Ancient Monuments Laboratory
Report 35/92

NEOLITHIC AND BRONZE AGE SADDLE QUERNS AND RUBBERS FROM GOLDINGTON, BEDFORD, BEDFORDSHIRE

D F Williams PhD FSA

Ancient Monuments Laboratory Report 35/92

NEOLITHIC AND BRONZE AGE SADDLE QUERNS AND RUBBERS FROM GOLDINGTON, BEDFORD, BEDFORDSHIRE

D F Williams PhD FSA

Summary

Thirty-three whole pieces or fragments of saddle querns and rubbers were examined from Neolithic and Bronze Age contexts. Unusually, the overwhelming majority of these were of Old Red Sandstone. These stones might have been obtained from the local drift, or alternatively have been brought from South Wales or Somerset.

Author's address :-

D F Williams PhD FSA

Department of Archaeology
University of Southampton
Highfield
Southampton
SO9 5NH

NEOLITHIC AND BRONZE AGE SADDLE QUERNS AND RUBBERS FROM GOLDINGTON, BEDFORD, BEDFORDSHIRE

D.F. Williams, Ph.D., FSA
[HBMC Ceramic and lithic Petrology Project]
Department of Archaeology University of Southampton

SADDLE QUERNS AND RUBBERS

Old Red Sandstone

The majority of the following saddle querns and rubbers of Old Red Sandstone appear to have been utilized from natural boulders or pebbles, with very little adaptation done. In view of this it is possible that some, or even all, of these pieces may well have been obtained from the local Drift deposits, which certainly do contain some Old Red Sandstone material [Chatwin, 1961]. However, a previous survey of Old Red Sandstone quernstones in Bedfordshire, and surrounding areas, recorded comparitively few examples in this stone and suggested a possible origin in South Wales or Somerset for the querns encountered - mostly rotary [King, 1986, 80-83 and Map 2]. A similar source may also account for the Goldington

material, though at present a more local origin cannot be ruled out.

[1]. *SF34 Site II 496*

Large fragment of saddle quern with concave upper surface. L: 110mm; W: 224mm; Th: 113mm [6100gms].

[2]. *SF41 Site II 496*

Large fragment of saddle quern with concave upper surface. L: 221mm; W: 178mm; Th: 98mm [5700gms].

[3]. *SF50 Site II 462*

Large fragment of saddle quern with concave upper surface. L: 250mm; W: 130mm; Th: 129mm [10750gms].

[4]. *SF53-54 Site II 462*

Large fragment of saddle quern with concave upper surface. L: 172mm; W: 176mm; Th: 87mm [5250gms].

[5]. *SF33 Site II 496*

Virtually complete saddle quern with concave upper surface. L: 310mm; W: 185mm; Th: 145mm [12550gms].

[6]. *SF15 Site II 496*

Virtually complete very large saddle quern with concave upper surface. L: 410mm; W: 280mm; Th: 192mm [>20000gms].

[7]. *SF12 Site II 4*

Virtually complete saddle quern with concave upper surface. L: 388mm; W: 236mm; Th: 135mm [>20000gms].

[8]. *SF55 Site II 496*

Large fragment of saddle quern with concave upper surface. L: 190mm; W: 245mm; Th: 193mm [16800gms].

[9]. *SF14 Site II U/S*

Virtually complete saddle quern with concave upper surface. L: 310mm; W: 232mm; Th: 115mm [11400gms].

[10]. *SF57 Site II 515*

Small fragment of ?saddle quern. L: 55mm; W: 90mm; Th: 37mm [287gms].

[11]. *SF35-38 Site II 496* Fragment of saddle quern. L: 126mm; W: 100mm; Th: 60mm [1400gms].

[12]. *SF48-49 Site II 462*

Large fragment of ?saddle quern/rubber with highly polished surface. L: 52mm; W: 130mm; Th: 129mm [2300gms].

[13]. *SF56 Site II 462*

Fragment of saddle quern. L: 171mm; W: 83mm; Th: 93mm [2650gms].

[14]. *SF42 Site II 462*

Possible fragment of saddle quern. L: 96mm; W: 121mm; Th: 39mm [563gms].

[15]. *SF39-40 Site II 496*

Fragment of saddle quern with concave upper surface. L: 120mm; W: 149mm; Th:127 [2900gms].

[16]. *SF29-32 Site II 496*

Fragment of saddle quern with concave upper surface. L: 66mm; W: 104mm; Th: 81mm [1150gms].

[17]. *SF44-47 Site II 462*

Small fragment of saddle quern. L: 108mm; W: 51mm; Th: 34mm [326gms].

[18]. *SF26 Site II U/S*

Fragment of pebble rubber. L: 103mm; W: 134mm; Th: 43mm [1100gms].

[19]. *SF59 Site II 341*

Virtual complete pebble rubber. L: 190mm; W: 154mm; Th: 63mm [3550gms].

[20]. *SF22 Site II 496*

Virtual complete pebble rubber. L: 183mm; W: 113mm; Th: 37mm [2200gms].

[21]. *SF27 Site II 410*

Fragment of pebble rubber. L: 82mm; W: 124mm; TH: 38mm [514gms].

[22]. *SF61 Site II 341*

Virtual complete pebble rubber. L: 78mm; W: 90mm; Th: 51mm [1300gms].

[23]. *SF25 Site II 445*

Fragment of pebble rubber. L: 122mm; W: 85mm; Th: 44mm [750gms].

[24]. *SF18 Site II 399*

Pebble rubber. L: 209mm; W; 138mm; Th: 72mm [4100gms].

[25]. *SF17 Site II 462*

Rubber. L: 158mm; W: 122mm; Th: 55mm [2100gms].

[26]. *SF19 Site II 521*

Rubber. L: 129mm; W; 109mm; Th: 36mm [1050gms].

[27]. *SF24 Site II 462*

Fragment of Rubber. L: 137mm; W: 142mm; Th: 51mm [2450gms].

[28]. *SF13 Site II 462*

Rubber. L: 203mm; W: 144mm; Th: 48mm [3300gms].

[29]. *SF21 Site II 462*

Rubber. L: 164mm; W: 131mm; Th: 43mm [1950gms].

[30]. *SF20 Site II 515*

Small fragment of rubber. L: 41mm; W; 84mm; Th: 46mm [242gms].

[31]. *SF16 Site II 496*

Fragment of rubber. L: 112mm; W: 100mm; Th: 39mm [604.5gms].

Carstone

[32]. *SF60 Site II U/S*

Fragment of saddle quern with slight concave upper surface. L: 149mm; W: 90mm; Th: 72mm [1500gms]. Probably from the local Cretaceous.

Micaceous Quartzite

[34]. *SF43 Site II 462*

Fragment of saddle quern; L: 113mm; W: 86mm; Th: 54mm [1600gms]. Source unknown.

Granite

[32]. *SF51 Site II 462*

Large complete block with concave upper surface used as saddle quern. L: 169mm; W: 159mm; Th: 128mm [8000gms]. Probably from a Drift deposit.

[33]. *SF52 Site II 462*

Virtually complete block with slight concave upper surface used as saddle quern. L: 176mm; W: 127mm; Th: 119mm [5900gms]. Probably from a Drift deposit.

Bibliography

Chatwin, C.P. [1961] *East Anglia and Adjoining Areas*, BRG, London.

King, D. [1986] "Petrology, dating and distribution of querns and millstones. The results of research in Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and Middlesex", *Instit. Arch. Bulletin*, 23[1986], 65-126.