

# ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY

## REPORT

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<b>TITLE</b>	Black-burnished ware from Little Chester, Derby

BLACK-BURNISHED WARE FROM LITTLE CHESTER, DERBY

Five BB1<sup>1</sup> sherds said to be representative of the majority of this ware at Little Chester, from levels dated Late Hadrianic- Early Antonine and Early-Mid Antonine, were submitted for heavy mineral analysis (Peacock, 1967). Table I shows the results in terms of percentages of non-opaque minerals.

TABLE I

No.	Type										No. grains counted
		Zircon	Tourmaline	Rutile	Kyanite	Staurolite	Garnet	Epidote	Anatase	Andalusite	
1.	Cooking-pot, G. <sup>2</sup> 122	44.9	43.5	7.1	.4	2.5	-	-	.8	.8	241
2.	Cooking-pot, G.122	44.3	44.3	5.1	2.1	2.1	-	-	-	2.1	497
3.	Body sherd of cooking-pot	18.1	77.5	1.3	.5	-	1.3	1.3	-	-	160
4.	Dish, G.316	24.5	72.1	.6	1.3	.9	-	.6	-	-	322
5.	Dish, G.306	46.5	48.0	1.5	.5	1.5	-	1.0	1.0	-	198

The minerals have the following properties:

ZIRCON

Small well rounded colourless grains.

TOURMALINE

Large irregular grains, brown, blue or red in colour.

RUTILE

Foxy-red acicular crystals are common, though a few angular yellow varieties also occur.

KYANITE

Large elongated colourless grains, usually with a good transverse cleavage.

STAUROLITE

Large irregular rounded grains, slightly yellow in colour.

GARNET

Small colourless grains.

EPIDOTE

Small irregular crystals, often yellowish in colour.

ANATASE

Small tabular grains.

ANDALUSITE

Clear glassy grains, sometimes displaying a pinkish tinge.

Discussion

The quantitative heavy mineral results for the five samples

display a close degree of correspondence, and this is borne out by the similarity of the mineral characteristics. There can be little doubt that the same type of sand was used as a filler in each of the vessels, indicating a common area of origin.

The heavy mineral assemblage is characterized by a particularly high tenor of tourmaline and very little garnet, identical to the suite produced by similar wares from the BB1 production centre situated around the Warcham-Poole Harbour area of Dorset (Peacock, 1973; Williams, forthcoming, Group I). Dorset BB1 has also been recognized by the writer at the nearby kiln site, probably dated too early by the excavator (Brassington, 1971, fig. 8, nos. 124-131).

A macroscopic examination of two BB1 cooking-pots and a flat-rimmed dish from the latter site showed that all three were identical in fabric and finish to the five vessels analyzed above, and so a similar origin is suggested for them.

These results from Little Chester add usefully to the growing body of information that is emerging of a large BB1 industry in Dorset, which from the early Hadrianic period provided the majority of the BB1 ware found on civil and

military sites in Wales, the Midlands and the north (Williams, forthcoming).

1. Black-burnished Category 1 (Gillam, 1960, 126-127).

2. Refers to Gillam's Types paper (1957).

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