

MANCETTER-HARTSHILL TRITURATION GRIT TYPES:

- 1 = QUARTZ
- 2 = RED-BROWN POTTERY/?TILE FRAGMENTS
- 3 = BLACK TO DARK RED-BROWN POTTERY/?TILE FRAGMENTS.
- 4 = TYPE 2 & 3 TOGETHER
- 5 = BLACK TO RED-BROWN, VESICULAR RAISED DOMES
- 6 = MIXED, TWO OR MORE OF: QUARTZ, POTTERY/?TILE, SANDSTONE, BLACK ?DIORITE.

TRITURATION GRIT DISTRIBUTION/ INTERNAL SURFACE TREATMENT:

The number prefixes the trituration grit number.

- 0 = indeterminate
- 1 = grit distribution is random
- 2 = grit distribution is in concentric rings, which is usually more pronounced in the lower region of the mortaria.
- 3 = traces of concentric, irregular scoring of the fabric occurring without any grit, or with a random distribution grit.
- 4 = traces of concentric, irregular scoring of the fabric occurring with concentric rings in the grit distribution.
- 5 = tiny grit (Trit. Grit. Type 1 only), closely packed together, extending almost upto the bead or entirely upto the bead and usually occurring with concentric scoring of the surface (i.e CEVANOS).

TRITURATION GRITS FOR MORTARIA.

The following trituration grits commonly occur in Mancetter-Hartshill mortaria. For those red-brown fabrics which are less commonly used for mortaria, where the trituration grit survives, a description has been included with the fabric description. Fabrics which are not Mancetter-Hartshill products are treated similarly.

GRIT 1

This grit is comprised almost entirely of translucent or opaque white, or sometimes opaque grey to black quartz, with very occasional fragments of calcite or sandstone. There are two types; either fairly large fragments (upto 5mm.), or fine (1-2mm.), closely packed grit, often distributed right upto the bead and accompanied by concentric scoring. It is commonly associated with Fabric 1.

GRIT 2

This grit, together with grits 3 & 4, are probably the commonest type found. It consists of red-brown, usually flat, angular, fragments of refired pottery/?tile; ranging in size from 1-6mm.

GRIT 3

Similar to Grit 2 in all respects except the colour is black to dark red-brown.

GRIT 4

Similar to Grit 2 in all respects except the colours of the grits are mixed and range from those of Grit 2 (red-brown) and Grit 3 (black to dark red-brown). The variation in colour between Grits 2, 3 & 4, is probably due to conditions during firing and/or the state and composition of the pottery/? tile fragments used for the grits.

If pottery/?tile was being recycled and used for the trituration grit, crushing thick sherds of pottery/?tile would be unlikely to produce the regular small, angular shaped fragments that occur in the Mancetter-Hartshill trituration grits. The colour, flat surface and angular nature of grits 2, 3 and 4 suggest that very thin layers of iron rich clay were being used, possibly overfired or sintered fabric. Either the thin layers of pottery were being deliberately manufactured for use as trituration grit, or existing thin-walled vessel sherds of red-brown pottery were being utilised (Fabric sample 9, sintered fabric, macroscopically matches the colour range occurring in trituration grits 2, 3 and 4). This hypothesis can only be supported by experiment on pottery/tile crushing and petrological analysis of the trituration grits and red-brown fabrics occurring at Mancetter-Hartshill, including Fabric Sample 9.

Mancetter-Hartshill mortaria found on excavated sites, which show evidence of wear by smoothed and worn internal fabric and trituration grit surfaces, exhibit a colour combination not evident in the un-used mortaria from the kiln site. The worn trituration grits expose a red-brown (Trit. Grit. Type 2) central core with a contrasting darker black to dark red-brown (Trit. Grit Type 3) outer shell.

GRIT 5

A black to red-brown grit, which forms raised domes and has a cindery, vesicular appearance. This grit is refired pottery/?tile fragments, like Grits 2, 3 & 4, but conditions during firing (?excessive high temperatures) have produced its characteristic appearance. It is commonly occurs with Fabric 5 and overfired Fabric 3.

GRIT 6

A mixed grit, comprising fragments of two or more of the following: quartz, quartzite, red-brown to orange-brown sandstone, refired pottery/?tile fragments, black ?diorite and rarely flint (7 W70 23 26). When a mixed trituration grit occurs on red-brown fabrics the grit is commonly a small size, in contrast to cream fabrics, when larger size grits are more common.

GRIT 99

Entered for non-Mancetter-Hartshill trituration grits i.e. Category J: Oxford, Nene Valley, Verulamium Region, Imports. Individual descriptions of the grit type and the grit distribution or internal surface treatment are given with each relevant fabric description.