

ROMANO-BRITISH POTTERY FROM THE KILN AT PENTNEY, NORFOLK

D.F. Williams, Ph.D.,

(DOE Ceramic Petrology Project)

Department of Archaeology, University of Southampton

Both of the sherds submitted for examination are in a sandy dark grey (Munsell 5Y 4/1 to 2.5Y N/4) fabric, with the bowl/dish sherd showing a burnishing treatment to the outer surface. In thin section under the petrological microscope the two samples appear to be fairly similar in composition. Frequent ill-sorted subangular quartz grains up to 1.20mm across are scattered throughout the clay matrix and small fragments of limestone are common. Also present is a little iron ore and a number of dark brown rounded grains. The latter are difficult to identify but it is possible that they might be glauconite, although further work is necessary to be certain of this. If the identification of glauconite proves to be correct, a local origin for the clay is suggested, Pentney being situated closeby to Lower Greensand deposits. Comparison with thin sections of Roman pottery from Brancaster (see previous report) does not suggest an identical match of fabrics.