Ancient Monuments Laboratory
Report 32/96

A SUMMARY OF SOME PETROLOGICAL INTERIM SITE REPORTS COMPLETED DURING 1995

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Summary

The report contains summary accounts of 33 petrological site reports completed in 1995 which were not submitted individually for inclusion in the AML report series. By period it comprises 9 Prehistoric, 20 Roman and 4 Mediaeval reports, and by material examined is made up of 21 reports on pottery, 5 on briquetage, 5 on stone and 2 on tile. The report thus contains information on a varied selection of petrological reports, not only covering different periods and types of material, but also in the geographical spread of find-sites around the country.

Author's address :-

D F Williams
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON
Highfields
Southampton
HANTS
SO9 5NH

A SUMMARY OF SOME PETROLOGICAL INTERIM SITE REPORTS COMPLETED DURING 1995

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

[English Heritage Ceramic & Lithic Petrology Project]

Department of Archaeology, University of Southampton

1]. Roman amphorae from Brompton, Shropshire [BUFAU].

Identification of a limited range of amphorae forms from the fort and nearby *vicus*: Dressel 20, Southern Spanish and Gauloise 4 [346 sherds].

2]. Mediaeval and post-Mediaeval pottery from the Buttercross site, Leominster [Hereford & Worcester Arch. Unit].

Fabric analysis by thin sectioning a range of Mediaeval and post-Mediaeval pottery from Leominster produced a number of fabric types that will be used as the basis for a fabric series for the region [28 samples].

3]. Stamped mortaria from Castleford, Yorks, and Martinhoe, Devon [Kay Hartley].

Thin sectioning of stamped mortaria by Boriedo and Fronto, two mortaria potters from the Roman province of *Gallia Belgica*, suggests that it is possible that

they also made mortaria in Britain.

4]. Roman amphorae from Castleton, Derbyshire [Trent & Peak Arch.Trust].
Identification of bodysherds of the southern Spanish amphora Dressel 20 and the southern French Gauloise 4 [25 sherds].

5]. Roman marble from The Lawns, Coggeshall [Colchester Arch. Unit].
Identification of a slab of white marble used as a piece of *opus sectile*. A comparison with similar material from the stone collection in the Department of Archaeology, University of Southampton, suggests that it comes from St. Beat in the Haute Pyrenees.

6]. Late Iron Age briquetage from Cowbit & Market Deeping, Lincs [Fenland Management Project].
Thin sectioning showed that two of the briquetage fabric groups from Cowbit were probably made from the local silty clay deposits of the Fenland. The remaining two fabric groups contained shelly limestone tempering similar to briquetage from Market Deeping, 8 miles to the south of Cowbit. Exposures of Jurassic limestone occur closeby to Market Deeping and may be the source of the shelly inclusions in the briquetage from both sites [14 samples].

7]. Late Iron Age Pottery from Cowbit, Lincs [Fenland Management Project].

Two main fabric groups were established. One of these was a shelly limestone fabric very similar to some of the briquetage examined from the site, and which was thought to have a non-local source, see above [7 samples].

8]. Roman amphorae from Droitwich Bays Meadow, Worcs [Dr. L. Barfield].

Identification of a small number of Dressel 20 and Gauloise 4 amphorae from late Roman contexts. Two sherds of a possible Almagro 51 or variant were also present [26 sherds].

9]. Prehistoric and Roman pottery from Duckpool, Morwenstow, Cornwall [Cornwall Arch. Unit].

Thin sectioning of a range of pottery enabled the identification of the granitic "south Devon ware" fabric amongst the Roman sherds, and interestingly enough a similar, if somewhat coarser, granitic fabric from a prehistoric cordoned vessel, suggesting a possible shared source of raw materials [14 sherds].

10]. Roman amphorae from Dragonby, Lincolnshire [Jeoffrey May].

Identification of a range of amphorae from this large Iron Age and Roman settlement site. The

Baetican olive-oil container Dressel 20 dominates the finds, but there are also a few sherds of Italian, French and Rhodian wine amphorae [437 sherds].

11]. An examination of white material from two "plaster burials" from the East London Roman cemetery [AM Lab.]

Identification of a white "plaster" associated with two Roman burials as local Cretaceous Chalk [2 samples].

12]. Roman briquetage from the Fenland [Fenland Management Project].

Thin sectioning of briquetage from eighteen Fenland sites showed that most of the material could be grouped into two general fabric groups, both heavily tempered with organic material. Previous analyses of similar material from the region suggests that this seems to be a feature of the briquetage from the late Iron Age/Roman period of the Fenland. One of the groups seems to have been made using a local Fenland sily clay [30 samples].

13]. Iron Age pottery from Foxcovert Farm, Derbyshire [Dr. Ann Woodward].

Thin sectioning points to the use of potting clay obtained from the local Keuper Marls [7 samples].

14]. A mortarium from the Berkeley St. Kiln, Gloucester [Kay Hartley].

Fabric characterization of a reddish-brown stamped mortarium produced in this early Roman kiln.

15]. A piece of marble veneer from Godmanchester, Cambs [Central Excavation Services].

Thin sectioning allowed the identification of the Godmanchester marble as a piece of Oolithe de Marquise, from near Boulogne. Possibly the farthest north this particular stone has so far appeared in the Roman period.

16]. A note on the petrology of one Early-Middle Iron Age sherd and one "Glastonbury ware" sherd from Ham Hill, Somerset [Wessex Arch. Trust].

Thin sectioning showed two distinctive fabrics. One containing sanidine matches Peacock's Group 5 with a suggested origin near to Exeter and the other, containing much plagioclase felspar, possibly has a more local origin in the area of Beacon Hill [2 sherds].

17]. A Stamped Roman tile from Kirton, Lincs [Prof. S. Frere].

This is a fragment of tile showing part of a circular stamp. Similar stamped tiles and bricks are known to have been made in Italy. Thin sectioning was requested to see if an Italian origin could be

established for the Kirton tile but the results proved to be inconclusive, as the clay contained a fairly common range of non-plastic inclusions making attribution difficult.

18]. Roman amphorae from Knighton, Isle of Wight [Dr. D. Tomalin].
Identification of late Republican wine amphorae from Italy, pointing to pre-Roman trade in these vessels during the late Iron Age [10 sherds].

19]. Iron Age briquetage from Market Deeping, Lincs [Fenland Manage Project: Phase 2].
Thin sectioning allowed a number of fabric divisions. Some of the material examined contained Jurassic fossil shell, possibly coming from an area to the north of the site, while one fabric can be matched with briquetage from Cowbit, situated to the north-east [6 samples].

20]. Roman briquetage from Middleton Saltern, Norfolk [Fenland Management Project].
Thin sectioning shows that much of the material is heavily tempered with organic material, and as such is different to briquetage of the earlier Iron Age of the region, where fossil shell is employed [12 samples].

21]. Early Roman briquetage from Morton Saltern, Lincs [Fenland Management Project].

Thin sectioning produced a range of slightly different fabric groups, but all of these might well have originated in the local silty deposits of the Fenland. There was no shelly limestone fabric previously noted in the Iron Age briquetage from Cowbit and Market Deeping. Instead, the emphasis was on a high degree of organic tempering, and this probably reflects a certain amount of technological change in the Roman period in the way briquetage was made [8 samples].

22]. Roman amphorae from Mucking, Essex [British Museum]

Identification of a varied group of amphorae that includes late Republican [i.e. pre-Roman] types as well as late Roman North African cylindrical vessels. However, the majority of sherds belong to amphorae that carried southern Spanish olive-oil and southern French wine. The latter were especially plentiful and may reflect importation to London or the south east coast via the Rhine [1,129 sherds].

23]. Prehistoric pottery from Norton Lenchwick By-Pass [Birmingham Univ. FAU]

Thin sectioning shows that one sherd originated from the Malvern Hills, while the others were probably made from local Triassic clays [6 samples].

24]. Roman amphorae from Old Sleaford, Lincs [Lincoln Arc. Unit].

Identification of a group of amphorae that consist mostly of types that carried olive-oil from southern Spain and wine from Italy. There were a number of rims and stamped handles for which dates could be assigned, and these mainly fell in the period from the first half of the second century A.D. to the first half of the third century A.D. [99 sherds].

25]. Roman amphorae from Redcliffe, Isle of Wight [Dr. D. Tomalin].

Identification of late Republican and early Imperial amphora forms [6 sherds].

26]. Roman amphorae from Redlands Farm, near Stanwick, N'ants [Oxford Arch. Unit].

Identification of a small group of French and Spanish amphorae very similar in composition to that found at nearby Stanwick [44 sherds].

27]. Roman amphorae from St. Catherine's Point, Isle of Wight [Dr. D. Tomalin].

Identification of Baetica and southern French amphora forms [11 sherds].

28]. A Mediaeval inlayed tile from Sherborne Old Castle, Dorset [Wessex Arch.].

Thin sectioning shows that a glauconitic clay was

used and suggests a non-local origin.

29]. Monumental stone from Stanwick Roman villa, N'ants [Central Arch. Services].
The monumental architectural fragments of stonework were examined and were all found to be of a shelly oolitic limestone. A comparison with similar material from the rock collection held in the Department of Archaeology, University of Southampton suggests that this is a Barnack-type stone from the local Lincolnshire Limestone formations.

30]. Whetstones and a millstone from Stratton Village, Beds. [Bedfordshire Archg. Unit].
Identification of a range of different stones used for whetstones including: Norwegian Ragstone, Coal Measures Sandstone, Pennant Sandstone and quartzite, plus a millstone made from Millstone Grit [11 samples].

31]. Prehistoric pottery from Twyford Down, Hants [Wessex Arch. Trust].
Thin sectioning shows a range of fabrics present. The majority of these are undoubtedly local, but of great interest is the fact that three sherds contain inclusions of granite. These latter sherds must obviously have been brought from some distance away, perhaps from the south-west, the Channel Islands or even Brittany [18 samples].

32]. Iron Age pottery from Weekley, N'ants [N'ants Arch. Unit].

Thin sectioning shows that two sherds contain collophane, perhaps derived from the local phosphatic limestones, while the another contains inclusions of granitic rocks from the ?Charnwood Forest. The latter inclusions are normally found in certain early Saxon pottery of the region [3 samples].

33]. Roman and Post-Mediaeval Amphorae from the Wootton-Quarr Survey, the Solent

Identification of a range of Republican and Imperial amphorae, also a post-Mediaeval Spanish olive-jar [24 sherds].