

BLACK-BURNESBURY WARE FROM WILDERSPOOL, LANCASHIRE

Eight sherds from BB1 vessels were submitted for examination. Of these, five were subjected to heavy mineral analysis: a cooking-pot with short neck and bead-rim (no. 254; Gillam 123); a cooking-pot with a tall, almost straight bead-rim (no. 242; Gillam 122); an incipient flanged bowl (no. 73; Gillam 227); a flanged bowl (no. 74; Gillam 228); and an unusual form of jug (no. 259). All the samples except for the jug produced assemblages characterized by a high tourmaline content, and agreed well with analyses on BB1 vessels shown to have been made in the Wareham-Poole Harbour area of Dorset (Gilliam, 1977, Group I). The remaining three sherds, a small cooking-pot or beaker (no. 205); a straight-sided dish (no. 199; Gillam 329); and a flanged bowl (no. 187; Gillam 227) were examined macroscopically and appeared to be in an identical fabric, suggesting a similar origin.

The exception to the above 'Dorset' group was the jug (no. 259), which produced too few grains to give a reliable reading, but which contained a majority of zircon and no tourmaline. The form is not one associated by the writer with the Dorset centre, and so it seems likely that this was made elsewhere.

The easiest way of delivering the supply of Dorset BB1 to Wilderspool was probably by way of ship round the west coast of England and Wales, perhaps on route for the Solway Firth and the

frontier garrisons of the north.

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Williams, D.F. (1977) 'The Romano-British black-burnished industry: an essay on characterization by heavy mineral analysis', in Pottery, Early Commerce and Economics: Characterization and Trade on Roman and Later Ceramics, ed. Peacock, D.P.S. (London, 1977).