

1250

Ancient Monuments Laboratory  
Report 115/87

AMPHORAE FROM SPONG HILL, NORFOLK.

D F Williams PhD FSA

AML reports are interim reports which make available the results of specialist investigations in advance of full publication. They are not subject to external refereeing and their conclusions may sometimes have to be modified in the light of archaeological information that was not available at the time of the investigation. Readers are therefore asked to consult the author before citing the report in any publication and to consult the final excavation report when available.

Opinions expressed in AML reports are those of the author and are not necessarily those of the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England.

Ancient Monuments Laboratory Report 115/87

AMPHORAE FROM SPONG HILL, NORFOLK.

D F Williams PhD FSA

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.

Author's address :-

Department of Archaeology  
University of Southampton  
Highfield  
Southampton SO9 5NH

0703 559122

AMPHORAE FROM SPONG HILL, NORFOLK

D.F. Williams, Ph.D., F.S.A.

(HBMC Ceramic Petrology Project)

Department of Archaeology, University of Southampton

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

- Ponsich, M. (1974) Implantation Rurale Antique Sur Le Bas-Guadalquivir, Madrid.
- Ponsich, M. (1979) Implantation Rurale Antique Sur Le Bas-Guadalquivir, Paris.
- 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?