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Ancient Monuments Laboratory  
Report 115/87

AMPHORAE FROM SPONG HILL, NORFOLK.

D F Williams PhD FSA

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#### Summary

Identification of four bodysherds of the southern Spanish Roman amphora form Dressel 20, some of which were originally thought possibly to have been locally made wares.

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AMPHORAE FROM SPONG HILL, NORFOLK

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Dressel 20

1. 1012 ELN 23B in D146.
2. 1012 ELN 23A/B in D146.
3. 1012 ELN 25.
4. 1012 ELN 430 in D146.

The above comprise four featureless bodysherds of the Dressel 20 form. This is the most common amphora type to be imported into Roman Britain, though it had started to arrive in small numbers during the late Iron Age (Williams and Peacock, 1983). Dressel 20 amphorae were made in the southern Spanish province of Baetica, along the banks of the River Guadalquivir and its tributaries between Seville and Cordoba, and carried olive-oil (Ponsich, 1974; 1979). This type of amphora has a wide date-range, and with some typological variation was in use at least up to the late third century A.D. (Zevi, 1967).

References

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- Williams, D.F. and (1983) 'The importation of olive-oil into Roman Britain', in Peacock, D.P.S. J. Blazquez and J. Remesal (eds.), Prod. Y Com. de Aceite en la Antigüedad. II Congreso, Madrid, 263-280.

Zevi, F. (1967) 'Review of M.H. Callender Roman Amphorae', JRS, 57  
(1967), 234-238.

Spong Hill, Norfolk      1012 ELN

sherds sent to D.F. Williams, 20.5.1987

1.    1012 ELN 23 B      amphora?
2.    1012 ELN 23 A/B   amphora?
3.    1012 ELN 25        local?
4.    1012 ELN 430       local?