

Att. Report.

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WORKED STONE FROM THE ROMAN LEVELS AT STAPLE GARDNS, WINCHESTER

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Quernstones

1) 5293 866 F269

Two large flat top sections of a quern in a grey, fairly coarse vesicular lava, containing conspicuous dark phenocrysts of pyroxene. A sample was 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 Roman times for supplying quernstones (Parkhouse, 1976; Kars, 1980; Peacock, 1980). The Staple Gardens lava quernstone undoubtedly also originated from this part of Germany.

2) 4637 1604

Fragment of a dark grey glauconitic sandstone. This stone is identical to material from Lodsworth, Sussex, where the local sandstone was quarried for use as quernstones during the Iron Age and later periods (information D.P.S. Peacock).

3) 808 95

Fragment of quartz conglomerate from the Forest of Dean.

4) 3375 1418 Fl13

Small fragment of a dark coloured micaceous sandstone of uncertain origin.

5) 3990 1500 Ph32

Possibly a small fragment of a quern. A light coloured fine-grained slightly micaceous sandstone of uncertain origin.

6) 1426 237

Small fragment of Old Red Sandstone, presumably from the west of the country.

7) 7504 1292

As for no. 6.

8) 494 73

As for no. 6. Either a whetstone or perhaps more probably part of a quern.

9) 3884 1506 Ph27

As for no. 8.

10) 4643 1608 Ph2

Quartz sandstone of uncertain origin.

#### Roofing Tile

11) 7509 454

Shelly limestone, probably from the Isle of Purbeck.

12) 7503 1480

As for no. 11.

13) 3199 1159

As for no. 11.

14) 1137 34

As for no. 11.

15) 4660 1232

As for no. 11.

16) 7503 1566

As for no. 11.

17) 4737 1232 Ph19

As for no. 11.

18) 4035 7B Ph17

As for no. 11.

19) 3167 1241 Ph19

As for no. 11.

20) 4681 1503 Ph11

As for no. 11.

Spindle Whorls

21) 2855 1479

Chalk.

22) 2822 1451

Ceramic.

23) 2233 146

Ceramic.

24) 7507 1010

Grey limestone, possibly Tertiary.

25) 228 49

As for no. 24.

26) 2711 u/s

?Limestone.

27) 2184 618

As for no. 26.

28) 2523 440

As for no. 26.

Shaped Whetstones

29) 2741 937

Glauconitic sandy limestone, possibly Kentish Ragstone (Hythe Beds) (Moore, 1978).

30) 561 84

Grey limestone, possibly Tertiary.

31) 5292 1198

As for no. 30.

32) 724 37

Pinkish sandstone of uncertain origin.

33) 2121 666

As for no. 32.

34) 2868 1023

?Whetstone. Rounded pebble.

35) 2857 1479

Sandy limestone, possibly from the Isle of Purbeck (Moore, 1978).

36) 6383 u/s

?Whetstone. Old Red Sandstone.

37) 1947 461

As for no. 36.

38) 960 144

As for no. 35.

Other Stones

39) 2230 229

Greensand. Possibly a weight.

40) 2232 767

Oolitic limestone, probably from the Isle of Purbeck. Part of a drain.

41) 4717 767

Three pieces of burnt sarsen.

42) 1744 514

Chalk loom weight with markings.

43) 1805 240

Worked ceramic tile.

44) 3346 1573

Rectangular-shaped lignite.

45) 1375 84

Small piece of flint.

46) 2559 626

Small piece of modern tile.

47) 2471 802

Shelly limestone, possibly from the Isle of Purbeck.

48) 2472 802

As for no. 47.

49) 2470 802

Limestone.

50) 6309 23

Chalk.

51) 2313 339

As for no. 50.

52) 2744 379

As for no. 50.

53) 2351 801

Chalk with hole.

54) 2101 600

Chalk. ?Dice.

55) 2147 674 Flue to F117

Malmstone, from the Upper Greensand.

56) 7508 199

As for no. 55.

57) 6310 4

Grey sandy limestone of uncertain origin.

58) 3018 973

As for no. 57.

59) 3114 1249

Perforated fragment of a sandy limestone of uncertain origin.

#### References

- Kars, H. (1980) 'Early-Medieval Dorestad, an archaeo-petrological study', Berichten van de Rijksdienst voor het Oudheidkundig Bodemonderzoek, 30(1980), 393-422.
- Moore, D.T. (1978) 'The petrography and archaeology of English honestones', J. of Arch. Science, 5(1978), 61-73.
- Parkhouse, J. (1976) 'The Dorestad quernstones', Berichten van de Rijksdienst voor het Oudheidkundig Bodemonderzoek, 26(1976), 181-188.
- Peacock, D.P.S. (1980) 'The Roman millstone trade: a petrological sketch', World Archaeology, 12(1980), 43-53.