

Blackfriars (site code IAS 48011):
Appraisal report of the 'moulded stone'

1) Introduction:

The following appraisal is based upon a single inspection by the author of the Ipswich assemblage. Each stone was briefly recorded as a single entry on the worked stone appraisal sheets already developed to deal with the backlog of moulded stone recovered by the Department of Greater London Archaeology Unit. These sheets allow a basic idea of the nature of each assemblage and its apparent date. They also allow estimates to be made of the amount of time the assemblage will take to basically record (the old style 'level 2' record). A general idea of the interpretative potential can also be arrived at, but the conclusions at this stage are necessarily subjective. The conclusions in this report are no more than a guide to the proper recording that should be carried out.

The Ipswich material is dealt with as if it were a Museum of London assemblage. The interpretative terms used are those of the Museum of London Archaeological Service. These terms represent levels of interpretation.

The Ipswich assemblage is assumed to have the same interpretative potential as similar archaeologically recovered assemblages from London that have already been published. It is therefore possible to roughly predict the amount of 'tpestones' and 'groups' that the Ipswich material will be broken down into once the basic recording has been completed. The conclusions should not be treated as binding, but they do give a general idea.

The amount of time taken to record, as opposed to interpreting, the stones can be more accurately predicted. Each stone will require a certain amount of drawings, depending on its complexity. Because the amount of time taken to make an individual drawing can be closely determined from the author's past experience, the amount of time needed to make a basic record of the Ipswich assemblages can be closely predicted. Note that 'drawing' also involves the making of the basic written record, as well as the initial part of the process of relating the stones by moulding.

2) Nature of the site:

Because the clients are highly knowledgeable about the excavations, there is little need to comment on the reuse of the stone or its provenance. It is worth mentioning however that the well-stratified nature of the material and its recovery from a limited number of large re-use contexts (features) and demolition horizons all will assist in interpretation. The recovery of much of the stones from recognised elements of the church and its precinct are also helpful factors. Such secondary deposition must however be used as useful hints rather than certain evidence of a stone's past location.

The stones were mostly well preserved, though battered. The average completeness was 60%. Weathering varied greatly. This no doubt reflects the length of time that different part of the complex survived the Dissolution.

3) Stone types present:

Caen stone, virtually all the architectural dressings of all periods.

Greensand (also called malmstone or Reigate stone) funerary structure.

Purbeck marble, funerary structure.

Currently unprovenanced **white marble** (Italian?) probably from a funerary structure

Currently unprovenanced **Mudstone** (Cromer?) forming part of a pier.

4) Basic recording requirements

A simple jambstone may need only a single drawing of the profile and the length. but a complex tracery fragment may need as many as five drawings to record the different elevations and varying moulding profiles.

101 stones require one or more drawings, of the total of 150 retained worked stones. (If a stone requires no drawings, it may still be of interest for its petrology or tooling techniques, but will require a negligible amount of recording time) In total, 165 separate drawings are required. If 4.7 stones are drawn a day, it would take 35 workdays (or 7 weeks) to record all of them.

5) Interpretative Potential

Past experience suggests that 48% of the worked stone will prove to be 'tpestones', while the remainder will be 'duplicates'. In this case, there will be c.48 tpestones to relate by moulding etc. into groups. A group is unlikely to directly relate more than three mouldings. It should however represent a significant fraction of an 'architectural unit' (a blanket term covering any discrete feature such as a door, a window or an single bay of an arcade). There may be perhaps three of four such large groups in the Blackfriars assemblage. Averages from London suggest that the assemblage will probably initially coalesce into c.32 groups. Note that many of these 'groups' will in fact be single tpestones that cannot be related to others.

It is very hard to predict the degree to which reconstruction of the superstructure of the Blackfriars church can be taken at this stage. The careful relating of the groups to the excavated walls of the Friary, as well as the re-interpretation of such old topographic views that exist may allow some architectural units to be reconstructed in their entirety. The majority of the architectural units represented by the fragments will probably be partial reconstructions whose location must remain uncertain. There is little doubt that much fine detail can be added to Birkin Haward's reconstruction.

6) Architectural groups of particular importance

This section's purpose is to allow a broad idea of the sort of buildings under construction at any given period. Only the numbers of important tpestones are quoted here.

1066-1275 Romanesque and early English

There is little or no material that can only be stylistically dated to the Norman period. Many stones could date to any time between c.1066 and 1275. There are many parts of simple chamfered doors and windows. Little distinguishes between the two categories except the presence of glazing grooves, which may be a later addition. Twelve certain window elements can be identified: [2351.<18><19><20><24><25><29><39><43>]<11><44><80><84>. Seven derive from the recently-demolished 'standing wall' of Victorian date. Only two are definitely parts of doors :<20><34>.

It is possible that some of the astylar and simple chamfered elements are contemporary with the Rayonnant (Decorated/Flamboyant) phase of construction, and formed parts of lesser service buildings. Nonetheless, their rough adze dressing suggests that they do represent an earlier phase of construction.

Five stones derived from simple arcades and vaults:
<0><63><87><88><4601>.

1250-1330 **Rayonnant**

Unlike the stones in the previous category, the individual stones dating to this period can be dated to within fifty years by their mouldings. The apparent spread of date may reflect no more than the difficulty of dating the stones more precisely. Virtually all the fine tracery fragments from the excavation apparently date from 1250 to no later than 1330: <3><6><40><66>. This suggests a true date somewhere in between.

The mouldings dating from this period are more diverse than those of the previous period. The quality of stone and craftsmanship was very high, being comparable to the better French work of this period (cf. Troyes Cathedral, choir 1208-1250). It was evidently of a conservative nature, as the documentary sources show it cannot be earlier than the 1270s.

There are ten other fragments of complex windows which may prove to associate with the tracery fragments: [2351]<5><6><7><15><35>, <9><13><35><59><82>. It is recommended that if resources are limited, they should be used for the study of these fourteen window fragments which are of art-historical importance. As Harvey points out, there is good reason to link this phase of construction with the king's mason Robert of Beverley (quoted in Haward 1988, 3). The distinctive style of English Rayonnant represented is little known, as most examples are destroyed.

Unsurprisingly, three elements from large free-standing arcades also derive from this period: <5><52><54>. Such pieces are rare, considering how many piers and arches there must have been in the body of the church. Two halves survive of a door arch <4><22> which will allow it to be reconstructed in some detail. Two elements from glazed windows with shutters <2><76> support the probability that domestic buildings such as fraters and dorters were also been constructed at around this date. There is little evidence for vaulting, with the exception of a solitary corbel <5> which supported the springing of a vault.

1340-1540 **Perpendicular and Tudor**

Only eight stones seem to date from after 1340, and of these, several are only 'possibles' displaying characteristics that could equally be pre or post -1340.

The scantiness of worked stone from this two-hundred year period is surprising, considering Ipswich's wealth and importance. It would seem that the Friars were either content with their buildings, or were too poor to

commission alterations in line with changing architectural taste. Of the stones certainly from this period, two derive from transomed windows (<53> <75>). Neither post-date 1420. A moulded string course (<55>) of the period 1380-1420 may have been a decorative internal feature as it was virtually unweathered

A stair tread (<61>) may derive from a corner turret of the church.

A window with relief decoration in the spandrel (<1>) may be associated with a two-light domestic window recorded in 1850. The squat four-centred arches of the head suggest that this window was post-1450 and perhaps of Sixteenth-century date.

Whitefriars (site code IAS 3104)
Appraisal report of the 'moulded stone'

1) Introduction:

The Whitefriars assemblage is very small and does not throw as much light on the appearance of the Friary as the much larger Blackfriars assemblage does on the other monastic foundation. It is similar to the larger assemblage, reflecting much the same date range. The assemblage is described using the same methodology (see Blackfriars introduction).

2) Nature of the site

The stone all derives from re-use contexts with the exception of two door jamb plinths which found in-situ.

3) Stone types present

Caen stone: The majority of the architectural elements

Greensand, Malmstone or Reigate stone: A late traceried window

Currently unprovenanced Oolitic limestone: Rayonnant tracery springer

Clunch: Unworked fragment

Purbeck marble: Tomb slab

4) Basic recording requirements

31 of the 43 retained stones require one or more drawings. A total of 54 drawings are required. This should take 11.5 work days.

5) The interpretative potential

The small size of the assemblage implies that virtually all the stone that require drawing will be tpestones, as there is very little duplication. Large scale restoration of architectural features is unlikely to be possible.

6) Architectural groups of particular importance

1180-1250 Early English

A large proportion of the assemblage consists of astylar (hard-to-date) workaday blocks that acted as simple quoins, plinths, voussoirs etc. The assemblage resembled the Blackfriars assemblage in this respect. The Early English stones can be broadly dated by their tooling. The regular diagonal textures created with the boaster chisel suggests that the blocks are post-1180. No element of apparent Norman date was identified.

Only a single window element <3578.4> seems to date from this period. A small capital with carved relief decoration was a solitary occurrence of more ornate work. Two other stones forming parts of a door arch and jamb respectively seem to have derived from the same door

<3424.3><3424.4>. A small fragment of a Purbeck marble tomb slab <3578.7> may date from this period, but it could also date from as late as the early Fourteenth century.

1250-1330 **Rayonnant**

There are as many as six fragments of windows dating from this period, but they are smaller and less elaborate than the fine tracery fragments from Blackfriars. The sole tracery fragment <3578> is dressed from Oolitic limestone very different to the high-quality Caen stone used at Blackfriars. There is nothing in the character of the window reveal fragments to prove they derived from major church windows. Two large and complex embrasure mouldings <3408.1><3408.2> may have derived from such windows as they were found in the area of the nave.

Two elaborate but badly-weathered door plinths <3409><3410> formed the base of an in-situ doorway in a wall abutting the north wall of the nave. They suggest that wall has a date of c.1270-1320.

A radiused scroll mould <785> may have formed the outer hood of a large window. Careful comparison of its moulding with other published examples would allow its date to be refined. It is additional evidence that large windows and doors were being constructed between 1275 and 1350. Other stones derive from simple quoins and plinths from this period.

1320-1475 **Perpendicular**

As at Blackfriars, there is very little evidence of construction after c.1330. Only four stones seem to post-date this cut-off point. Significantly, there is one window jamb <3424.2> with the commencement of fine cusped tracery. The heaviness of the detailing suggests that it dates from 1325-1350. A sill with jamb stooling <1044>, apparently unrelated, dates from the Fourteenth century. An arcade shaft fragment <3407> shows that they consisted of a central moulded core surrounded by clustered shafts. Its find-location suggests that it derives from the nave arcade. The provisional dating of the fragment implies the nave was not constructed until the second half of the Fourteenth century.

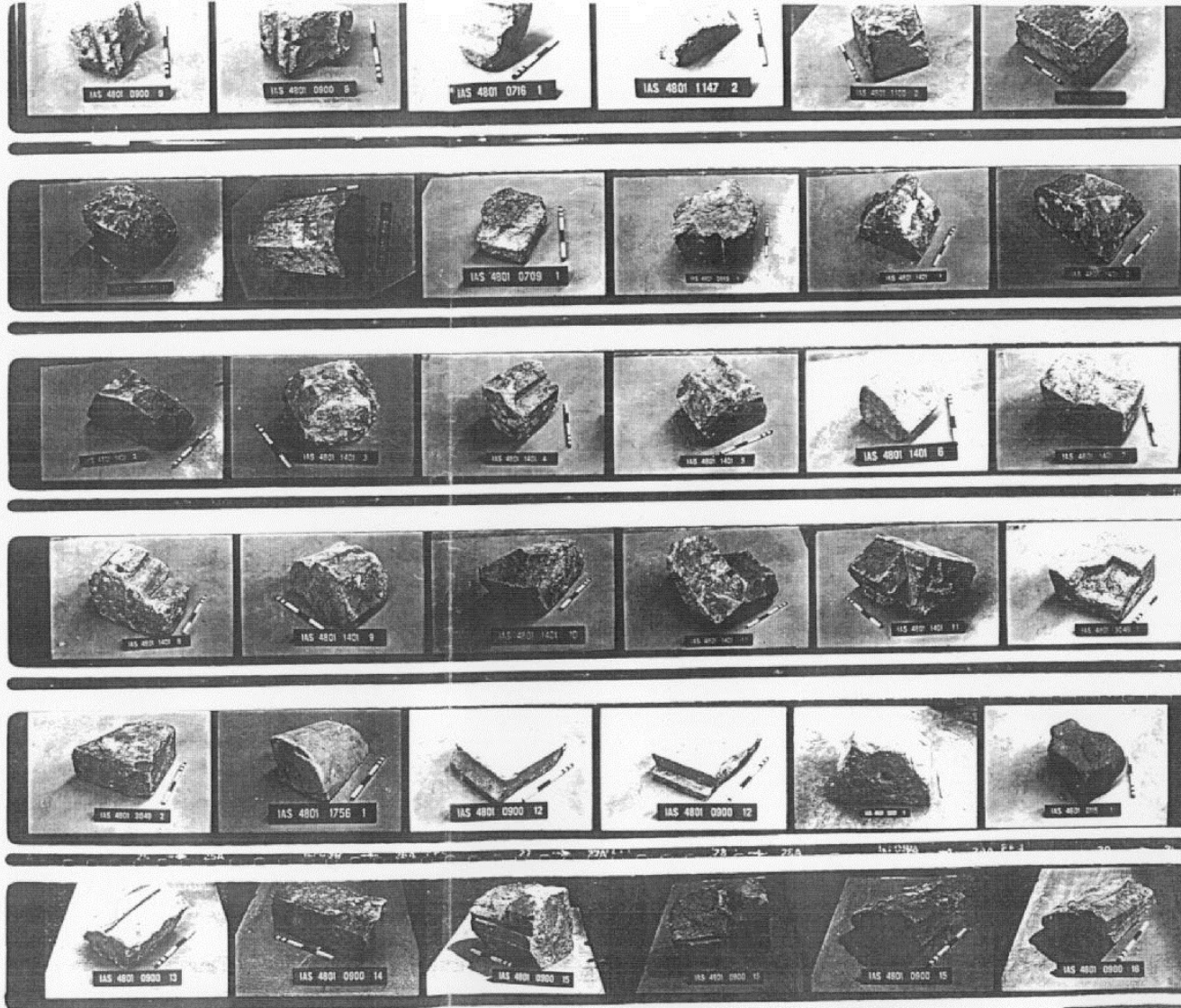
A solitary and abraded fragment of tracery dating from c.1390-1450 <1024> is dressed from Greensand. Although Caen stone was never completely supplanted in south England, Greensand was used in far greater quantities in the late medieval period.

SUBJECT

TECHNICAL DATA

DATE

ORIGINALS IN IAS PHOTO ARCHIVE



SUBJECT _____

ORIGINALS IN PHOTO ARCHIVE (IAS)

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