

Ancient Monuments Laboratory  
Report 4/86

AMPHORAE FROM THE 1985 EXCAVATIONS  
AT FURZEY ISLAND, CORFE PARISH,  
DORSET.

D F Williams

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Summary

Two amphorae sherds from Furzey Island, Dorset, probably belonging to a Dressel 1 amphora (or amphorae). They suggest a first century B.C. date.

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1) TWA W62 K1 context 128

2) TWA W62 context 14

These two bodysherds are probably from a Dressel 1 amphora. It is difficult to tell if both sherds belong to the same amphora or whether two vessels are represented, as both sherds are in a friable condition. Dressel 1 are wine-carrying amphorae that were made primarily in the Campanian, Latium and Etrurian districts of Italy (Peacock and Williams, 1986). Both of the Furzey Island sherds are featureless bodysherds, so it is difficult to tell exactly which form is involved. Dressel 1A was made from about 130 B.C. (Tchernia, 1983) till around the middle of the first century B.C. (Peacock, 1971). While Dressel 1B appears to have been made from about shortly after the first quarter of the first century B.C. till the last decade of the century (Peacock, 1971; Sealey, 1985). The Dressel 1 amphora (1A and 1B varieties) is the most important amphora type found in late Iron Age Britain and provides striking evidence for the importation of Italian wine well before the Roman Conquest.

References

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