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REPORT

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TITLE	Amphorae from Poundbury Camp, Dorset

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The amphorae sherds were classified by fabric and form and then weighed and counted. The types represented are Dressel 1 - Pascual 1, Dressel 2-4, Dressel 20, Pelichot 47, North African cylindrical, Biv, Coptic and a number of unassigned types. The origin and dates of these amphorae are summarized below and listed in contexts.

Total weight of amphorae	11,801gms
Total number of amphorae sherds	138

% Total of each fabric

<u>% By weight</u>			<u>% By count</u>	
Dr. 1 - Pas. 1	1,218gms	10.3%	8	5.8%
Dr. 2-4	121gms	1.0%	1	0.7%
Dr. 20	7,765gms	65.8%	69	50.0%
Pel. 47	284gms	2.4%	15	10.9%
N/African	56gms	0.5%	1	0.7%
Biv	30gms	0.3%	4	2.9%
Coptic	20gms	0.2%	1	0.7%
Unassigned	2,307gms	19.5%	39	28.3%

Dressel 1 - Pascual 1

This type of amphora is characteristic of the Catalonia region of Spain and probably carried wine. The sherds from Poundbury are in my fabric 2 (Williams, 1981a), and are light-buff to reddish-buff with frequent inclusions of quartz and some feldspar. Late first century B.C. to early first century A.D. in date. The sherds which occur in Phase 4 occupation should therefore be regarded as residual, possibly from the pre-Roman occupation of the site.

Dressel 2-4

This type of amphora was made in a number of places during the first and second centuries A.D., e.g. Italy, southern France and Spain, and was probably used for carrying wine. Unstratified at Poundbury.

Dressel 20

Dressel 20 amphorae come from the Guadalquivir region of Spain, between Seville and Cordoba, where they were used principally for the transportation of olive-oil. This type of amphora has a wide date-range from the pre-Roman Period 1 levels at Camulodunum to the third/fourth centuries A.D. However, the number of Dressel 20 sherds from late contexts at Poundbury is surprising, for by the third/fourth century the trade in this amphora was much reduced compared to the large consignments that reached Britain in the second century. It suggests that some of the Dressel 20 sherds from Poundbury may have been derived from earlier levels.

Pelichet 47

Wine-amphora, probably from southern Gaul, in particular the area around the mouth of the Rhone. In Britain, these vessels date

from the latter half of the first century A.D. to the beginning of the third century, with the main concentration occurring during the second half of the second century. The sherds which occur in Phase 4 occupation should therefore be regarded as residual.

North African cylindrical

This type of amphora is known to have been made in the Byzacena region of North Africa. These amphorae probably started arriving in Britain during the third century A.D. and importation may have continued into the fifth century. What is surprising at Poundbury is that only one sherd of this ^{late} amphorae type is represented (unstratified). One would have expected more evidence of North African amphorae in contexts which are assumed to be late.

Biv (see Thomas, 1959)

The two-handled version of this form first appears in the late fourth century and seems to last until the mid-seventh century. In Britain, this type is associated with post-Roman contexts. However, a similar form of micaceous amphora, but with only one handle, occurs in pre-fifth century levels (Williams, 1981b). As the Poundbury material is composed of small bodysherds, it is not possible to say to which form they belong. A source in Asia Minor for the Biv amphorae seems likely.

Coptic

One sherd of an Egyptian amphora type from Phase 4 occupation, probably to be dated fourth to seventh century.

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Summary of amphorae present in the different phases

Iron Age / Early Romano-British ditch

Dr. 20

1716.

Phase 3 occupation

Dr. 20

932, 1074, 1159, 996, 1327, 901, 271, 998, 901, 1004, 998.

Pel. 47

782.

Unassigned

1324, 998, 1667, 1276, 1332.

Phase 3 cemetery

Dr. 20

1052, 1330, 1367.

Pel. 47

1049, 1101.

Unassigned

1086.

Phase 3/4 destruction

Dr. 20

1060.

Pel. 47

1027.

Biv

1019.

Unassigned

1331, 1060, 1325, 1212.

Phase 4 occupation

Dr. 1 - Pas. 1

683, 1269.

Dr. 20

1358, 1634, 1315, 1234, 1263, 646, 1263, 1257, 1315.

Pel. 47

1296.

Biv

883.

Contic

1022.

Late Roman cemetery

Dr. 20

1001, 1033, 1560, 38, 1034, 369, 1061, 1373, 1183, 273, 1308, 1079.

Pel. 47

1309.

Unassigned

1663, 1665, 992, 1592, 642.

Unstratified and Post-Roman survivals

Dr. 1 - Pas. 1

1732.

Dr. 3-4

777.

Dr. 20

1067, 1672, 1677, 338, 1746, 579.

Pel 47

1675.

North African

578.

Biv

596, 600.

Unassigned

558, 1676, 1747, 17, 550, 579.

NON-AMPHORAE

FC 1657 Phase 3 occupation.

FC 324 Late Roman cemetery.

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