

EARLY IRON AGE POTTERY FROM MARC 3, R7, EASTON DOWNHAMPSHIRE

All the sherds submitted were examined in the hand-specimen, in addition, a small number were thin sectioned and studied under the petrological microscope to check the visual identification. The vast majority of the material clearly contains abundant inclusions of crushed flint which protrude through the surfaces of the fabric. These sherds have been subdivided into two groups on the basis of the size of the flint inclusions. Thus Fabric 1 (most of Fabrics 1,2,3,4,6,7) contains large (up to 5mm. across) pieces of flint, while in Fabric 2 (Fabric 5 plus) the size of the flint is much smaller, though still frequent. A separate category, Fabric 3 (Fabric 10), has been made for a small number of sherds which appear to have a haematite surface, the majority contain a scatter of small flint inclusions.

Fabric 4 (Fabric 8) is predominantly sandy, but also contains a fair amount of small-sized flint. While a few sherds seem to be exclusively of a sandy texture, Fabric 5 (Fabric 9). Two sherds contain grog, crushed up pottery, and sparse fragments of fairly large flint, Fabric 6 (Fabric 12). One sherd was found to contain abundant shell inclusions, Fabric 7, though it is difficult to say whether these are fossiliferous or modern.

The remaining three sherds are likely to be Roman, and are in a hard, very sandy fabric, Fabric 7 (Fabric 11).

With the possible exception of Fabric 7, the range of inclusions present in the above samples could all have been obtained fairly locally, though they might also equally well

have come from anywhere on or near the Upper Cretaceous of
Southern England.

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