

Ancient Monuments Laboratory
Report 3/86

AMPHORAE FROM THE 1986 EXCAVATIONS
AT WAREHAM BY-PASS II, WORGRET ROAD
DORSET.

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Summary

Identification of sherds of amphorae; Dressel 20 and southern Spanish from Baetica, Pelichet 47 from Southern France and a possible sherd from a Catalan amphora.

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WORGRET ROAD, DORSET

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Dressel 20

W136A 044 bodysherd

W136A 093 10 bodysherds

This is the most common amphora type imported into Roman Britain, though recent research has shown that it was already present in some numbers during the late Iron Age (Williams and Peacock, 1983). Dressel 20 amphorae were made in the southern Spanish province of Baetica, along the banks of the River Guadalquivir and its tributaries between Seville and Cordoba, and carried olive-oil (Ponsich, 1974; 1979). This type of amphora has a wide date-range, from the Augustan prototype (Oberaden 83) with a fairly upright rim, a short spike and less of a squat bulbous body than the later form, to the developed well-known globular form which, with some typological variation, was in use at least up to the late third century (Zevi, 1967).

Southern Spanish

W136A 109 small bodysherd

This vessel probably derives from the coastal regions of southern

Spain, between Cadiz and Malaga, and seems to have been mainly used to carry fish-based products from the late first century B.C. to the second century A.D. (Peacock, 1971; 1974).

Pélichet 47

W136A 108 bodysherd

Pélichet 47 is a flat-bottomed wine amphora form predominantly made in southern France, more particularly around the mouth of the Rhône in Languedoc, where a number of kilns are known (Laubenheimer, 1985). The type had a long life from about the middle of the first century A.D. to at least the early fourth century A.D. (Panella, 1973). In Britain, Pélichet 47 is not found in pre-Boudiccan levels (Peacock, 1978).

?Catalan

W136A 001 small reddish-coloured bodysherd with visible inclusions of felspar and mica.

It is difficult to be certain with such a small sherd, but it is possible that the vessel represented here is one of the granitic tempered amphora types made in Catalonia. The Catalan form Dressel 1 - Pascual 1 is present in some numbers at nearby Cleavel Point, though the Wareham by-pass vessel may be a Dressel 2-4, both essentially wine-carrying amphorae. Dressel 1 - Pascual 1 are mainly late Republican/early Augustan in northern Europe, while Dressel 2-4 range from late first century B.C. to mid second century A.D. (Peacock and Williams, 1986).

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