Ant Rpar 2458,

ROMAN POTTERY FROM WILDERSPOOL

289. Moderately hard, dark grey fabric throughout, burnished on the outside surface. Inclusions of fragments of rock and white felspar are visible in fracture. A thin section of this sherd revealled inclusions of igneous and metamorphic rocks similar to those described by Peacock as being characteristic of Romano-British pottery production in the Malvern Hills area (1967,415). A similar origin seems likely for this sherd.

261. Looks like a much abraided white slip.

281. Looks like a white slip.

353. Flat-rimmed bowl or dish. Possibly BB1 but much abraided.

371. BB1 flanged-bowl (Gillam,228). Dorset origin (Williams, 1977).

373. BB1.

398. Thick, fairly hard darkish-grey fabric throughout, with a vesicular texture. A thin section was made from this sherd and compared with a thin section taken from a sherd of Huntcliffe ware from Lancaster. The Wilderspool sample contained abundant inclusions of subangular grains of quartz, average size 0.10-.30mm., together with a considerable number of angular shaped voids, commensurate with the vesicular nature of the sherd. The Huntcliffe ware section contained numerous angular fragments of calcite together with a scatter of subangular quartz grains. Although no calcite can be seen in the Wilderspool sample, either in fresh fracture or thin section, in view of the angular shape of many of the vesicles

it is possible that these represent inclusions of calcite which have been lost due to the particular soil conditions at the site (calcite is easily recognisable in the hand specimen in the case of the Huntcliffe sherd). It should be noted that the fabric of the Wilderspool sherd is slightly more sandy than that of the Huntcliffe sherd.

370. Medium thick, hard light red fabric. Inclusions of quartz grains protrude through the surfaces giving the sherd a 'pimply' effect. A thin section from this vessel showed a few fairly large grains of potash felspar together with a scatter of ill-sorted subangular quartz grains, ranging in size from 0.20-1.40mm. This section compared very favourably to sections taken by the writer from material associated with the kilns at Hazelwood and Holbrook just north of Derby which produced 'Derbyshire' ware, except that some, but not all, of the latter samples also included fragments of sandstone (see also Robinson,19 ?).

120. Wheel-turned grey ware cooking-pot.

352. Looks like a brown slip. Slightly micaceous fabric.

384. Looks like a white slip.

383. Slightly micaceous fabric.

Sherd nos. 120,352,384 and 383 were considered to be local wares and so a thin section was taken from each. All the samples proved to be fairly similar, each containing a fair amount of quartzite with a few fine sandstone fragments,

a little iron oxide and some flecks of mica. The quartz inclusions consist of a groundmass of subangular grains, average size below 0.10mm., and a scatter of larger grains, average size 0.30-.50mm. The clays utilized may have been derived from the local Bunter or Keuper deposits, or indeed from the Boulder Clays or allumium in the area.

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ROMAN POTTERY FROM WILDERSPOOL (CONTINUED)

36. Thin sectioning shows a very fine clean matrix, with quartz grains of the order of 0.02-05mm., and small flecks of mica. This fabric is much finer than nos. 120, 352, 384 and 383, thought to be local. I don't think that this sherd has been underfired.

109. A thin section taken from this sherd was reasonably similar to nos. 120, 352, 384 and 383, thought to be local.

112. Dorset early BB1 cooking-pot, Gillam 127.

197. Thin sectioning revealed small inclusions of potash feldspar, orthoclase and some sanidine, together with a scatter of quartz grains and flecks of mica. The presence of sanidine suggests an origin in a volcanic area - possibly an import from the Rhineland ?

208. Looks burnt. This fabric has a distinctive appearance in thin section. It is composed of numerous subangular quartz grains, average size 0.10-20mm., and frequent grains of siltstone up to 0.80mm. across.

209. Early BB1 cooking-pot, Gillam 122.

226. Thin sectioning shows numerous subangular quartz grains, average size 0.10-15mm., and flecks of mica. This sample lacks the siltstone present in 208.

249. Thin sectioning shows numerous subangular quartz grains, average size 0.10-30mm, a little sandstone, quartzite and iron ore. This sample appears different to both 208 and 226.

255. Slip dipped ?

392. Thin sectioning shows that this fabric is similar to 109, though with slighly less quartz grains, making for a finer

fabric.

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