

A1 LEEMING TO BARTON 1158, A1L2B

AMPHORAE ANALYSIS

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INTRODUCTION

This report presents the analysis of amphorae recovered from deposits associated with human remains recovered from across the A1L2B road widening scheme, in accordance with *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* (Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, Study for Roman Pottery and Medieval Pottery Research Group, Barclay *et al.* 2016). A total of 59 sherds weighing 4.726kgs were recovered.

It was unlikely that any amphorae sherds were placed in burials as grave goods, and were likely redeposited as graves were backfilled. As such, the amphorae remains discussed present evidence for 'background' human activity during the Roman period in the locality, rather than as part of any specific burial rites. This approach removes certain contexts/deposits from stratigraphical relationships resulting in limited interpretation in this volume. The material presented here will be subsequently considered alongside that from associated deposits and 'complete' stratigraphic sequences to inform on human activity during the Roman period within the A1L2B scheme in the forthcoming volumes First Contact and Establishment, Consolidation and Retreat.

METHODOLOGY

All amphorae sherds were analysed visually (by eye and under a X30 magnification binocular microscope) and classified by fabric class using fabric codes presented in Tomber and Dore (1998). Amphorae sherds were quantified by count and weight, with totals presented for each archaeological deposit (**Table XX**). Where possible products were identified according to form and place of origin, along with broad date-ranges for their manufacture, and the original commodities transported. Featured Vessels are denoted FV followed by their unique number.

RESULTS

Due to the approach adopted in this volume (above), no statistical analyses were undertaken. In general, the assemblage was predominately globular-shaped vessels of the form Dressel 20, originating from the province of Baetica in southern Spain (Peacock and Williams 1986, class 25). The form is the most common amphora found in Roman Britain. These amphorae were produced between the 1st and 3rd centuries AD, and are difficult to date without the presence of a rim. Rim fragments were only recovered from Field 159A, context **13469** (pit cut by grave **13435**); this vessel dates to AD110-150 (Martin-Kilcher 1987, Beilage 1, no. 81). The remainder of the Dressel 20 assemblage consisted of bodysherds and handle fragments.

The only other vessel type was a bodysherd from a possible Gaulish amphora, probably used to transport wine (defrutum) or olives to Britain (London 555 form, Haltern 70 similis; Peacock and Williams 1986, class 59; Carreras in Williams and Keay 2005). The sherd was also from context **13469** (as above), and was very small, weighing 3.3g; if the identification was correct it dates to c. AD55-125.

Given the nature of the deposits considered in this report, where amphorae were present, i.e. predominately backfill for graves (or related deposits), it is impossible to directly relate these vessels to activity that was part any ceremonial rites associated with the burials or the people whose remains present in the graves.

Detailed results by area and feature are presented below. A complete record of the amphorae assemblage considered in this volume is presented in **Table XX**.

BOWBRIDGE LANE (FIELD 145)

No amphorae present in grave related deposits.

BAINESSE

Field 159A

Amphorae sherds were recovered from deposits associated with two burials.

Grave 13494

A very small bodysherd of a Baetican Dressel 20 amphorae was recovered from the grave fill of burial **13494**. AD50-250.

Pit 13501

The remains of a minimum of two Baetican Dressel 20 amphorae were recovered from various fills of pit **13501**, with rim sherds from one (context **13469**, dating to c. AD110-150. A possible Gaulish amphorae bodysherd (GAL AM2, which are usually of the form London 555, Haltern 70 similis), which date in Britain between c. AD55 and 120. Almost half of the amphorae presented in this volume was recovered from pit 13501, and was by far the largest assemblage considered. AD110-150.

Field 163E

Grave 13586

A single very small sherd (1.6g) of a possible amphora from the coffin fill (**13593**).

BAINESSE CEMETERY

No amphora sherd were recovered from any grave backfills in the cemetery.

Field 163C

Ditch 12368

Three bodysherds of a Baetican Dressel 20 amphorae were recovered from the upper fill of ditch **12368**, and two from the cleaning top fill of enclosure ditch **12286/12520**. AD50-250.

CATARACTONIUM

Field 172

No amphorae present in grave related deposits.

Field 174

No amphorae present in grave related deposits.

Field 175

Topsoil 31882

Eight body sherds weighing 275.0g were recovered from the topsoil deposit **31882**. AD50-250.

Field 176

No amphorae present in grave related deposits.

Field 177

Baetican Dressel 20 amphorae bodysherds were recovered the fills of two ditches (**20368** and **20566**), linear feature (**20830**), and single bodysherds each from burials **20812** and **20961**.

Ditch 20368

Four bodysherds of Baetican Dressel 20 amphorae were recovered from the fill of ditch **20368**. AD50-250.

Ditch 20566

A single bodysherd of a Baetican Dressel 20 amphorae was recovered from the fill of ditch **20566**. AD50-250.

Linear feature 20830

A single bodysherd of a Baetican Dressel 20 amphorae was recovered from the fill of linear feature **20830**. AD50-250.

Grave 20812

A single bodysherd of a Baetican Dressel 20 amphorae was recovered from the fill of grave **20812**. AD50-250.

Grave 20960

A single, very small bodysherd of a Baetican Dressel 20 amphorae was recovered from the fill of grave **20960**. AD50-250.

Field 178

Two bodysherds of Baetican Dressel 20 amphorae were recovered from the fill of pit **20176**.

Grave 20476

A small (19.0g) bodysherd of a Baetican Dressel 20 amphorae was recovered from the upper fill of grave **20476**. AD50-250.

Grave 20532

A small (18.8g) bodysherd of a Baetican Dressel 20 amphorae was recovered from the upper fill of grave **20532**. AD50-250.

Field 179

No amphorae present in grave related deposits.

SCURRAGH HOUSE (FIELDS 209-211)

No amphorae present in grave related deposits.

SCOTCH CORNER

Field 228

No amphorae present in grave related deposits.

Field 246

A Baetican Dressel 20 amphorae handle stump was recovered from the secondary fill of ditch **15550**.

Field 258

Possible Grave 15410

Two bodysherds of Baetican Dressel 20 amphorae were recovered from the fill of the possible inhumation grave **15410**. AD50-250 (check with Ruth and Glwayds for dates).

Possible Grave 26033

Two bodysherds of Baetican Dressel 20 amphorae were recovered from the fill of the possible inhumation grave **26033**. AD50-250 (check with Ruth and Glwayds for dates).

Field 259

No amphorae present in grave related deposits.

Field 261

No amphorae present in grave related deposits.

Field 265

No amphorae present in grave related deposits.

DISCUSSION

Only two (possible) vessel types were present, globular-shaped Dressel 20s and a possible body sherd of a Gaulish amphorae. None could be said to be grave goods or were used as part of a cremation (pyre goods), burial or memorial ceremony (only a single fragment had sooting to its surface, Field 177, context **20830**).

There seems to be no distinction between amphora sherds recovered from grave backfills and those from other features, mostly ditch fills from the various areas. However, almost half of the amphorae in this volume was recovered from pit **13501**, Field 159A, (cut by grave **13435**). This was also the deposit with the most robust date, c. AD110-125, and also with the largest group of mortaria (see **Griffiths XX** report, this volume).

The date range for the amphorae considered in this volume is broad, predominately c. AD50-250, with material from only a single deposit offering a tighter date (Field 159A, pit **13501**). No broad patterns of supply of amphorae borne commodities can be proposed due to the methodology adopted (above), but will follow in volumes 2 (First Contact) and 3 (Establishment, Consolidation and Retreat).

STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The amphorae assemblage considered in this volume requires no further study. No diagnostic sherds have been recommended for illustration in this volume, but will be illustrated as part of their context groups in volumes 2 and 3. The author recommends that all rim, handle and foot sherds are retained, along with the single bodysherd of the possible Gaulish vessel; all other bodysherds may be discarded.

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