

Ancient Monuments Laboratory  
Report 235/87

A NOTE ON THE PETROLOGY OF TWO  
BRONZE AGE SHERDS FROM CANNINGTON  
CEMETERY, SOMERSET.

D F Williams PhD FSA

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Summary

Thin sectioning shows that one sherd contains grog and the other quartzite, both probably of local origin.

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CEMETERY, SOMERSET

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1) DP 15 IT 30

Small, fairly hard, rough fabric, ?cord impressed decoration, dark reddish-brown in colour (between Munsell 5YR 5/4 and 4/4). Thin sectioning and study under the petrological microscope shows a scatter of subangular grains of quartz mostly under 0.20mm in size, some flecks of mica and argillaceous material, the angularity of which suggests grog (i.e. crushed up pottery).

2) B A1/14

Small, friable flattish-rimmed sherd, with large hard white inclusions scattered throughout the fabric, dark grey (between 5YR 4/1 and 3/1) outer surface and core, dark reddish-brown (5YR 3/4) inner surface. In thin section the white inclusions noted in the hand-specimen can be seen to be mainly quartzite, with a little quartz and flecks of mica. Quartzite occurs in the gravels and Triassic deposits in the region around Cannington, and a fairly local origin for this sherd seems quite possible (Ussher, 1908).

Reference

Ussher, W.A.E. (1908) The Geology of the Quantock Hills and of Taunton and Bridgewater (London, 1908).