BUILDG MATS.

AML Rep 2352

NORTHAMPTON, St. Peter's Street.

Samples from a ?Saxon mortar pit. Report by F.W.Anderson 4/9/1977.

PLASTERS.

767510. Cement with about 7% sand and a few small pebbles of sandstone and ironstone. The sand is fine averaging 0·20 mm diam.with a grading of 50% fine, 40% medium, 10% coarse.

767508. Cement with about 9% sand and a few small pebbles of sandstone and ironstone. The sand is fine averaging 0·24 mm diam.with a grading of 30% fine, 45% medium, 25% coarse, i.e. a little coarser than that of 767510.

MORTARS.

767509. Cement with about 60% sand. The sand is very fine-grained, averaging 0·18 mm diam. with a grading of 60% fine, 30% medium, 10% coarse.

767507. Cement with about 70% sand. The sand is fine-grained averaging 0·21 mm diam. with a grading of 45% fine, 50% medium, 5% coarse.

CONCRETE.

776986. Fine aggregate,- cement with about 60% sand. The sand is fine-grained averaging 0·195 mm diam. with a grading of 50% fine, 40% medium, 10% coarse.

Coarse aggregate,- mostly angular fragments of a dark grey,shelly, partly oolitic, compact limestone probably from the local Upper Lias. Also a few quartz pebbles and a little ferruginous sandstone (? Northampton Sands).

Note,- This use of a very fine sand should be compared with mortar from Little Somborne (Saxon) where the sand averaged 0·15 mm diam, and with many of the mortars from Brixworth Church (presumably Saxon). By contrast the sand in mortars from St.Augustine's Abbey (? 12th.Cent.) ranges in diameter from 0·33 to 0·47 mm diam. In the few recent mortars so far examined the sand ranges from 0·25 to 0·31 mm diam.

F.W. Anderson