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Deposited on: 17 October 2014
**Context 038**

V2761 (Ill 3.17a)
Body sherd decorated with an applied band decorated with closely spaced thick vertical incisions. Exterior smoothed. The fabric is fine sandy clay with ε 10 per cent of angular rock fragments up to 3mm long which has fired hard and is brown. Both surfaces sooted.

V2724 (Ill 3.17f)
Sherds from a decorated vessel with an everted rim. The decoration comprises an applied zigzag decorated with incised lines above which is deeply incised decoration, probably triangle-based. The fabric is fine sandy clay with ε 10 per cent of angular rock fragments up to 5mm long which has fired hard and is grey with brown surfaces. Both surfaces sooted.

**PHASE UNCERTAIN**

**BLOCK 7**

**Context 048**

V2778 (Ill 3.17b)
Body sherd decorated with thick wavy cordon. Vertical wiping below. Coil constructed – N-shaped junction. The fabric is sandy clay which has fired hard and is grey with a red exterior margin. Interior sooted.

V2779 (Ill 3.17c)
Shers from a flat-based, necked vessel with barrel-shaped sides. Cordon with finger indentation (probably from applying the cordon) above shoulder. The rim has a flat lip. Exterior smoothed. Coil constructed – unsmoothed junctions in the interior. The fabric is sandy clay with ε 10 per cent of angular rock fragments up to 4mm long which has fired hard and is grey with brown surfaces. Exterior sooted. Interior has light sooting and a creamy-coloured residue.

**Context 068**

V2720 (not illustrated)
Everted rim decorated with an applied pinched band 6cm below the neck of the vessel. Exterior smoothed. Interior wiped. Coil constructed – junctions visible in section. The fabric is sandy clay with ε 20 per cent of angular rock fragments up to 8mm long which has fired hard and is oxidized and is brown. Both surfaces sooted.

V2721 (Ill 3.17d)
Body sherd decorated with rows made up of short incised lines – a horizontal line below the neck, one 4cm below, and a vertical one between. The fabric is sandy clay which has fired hard and is grey with brown surfaces. Both surfaces sooted.

V2723 (Ill 3.17e)
Body sherd decorated with a very thick applied zigzag. Exterior wiped. The fabric is sandy clay which has fired hard and is grey with a red exterior. Internal residue.

**Context 010**

V1261 (Ill 3.17g)
Body sherd decorated with V-shaped impressions. Exterior wiped. Interior combed. The fabric is fine clay with ε 10 per cent of angular rock fragments up to 4mm long which has fired hard and is grey with a buff interior surface. Exterior sooted. Interior lightly sooted.

**Context 209**

V1250 (Ill 3.17h)
Body sherds decorated with incised lines. Exterior smoothed. The fabric is fine sandy clay with ε 10 per cent of angular rock fragments up to 4mm long which has fired hard and has a buff, grey exterior and a red interior.

### 3.3 CERAMIC ARTEFACTS

Fraser Hunter and Ann MacSween

A single purpose-made spindle whorl (SF284, Ill 3.18e) was found; the remainder were reworked from broken potsherds while an unfinished example (SF256, Ill 3.18b) illustrated the production process. The only other ceramic artefact was a lump of fired clay with fingerprints, perhaps a small portion of potter’s raw material which was accidentally fired (SF285, not illustrated). Three of the sherd whorls come from Bays 1 and 2 of Wheelhouse 1 during its Phase 2 occupation (SF98 (Ill 3.18a), SF280 (Ill 3.18d) and SF281 (not illustrated)), while another had been jammed into the wall of Bay 2, during either Phase 1 or 2 (SF256, Ill 3.18b). The others appear to be from re-deposited contexts, most likely from Phase 2 occupation of Wheelhouse 1.
ILLUSTRATION 3.17
Phase 3, Block 18 continued, (a) V2761, (b) V2778, (c) V2779, (d) V2721, (e) V2723, (f) V2724; Phase uncertain, Block 7, (g) V1261, (h) V1250.
Material Culture

**SF98** (Ill. 3.18a)
Spindle whorl made from a potsherd worked into a sub-circular form with an approximately central, slightly waisted perforation. Surface wiped on the exterior. Sandy clay fabric, fired hard, grey with red surfaces. Exterior surface is sooted; sooting and residue on exterior. D 6.5mm, L 60mm, W 55mm, T 7–8.5mm, m 35.9g. Context 173, Block 5b, Phase 2 (Bay 2 of Wheelhouse 1).

**SF256** (Ill. 3.18b)
Unfinished spindle whorl. Potsherd with edges broken to form a crude circle, probably unfinished; perhaps abandoned because the central perforation was crude and non-central. Sandy clay fabric, fired hard, grey with red surfaces; sooting on both surfaces. L 56mm, W 55mm, T 7.5 – 9 mm, central perforation 8.5 x 5mm, worked bifacially but somewhat offset, m 32.4g. Context 080, Block 6 (within Wheelhouse 1 structural masonry, Bay 2).

**SF278** (Ill. 3.18c)
Spindle whorl (half surviving) with central slightly waisted perforation. Sandy clay fabric with ε 20 per cent of angular rock fragments up to 4mm long, fired hard, red; exterior surface sooted. D 36mm, T 9mm, Central perforation D 5mm, m 8.3g. Context 067, Block 8, Phase 2 (midden material formed over Structure 4).

**SF279** (not illustrated)
Spindle whorl fragment. Sandy clay fabric with ε 20 per cent of angular rock fragments up to 4mm long, fired hard, grey with red exterior surface, both surfaces sooted. Original diameter ε 65mm. L 28mm, W 19mm, T 10mm. Context 147, Block 2, Phase 3 (wall of Structure 8).

**SF280** (Ill. 3.18d)
Spindle whorl. Potsherd worked into an irregular circle, edges well-finished but broken in places. Sandy clay fabric, fired hard, grey with brown surfaces; both surfaces sooted. Approximately central tapering perforation, D 7mm. L 56mm, W 51mm, T 6–8.5mm, m 29.2g. Context 196, Block 5b, Phase 2 (Bay 1 of Wheelhouse 1).

**SF281** (not illustrated)
Spindle whorl fragment. Potsherd worked into a circle, original diameter ε 60mm, with traces of an off-centre perforation preserved in the fracture surface. Sandy clay fabric, fired hard, red exterior, buff interior. Exterior surface burnished and sooted. L 50mm, W 24mm, T 10mm. Context 265, Block 5a, Phase 2 (Bay 2 of Wheelhouse 1) (see Section 2.4.1.5).

**SF282** (not illustrated)
Spindle whorl, ε 50 mm D, with a perforation ε 9mm D. Fine sandy clay fabric with ε 20 per cent of angular rock fragments up to 3mm long; fired hard, oxidized (red/buff). T 7–9mm. Context 140, Block 13, Phase 2 (dumped fill within Structure 5).

**SF283** (not illustrated)
Spindle whorl or counter fragment, ε 80mm D. Sandy clay fabric, fired hard, oxidized (red). L 41mm, W 22mm, T 9mm. Context 266, Block 8, Phase 2 (secondary floor deposits in Structure 4) (see Section 2.4.3).

**SF284** (Ill. 3.18e)
Biconical spindle whorl with a rounded profile. Around 40 per cent survives, with the remains of a cylindrical perforation (D 4.5mm). D 42mm, H 28mm. Unstratified.

**SF285** (not illustrated)
Fired clay lump; irregular squashed ovoid grey lump with a deep finger mark on one edge, possibly others, and scattered organic impressions, perhaps straw. The inclusion of grits suggests this may be a lump of gathered and tempered clay which was accidentally fired. 116 x 100 x 57mm. Context 018, Block 18, Phase 3 (midden deposit formed over Structure 4 during Phase 3).

### 3.4 HUMAN BONE

Kath McSweeney

The four pieces of human bone recovered from Cnip comprise three skull fragments and a tibia fragment. The skull fragments belong to two adults, probably middle-aged, and one young adult. The only one for which sex is indicated (HB01) is male. Two of the skull fragments have clearly been modified, one after death (Context 171) and one possibly before (Context 071), while the third was found in a clearly votive context (Context 031). This suggests that the bias towards skull fragmentes reflects some deliberate selection on the part of the wheelhouse inhabitants. Modified human skull fragments are difficult to parallel in the Atlantic Iron Age. Although a chopped piece of human skull was recovered at Dun Mor Vaul (MacKie 1974, 214: plate XIV.B) it was found with a re-deposited burial