

## **A Sherd of Early Medieval Pottery from Burton Water Marina 1998**

### ***Alan Vince***

At the request of Jen Mann, CLAU, I have examined a sherd from context 829 thought to be unusual by Jane Young.

The sherd was examined under a binocular microscope. It is a handmade, sand-tempered vessel with slight blackening on the outer surface which may be traces of its use over a fire. The core is light grey and the margins light brown.

The temper is a well-sorted quartzose sand, with subangular grains up to 0.5mm across. The clay matrix is fine-textured and contains moderate muscovite with little visible quartz. Although reduced (which makes it difficult to estimate the iron content) the vessel appears to have had a low to medium iron content.

Three possible identifications were proposed by Jane Young:

- a) unusual Roman
- b) imported Saxon/medieval
- c) Lincoln Gritty ware

In my opinion, the vessel is likely to have been a thin-walled, almost cylindrical cooking pot with a diameter between 200 and 300mm. As such it is not likely to have been any of the three options above. I would have placed it in the Early Medieval Handmade (EMHM) group and suggest that it is probably of local origin.