

ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY

REPORT

2560

SERIES/No

CONTRACTOR

AUTHOR

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TITLE

Petrology of Iron Age/Roman
Pottery from Nornour, Isles of
Scilly

Two sherds of pottery from Nornour were submitted for petrological analysis. After an initial macroscopic examination the sherds were thin sectioned and studied under the petrological microscope.

- 1) 780094. Hard, rough fabric, very dark grey (Munsell 2.5Y N3/), throughout. Numerous grains of quartz and a little mica are clearly visible.

Thin sectioning shows numerous inclusions of large subangular grains of quartz up to 2mm. across (average size 0.60mm-1mm.) and a little mica.

- 2) 780089. Fairly hard, smooth fabric, dark grey (Munsell 19YR 4/1) surfaces, buff core. Inclusions of mica are common throughout the fabric, in fresh fracture white felspar grains can be seen, together with fragments of rock.

Thin sectioning shows fragments of granite spread throughout the clay matrix. Also present are large discrete grains of felspar, quartz and mica.

Discussion

The geology of much of the Eastern Isles of Scilly is composed of coarse granite, and so a local source for 780089 would agree with the petrology. The fabric of 780094 clearly

differs from the other sherd, and the noticeable lack of granitic fragments would seem to suggest that it was not made locally, though as the inclusions are so common it is not possible to suggest a likely area of origin in this case.

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