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Wharram Percy: Organic residue analysis of pot sherds

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The sherds (AM 832911-4) were analysed by X-ray fluorescence by Paul Wilthew at the A M Lab but no metals or other indicators of use were detected. They were then extracted with a series of solvents of varying polarities and the resulting extracts examined by various spectrographic and chromatographic techniques. Again the results were negative; none of the samples contained detectable levels of organic substances. It would seem therefore that the vessels were used for dry storage or for predominantly water systems.