

Site No 206

ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY REPORT No. 4390

Examination of Calcareous Deposits from Greyfriar's, Chichester, Sussex

Paul Wilthew

Ancient Monuments Laboratory

November 1984

Three samples of a calcareous deposit found in a wood lined pit (A 17) were analysed using X-ray diffraction. The pit was one of three similar pits, each of which was wood lined and contained similar calcareous material. The pits were of Post-Medieval date and were probably connected with the period during which documentary evidence suggests that a builder owned the site.

The samples were all found to be essentially calcium carbonate and were almost certainly associated with the use of lime in a building process. The pits were almost certainly used to store lime for use in producing plaster, mortar or any other lime containing construction material.

No aggregate such as sand was present in significant quantities which suggests that the pits were not used in the preparation of mortar or other construction materials. Quicklime (Calcium Oxide) and slaked lime (Calcium Hydroxide) react over a period of time with atmospheric carbon dioxide to form calcium carbonate. Therefore, calcium carbonate would be found on excavation even if the material was originally lime.