

Ancient Monuments Laboratory
Report 185/87

AN IMITATION BB1 JAR FROM LADY
SPRING, MALTON, YORKSHIRE.

D F Williams PhD FSA

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Summary

Identification of an imitation BB1 (black-burnished
category 1 early Roman cooking-pot in a calcite temper-
ed fabric, probably made fairly locally.

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AN IMITATION BB1 JAR FROM LADY SPRING, MALTON, YORKSHIRE

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LSM. 69. 8 Phase 3B Trench 8

Small, plain upright-rimmed sherd, partly burnished in a fairly hard, smooth fabric, dark grey surfaces (between Munsell 10YR 4/1 - 3/1) and black core. Scattered throughout are frequent crystals of calcite. Thin sectioning and study under the petrological microscope shows that the calcite is set in an optically anisotropic matrix of baked clay containing a few small pieces of quartz sandstone and some discrete grains of quartz. Calcite tempered pottery is well-known in the Malton region (Corder and Kirk, 1932; Loughlin, 1977; Swan, 1980), and so it seems quite likely that this vessel was produced fairly locally, perhaps in imitation of the popular earlier forms of black-burnished category 1 ware (BB1) cooking pots (Williams, 1977).

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