

ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY

REPORT 2369

SERIES/No

CONTRACTOR

AUTHOR

Dr D F Williams

Oct 1977

TITLE

Petrological analysis of Iron-Age and
Saxon Pottery from HARTICAN'S GRAVEL PIT,
CALDECOTTE AND BRADWELL ROMAN VILLA.

Milton Keynes
Dur. Corp.

PETROLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF IRON AGE AND SAXON POTTERY FROM
HARTIGAN'S GRAVEL PIT, CALDECOTTE AND BRADWELL ROMAN VILLA

A small programme of petrological examination was undertaken on Iron Age and Saxon pottery from Hartigan's Gravel Pit, Milton Keynes, and comparative Saxon material from two nearby sites, Caldecotte and Bradwell Roman villa. All the sherds were examined in thin section under the petrological microscope. The samples from Caldecotte (w, x and y) and Bradwell Roman villa (u, v and z), together with the majority of the Saxon sherds from Hartigan's Gravel Pit (o, p, r and s) all contained sandstone and quartzite, frequent grains of quartz (discrete and polycrystalline), and the occasional grain of felspar and fragment of flint. This composition contains inclusions which are foreign to the district, and a similar range of inclusions have been noted by the writer in Saxon pottery from Northampton (in Williams, forthcoming). However, it is quite possible for the raw materials to have been obtained from the local Boulder Clay deposits which cover much of the Milton Keynes area.

The two remaining Saxon sherds from Hartigan's Gravel Pit (l and m) were both heavily tempered with grass or chaff.

The Iron Age sherds from Hartigan's Gravel Pit contained shell (a, b, c, and i), grass or chaff (d) and quartz sand (f, g and j). There is nothing in any of the samples to suggest that the clay or temper was not obtained from the general area

of the site.

D.F. Williams, Ph.D.,
Department of Archaeology,
University of Southampton.

Williams, D.F. (forthcoming) 'Petrological analysis of Saxon
pottery from Northampton', in
J. Williams, Excavations at St.
Peters Street, Northampton.