

ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY

REPORT

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TITLE Roman amphora from Malting Green,
Essex.

ROMAN AMPHORA FROM MALTING GREEN, ESSEX

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Beltran 1 / Camulodunum 185B

Much weathered amphora handle in a very soft, slightly sandy fabric, light reddish-buff (Munsell 7.5YR 7/6) throughout. The sherd was studied in thin section under the petrological microscope, and showed a reddish-brown clay matrix containing frequent subangular grains of quartz, average size 0.05-.20mm, with a scatter of slightly larger grains, and flecks of mica (both biotite and muscovite), with a few fragments of sandstone, chert and iron ore. The fabric is identical with that of Beltran 1 / Camulodunum 185B amphorae previously sectioned by the writer, and the handle can confidently be identified as belonging to a southern Spanish fish-sauce amphora. The contexts at Malting Green suggest a pre-Conquest date for this sherd.