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Mediaeval Pottery, WINGHAM, Kent

TITLE

MEDIAEVAL POTTERY, WINGHAM, KENT

Sherds from a late 12th century - early 13th century cooking-pot and (?) costrol were submitted for petrological examination. Both samples are in a hard, very sandy darkish-grey fabric.

Thin sectioning shows numerous well-sorted subangular quartz grains, average size 0.40-.80mm., and a small amount of flint and mica. A heavy mineral separation was also carried out on both sherds but the resulting assemblages yielded too few grains to give a reliable reading. However, it was noted that zircon, kyanite and tourmaline seem to be well represented.

The two sherds appear to be of a similar fabric, though this is not immediately comparable to any known fabric type. Moreover, the raw materials are too commonplace to indicate a likely area of origin. Kyanite is found principally in post-Triassic sedimentary rocks, but this would include the majority of the eastern half of the country up to southern Yorkshire, All that can be said therefore is that the mineralogy is entirely in keeping with a Kentish source, though an origin further afield cannot be ruled out.

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