PREHISTORIC POTTERY FROM CLATCHARD CRAIG

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A number of samples of prehistoric pottery, mainly Iron Age, from Clatchard Craig were submitted for thin section analysis under the petrological microscope. A macroscopic examination using a binocular micrsscope (x20) revealed that some of the sherds contained clearly visible inclusions of igneous rocks and discrete grains of quartz, mica and pyroxene.

Several of the pottery sherds were either friable or too small to contemplate petrological sampling, while certain others were of a unique character and so were also left intact. A selection was made of seven of the larger body-sherds which were then thin sectioned (Nos.14, 21, 24, 27, 29, 33 and 39). This revealed fragments of rock of an andesite or basic igneous composition, with discrete grains of quartz, mica (both muscovite and biotite), plagioclase felspar, hornblende and pyroxene. Since Clatchard Craig is situated on the north-west of the Ochil Hills, a formation of Old Red Sandstone lavas composed principally of andesite and associated rocks (MacGregor and MacGregor, 1948), a fairly local source is suggested for the pottery.

MacGregor, M. and MacGregor, A.G. (1948) The Midland Valley of Scotland (Edinburgh, 1948).