

PETROLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF A RIBBED ROMAN JAR FROM

VINDOLANDA-CHESTERHOLM

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Ribbed bodysherd in a thin, soft, sandy fabric, light buff (between Munsell 7.5YR 7/4 and 7/6) throughout. Thin sectioning and study under the petrological microscope reveals frequent ill-sorted subangular quartz grains, ranging in size from 0.05-1.0mm, grains of reddish-brown serpentine and a little clinopyroxene. The presence of serpentine in the fabric suggests a source area of ultra-basic rocks. If on typological grounds an origin is to be sought in the eastern Mediterranean region, where vessels with ribbed decoration are particularly common, areas of ultra-basic rocks include Cyprus, Lesbos, Euboea, the Rhodian Peraea, the south-west coast of Asia Minor, northern Syria and central Greece. In the western Mediterranean, Liguria is an area of large ultra-basic formations.