

Making and decorating Neolithic Grooved Ware pottery

Neolithic pottery fact file

- The Neolithic was the first time people started using pottery!
- Neolithic people also started farming for the first time, growing plants and animals for food. This was a big change from the hunter-gatherers in the Mesolithic that came before the Neolithic.
- Pottery was very useful for cooking and storing food. In the Neolithic, people in Scotland started making pottery called 'grooved ware', which was decorated with distinctive lines and patterns. During the Neolithic, grooved ware spread across the whole of Britain.

Your task

Option 1: If you are feeling really adventurous, you can make your own grooved ware pots out of clay. Watch this (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bELgM8aSqLc>) tutorial on YouTube to learn how to make 'pinch pots'.

Option 2: If you do not have any clay, draw an outline of a grooved ware pot, using the photo of examples below to help you with the shape and size.



Now you can decorate your grooved ware pot! Use the patterns and photographs on the next page (and above) to inspire your own grooved ware patterns!

Herringbone Pattern

This herringbone pattern is usually found on the rim (top edge) of the pot.



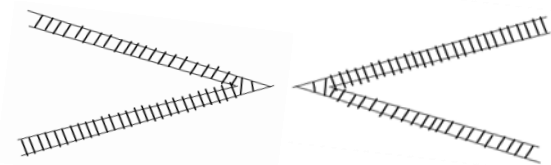
Horizontal Laddered Cordon

This pattern was either cut in, or pinched up to make a pattern of continuous little lumps.



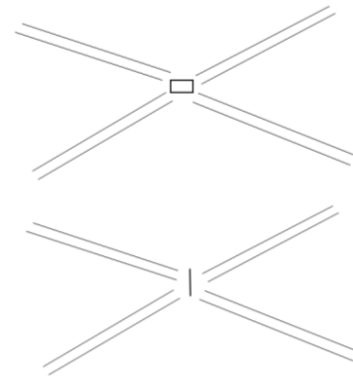
Converging Laddered Cordon

Like the horizontal laddered cordon pattern, only joined together to make diamond shapes



Intersecting Cordon Patterns

Sometimes the diamond shapes (see the pattern to the left) had boxes or dashes in between them.



Thanks to Sarah Jayne Botfield for her advice, photographs and illustrations (which are based upon Wainwright and Longworth's 1971 Durrington Walls excavation report).