

## IRON AGE AND ROMAN POTTERY FROM CIRENCESTER AND BAGENDON

by  
D.F. Williams

A representative selection of 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 the majority were thin sectioned and examined under the petrological microscope. In addition, a number of Roman sherds from both sites were examined for comparison with those Iron Age sherds which make up Fabric D.

**Fabric A** fig. 61, 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** fig. 56, 232; fig. 57, 253, 258; fig. 63, 426; fig. 65, 505 and 507; Clifford, 1961, figs. 55.5, 55.9, 60.24, 68.161, 68.163 and 68.164.

Soft, slightly soapy fabric, darkish grey throughout. Numerous angular fragments of white limestone can be seen throughout the fabric. Fig. 63, 426 and fig. 65, 507, and Clifford, 1961, fig. 55.9 were thin sectioned showing 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** fig. 50, 4; fig. 51, 62, 66; fig. 57, 259; fig. 61, 396, 397; fig. 65, 483 and 506; and Clifford, 1961, figs. 55.15, 65.116c, 67.148 and 70.179.

The fabric varies from soft to hard and is usually reddish-brown through to dark grey or black. Numerous argillaceous material occurs throughout the fabric. The majority of sherds were thin sectioned, confirming that the most distinctive feature of the fabric is the presence of frequent argillaceous inclusions. It is difficult to say whether this material is grog (crushed up pottery) or not. In some examples, often in the same sherd, the inclusions are large and fine-grained suggesting that the material occurs naturally in the clay or else represents the addition of a secondary clay; while in others the inclusions are smaller, more angular and contain a great deal of quartz, suggesting grog. Possibly both elements are a characteristic feature of this type of fabric. In addition to the argillaceous matter, many of the sherds contain quartz sandstone, a few have fragments of limestone and all have discrete quartz grains present.

Samples of Roman pottery from both sites were examined by thin section, and the characteristic argillaceous inclusions were recognized in fig. 50, 8, 22 and fig. 51, 47, and Clifford, 1961, figs. 52.26, 54.11 and 56.24. A similar range of inclusions have also been noted in pottery from Iron Age contexts at Lechlade, 15 miles east of Cirencester, and in second century A.D. levels at Gloucester (= Type-Fabric 2). This would seem to suggest a continuation of Iron-Age pottery-making traditions into the Roman period in the form of either the deliberate addition of grog or the use of similar raw materials. The source (or sources) for this type of fabric is difficult to predict at this stage of recognition, given the ordinary nature of the inclusions. A great deal of work obviously needs to be done if we are to tie down the source area, and assess the distribution and scale of production of this distinctive ware.

**Fabric D** Clifford, 1961, fig. 60.3

Moderately hard fabric, reddish-brown throughout, and heavily charged with ooliths. Thin sectioning reveals the ooliths more clearly, and it is possible to see their concentric structure within the limestone body. Bagendon is situated on Great Oolite Beds and so a local origin is quite possible, though oolitic grains were noted in a sherd from Cleeve Hill in Peacock's B2 Group, which may suggest a source further afield.

## GRAFFITI

by  
Mark Hassall

1. **AH VIII + P.H. 7**, (see also fig. 50, 10)

Sherds from the body and rim of a mortarium in orange fabric with grey core found in a post hole attributed to the first century military occupation. A graffito cut before firing reads

...] AIVP N FAC

The last three letters might stand for n(umero) fac(ta) or similar. (Hassall and Tomlin, 1977, 440, no. 76)

2. **DK I 110**, (see also fig. 53, 118)

Sherd of vessel with spout in orange fabric found in 1974 in the filling of a slot for a timber sleeper beam attributed to the military phase. A graffito, probably complete at the beginning, traced before firing on the flat horizontal shoulder of the vessel reads

]]LIVII LIVII

(Hassall and Tomlin, 1977, 440, no. 75)



Fig. 66. Graffiti (1:2)

TABLE 3 POTTERY UNILLUSTRATED

During the editorial stage the main text of the pottery report was reduced by the removal of all unillustrated groups as well as some of the unillustrated material from the published groups. This material appears in the following tables where contexts are listed in the same sequence as the pottery report.

	COARSE WARES						
	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	23-27	28-33	41-6; 49; 74;76
AH VIII 116	1(2):2(1): 3(1):4(1): 5(1)						
AH VIII 93		6(1)					
(AH VIII 76)	4(1)						
AH VIII 75	4(2)	7(1)					
(AH VIII P.H.3)	5(1)						
(AH VIII Pit 1)			12(1)				
(AH VIII 86)		7(1)					
AH VIII 91		6(1)					
AH VIII P.H.4	4(1)	10(1)					
AH VIII P.H.7							
AH VIII 100	4(1):5(1)						44(1)
AH VIII 83		6(1)					
AH VIII 96	5(2)	6(1):9(1)	11(1)				
AH VIII 78	3(1):4(1)	8(1):10(1)					
AH VIII 68	5(1)						
(AH VIII 103)				17(1)			
(AH VIII 28)	4(1)	9(1)					41(1)
(AH VIII 27)					22(1)		
AG II 48	5(1)						
AG II 42		6(1)	13(1)				
AG II 41		6(2)	14(1)				
AG III 49		6(1)	14(1):19(1)				
AG III 43			13(1)				
AG II 36:46; & III 38 + 39 }	4(3):5(4)	6(7):8(1) 9(3)	11(1):13(1)	16(4):17(3) 19(3):20(1)	23(1)		
AE V 21	3(1)	6(1)		17(2)	26(1)		
AE II P.H.3 + 1	5(1)			17(1):20(1)		31(1)	
(AE V 20)		6(2)		17(2)	25(1)	28(1)	
(AE VII P.H.1)	5(2)						
AE V 19		8(1)		17(1)	25(1)		
AE III 16			11(1)				
AE II 10 + III 16 }				17(½)			
AE I 10	5(1)	6(1)		17(2)			
(DM I 133)	4(3)	6(3)	13(1)	17(5)			
DM I 144	1(1):4(1) 5(2)	6(2):8(1) 9(1)		16(1):17(2)	24(1)		
DK I 111					25(1)		
DK I 119 ≡ DK II 48 }	4(2):5(1)	6(7):8(1) 9(2):10(1)	13(1)	17(3)	23(3):24(2)	31(1)	
(DM I 132)	4(2)		13(2)				
Pit Filling							
DM I 154 etc. }	4(5):5(4)	6(3):9(6): 10(1)	11(2)	16(2):17(9): 20(4):	23(1)		
U.L. DM I 145 }	5(1):	6(2):9(1)	12(1)	17(1):20(1)			
(DM I 143)		6(1)	13(1)	17(2)			
DK I 116 }	4(1):5(7)	6(4):9(4)		17(1):19(1)	23(1):25(1)	28(2):31(1)	
DK II 45 }							
(DK II 47)		6(1)		17(1)		31(1)	49(1)
DK I 105		10(1)			23(2)		
DK I 109	4(1):5(5)	6(3):8(2) 9(2)		16(2):17(1) 20(1)		31(1)	
(DK I 108)					23(1)		
Pit DK I 115 etc }	4(1):5(5)	6(4):9(1)		17(2)	23(3):27(1)		

Contexts in parentheses indicate those groups containing no illustrated material. The numbers appearing in the columns are fabric numbers followed by the minimum number of vessels in parentheses. The presence of samian and Gallo-Belgic (TN) wares in a context are indicated by 'X' in the two final columns; dating is given in the relevant specialist reports.

COLOUR- COATED+ GLAZED 54-8: 61: 64: 75: 112	MICA- COATED WARES 52-3: 55: 61: 64:	FINE- WARES 21: 22: 48: 51: 59: 63: 65: 113:	MORTARIA 67-73	AMPHORAE 34-40: 47: 62: 66: 77-9	SAMIAN T-N
56(1)					X AH VIII 116
				47(1)	AH VIII 93 (AH VIII 76) X AH VIII 75 (AH VIII P.H.3) (AH VIII Pit 1) (AH VIII 86) AH VIII 91 AH VIII P.H.4
56(2)			70(1)		X AH VIII P.H.7 AH VIII 100 AH VIII 83
56(1)					X AH VIII 96
56(1)					X AH VIII 78
56(1)					AH VIII 68
					X (AH VIII 103) (AH VIII 28) (AH VIII 27) AG II 48 AG II 42 AG II 41
					X AG III 49
					X AG III 43
				34(1)	X AG II 36:46 & III 38 + 39
		21(1):48(1)			X AE V 21 AE II P.H.3 + 1 (AE V 20) (AE VII P.H.1) AE V 19
					X AE III 16
					X AE II 10 & III 16
56(1)				40(1)	X AE I 10
		22(1)			X (DM I 133)
					X DM I 144
					DK I 111
					X DK I 119 = DK II 48
		22(1)			X (DM I 132)
			67(1):72(1)	35(1)	X Pit Filling DM I 154 etc.
					X U.L. DM I 145
					X (DM I 143)
		22(1)		40(3)	X DK I 116 DK II 45
					X (DK II 47) DK I 105
57(1)	53(1)			35(1)	X DK I 109
					X (DK I 108)
				35(2):39(1) 40(1)	X Pit DK I 115 etc

	COARSE WARES						41-6; 49; 74;76
	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	23-27	28-33	
DK I 106	4(3):5(1)	6(3)				29(1)	
DK II 46		6(1):9(1)					
DK I 102	4(1):5(1)	6(1):9(1): 10(1)	13(1)				
DK I 103	4(1)				23(1)	31(1)	
DK II 44		10(1)					
DK II 43	4(1)	10(1):6(1)					
(DK I 112)	4(1):5(1)				25(1)		
(DK I 117)	4(2)			20(1)			
(DK I 94)	5(1)	6(1):9(1)					
(DK I 90)	5(1)	6(1):9(2)	11(1)	17(1)			
DK I 97	4(1)	6(3)		16(1):17(4)		31(1)	
DK I 110	4(1):5(1)	6(4):9(3) 8(1)	10(1):11(1) 12(1)	16(2):19(1)	25(1):27(1)	29(1)	
Tank Feature							
DK I 104 etc	5(2)	6(1)					
DM I 136 + 134		6(1):9(1)	11(1)	17(1)	23(1)		
DK II 42	4(3):5(2)	6(3):9(5)	13(1)	17(10):19(1) 20(3)		29(1):32(1)	
DM I 158	5(2)	6(4)		17(1):20(1)			
DM I 150	4(1):5(1)						
DM I 137	5(2)	6(3)	12(1):13(1)	17(2):19(1) 20(1)	23(1)	32(1)	74(1)
(DK I 91)	5(1)						
(DK I 92)	4(2):5(1)			17(1)			
(AM I 63)	3(2)						
AM I 61	1(1):4(1): 5(3)	6(2):10(1)	15(1)		24(1):25(2)	29(1)	41(1)
AM II 67							44(1)
AM II 59	5(7):	6(13):9(1)	11(22)		23(5):26(1)	29(10):30(1)	41(2):44(1) 46(2)
AM III 44	5(1)		11(2):15(1)	17(1)		29(1)	
AM III 45			11(1)			29(1)	
(AM III 43)	5(1)						
(AM IV 44)							
(AM II 66)			11(1)			29(1)	
AL II 39-45	} 4(1):5(5)	6(4):7(2)	10(1):11(1):	17(3):19(1)	23(1):24(1)	32(1)	41(1)
AL VII 31			13(2):15(2)				
AK II 22	} 4(2):5(4)	6(5):9(1)	15(1)	16(1):19(1):		33(1)	45(2)
AK IV 39-42			20(1):				
(BC I 48)	5(1):	9(1)					
(BC I 52)				20(1)			
(BC I 45)	4(1)						
(BC II 37)		6(2):10(2)		19(1)			
(BC II 34)		6(1)	13(1)			30(1)	
(DA IV 510)	4(1)	6(1):9(1): 10(1)					
(DA IV 506)							
(DA III 168)	5(1)	Contaminated with late 3rd- early 4th- century A.D. sherds				74(2)	
(DA III 166)		6(1)	15(1)	17(2)			
AW I 77	1(1):5(1)						
AW I 72	4(2)	7(2)		17(1):19(2)	26(1)		
AW I 71		6(2):9(1)				29(1)	
AW I 79	5(2)	6(7):9(1)	12(1)				41(1):42(2) 43(1)
AX II 58		6(2):9(2)	15(1):17(1)			28(1)	
AX II 43	5(6)	6(2):8(1): 10(1)	11(1):15(1)	16(1):17(6) 20(1)		31(1)	45(2):46(1)
AX II 42	5(1)	6(1):10(1)		17(1):20(1)			
AX II 47				18(1)			
AX II 44	5(1)	6(2)	15(1)				74(1)
AX II 45	5(2)	6(1):10(2)	13(1):15(5)	17(2):18(1)		31(1)	
AX II 41	5(4):	6(3)		16(1):17(5) 19(1):			44(1):45(1) 46(1):74(1)

COLOUR- COATED+ GLAZED	MICA- COATED WARES	FINE- WARES	MORTARIA	AMPHORAE	SAMIAN	
54-8: 61: 64: 75: 112	52-3: 55: 61: 64:	21: 22: 48: 51: 59: 63: 65: 113:	67-73	34-40: 47: 62: 66: 77-9	T-N	
			67(1):72(1)		X	DK I 106
					X	DK II 46
		22(1)	67(1):71(1)	40(1)	X	DK I 102
57(1)					X	DK I 103
					X	DK II 44
					X	DK II 43
					X	(DK I 112)
					X	(DK I 117)
				39(1):62(1)	X	(DK I 94)
			70(1)		X	(DK I 90)
					X	DK I 97
56(1)	52(1) 55(1)	21(1)	70(1)		X	DK I 110
						Tank Feature DK I 104 etc
		48(1)			X	DM I 136 + 134
			68(1)	40(1):34(1)	X	DK II 42
		22(1)			X	DM I 158
				40(1)		DM I 150
					X	DM I 137
						(DK I 91)
						(DK I 92)
						(AM I 63)
				40(1)		AM I 61
			70(1)			AM II 67
56(26): 58(2):60(3) 75(1) 56(2) 56(2)	61(1)	21(2):22(1): 48(2):51(4) 59(1) 22(1)	68(2)	34(3):38(1) 40(1):47(2)	X	AM II 59
				40(1)	X	AM III 44
			70(1)			AM III 45
						(AM III 43)
				38(1)		(AM IV 44)
						(AM II 66)
		21(1):22(1): 48(1):63(1)	67(1):68(1): 73(1)	66(1)	X	AL II 39-45
56(3)		63(1):65(1)	70(1)		X	AL VII 31
					X	AK II 22
						AK IV 39-42
						(BC I 48)
						(BC I 52)
						(BC I 45)
				35(1)		(BC II 37)
					X	(BC II 34)
					X	(DA IV 510)
			68(1)		X	(DA IV 506)
					X	(DA III 168)
						(DA III 166)
					X	AW I 77
					X	AW I 72
						AW I 71
					X	AW I 79
		21(1)				AX II 58
				34(1):77(1)	X	AX II 43
	52(1)				X	AX II 42
				35(1)		AX II 47
				38(1)		AX II 44
					X	AX II 45
		22(1)		35(1)	X	AX II 41





COLOUR- COATED+ GLAZED	MICA- COATED WARES	FINE- WARES	MORTARIA	AMPHORAE	SAMIAN
54-8: 61: 64: 75: 112	52-3: 55: 61: 64:	21: 22: 48: 51: 59: 63: 65: 113:	67-73	34-40: 47: 62: 66: 77-9	T-N
	52(1)		67(1)		X AX II 36 + 38 X AX II 35 X BZ I 12
		22(1)			
			67(1)		X CG III 17 + 12 X CG IV 21
57(1)				35(1)	X BZ I 20 BZ I 18 AY I 18 AY I 25 + 26
		21(1):48(1)			

## SLAG SAMPLES

*by*

G. C. Morgan

Several samples of iron slag were found and subsequently examined by G.C. Morgan and L. Biek. They appear to have come from a smelting furnace. Mr. Morgan reports:

i. Tap slag – smelting furnace and corroded piece of iron. Apparently a round bar with a taper. Traces of random wood fibre. DK II 41.

ii. Earthy slag with some fayalite. Very mixed smelting furnace residues. DK II 42.

Three further samples await analysis by L. Biek. They are DK II 39; DK II 40; and DK I 90.