

IRON AGE SHERD FROM TASBURGH CAMP, NORFOLK

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Fairly hard, sandy fabric with soft angular argillaceous fragments scattered throughout, dark grey (between Munsell 5YR 4/1 and 3/1) outer surface, grey-brown (7.5YR 4/2) inner surface. Smooth burnished exterior with burnished line decoration. Thin sectioning and study under the petrological microscope shows a reddish-brown clay matrix containing subangular quartz grains, some with undulose extinction, average size up to 0.30mm across, but with a few slightly larger grains, flecks of mica, a little iron ore and frequent angular pieces of grog (crushed up pottery).

Recent work on the late Iron Age 'Belgic' pottery of south-eastern England has shown that grog-tempering is a significant feature of much of this ware (Thompson, 1982). Tasburgh Camp lies outside of the main concentration of 'Belgic' grog-tempered pottery (*ibid.*, Map 1), and given the nature of grog-tempering it is difficult to say whether the Tasburgh sherd was made locally or some distance away. Moreover, with only the bottom half of the vessel surviving, it is difficult to be sure of the exact form of the vessel, and whether or not it can be regarded as a 'Belgic' type. However, presumably the Tasburgh Camp vessel was some form of jar, and Thompson has several jar categories containing burnished

vessels, sometimes with accompanying burnished decoration (ibid.).

Reference

Thompson, I. (1982) Grog-Tempered 'Belgic' Pottery of South-Eastern England, BAR 108 (i-iii).