ANL Report 3484
Cirencester Excav. Vol. I publications

IRON AGE POTTERY FROM BAGENDON AND CIRENCESTER

Fourteen Iron Age sherds from Bagendon and Cirencester were submitted for examination. All the sherds were studied macroscopically with the aid of a binocular microscope, and in addition six were thin sectioned and examined under the petrological microscope.

Fabric A Cir. 398.
Hard fabric, dark grey throughout. Inclusions of feldspar and quartz are visible in fresh fracture. Large angular grains of altered plagioclase feldspar can be seen in thin section, together with epidote, hornblende and quartz, and a large fragment of quartz diorite. This sample falls into Peacock's Group 'A' (1968), with a likely origin in the Malvern Hills. Burnished vertical lines occur on the outside surface of the sherd, similar to one from Sutton Walls (ibid., fig.3, no.3).

Fabric B Cir. 507, Cir. 253, Cir. 258, Cir. 505, Bag. 55,9, Bag. 68,164, Bag. 60,24, Bag. 68,161 and Bag.68,163.
Soft, slightly soapy fabric, darkish grey throughout. Numerous angular fragments of white limestone can be seen throughout the fabric. Samples Cir. 507 amd Bag. 55,9 were thin sectioned, shewing the limestone to be shelly limestone or 'biosparite', containing fossil fragments set in a matrix of recrystallized calcite. These samples fall into Peacock's Group B1 (1968), 'Palaeozoic limestone', with a suggested origin in the Malvern Hills area.

Fabric C Cir. 506, Cir. 62, Cir. 397 and Cir. 483.
The fabric varies from soft to hard and is dark grey to black. Numerous argillaceous material can be seen throughout the fabric. All the sherds except for Cir. 62 were thin sectioned, revealing frequent inclusions of argillaceous material scattered throughout the clay matrix. It is difficult to say whether this material is grog or not. In Cir. 397 the inclusions are larger and more finer grained suggesting that the material occurs naturally in the clay, while in Cir. 506 and Cir. 483 the inclusions are smaller, more angular and contain a great deal of quartz, suggesting grog. In addition, all three samples contain fragments of quartz sandstone (relatively large in Cir. 506) and discrete quartz grains, with a few fragments of limestone present in Cir. 483.

This group seems unlikely to have been made locally, though it is difficult to predict an area of origin given the types of inclusions present.

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

Peacock, D.P.S. (1968) 'A petrological study of certain Iron Age pottery from western England', PPS , 34 (1968), 414-426.