

***Herefordshire ceramics type fabric series (Romano-British pottery found in Herefordshire)***

***Black Burnished wares***

Black burnished ware is a native type of Romano-British pottery which was manufactured in two distinct areas. BB1 was made in Dorset from the 2nd to the 4th century AD and has inclusions of black and red iron ores, flint, quartz, shale fragments, and white mica. This ware may have had its origins in the local pre-Roman Durotrigian pottery industry. BB2 was made around the Thames estuary and has a finer fabric.

Before the pot was fired it was polished with a stone to give a burnished appearance and help it to retain water. Typically it has a diamond pattern lightly etched into the surface.

Black burnished ware has a wide distribution. In Herefordshire sherds have been found at Lugwardine, at excavations outside Kenchester (Magnis),<sup>1</sup> Ariconium,<sup>2</sup> Blackwardine,<sup>3</sup> at the Romano-British settlement site at Stretton Grandison,<sup>4</sup> and at Whitchurch.<sup>5</sup>



fabric in section



rim and body sherds



black burnished body sherd

## forms

Storage jars, bowls, typical form is an oval jar with neck and out turned rim. Form and pattern changes with time.



Black burnished ware jar from Bishopstone

photograph courtesy of Herefordshire Heritage Services: Hereford Museum and Art Gallery

POTSHERD : [Atlas of Roman Pottery - South-east Dorset black-burnished 1](#)

Worcestershire fabric 22

Bath fabric 10.3

Caister-on-sea fabrics BB1-100 and BB1G-101

Carlisle fabric 104

Chelmsford fabric 40

Cirencester fabrics 49 and 74

Colchester fabric GA

Dorchester fabric 1

Exeter fabric 31

Gloucester fabric TF4

JRPS bibliography fabric bb1

Lullingstone fabric 65

Milton Keynes fabric 8

Old Penrith fabric 43

Kent coarse fabric 3

Portchester fabric B

Sidbury fabric 22

Towcester fabric 15

POTSHERD : [Atlas of Roman Pottery - Black-burnished 2](#)

Caister-on-sea fabric BB2-102

Carlisle fabric 316

Chelmsford fabric 41

Colchester fabric GB

JRPS bibliography fabric bb2

Old Penrith fabric 44

Kent coarse fabric 4

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<sup>1</sup> R S Tomber, 1985 'III Pottery', in Tony Wilmott and Sebastian P Q Rahtz 'An Iron Age and Roman Settlement outside Kenchester, (Magnis), Herefordshire, Excavations 1977 - 1979, Transactions of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club, Volume XLV, pages 36 - 185. >

<sup>2</sup> Steven Willis, 2000, 'The Iron Age and Roman pottery' in R Jackson (2000), The Roman Settlement at Ariconium, near Weston-under-Penyard, Herefordshire: An Assessment and Synthesis of the Evidence. Archaeological Service, Worcestershire County Council, Report 833.

<sup>3</sup> D L Brown, 1990 'The Romano-British Settlement At Blackwardine (HWCM 737), *Transactions of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club*, Volume XLVI, pages 390 – 406.

<sup>4</sup> Jean O'Donnell 1997 'Stretton Grandison: Settlement and Landscape, *Transactions of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club*, Volume XLIX, pages 13 – 27.

Elizabeth Taylor 1997 'Excavation of a Ring-Ditched Enclosure with Romano-British Pottery, *Transactions of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club*, Volume XLIX, pages 28 – 32.