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REPORT

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• excavations at Six Dials, Southampton

STONE FROM THE MIDDLE SAXON EXCAVATIONS AT SIX DIALS, SOUTHAMPTON

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Lava Querns

T1 context 514 mat(03) 622

T1 context 449 mat(03) 586

T1 context 274 mat(03) 760

T1 context 241 mat(03) 509

T1 context 270 mat(03) 757

T1 context 91 mat(03) 634

T1 context 371 mat(03) 621

T3 C12355 (03) 2973

T3 C11988 (03) 3575

T3 C11971 (03) 3443

T1 C8419 (03) 284

T1 C10101 (03) 2968

T3 C12332 (03) 3452

T3 C12577 (03) 3258

T3 12521 (03) 3025

T1 context 3 mat(03) 139

T1 context 242 mat(03) 339

T2 165 mat(03) 56

T2 259 mat(03) 117

T2 061 mat(03) 22

T1 205 mat(03) 160

T2 'clearance' mat(03) 35

The above comprise various fragments of a grey, fairly coarse vesicular lava, containing conspicuous dark phenocrysts of pyroxene. A few samples were thin sectioned and studied under the petrological microscope. This revealed that the most prominent minerals are frequent grains of green and colourless clinopyroxene, mainly augite, set in a groundmass of small lath-shaped crystals of andesine/labradorite feldspar, opacite, leucite and some xenomorphic nepheline. The composition of the rock is particularly distinctive and it can be classified as a nepheline-tephrite. This type of rock is found in the lavas of the Mayen-Niedermendig area of the Eifel Hills of Germany, a region well-known in both Roman and Saxon times for supplying quernstones (Parkhouse, 1976; Kars, 1980; Peacock, 1980). The Six Dials lava quernstones undoubtedly originate from this part of Germany.

Other Quernstones

T3 C13001 (03) 2636	Fragment of glauconitic sandstone from the Lodesworth quarry, Sussex.
T1 context 70 mat(03) 522	Grey limestone.
F2017(1) c76 mat(03) 726	Shelly limestone.
F6009 c263 mat(03) 350	Grey sandstone.
F3034 c517 mat(03) 726 (?quernstone/wetstone)	Possibly Old Red sandstone

Wetstones

T2 C10177 (03) 445	Shaped wetstone in a lightish grey sandy limestone. Probably belongs to Ellis (1969)
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- type IV.
- T3 C12495 (03) 2906 Shaped wetstone in a light grey sandy limestone. Probably belongs to Ellis (1969) type IV.
- T3 C12303 (03) 2798 Shaped wetstone in a dark grey micaceous sandstone. Probably belongs to Ellis (1969) type III.
- T1 C301 mat(03) 187 Shaped wetstone in a light grey micaceous sandstone. Probably belongs to Ellis (1969) type III.
- T1 context 403 mat(03) 600 Shaped wetstone in a light grey sandy limestone. Probably belongs to Ellis (1969) type IV.
- T1 062 mat(03) 69 Shaped wetstone in a reddish-grey micaceous sandstone. Probably belongs to Ellis (1969) type III.
- T1 context 203 mat(03) 650 Shaped wetstone in a lightish grey micaceous sandstone. Probably belongs to Ellis (1969) type III.
- T1 context 1077 mat(03) 872 Shaped wetstone in a silver grey quartz-mica-schist. Probably belongs to Ellis (1969) type I with a Norwegian origin.
- T1 context 220 mat(03) 344 Shaped wetstone in a darkish grey gneiss. Possibly from south-western Britain.
- T2 226 mat(03) 91 Shaped wetstone in a light grey quartite sandstone. Probably Ellis (1969) type IC.

Tertiary Limestones

The majority of these are probably of a local origin originating from the Isle of Wight.

T2 C8548 (03) 2149
T2 C9823 (03) 2013
T2 context 347 mat(03) 775
T2 C8546 (03) 3291
T1 C10777 (03) 1073 ?Bembridge quarry.
T3 C12552 (03) 2453

Grey Limestone

T2 C8475 (03) 2137
T2 C11123 (03) 2086
T3 C12352 (03) 2156
T2 C11597 (03) 2081
T2 C8553 (03) 2164
T1 context 43 mat(03) 745
T1 context 833 mat(03) 843
T1 context 246 mat(03) 754
T1 context 292 mat(03) 647
T1 context 305 mat(03) 534
T1 context 796 mat(03) 801
T1 context 70 mat(03) 582
T1 context 203 mat(03) 481
T1 context 514 mat(03) 875
T1 C87706 (03) 2904
T2 C8546 (03) 3290
T2 C10676 (03) 3367
T2 C8453 (03) 469
T3 C12557 (03) 3357
T2 C8535 (03) 122
T1 C10330 (03) 3594

T2 C8568 (03) 2565
T3 C12357 (03) 2554
T3 C12987 (03) 3063
T2 C9820 (03) 2697
T3 C12804 (03) 3146
T1 C11441 (03) 3479
T1 context 63 mat (03) 221
T1 context 217 mat (03) 518
T2 C11535 (03) 2085
T2 C12094 (03) 2429
T3 C12481 (03) 2274
T3 C12481 (03) 2404
T3 C11957 (03) 2451
T2 C8600 (03) 2301
(03) 2152
T3 C12348 (03) 2360

Shelly Limestone

T2 context 333 mat(03) 824

Oolitic Limestone (Jurassic origin, perhaps from Purbeck)

T2 context 636 mat(03) 749
T2 context 186 mat(03) 574

Flaggy Limestone

T3 C13021 (03) 2897

Silty Limestone

T1 12160 (03) 3431

Jurassic Limestone (Possibly from Purbeck)

T2 context 111 mat(03) 303

T1 context 221 mat(03) 494

T1 context 83 mat(03) 515

Sandy Limestone

T2 context 161 mat(03) 524

Creamy Limestone

T2 C12094 (03) 2426

Spindle-Whorls

T3 C12339 mat(03) 1892 Kimmeridge shale.

T3 C12377 mat(03) 1990 Mudstone.

T2 490 mat(03) 155 Grey limestone.

Shale

T1 context 303 mat(03) 826

F2051(1) C5249 (03) 2159

Mudstone

T2 C8832 (03) 2001

T3 C11961 (03) 1609

Plaster

T3 C12332 (03) 1871

Chalk

T1 context 1010 mat(03) 788

Flint

T3 29 12468 2117 (Hole through the centre)

Sandstone (Many are probably from the local Tertiary beds)

T1 C11049 (03) 2004

T3 C11981 (03) 2119

T3 C12487 (03) 2133

T2 C8832 (03) 2005

T3 C11954 (03) 3133

T3 C11996 (03) 3130

T2 C8472 (03) 3422

T3 C12820 (03) 3362
T1 C10219 (03) 3334
T2 C8459 (03) 872
T2 C10269 (03) 1080
T2 C11460 (03) 3423
T3 C12336 (03) 2511
T1 C13211 (03) 3228
T1 context 216 mat(03) 249
T1 context 36 mat(03) 104
T3 C12352 (03) 2303
T3 C12482 (03) 2465
T1 140 mat(03) 162

? Wealden/Tertiary Sandstone

T3 C12351 (03) 2118

? Old Red Sandstone (Probably from western Britain)

T3 C12339 (03) 2600
T3 C13150 (03) 3299
T3 C12998 (03) 2648
F3034 C517 mat(03) 735

Quartzite

T1 C8431 (03) 3499

Lignite

F2056(5) mat(03) 718

Siltstone

T1 C8641 (03) 812

Iron Ore

T3 C12955 (03) 2967

Greensand

T3 C13098 (03) 3121

Phyllite (Probably from south-western Britain or Brittany)

T2 context 328 mat(03) 668

Basic Igneous rock, possibly a Gabbro (Perhaps from the Lizard or across
the Channel)

T1 context 85 mat(03) 868

T2 context 102 mat(03) 576

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- Ellis, S.E. (1969) 'The petrography and provenance of Anglo-Saxon and Medieval English honestones with notes on some other hones', Bull. British Museum (Natural History), Mineralogy, 2(1969), 135-187.
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