

PETROLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF AN IRON AGE / ROMAN SHERDFROM ABINGDON, OXFORDSHIRE

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Fairly hard, rough sandy fabric, with softish dark coloured rounded grains scattered throughout, light brown (Munsell 10YR 5/4) outer surface, dark grey (between 10YR 4/1 - 3/1) inner surface and core. Thin section examination under the petrological microscope shows frequent subangular to subrounded grains of quartz, up to 0.80mm across, with some flecks of mica and a scatter of rounded light brown grains of limonite (altered glauconite), average size up to 0.50mm across. Glauconite is commonly found in the Greensand, deposits of which occur to the south and east of Abingdon, though it is also to be found to some extent in the Chalk deposits of the region (Sherlock, 1962). Recent work on glauconitic fabrics in the south-east of the country suggests that it may be difficult to tie down the glauconite to a particular provenance (Freestone, 1982).

References

- Freestone, I.C. (1982) 'Applications and potential of electron probe micro-analysis in technological and provenance investigations of ancient ceramics', Archaeometry, 24(1982), 99-116.
- Sherlock, R.L. (1962) London and Thames Valley, British Regional Geology, (London, 1962).