

Ancient Monuments Laboratory
Report 2/88

STONE FROM THAMES VALLEY BUSINESS
PARK, NR. READING, BERKS.

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.

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Summary

Identification of several fragments of stone, some of them worked, from the late Iron Age/ Roman levels at Thames Valley Business Park. The range of stones includes some that may well have been obtained fairly locally: mudstone, quartzite and sandstone. Others were imported to the site: from the Forest of Dean, west Sussex and the Hampshire basin.

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STONE FROM THAMES VALLEY BUSINESS PARK, NR. READING, BERKS

D.F. Williams, Ph.D., FSA

(HBMC Ceramic Petrology Project)

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1) T48 (1258)

T48/H (1155)

T48 (1232)

Three fragments of quernstone in a quartz conglomerate rock, probably from the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire.

2) T48 (1250)

Small fragment from a quernstone of dark grey glauconitic sandstone. This stone is identical to quern material from the quarries at Lodsworth, West Sussex, where the local sandstone was quarried for use as quernstones from the late Bronze Age / Iron Age into the Roman period (Peacock, 1987).

3) T48 SQ.38 unstratified

Half of a half-spherical (bun-shaped) weight with part of an iron hook for suspension still in position in the central groove at the top. Similar-shaped stone weights have been recovered from late Iron Age contexts at Danebury (Cunliffe, 1984, 408-412). The example from Thames Valley Business Park is a ferruginous sandstone, possibly from the Tertiary deposits of the Hampshire Basin.

4) T49 XII (Machine trench) 74787/74335

T48 (1001) SQ.31

Two pieces of indurated mudstone, possibly obtained in the local valley gravels, though they may have come from further afield. T49 XIII may have been used as a honestone.

5) T49 II (5027) 74838/74368 Spit 6

T48 (1332)

Two fragments of quartzite, probably obtained from the local valley and plateau gravels.

6) T49 (5001)

Shaped honestone in a grey micaceous sandstone. Roman in date, but difficult to suggest a likely origin.

7) T48 (1217)

Small fragment of a ?quernstone, of grey sandstone. Uncertain origin.

8) T48 (1232)

Large fragment of a puddingstone, uncertain origin.

Reference

- Cunliffe, B. (1984) Danebury: an Iron Age hillfort in Hampshire Vol 2: the finds, CBA Res. Rep. 52.
- Peacock, D.P.S. (1987) 'Iron Age and Roman quern production at Lodsworth, West Sussex', Antiq. J., 67(1967), 61-85.

Ancient Monuments Laboratory
Report 230/87

AMPHORAE FROM THAMES VALLEY
BUSINESS PARK, NR. READING, BERKS.

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Ancient Monuments Laboratory Report 230/87

AMPHORAE FROM THAMES VALLEY
BUSINESS PARK, NR. READING, BERKS.

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Summary

Identification of two plain bodysherds of Roman amphorae
One is from the familiar Dressel 20 type from southern Spain. The other is either from a Dressel 1 form or a Dressel 2-4. Both types were made in Italy, transported wine and shared a range of fabrics.

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AMPHORAE FROM THAMES VALLEY BUSINESS PARK, NR. READING, BERKS

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1) W164 T48 SQ. 40 Unstratified Fabric B15

Plain bodysherd of the familiar globular-shaped amphora Dressel 20. This is the most common type of amphorae found in Roman Britain. Dressel 20 amphorae were made along the banks of the River Guadalquivir and its tributaries between Seville and Cordoba in the southern Spanish province of Baetica, where they were used for the transportation of olive-oil (Peacock and Williams, 1986, Class 25). This form of amphora has a wide date-range. Small numbers of these vessels were reaching Britain during the late Iron Age, and importation continued at least up to the late third century A.D. (Williams and Peacock, 1983).

2) W164 T48 (1249) Pit Fill Fabric B14

Plain bodysherd of the Italian wine amphora Dressel 1 or Dressel 2-4. Both of these amphora types shared common fabrics, and when dealing with undiagnostic sherds such as the one from Thames Valley Business Park it is difficult to be certain which form is involved. Dressel 1 amphorae, A and B varieties, were produced from the late second century B.C. till the last few years of the first century B.C. (Peacock and Williams, Classes 3 and 4). Dressel 2-4 seems to have been in use from the latter half of the first century A.D. to the mid

second century A.D., although quantitative trends suggest that it was in decline by the later first century A.D. (ibid., Class 10).

References

- Peacock, D.P.S. and (1986) Amphorae and the Roman Economy (London, 1986).
Williams, D.F.
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Madrid, 263-280.