Coarse Sanidine Fabric Group

(Samples MC 2013/129, 133, 156, 159, 165) (Fig. 16)

Inclusions

22-25%. el & eq. a-r. < 3-1 mm. Close- to single-spaced, and well-aligned to margins of samples. Bimodal, moderately well-sorted grain size distribution.

Coarse fraction
10-15%. < 2 mm

Dominant-Common: Sanidine; sa.-sr. < 3-2 mm (samples MC 2013/133, 156, 159, 165)

Common-Few: Iron-manganese inclusions; eq & el. r. < 2-2.5 mm. Discrete opaque inclusions with variable impregnation, varying from light-brown to deep-brown.

Few-Absent: Clinopyroxene; eq. sa. < 1 mm. cleavage. Second-order birefringence. Augite. (Sample MC 2013/156)

Fine fraction
85-90%. < 0.2 mm

Dominant: Sanidine
Common: Biotite
Few: Opaque inclusions

Matrix

65-68%. Reddish brown in XP and brown in PPL. Homogeneous. Reddish brown throughout (samples MC 2013/133, 169), grey throughout (sample MC 2013/156), or with distinct firing horizons (samples MC 2013/129, 165). Optically inactive (samples MC 2013/133, 156, 159, 165).

Voids

10%. Consisting mainly of meso-vughs and channels (samples MC 2013/119, 135, 149, 166). Strong alignment to margins of the sections.

Comments

This coarse to fine-grained fabric is characterised by the presence of generally moderately well-sorted, sub-angular to sub-rounded inclusions of sanidine, in a red base-clay with fine sanidine, biotite and iron. The coarse inclusions of sanidine show cracks and are predominant, whereas iron and clinopyroxene occur rarely. Some textural variation has been included in the Coarse Sanidine Fabric, with some samples characterised by a higher proportion of poorly-sorted, coarse sanidine inclusions (samples MC 2013/133, 156, 159, 165), and others with comparatively more fine-grained and well-sorted inclusions of sanidine (sample MC 2013/129). This evidence might be taken to suggest that different size fraction of temper material was used to manufacture the vessels.

The raw materials used to produce the ceramics in Fabric 16 appear to have come from a volcanic clay. Volcanic temper, in the form of sanidine inclusions, has been added in a moderately

sorted condition. All the vessels were wheel thrown, and fired at a high temperature. However, differences can be noted in the firing atmosphere: some vessels were well fired in either an oxidising or a reducing atmosphere, whereas others show evidence for different firing horizons. All the samples in this fabric comprise olla type 3a cooking vessels. This fabric is similar to Fabric 14 (the Coarse Sanidine and Augite Fabric), but with the difference that the clay matrix in this fabric comprises a larger fine-grained fraction, and coarse augite inclusions occur only rarely.

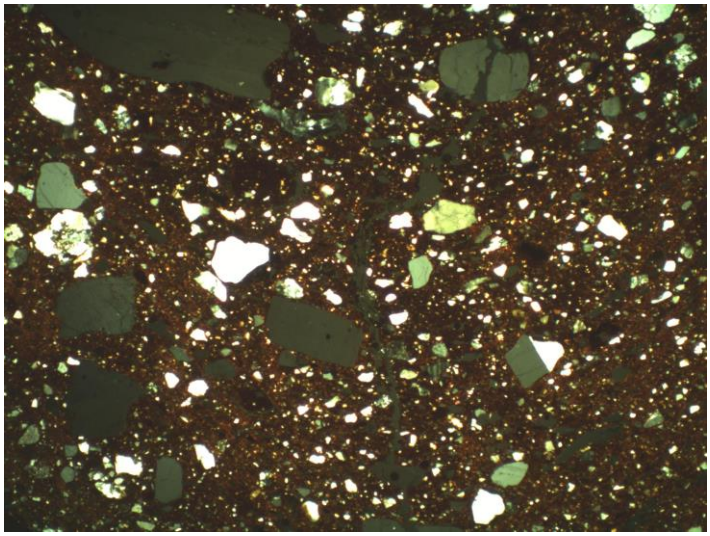

Fig. 16: Coarse Sanidine Fabric in XP. Width of image = 5.8 mm.