

Clodgy Moor stonework

The stonework all represents potentially artefacts because items are not of the lithology of the parent granite on which they were found: those items of granite are clearly waterworn, cobbles imported from a beach source.

The stone work divides into three fairly distinct categories (Tables A – C).

The first category is of cobbles of various materials used as domestic artefacts such as mullers, rubbers and whetstones. All of these would be at home on a Middle Bronze Age settlement. Unfortunately we know insufficient about the range of stone artefacts used in Neolithic Cornwall to make any definitive statement. Obviously the whetstones could not be of this date but there seems no reason why the other artefacts could not be Neolithic. This group has not been examined by Roger Taylor, provisional identifications being provided by Henrietta Quinnell.

The second category is described below as ‘potential axes’. A few of these have distinct areas, where grinding has been carried out to start a blade. The remainder have a broadly axe-shaped outline and apparent traces of pecking. Examination of this group by Roger Taylor has confirmed all of this group as gabbroic greenstone, except for one described as volcanic greenstone. One or two of these he identifies as of similar lithology to that of the greenstone Gwavas quarry nearby. Of the group as a whole Roger Taylor comments that the overall shape of each piece, the apparent ‘axe’ shape, is due to these pieces having previously been cobbles. However this was way back in geological time before the Quaternary period, as most of the apparent pecking is due to weathering subsequent to the formation of the cobbles. He quotes remnant high level beach material from the Crousa Gravels overlying the gabbro in the Lizard and other material overlying the Carnmennellis Granite as parallels. He considers that the greenstone in all these pieces is comparatively soft, and indeed this can be clearly seen when the group is compared to the hammerstone/pestles. However some of the pieces clearly have areas of grinding over the weathering. The most likely interpretation for this group as a whole is that they were collected as potential axe-making material: their close concentration in one part of the study area makes natural occurrence extremely unlikely. Gabbroic greenstone is the rock of Group 1 axes and this group of material gives an indication of the type of gabbroic greenstone likely to be selected for axe manufacture. Because of this potential the six pieces with most likely traces of working have been selected for coring. It is planned to core the remainder of the group as funds become available: these number six, as one piece in the list is metamorphic slate.

The third category is that of hammerstones/pestles. Roger Taylor has provided lithological identifications and most are of greenstone. These are all of convenient size to be held in the hand. Such pieces do turn up on domestic sites but not in any quantity compared to mullers and rubbers. On these objects the waterworn cobble surfaces are all fresh and unweathered, appropriate for selection from a beach during the Neolithic. The beach selection would ensure hard enduring pieces. It is quite possible that the wear on these objects has been caused by grinding pieces in the axe manufacture process. Included in this category are a group of three stone balls found close together. These have parallels with Beaker and Neolithic artefacts, eg that

found near the Beaker site at Boscaswell. None of them have been worked all over and the working looks very similar to that on the pestles. However they are remarkably regular in shape and of three different materials. Some form of special deposition may be involved.

Number	Page	Field	Description
149.2	149	146	Small granite cobble with probable use as rubbing stone
150.1	150	146	Fragment of granite cobble muller
567H	567H	522	Complete well worn muller, granite cobble, any date from Bronze Age onward, just possible Neolithic SW 45233.33 / 26311.92 02/03/2010
567F.3	567F	523	Fragment of greenstone muller 145399.50/26379.66
528.13	528	523	Granite cobble being prepared for use as muller
528.9	528	523	Broken section of narrow bladed cobble possibly metamorphosed slate, one flat whetstone facet and 'scratch' marks along edge
528.12	528	523	Flat quartzite cobble with both surfaces used for rubbing with patches of anvil pecking
534.15	534	530	Large muller, broken, granite cobble
532.16	532	530	Tabular waterworn block of ? fine quartzite with probable whetstone use
532.15	532	530	Quartzite cobble probably used as a rubbing stone
528.11	528	523	Small bladed cobble ? metamorphic slate, just possibly some rubbing or whetstone use
570.5	570	490	Fragment of greenstone cobble with two separate smooth-worn facets, possibly from rubbing stone use
CORN-ED5387 567E.2	567E	167A	It is unlikely that the object is an axe butt; it has use on sides of a rectangular cross section but it appears more like greenstone. Amended on PAS database to hornfels as on label in bag.
GPS '59' 528.59	528	523	No number – in bag with 528 small chunk of large greenstone cobble

Table A Domestic stonework, mullers, rubbers and whetstones,

Number	Page	Field	Description
424.12	424	151	Fragment of gabbroic greenstone cobble, rectangular/round section, pointed end
CORN-30D0E1	567B	490	Cobble worked as axe/adz with blade ground, gabbroic greenstone CORE 1
CORN-47E2F1		490	Page not present Oval weathered greenstone cobble, weathering has exposed weakness veins in rock Greenstone of Gwavas quarry type CORE 6

567E.1	567E	490	Gabbroic greenstone cobble - finer grained – more doleritic: interrelationship between weathering, fracture and possible grinding very complex. Label in bag 145431.18/26426.00
CORN-00EE57 567.1	567	490	SW4540626393 weathered greenstone piece – one surface partly ground to a curve with quite a fine finish – this surface appears to postdate the weathering on the other side. CORE 4
CORN-FE8724		490	Page not present 145423.55/26383.77 Gabbroic Greenstone with probable grinding either side of a blade, broken from weathered cobble CORE 3
567C.1	567C	513	Part of coarse gabbroic greenstone cobble; apparent axe shape before fracture Label in bag 145344.37/26496.39
567C.2	567C	513	Fragment of gabbroic greenstone cobble, round section, pointed end label in bag 145369.59/26504.60
CORN-B60742	513	513	Ground blade end of axe?, gabbroic greenstone, broken after some grinding ? CORE 2
570.6	570	513	Gabbroic greenstone fragment similar to pointed axe butt end
CORN-0107A5 529.1	529	523	Gabbroic greenstone cobble with some possible grinding CORE 5
570.8	570	490	Greenstone cobble – possible rough working over the whole of the surface of the flat oval shape, more likely weathered surface
426.1	426	426	Weathered cobble of metamorphic slate deriving ultimately from the granite aureole. The only piece in this group not greenstone
308.1	308	78B	Ground blade end of roughout, broken off: this appears a fine grained igneous rock different to the gabbroic greenstones. Not yet seen by R Taylor 3-10-2011

Table B Greenstone potential axes: these either have some grinding or are of shapes broadly suitable for use as axes

Number	Page	Field	Description
149.1	149	146	Small volcanic greenstone cobble probably used as hammer stone and sourced in Mounts Bay
339.10	339	337	Fragment of cobble of quartz tourmaline, part of concave curved surface natural, breaks retain evidence of use as hammerstone R Taylor comments that this material would work well grinding greenstone
567F.2	567F	490	Finegrained greenstone cobble with extensive use as hammerstone, possibly pestle Label in bag says 145424.73/26452.40
567G.1	567G	490	One of three similar stone balls found in group 145420.03/26426.59 Gwavas quarry greenstone pebble with c55mm diameter.
567G.2	567G	490	One of three similar stone balls found in group 145420.03/26426.59 Greenstone pebble hammerstone/pestle use c48mm diameter

567G.3	567G	490	One of three similar stone balls found in group 145420.03/26426.59 Flint pebble hammerstone/pestle use c 41mm diameter
570.1	570	513	Weathered surface greenstone piece with rough hammerstone use around part of perimeter
528.10	528	523	Greenstone cobble with bevelled edge from pestle use
CORN-B62B84 567F.1	567F	490	Rock identified by Jens Anderson (macro) as coarse grained gabbro probably from Cudden Point. Cobble with heavy use as pestle around most of the perimeter, not a muller as stated
570.2	570	490	Rough greenstone cobble with area of fine pestle use
570.9	570	490	Note marked 570.4 but an arrowhead has this marking – conforms to drawing 570/9 Large volcanic greenstone pebble with pestle use around part of perimeter
532.17	532	530	Chunk of tabular greenstone with ? some weathering and some possible coarse hammerstone use
80.14	80	78C	Cobble with one pointed end rough pecked, possibly from hammerstone use, other end has a little pestle use. Probably greenstone. Note that the rough pecked end forms a visual contrast to the fine grain which occurs at the other end of the piece. Not yet seen by Roger Taylor, accessed 12-10-2011
339.9	339	337	Trevithal. Small pecked fine igneous rock ball. Not yet seen by Roger Taylor, accessed 12-10-2011
550.3	550	490	Hammer stone/pestle using veined igneous rock cobble. Not yet seen by Roger Taylor, accessed 12-10-2011
550.2	550	513	Igneous rock cobble with hammerstone and pestle use Not yet seen by Roger Taylor, accessed 12-10-2011
566.10	566	454	Igneous rock cobble with pestle and hammerstone use Not yet seen by Roger Taylor, accessed 12-10-2011

Table C hammerstones/pestles mostly of greenstone: group includes stone balls which appear to have had hammerstone use