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Ancient Monuments Laboratory
Report 68/86

NOTE ON AN AMPHORA FROM BRANDON,
WARWICKSHIRE.

D F Williams PhD FSA

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Summary

Identification of a Rhodian style amphora of Peacock's fabric 1, with a probable origin on Rhodes itself. This type of amphora carried wine and was current from the late first century B.C. to the early second century A.D.

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A small bodysherd from an amphora in a soft, slightly coarse fabric, pinkish-white (Munsell 7.5YR 8/2 - 8/4) throughout. Thin sectioning and study under the petrological microscope shows frequent inclusions of red and brown serpentine, some cryptocrystalline limestone, quartz and the odd grain of clinopyroxene. This fabric is identical in composition and texture to Peacock's (1977) fabric 1 of the Rhodian style amphora, with a probable origin on Rhodes itself. This form of Rhodian amphora developed from late Hellenistic prototypes by the late first century B.C. and probably lasted into the early second century A.D. (Panella, 1973). Rhodian amphorae are commonly found on early military sites in Roman Britain, possibly by way of a tribute on the island imposed by Claudius, and probably carried wine (Peacock, 1977).

References

- Panella, C. (1973) 'Appunti su un Gruppo di Anfore della Prima, Media e Tarda Eta Imperiale', Ostia III (1973), 460-633.
- Peacock, D.P.S. (1977) 'Roman amphorae: typology, fabric and origin', Coll. de L'Ecole Francaise de Rome, 32(1977), 261-278.