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SAXON POTTERY FROM QUENTOVIC

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VM '85 (57) Sherds A-D

Fairly hard, rough shelly fabric, ranging in colour from light to dark grey (Munsell 5Y 5/1 - 2.5YR N3/) throughout, to light buff (10YR 8/4) or light reddish-brown (2.5YR 6/4) surfaces and light grey core. Thin sectioning and study under the petrological microscope shows frequent shell fragments, a scatter of subangular quartz grains, opaque oxides and some flecks of mica, set in an anisotropic clay matrix.

Unfortunately, the range of inclusions present in the Quentovic sherds are not distinctive enough to suggest a particular area of origin. This shelly fabric recalls that of the middle Saxon Hamwih Class 5 pottery, which was considered to be local, though as pointed out by Hodges (1981), similar shell-tempered wares may also have been made in the region of Quentovic, as well as other continental areas.

Reference

- Hodges, R. (1981) The Hamwih pottery: the local and imported wares from 30 years' excavations at Middle Saxon Southampton and their European context, CBA Res. Rep. 37 (1981).