

FABRIC ANALYSIS : POTTERY FROM R.4. MICHELDEVERWOOD

Final report on site.
For M3 Comm.

Fabric 1

Nos. 544*, 183, 924, 20, 203, 195, 936, 76, 74, 449,
215, 204, 87, 25, 764*, 189, 370, 284*, 745, 229, 893 and
919. *Collared Urns.

Fairly hard fabric, heavily tempered with grog (crushed
up fragments of pottery), and with occasional quartz and flint.
Surface colours are variable but are commonly reddish-brown.

This identification is confirmed by thin section examination
of nos. 544, 204, 764, 76, 203, 25 and 449. All contained large
pieces of grog with occasional quartz and flint. Peacock has
already drawn attention to the tradition of grog tempering
for the collared urn series (1970,376).

Fabric 2

Nos. 5, 259 and 302.

Medium hard fabric, tempered with grog and quartz; dark
grey throughout. All three sherds come from the 'B' horizon
of topsoil over the barrow. No. 5 is an everted cooking-pot

rim similar to a late Roman grog tempered vessel from Porchester (Cunliffe, 1970, Fig. 1, no. 5). Thin sectioning confirms that the predominant inclusion is grog, however, the size of the quartz grains also present are considerably smaller and more numerous than the sections from the collard urn fabric described above.

It is possible that all three sherds belong to the late Roman tradition of grog tempered vessels centered on the Hampshire Basin area (Fulford, 1975, Fig. 156). Unfortunately the sherds were too small for heavy mineral examination similar to that conducted by Fulford (1975, 291).

Fabric 3

Nos. 104, 590, 27, 140, 83, 274, 174, 384, 382, 249, 444, 327 and 32.

Medium hard fabric, ranging in colour from light buff to black. Abundant inclusions of large fragments of crushed flint.

Nos. 104 and 124 were studied in thin section and revealed large pieces of flint up to 2.5mm. across.

Fabric 4

Nos. 407, 17, 95, 9, 33 and 192.

Medium hard fabric ranging in colour from buff to black.

Numerous inclusions of small fragments of crushed flint. No.17 is moderately burnished on the outside surface.

Fabric 5

Nos. 37, 23, 36, 186, 338, 162, 929 and 82.

Medium hard sandy fabric, with sparse inclusions of flint, ranging in colour from greyish-buff to dark brown.

Thin sections were made of nos. 82, 36 and 23. All contained numerous subangular quartz grains, average size 0.40-.60mm., together with occasional fragments of flint.

Fabric 6

Nos. 157, 381 and 278.

Fairly hard, fine sandy fabric, dark brown to grey. No. 278 is burnished on the outside surface.

No. 381 was thin sectioned and showed numerous inclusions of subangular quartz grains, average size 0.10-.20mm.

Fabric 7

Nos. 180, 31, 332, 299, 81, 65, 355 and 50.

Medium hard coarse sandy fabric, ranging in colour from reddish-buff to black. A thin section of no. 81 showed frequent subangular quartz grains, average size 0.40-.60mm.

Conclusions

As all the inclusions in the above fabric groups are fairly common, it is not possible to pin-point source areas for the raw materials. However, pockets of clay-with-flints occur near the site, some also containing a little quartz sand, and so the majority of the sherds examined may well have been made locally.

No. 295: badly eroded samian footring.

No. 15: footring from colour-coated bowl: Oxford?

No. 30: coarse sandy fabric containing small inclusions of (?)

red iron ore. Rim from (?) Roman grey-ware jar.

No. 232: medium hard fabric, light brown to black in colour,

and containing large fragments of flint. Sherd of

Neolithic Mortlake type. A thin section revealed little else but inclusions of flint (see also Peacock, 1970,376).

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