

Ancient Monuments Laboratory
Report 38/88

AMPHORAE FROM THE 1979 EXCAVATIONS
AT COMBLEY VILLA, ISLE OF WIGHT.

D F Williams PhD FSA

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Summary

Identification of some bodysherds of the southern
Spanish olive-oil amphora Dressel 20.

Author's address :-

Department of Archaeology
University of Southampton
Highfield
Southampton
SO9 5NH

0703 559122

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

(HBMG Ceramic Petrology Project)

Department of Archaeology, University of Southampton

Section A (4) One Dressel 20 bodysherd

Section A Ditch A unstratified Two Dressel 20 bodysherds

This is the most common amphorae type imported into Roman Britain (see Williams and Peacock, 1983). Dressel 20 were made in the southern Spanish province of Baetica, along the banks of the River Guadalquivir and its tributaries between Seville and Cordoba, and were used to transport vast quantities of olive-oil, for which the region was famous in antiquity and still is today (Ponsich, 1974; 1979). This form of amphora has a long date-range and it is difficult to be precise about dating the three featureless bodysherds from Combley. Dressel 20 started to arrive in Britain during the late pre-Roman Iron Age and continued being imported to the province until at least the late third century A.D. (Williams and Peacock, 1983).

References

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