

Arch Report No 38
Copy sent to Mr. James

TITLE Window lead from Clarendon Palace, Wilts.

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ABSTRACTS Approximately 40 small fragments of window lead were examined, and all were found to be of types A or C. One piece retained a small square of glass, and another a fragment of a ventilator. Vastly more lead must have originally been present on the site, but no longer exists.

KEYWORDS Window lead, came, window glass, ventilator grille, medieval

THIS REPORT IS LEVEL III

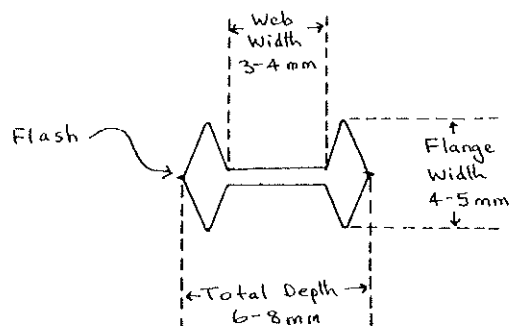
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Window lead from Clarendon Palace, Wilts.

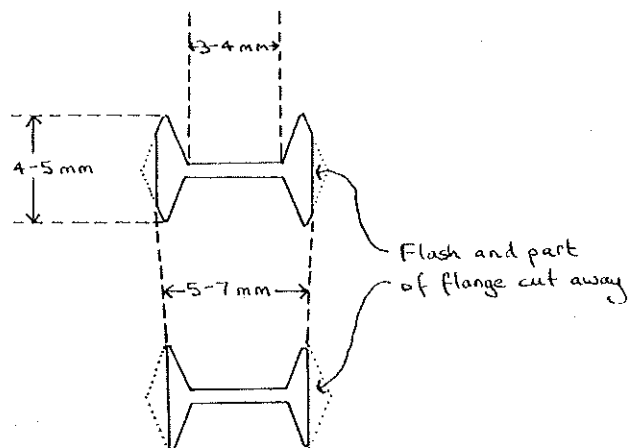
A small quantity of lead from this site is preserved in the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum, about 40 fragments in all. When one considers the size of Clarendon Palace and the number of windows it must have had, it is evident that most of the lead must have been removed and melted down, and that what remains cannot give us much idea of what originally existed.

Two types of came are represented, types A and C (see B. Knight, The window lead, in J. Hare, Excavations at Battle Abbey, Sussex (forthcoming)). These two types seem to be common throughout the Middle Ages, only disappearing with the introduction of the lead mill in the 16th century. Type A is in the 'as cast' state with a prominent flash along both flanges, while in type C the flash has been cut away. The process of casting comes and scraping them down is described by Theophilus in Chapters 24 - 26 of Book II of 'On Divers Arts' (Hawthorne & Smith ed. pp 67 - 70 (1963)). Because each piece is made by hand, the dimensions vary somewhat, but typical values are shown below.

Type A



Type C (Two versions)



NB. The flange is sometimes called the leaf, and the web is sometimes called the core. The width of the web indicates approximately the thickness of the glass.

Catalogue

Since many of the fragments are extremely small, twisted and decayed it was difficult to measure them, and the dimensions of such pieces are probably uninformative.

1. Cruciform piece of type C with fragments of two ventilator grilles attached. This is interesting because it shows that ventilators were fixed in position in the same way as glass. (Worth drawing)

Length of arms: 9 cm, 5 cm, approx 3 cm and 1 cm

T. James catalogue L1

Provenance: garderobe pit north of west gate

On display in museum

2. Twisted piece of type A with prominent flash, intact piece of glass still attached. (Worth drawing)

Glass approx. 4 cm x 2.2 cm, total length of came approx. 25 cm

T. James catalogue L6

On display in museum

3. Thirteen small decayed fragments, 2 type A, 11 type C.

T. James catalogue L37 - 49

Provenance: CLP 36

Accession no. 47/57

4. Two pieces of type A from box of glass, one with prominent flash, 10 cm long (L59)(Good example of type), other 5 cm long (L60).

T. James catalogue L59 - 60

Provenance: CLP 39 SA+

Accession no. 47/57

5. Box of tiny ventilator fragments plus two fragments of type C; one very decayed approx. 26 cm long in total, other 3.5 cm long.

Accession no. 10/57

6. Box containing approx 20 decayed came fragments, all type C. Many split in two along the web.

T. James catalogue "Leeds"

Provenance: Gatehouse U/S

Accession no. 5/1967

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