

Ancient Monuments Laboratory
Report 124/88

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE AMPHORAE
FROM THE ROMAN VILLA COMPLEX AT
STANWICK, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

D F Williams PhD FSA

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Summary

Identification of a small group of amphorae sherds found on the outskirts of the villa buildings. Two forms were identified, the southern Spanish Dressel 20 and the southern French Pélisset 47. It was interesting to note that all three of the Dressel 20 handles recovered showed signs of being detached with a saw in antiquity.

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PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE AMPHORAE FROM THE ROMAN VILLA COMPLEX AT

STANWICK, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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

(HBMC Ceramic Petrology Project)

Department of Archaeology, University of Southampton

Dressel 20

Site Code 291 Box 272

(A) Bodysherds:

8739

8838

8368

8264

9839 (two sherds)

9376

8302 (four sherds)

8845

9467

8303

8722

8736

9526

(B) Handles:

0930/1050 (2) AoR 1357 Part of a handle which has been sawn off in antiquity

fairly close to the summit of the handle. A cut mark is present on the remaining stub.

3221 1628 Same condition as the above handle.

8031 AoR 12046 Same condition as the above two handles.

Site Code 291 Box 472

(A) Bodysherds:

46119

45430

47290

45036

45634

45033

45996

45436

45009

45306

(B) Basal wort:

45097

Dressel 20 amphorae were used to carry the olive-oil produced in the southern Spanish province of Baetica. This form of amphora, first arriving in Britain during the late pre-Roman Iron Age, is the most common type recovered from Romano-British sites up to the late third century A.D. (Williams and Peacock, 1983). Unfortunately, due to the lack of detailed typological features that make up the Dressel 20 material from Stanwick, none of the above sherds can be

closely dated within this period.

An interesting feature of the three Dressel 20 handles is that each of them display clear signs of being cut off/sawn off at a point approaching the summit of the handle. Moreover, each of the handles appears to have slight differences of fabric, suggesting that they all come from separate vessels. Chopping off the top section of amphorae and using the remaining part as a large receptacle is not uncommon, especially for the globular-shaped Dressel 20. Quite often these vessels then served as a repository for a burial.

Pélichet 47 / Gauloise 4

Site Code 291 Box 272

(A) Bodysherd:

8279

(B) Handle:

8279

Site Code 291 Box 472

(A) Bodysherds

45306 (two sherds)

46566

45001

These bodysherds and handle come from the flat-bottomed wine carrying amphora Pélíchet 47/Gauloise 4, which was made predominantly in southern France around the mouth of the Rhône in Languedoc (Laubenheimer, 1985). After Dréssel 2-4, Pélíchet 47 is the most common wine amphora found in Roman Britain. It does not appear to have been imported into the country before the Boudiccan revolt, but then lasted well into the third, possibly early fourth century A.D. (Peacock, 1978; Laubenheimer, 1985). It is not possible to date the Stanwick material at a particular point within this period.

Undesignated

Site Code 291 Box 272

(A) Handle:

8870 Possibly Spanish.

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