to consider the meaning of context if we want to investigate the way (textile-related) artefacts were treated in the past. In this paper three approaches to the depositional setting are discerned: 1) the material condition of the object, 2) the distinction between wet and dry contexts, and 3) the categorization of refuse/special deposit/functional contexts. Each of these categories is linked to the identification of specific intentional behaviour, which underlies any conclusion we can draw on the meaningful treatment of material culture.

Fragmentation and firing are the most telling indicators of deliberate manipulation of objects, both of which have been considered previously in the context of Bronze and Iron Age society: traces of (secondary) burning on objects without an indication of fire *in situ* are associated with ideas of destruction and ending the life-cycle of an object (De Vries 2015, 79; Fontijn et al. 2013, 296-299), as are indications of deliberate fragmentation. It is, however, extremely difficult (if not impossible) to determine whether fragmentation is the result of deliberate breaking and whether the extent of ceramic re-heating does indeed warrant an interpretation as secondary firing. The presence of

such manipulated finds in pits or postholes is nevertheless one of the criteria by which abandonment deposits are identified (Van den Broeke 2015).

A second distinction that is applied to the treatment of material culture, is that of dry versus wet recovery contexts. De Vries (2015, 77-78) has, for the *Fries-Drents Plateau*, indeed managed to identify patterns in Iron Age depositions that show differences between wet and dry contexts. It is therefore worthwhile to see whether these different life-paths are also reflected when singling out textile-related artefacts specifically. For the current study, the distinction between wet versus dry context is limited to the settlement context, with wells and ditches as typical wet contexts (and postholes and pits as dry contexts). A wet context in this study hence does not pertain to creeks or lakes in the wider landscape.

Finally, we distinguish types of intention behind their deposition: special or ritual deposits (foundation or abandonment deposits), refuse discard, and the strictly 'functional' (*i.e.* the remains of loom weights where a loom used to stand) primary context. A spindle whorl that is found in a posthole, for instance, might be put there deliberately (as part of a ritual deposition) or could have ended up in the feature by accident (as a result of sweeping the floor, or falling from the spindle during the activity of spinning). We may regard the former in some ways as more meaningful interaction with the object, whereas the latter can be considered less telling of the importance of textile-related artefacts.

What we would expect to see archaeologically in each case, however, continues to be a point of contention among specialists. Taking again the example of an object in a posthole, some researchers propose an interpretation of intentional deposition (on the basis of strict criteria; Van den Broeke 2015) whilst others argue in favour of a rubbish-related explanation (and thus against the suggestion of the abandonment deposit, Fokkens (2019); see also the experimental work by Reynolds (1995)). This paper does not aim to solve this discussion, though it is important to take into account the occurrence of (repeated) patterns that might indicate intentional behaviour. So where then do we actually find these textile-related artefacts, and why did they end up there?

## Where do whorls and weights end up?

### *Data selection*

To understand patterns in the occurrence of textile-related ceramic artefacts, a selection was made of published sites suitable for further analysis (limited to settlements and urnfields). The sites were selected on the basis of their dating (Bronze Age and/or Iron Age) as well as the presence of one or more listed spindle whorls and/or loom weights. Finds without a documented context were omitted. The appendix to the master's thesis by Karen de Vries (2015) as well as the site catalogue from the dissertation by R. M. van Heeringen (1992) yielded the bulk of the data. In addition, the Dutch national archaeological database Archis 3 was queried for suitable contexts[2]. Overall

2 Archis was queried for the following criteria: keywords 'spinklos' & 'weefgewicht' in combination with the search criterion CHO ('cultuurhistorisch object') for datering 'Bronstijd' and 'IJzertijd'. Finds from non-archaeological projects (without a clear context) were excluded from the selection.

this has resulted in a list of 121 find contexts from 72 different archaeological sites (see: Appendix 1).

The site of Oss-Ussen (Schinkel et al. 1998) has moreover been treated as a comparandum, providing a large amount of finds and find contexts that are relatively well dated. In the current analysis this site provides the opportunity to compare the overall variety of archaeological contexts with the occurrence of textile-related artefacts in a single settlement context.

### *Analysis and results*

For each data point the following variables were considered: the presence of material other than textile-related ceramics, the archaeological context (and whether this could be considered wet or dry, outside natural places) and the presence or absence of fragmentation.

The dataset as a whole shows the presence of whorls and weights in a variety of contexts (fig. 2). Artefacts are most often found in pits, frequently in association with other finds. While there appears to be a difference in the amount of studied objects inside and outside (or in association with) house plans, the association of pits to contemporary house plans is difficult to ascertain. Any meaning that would be derived from this supposed association is thus equally uncertain. Interestingly, the variety within the settlement of Oss-Ussen appears to be more limited, not showing the full range of possible contexts.

A second large category consists of finds from postholes (that are part of a structure). In at least eight instances the finds consist of just a single spindle whorl, while in three cases (fragments of) a loom weight is the only find. When combined with other materials such as sherds or even complete storage vessels, these artefacts may reflect intentional deposits. Whether this is also the case for the individual finds, is much harder to infer (*supra*).

A relatively small number of finds is associated with graves or (urnfield) ditches, including two instances of singular spindle whorls in ditches from Someren-Waterdael (Kortlang 1999, 155) and fragments of a loom weight in a ditch surrounding a grave from Lomm-Hoogwatergeul (Gerrets & De Leeuwe 2011, 134). When encountered as part of a broader assemblage of grave goods, spindle whorls and loom weights may be interpreted as being representative of domestic activities during life. The individual whorls from Someren-Waterdael (Kortlang 1999, 155) are more challenging to interpret – would they have been lost while spinning in an urnfield, or is it more likely that the objects were intentionally deposited in the ditches?

Examples of a complete set of loom weights *in situ* are rare: a supposedly complete set of at least 15 weights accompanied by some pottery sherds was found in a pit at Zutphen-Looërenk (Bouwmeester et al. 2008, 231-233), and two similar deposits are known from Zutphen-Voorsterallee (Fermin 2011, 33). Evidence of a location where spinning took place is even harder to come by: a number of spindle whorls found around the hearth area of a farmstead in Rockanje (Van Trierum 1992, 81) might at least point towards the domestic context of spinning. As spinning can be a highly mobile activity, however, finds of individual spindle whorls (without association to other objects) on living surfaces might also fit this interpretation (though such finds were not included in this research).

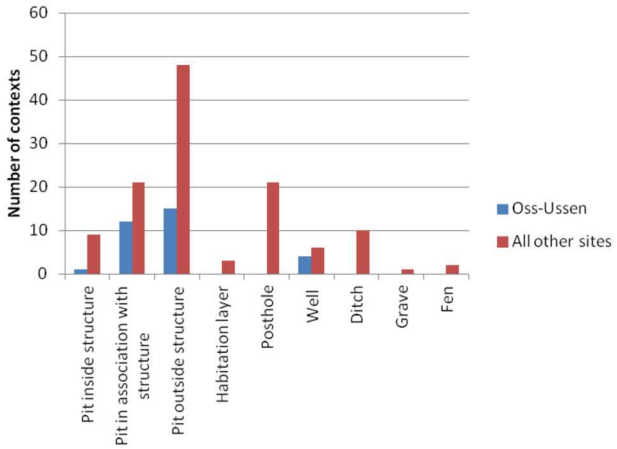


*Figure 2. The overall variability of archaeological contexts (N=121) from which spindle whorls and loom weights have been recovered, compared to the range of contexts in which these artefacts were found on the well-documented site of Oss-Ussen.*

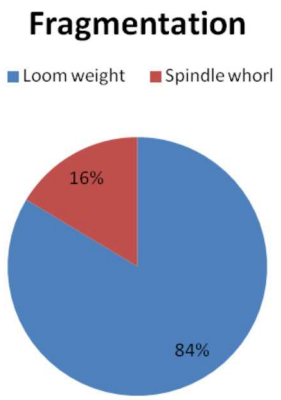


*Figure 3. Occurrence of fragmentation (Ntotal=55) in loom weights and spindle whorls.*

A clear distinction in material treatment can be seen when looking at the presence of fragmentation: loom weights are found broken much more often than spindle whorls (fig. 3). Rather than being a culturally meaningful distinction, however, this appears to be the result of a difference in material properties. Loom weights, both larger in surface and more fragile than spindle whorls, may be expected to break more easily. In terms of intentionality, the fragmentation of spindle whorls is actually more indicative of a conscious effort to break the object.

Accounting for the significant difference between the amount of dry and wet contexts in our dataset (the latter being much more sparse), the deposition of loom weights and spindle whorls does not appear to be confined to either type of context (fig. 4). However, this has not taken into account the association with other objects; in the extensive analysis of De Vries (2015, 77-78) this association turned out to be essential to reveal subtle patterns in deposition choices.

## A wide-ranging role for small artefacts: creating room for new interpretations

While most often discussed in the light of prehistoric textile production, this paper has focused on loom weights and spindle whorls as tentative indicators of (a) textile production, (b) discard behaviour and (c) agency in special deposits, by examining the variety of archaeological contexts they are found in. Using the framework of existing ideas on Bronze and Iron Age deposition and the treatment of material culture, 121 archaeological contexts from the Netherlands containing spindle whorls and/or loom weights were analysed. Two main patterns can be observed: first of all there is seemingly no avoidance or preference of certain deposition locations when it comes to textile-related artefacts. Secondly, the large variety of contexts that the artefacts are found in cannot be explained solely by their role in textile-production nor as (indicators of)

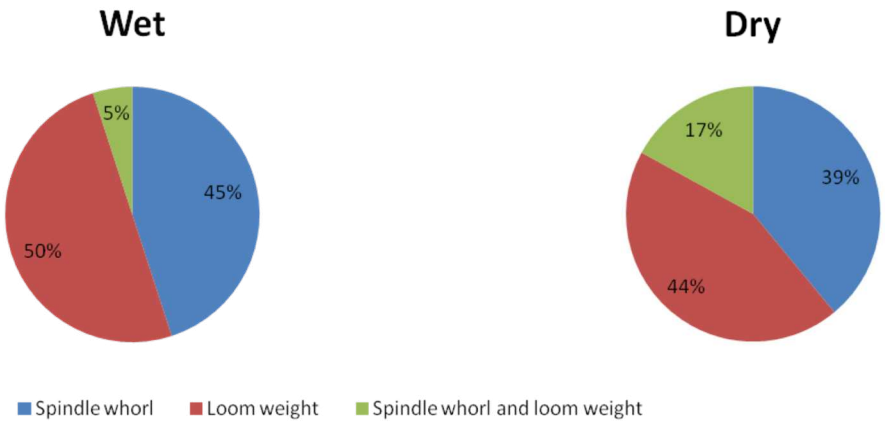


*Figure 4. The ratio of dry (N=100) versus wet (N=20) (settlement) contexts from which spindle whorls, loom weights or both artefact types were recovered.*

structural depositions. In addition, evidence for *in situ* textile production with clay objects is actually quite sparse.

What do these patterns tell us? Starting with the second observation, the absence of *in situ* remains of textile production might well be the result of the physical and portable nature of the artefacts; loom weights often remain unfired and thus may have disintegrated over time. Moreover, since the abandonment of a settlement would often not have been sudden (*i.e.* not catastrophic), there would have been little reason to leave a fully equipped loom behind. In the Bronze and Iron Age context of the deliberate treatment of artefacts it certainly makes sense for a loom to be carefully dismantled.

The broad variety of find contexts may be the result of the artefacts taking on a different role depending on their context. While we now see no apparent difference between a spindle whorl on a spindle and one in a posthole, they may in the past have been considered two different object( type)s. There would have been no need for the avoidance of contexts, then, due to the context-specific 'identity' of an object. This may also explain part of the occurrence of fragmentation: if the identity of an artefact is reliant on its context, its material 'form' may be equally context-dependent. Half of a spindle whorl or a single loom weight could be more than sufficient (or even essential) to represent the original household in an intentional deposition. Perhaps breaking the object would have been a prerequisite to obtain its new role.

This paper has aimed to be a starting point for further research – the full range of approaches to this topic has clearly not been exhausted. Quantitative analysis overlooks the subtle variation sometimes present among the different contexts. It is certainly worthwhile to take a closer look at some of the more 'unique' observations, for instance the contexts which have been interpreted as *in situ* evidence of textile production (*i.e.* Colmschate-Holterweg (Hermsen & Haveman 2009) and Zutphen-Looërenk (Bouwmeester et al. 2008)). Additional well-documented sites like Oss-Ussen should moreover be compared to single-context observations, to get a better grip on the full variation of object-treatment in one settlement context. In addition, spindle whorls

made from perforated sherds, so-called '*spinschijfjes*', can be added as a third category of artefacts.

For now it is safe to say that whorls and weights occupied places and carried meaning other than placed on the spindle, or the loom. When encountering these artefacts, we are not just looking at the remains of prehistoric textile production – we are instead confronted with the range of ways in which a single object could be treated. Their role was not limited to the production of textile, but comprises a noteworthy variety of context-specific functions.

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# Appendix 1

| Site | Finds | | | Context | Dating | Fragmentation | Dry or wet context | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Spindle whorl | Loom weight | Other | | | | | |
| Arnhem-Schuytgraaf | | x | | From pit | MIA-LIA | Yes | Dry | Delaruelle et al. 2007 |
| Bergerden | x | | | From posthole | EIA | | Dry | Hermsen 2008 |
| Borger-Daalkampen II | x | | At least 7 different storage vessels | From posthole in a group of non-associated postholes | MIA-LIA | | Dry | De Wit et al. 2009 |
| Borger-Daalkampen II | x | | | From posthole associated with granary | IA | | Dry | De Wit et al. 2009 |
| Borger-Daalkampen II | x | | 1 bowl, 1 small vessel, at least 1 storage vessel | From isolated pit | EIA | | Dry | De Wit et al. 2009 |
| Borger-N34 | x | | 1 bowl, at least 2 storage vessels | From isolated pit | EIA-MIA | | Dry | Kooi & De Wit 2003 |
| Boxmeer-Sterckwijck | | x | 319 sherds, stone fragments | From storage pit next to farmstead | MIA | Yes | Dry | Blom & Van der Velde 2015 |
| Boxmeer-Sterckwijck | x | x | 165 sherds, a bronze bracelet | From pit next to farmstead | MIA | Yes | Dry | Blom & Van der Velde 2015 |
| Boxmeer-Sterckwijck | x | x | Charred barley, more than 300 sherds | From storage pit next to farmstead | MIA | Yes | Dry | Blom & Van der Velde 2015 |
| Boxmeer-Sterckwijck | | x | Charcoal, 275 sherds | From pit | MBA | Yes | Dry | Blom & Van der Velde 2015 |
| Breda-West | x | x | Burnt loam, sherds | From waste pit | EIA-MIA | | Dry | Koot & Berkvens 2004 |
| Breda-West | x | | Sherds, flint fragments, fragments of quern | From 'basement pit' | EIA | | Dry | Koot & Berkvens 2004 |
| Breda-West | x | x | Sherds | From waste pit | EIA-MIA | | Dry | Koot & Berkvens 2004 |
| Catsop-Hoogenbosch | | x | Pottery, loam | From deep pit | MIA | | Dry | Van Hoof 2000 |
| Catsop-Hoogenbosch | | x | 1 (upside-down) vessel, large amount of loam, sherds | From pit surrounded by a ring of heavy stones | EIA-MIA | | Dry | Van Hoof 2000 |
| Colmschate | x | x | 776 sherds, 3.7 kg of burnt loam, 6.8 kg of stones (many fire-cracked), bronze spiral hair-ring | From pit next to farmstead | EIA | Yes | Dry | Groenewoudt & Verlinde 1989 |
| Colmschate-Holterweg | x | | More than 100 sherds | From storage pit | EIA | Yes | Dry | Hermsen & Haveman 2009 |

| Site | Finds | | | Context | Dating | Fragmentation | Dry or wet context | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Spindle whorl | Loom weight | Other | | | | | |
| Colmschate-Holterweg | | x | Sherds | From storage pit | EIA | Yes | Dry | Hermsen & Haveman 2009 |
| Colmschate-Holterweg | x | x | Three fragments of burnt loam, sherds, bog iron/slag | From pit (interpreted as warp-weighted loom pit) | EIA | | Dry | Hermsen & Haveman 2009 |
| Colmschate-Holterweg | | x | More than 2000 sherds | From well | EIA | Yes | Wet | Hermsen & Haveman 2009 |
| Colmschate-Holterweg | | x | More than 300 sherds | From well | EIA | | Wet | Hermsen & Haveman 2009 |
| Colmschate-Swormink | | x | One large rim sherd | From pit | EIA | | Dry | Bosch et al. 1997 |
| Culemborg-Hoge Prijs | | x | | From pit | EIA-MIA | | Dry | Verhelst et al. 2017 |
| Culemborg-Hoge Prijs | x | | | From posthole | LBA-EIA | | Dry | Verhelst et al. 2017 |
| Culemborg-Hoge Prijs | | x | | From posthole | EIA/MIA | Yes | Dry | Verhelst et al. 2017 |
| Dalen-Aardgasleiding I | x | | At least 8 storage vessels, fragments of quern | From isolated well | EIA-MIA | | Wet | Krist 1988 |
| Dalen-Aardgasleiding II | x | | At least 7 storage vessels, fragments of 2 querns | From isolated pit | MIA-LIA | | Dry | Krist 1988 |
| Den Haag-Oude Waalsdorperweg Hubertustunnel | | x | | From pit | BA | Yes | Dry | Bulten 2007 |
| Den Haag-Oude Waalsdorperweg Hubertustunnel | | x | 70 sherds, 48 stones, 6 pieces of flint, one amber bead (+ small amounts of loam, charcoal and bone) | From pit | LBA-EIA | Yes | Dry | Bulten 2007 |
| Doetinchem | | x | | From (hearth) pit | IA | Yes | Dry | Archis2020239100 |
| Doetinchem-Veemarkt | | x | 15 small sherds | From central posthole of a hexagonal structure | IA | Yes | Dry | Pronk 2011 |
| Driebergen-Lange Dreef | | x | | From entry ditch of farmstead | MIA-LIA | Yes | Wet | Schurmans & Beurden 2011 |
| Ede-De Vallei | | x | | From pit next to farmstead | IA | | Dry | Archis2076268100 |
| Ede-Park Reehorst | | x | 193 burnt sherds | From posthole | LIA | Yes | Dry | Norde 2018 |
| Elspeet-Uddelerweg | x | | | From posthole | MIA-LIA | Yes | Dry | Jager & Pronk 2011 |

| Site | Finds | | | Context | Dating | Fragmentation | Dry or wet context | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Spindle whorl | Loom weight | Other | | | | | |
| Elspeet-Uddelerweg | | x | | From pit inside structure | MBA | Yes | Dry | Jager & Pronk 2011 |
| Elspeet-Uddelerweg | x | | 127 sherds, 2 fragments of burnt loam | From 'basement pit' | MBA | Yes | Dry | Jager & Pronk 2011 |
| Elst-De Merm | x | | 174 sherds, 1 'odd' ceramic artefact | From pit | EIA | Yes | Dry | Knippenberg & Heirbaut 2006 |
| Emmen-Angelsloo | x | | At least 1 Henkeltasse, at least 1 storage vessel | From pit | east of EIA house | | Dry | De Vries 2015 |
| Ermelo-Oude Arnhemsekarweg | | x | 48 sherds | From posthole | IA | Yes | Dry | Brouwer 2012 |
| Gees | x | | 2 bowls, at least 7 storage vessels, large quantity of charred grain | From isolated pit | EIA-MIA | | Dry | Waterbolk 1990 |
| Geldermalsen-Hondsgemet | x | | | From ditch | LIA-RP | Yes | Wet | Van Kerckhove 2009 |
| Geldermalsen-Hondsgemet | x | | | From ditch-layer | LIA | No | Wet | Van Kerckhove 2009 |
| Geldermalsen-Hondsgemet | | x | | From posthole | LIA | Yes | Dry | Van Kerckhove 2009 |
| Geldrop-Luchen | | x | Numerous sherds, grain remains | From hearth pit | LBA | | Dry | Leeuwe 2010 |
| Geleen | x | | 1266 sherds, iron slag, burnt loam, 7.5 of burnt stone | From pit | late EIA | | Dry | Van den Broeke 1980 |
| Geleen-Krawinkel | x | | Pottery, stone, tephrite, loam, charcoal | From pit on settlement terrain | EIA | | Dry | Van Hoof 2000 |
| Geleen-Krawinkel | | x | Pottery, stone, charcoal | From pit on settlement terrain | EIA | | Dry | Van Hoof 2000 |
| Goirle-Huzarenwei | x | x | Many sherds, stone, burnt loam, charcoal | From pit | EIA | Yes | Dry | Dyselinck 2006 |
| Groningen-De Linie | x | | Storage vessels | From isolated pit | EIA | | Dry | Daleman 2007 |
| Groningen-De Linie | x | | Storage vessels, wood that was part of a construction, ard share | From pit nearby a granary | MIA | | Wet | Daleman 2007 |
| Groningen-De Linie | x | | At least 1 storage vessel | From pit nearby a granary | LBA-EIA | | Dry | Daleman 2007 |
| Helden-Plangebied Keup | x | | | From posthole | IA | | Dry | Kimenai & De Winter 2010 |

| Site | Finds | | | Context | Dating | Fragmentation | Dry or wet context | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Spindle whorl | Loom weight | Other | | | | | |
| Hijken-Hijkerveld | x | | At least 6 storage vessels | From pit next to farmstead | EIA-MIA | | Dry | Arnoldussen & De Vries 2014 |
| Hijken-Hijkerveld | x | | At least 5 storage vessels | From pit next to outbuilding | EIA-MIA | | Dry | Arnoldussen & De Vries 2014 |
| Hijken-Hijkerveld | x | | | From posthole | EIA-MIA | | Dry | Arnoldussen & De Vries 2014 |
| Hijken-Hijkerveld | x | | At least 1 storage vessel | From posthole | MIA-LIA | | Dry | Arnoldussen & De Vries 2014 |
| Hijken-Hijkerveld | x | | 4 bowls, 5 small cups, at least 32 storage vessels | From pit next to farmstead | EIA-MIA | | Dry | Arnoldussen & De Vries 2014 |
| Hijken-Hijkerveld | x | | 4 bowls, 1 Henkeltasse, at least 46 storage vessels | From pit next to farmstead | EIA-MIA | | Dry | Arnoldussen & De Vries 2014 |
| Houten-Castellum | | x | 53 sherds, 68 bone fragments, a metal object, 4 stone fragments, burnt loam | From ditch | MIA | No | Wet | Van Renswoude & Habermehl 2017 |
| Houten-Castellum | | x | Partial pig skeleton, 1 complete vessel | From pit | MIA | No | Dry | Van Renswoude & Habermehl 2017 |
| Houten-Castellum | | x | 2 metal objects, 247 sherds, 114 bone fragments, 6 stone fragments, 7 pieces of burnt loam | From ditch | MIA | Yes | Wet | Van Renswoude & Habermehl 2017 |
| Houten-Castellum | | x | 1150 sherds, 593 bone fragments, 2 pieces of glass, 2 metal objects, 49 stone fragments | From ditch | LIA | Yes | Wet | Van Renswoude & Habermehl 2017 |
| Houten-Castellum | x | | 273 sherds, a human skull, a sheep/goat skeleton | From pit | MIA-LIA | No | Dry | Van Renswoude & Habermehl 2017 |
| Ingen | x | | Locally made pottery | From ditch | LIA | Yes | Wet | Archis2327002100 |
| Leersum-Middelweggebied | | x | | From spieker | MIA | Yes | Dry | Tump 2014 |
| Leggeloo | x | | 1 bowl, at least 14 storage vessels | From isolated pit | EIA-MIA | | Dry | Van Giffen 1935 |
| Lent-Dijkteruglegging | x | x | | See publication | EIA, LIA, ERP | | | Heirbaut & Koot 2016 |
| Lienden | | x | 1 kg of pottery | From posthole | EBA-MBA | Yes | Dry | Ufkes 2002 |
| Liessel-Willige Laagt | x | x | | From pit inside structure | EIA | Yes | Dry | Witte 2012 |

| Site | Finds | | | Context | Dating | Fragmentation | Dry or wet context | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Spindle whorl | Loom weight | Other | | | | | |
| Lochem | x | | 1 sherd | From posthole | IA | | Dry | Archis2325829100 |
| Lochem | x | | | From well | EIA-MIA | Yes | Wet | Archis2325829100 |
| Lochem | | x | Sherds | From well | MIA-LIA | Yes | Wet | Archis2325829100 |
| Lomm-Hoogwatergeul | | x | Several sherds | From inner ditch belonging to grave | EIA-MIA | Yes | Wet | Gerrets & De Leeuwe 2011 |
| Maastricht | x | | 1871 sherds, copper ring, 'countless' fragments of burnt loam | From pit | MIA | | Dry | Dijkman 1989 |
| Maastricht-Heukelstraat | | x | | From pit | IA | | Dry | Hendrikx & Torremans 2007 |
| Malden-Broeksingel | | x | Sherds and 73 sling bullets | From pit inside structure | MIA | Yes | Dry | Schurmans 2011 |
| Malden-Broeksingel | x | | 119 sherds, complete quern, fragment of a glass bracelet | From pit | MIA-LIA | | Dry | Schurmans 2011 |
| Malden-Broeksingel | | x | Burnt sherds, perforated vessel bottom | From posthole | IA | Yes | Dry | Schurmans 2011 |
| Malden-Broeksingel | | x | Burnt sherds | From 'excavation pit' of posthole | IA | Yes | Dry | Schurmans 2011 |
| Meteren-De Bogen | | x | | From pit, cross-cut by house plan | MBA | Yes | Dry | Hielkema et al. 2002 |
| Meteren-De Bogen | | x | | From post-pipe in posthole | MBA | Yes | Dry | Hielkema et al. 2002 |
| Molenaarsgraaf | | x | Lump of potting clay | From pit on settlement terrain | LNEO-EBA | Yes | Dry | Louwe Kooijmans 1974 |
| Neer | | x | Hundreds of sherds, charcoal | From pit | EIA/MIA | | Dry | Stoepker 1987; Smeets 1987 |
| Nijmegen-Lent | | x | All finds in large storage jar: broken quern, bronze ring, fragment of flint sickle | From pit | EIA | | Dry | Van den Broeke 1999 |
| Nijmegen-Noord | | x | Remains of other ceramic objects | From drinking pit | EIA | Yes | Wet | Daniël & Van den Broeke 2012 |
| Nijmegen-Noord | x | | Some sherds | From posthole | EIA | | Dry | Daniël & Van den Broeke 2012 |
| Ooijen-Wanssum-Vindplaats 11 | x | | 40 kg of pottery belonging to 19 vessels | From pit | MIA | No | Dry | Bloo 2019 |

| Site | Finds | | | Context | Dating | Fragmentation | Dry or wet context | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Spindle whorl | Loom weight | Other | | | | | |
| Oss-Horzak | x | x | 35 kg of highly fragmented pottery, several complete (broken) pots, wooden lid, wooden handle | From pit | EIA/MIA | | Dry | Jansen & Fokkens 1999 |
| Pesse-Eursinge | x | | 1 bowl, at least 1 storage vessel | From isolated pit | EIA-MIA | | Dry | Lanting 1977 |
| Pesse-Fluitenberg | x | | | From posthole not associated with structure | IA | | Dry | Schrijer & De Neef 2008 |
| Ravenstein | x | x | All finds in large vessel: hundreds of sherds | From pit | EIA | | Dry | Verwers 1990 |
| Riethoven | x | x | Whetstone, pottery, charred wood and charcoal | From large pits inside and next to two farmhouses | EIA | | Dry | Slofstra 1991 |
| Rockanje | x | x | | Distributed throughout house plan, mainly in the half occupied by the hearth | | | Dry | Van Trierum 1992 |
| Rosmalen | x | x | 1 tephrite loom weight | From two postholes opposite each other ('middenstaanders') | MIA | | Dry | Koning & Vaars 2003 |
| Schipperskerk | | x | | From pit | IA | | Dry | Geraeds 2012 |
| Someren-Waterdael | x | x | 1 complete vessel, over 1500 sherds belonging to more than 100 vessels | From pit inside structure | | | Dry | Kortlang 1999 |
| Someren-Waterdael | x | | | From circular ditch on urnfield | IA | | Wet | Kortlang 1999 |
| Someren-Waterdael | x | | | From circular ditch on urnfield | IA | Yes | Wet | Kortlang 1999 |
| St.-Oedenrode-'Haagakkers' | x | | Pottery | From a grave | LBA | | Dry | Van der Sanden 1981 |
| Tynaarlo | | x | 1 fragmented quern, at least 1 storage vessel | From isolated pit | MIA | | Dry | Van der Sanden 1994 |
| Udenhout-Schoorstraat | | x | 201 sherds | From fen | IA | Yes | Wet | Archis2341072100 |
| Udenhout-Schoorstraat | | x | 16 sherds | From well | MIA | Yes | Wet | Archis2341072100 |
| Vlaardingen-Vergulde Hand | x | x | | From farmstead house plans | MIA-LIA | Yes | Dry | Eijskoot et al. 2012 |

| Site | Finds | | | Context | Dating | Fragmentation | Dry or wet context | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Spindle whorl | Loom weight | Other | | | | | |
| Weerselo-Rondweg | | x | Sherds, burnt stone | From hearth pit | MIA | | Dry | Huisman 2008 |
| Weert-Kampershoek | | x | 1461 sherds (some burnt), 17 stone fragments | From pit | EIA-MIA | Yes | Dry | De Boer & Hiddink 2015 |
| Weert-Kampershoek | x | | 96 sherds, fragment of burnt loam | From pit | EIA | | Dry | De Boer & Hiddink 2015 |
| Weert-Kampershoek | | x | One hammer stone, 33 sherds (some burnt) | From pit | EIA-MIA | Yes | Dry | De Boer & Hiddink 2015 |
| Weert-Kampershoek | | x | 40 sherds belonging to 1 vessel | From pit | EIA-MIA | Yes | Dry | De Boer & Hiddink 2015 |
| Weert-Kampershoek | | x | 286 sherds | From pit | EIA-MIA | Yes | Dry | De Boer & Hiddink 2015 |
| Wijchen-Bijsterhuizen | x | | 817 sherds, quern fragments | From pit inside structure | MIA | Yes | Dry | Schurmans 2017 |
| Wijndaelerplantsoen | x | | 2 (almost) complete vessels, two mandible fragments sheep/goat, charred cereal grains | From pit | LIA | | Dry | Stokkel 2012 |
| Zeijen-Es | x | | 1 hammer stone, 3 bowls, half of a barely used quern, at least 12 storage vessels | From isolated pit | EIA-MIA | | Dry | Waterbolk 1961 |
| Zutphen-Looërenk | | x | | From pit next to farmstead | Second half MBA (1515-1437) | Yes | Dry | Bouwmeester et al. 2008 |
| Zutphen-Meijerink | x | x | Pottery, quern fragments | From fen next to urnfield (at distance from settlement) | MIA-LIA | Yes | Wet | Van Straten & Fermin 2012 |
| Zutphen-Voorsterallee | | x | Granite tempered sherds, fragments of tephrite quern | From pit near house entrance | EIA | Yes | Dry | Archis2286099100 |
| Zutphen-Voorsterallee | | x | Iron-tempered sherds | From pit | IA | Yes | Dry | Archis2286099100 |
| Zutphen-Voorsterallee | | x | 1 burnt sherd | In front of house entrance | EIA | Yes | Dry | Archis2286099100 |
| Zutphen-Voorsterallee | | x | | From pit near house entrance | EIA | Yes | Dry | Archis2286099100 |
| Zutphen-Voorsterallee | | x | WKD pottery | From pit near house entrance | EBA | Yes | Dry | Archis2286099100 |