

APPENDIX 5: ASSESSMENT OF SHORNE/COBHAM BOUNDARY STONE

Mark Samuel

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The stone was placed in its location on Old Watling Street in 1808 as a result of a direction from the Justices of Peace of the Rochester Assembly Rooms on 6th May 1808. The direction arose following a dispute between the parishes of Cobham and Shorne as to the responsibility for the repair and maintenance of the highway from Ifield to Rochester along which lay the parish boundary.
- 1.2 The total section of the highway in 1808 was 3,637 yards and the Justices ordered that the highway be divided at the mid point, where the stone would be erected. All the highway to the west of the stone was to be repaired by Cobham Parish and all that to the east by Shorne Parish.
- 1.3 The *in situ* stone was square with chamfered edges and sat 235mm above the existing ground level. It had carved detail to the north, west and east faces which took the form of the date, 1808 on the north face, the letters S & P on the east face and the letters C & P on the west face. The south face and the top surface were plain.

2. Methodology

- 2.1 Between the recording of the above details (1997) and the URS excavation at Watling Street (ARC WS 98) in 1998, the above ground section of the stone, complete with the inscription, had been broken off. The stone itself, upon location in 1998, lay beneath a heap of broken concrete and hard core rubble.
- 2.2 After recovery, the recording of the stone involved a hand drawing and detailed description of each face and both ends. These drawings were then digitised onto CAD. Each face of the stone was then photographed in large format colour and black and white.

3. Quantifications

- 3.1 The block was nine inches square (228.6mm) in cross section and was geometrically cut. It had a fine or bland finish, featureless even where it was not subsequently worn. The corners are roughly chamfered, the chamfers stop at different points along the block. One end of the block is snapped (modern break where the inscription has been previously recorded), while the other is very roughly cut to form an approximately level end.
- 3.2 A mass of rough stone projecting from one face is the only feature, and this bears signs of tooling.

4. Provenance

- 4.1 The Watling Street site ARC WS 98 comprised five trenches laid out across the line of a modern road, Watling Street. Each trench was up to 50m long and up to 10m wide. They were positioned at intervals over a distance of 1km along the road and numbered 1 to 5 from east to west. The western extremity of this stretch of road (Trench 5) was at URL grid 48050 49575, corresponding approximately to Ordnance Survey national grid reference (NGR) TQ 6805 6960. On the southern side of Watling Street at Trench 5 the Cobham/Shorne boundary stone was located.
- 4.2 An eye examination of gross characteristics shows the stone to be a fine-grained oolitic limestone. The hardness, weight and distinctive 'ring' when hit indicated that this was probably Portland stone from Dorset, but no distinctive oyster fossils are present.
- 4.3 The stone was clearly re-used. The high finish and the geometrical precision indicated that this stone originally had an architectural function and the polished tooling implied that almost the whole stone was intended to be visible. Only the presence of a tenon shows how it was supported. A morticed stone of similar section fitted against one facet. It seems this stone was part of a horizontal balustrade or similar, supported at regular intervals by uprights. The absence of any ornamentation could be evidence that the stone derived from an industrial or commercial building. The use of Portland stone, combined with the lack of ornament, suggests a date after the mid-17th century but an earlier date is not impossible.
- 4.4 The block was probably at least twice its present length prior to re-use. One end was cut to an approximate plane and the only then were the corners were chamfered. The block was then set vertically on its new end. The differentials of wear indicate that the stone was deeply set in the ground.

5. Conservation

- 5.1 The stone requires no conservation and the missing section of the inscription has been reconstructed by URS.

6. Comparative material

- 6.1 There is the possibility that this stone came from a rebuilding phase of a nearby high status building such as Cobham Hall.

7. Potential for further work

- 7.1 The stone has little potential for further work beyond dating and indicating the recent boundary between Shorne Parish And Cobham Parish, along the line of medieval/post-medieval Watling Street.

8. Bibliography

None

APPENDIX 6: ASSESSMENT OF STONE (HUMANLY-MODIFIED AND UNWORKED)

Mark Samuel

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Two pieces of stone were recovered from Area 330 Zone 5. The first was a fragment of architectural stone from the backfill of Ashenbank Wood Pond (ARC 330 98), discovered when the pond was emptied and dating to the post-medieval period. The second was a single stone 'pebble' (probably used either for baking or as a pestle), recovered from Cobham Golf Course (ARC CGC 98) and dating to the late Bronze Age.

2. Methodology

- 2.1 The architectural fragment was scanned and weighed, and details were entered on the MoLAS building material form. The stone was noted using the Museum of London geological type series and its role was described and illustrated with a sketch.

The Late Bronze Age stone was examined and compared with other stone types held in a stone reference collection at the Museum of London.

3. Quantifications

Table 15: Worked Stone from Area 330 Zone 5

Event code	Context	Count	Weight (g)	Type	Period	Comments
ARC CGC 98	221	1	840	Sandstone	LBA	3121 'BAKING STONE' /PESTLE
ARC 330 98	599	1	15600	Sand/oolitic limestone	PM	Window sill with stooling for jamb, 1540-1680

- 3.1 Window sill with stooling for jamb. The hard and dense building stone is a sandstone/oolitic limestone with some grains of glauconite; it is as yet unsorted. The sill derives from the corner of the sill (rather than the head) of a rectilinear window. The stooling (or adapter) for the jamb reveals that it had a simple hollow-chamfered moulding. The sill weathered significantly *in situ* which reveals that the building that it derived from was old when demolished.
- 3.2 The glazing was supported on iron bars of square section. The astragal (or upright) was set diagonally in the sill as is normal Elizabethan/Jacobean practice. The dressing was cut with a pitcher chisel.
- 3.3 There was a single, very hard fine-grained laminated piece of sandstone weighing 840g, dating to the late Bronze Age.

4. Provenance

- 4.1 The architectural fragment is likely to have derived from a farmhouse or other building of the Yeoman class. It is indicative of a measure of wealth and comfort. The building stone is probably regional.
- 4.2 The surviving dressing is well-preserved, but any reconstruction stemming from it would have to be conjectural in size and detail.
- 4.3 The Late Bronze Age stone was recovered from a pit at Cobham Golf Course and was dated by associated pottery fragments.

5. Conservation

- 5.1 No conservation is required, but the architectural fragment needs to be more securely packed.

6. Comparative material

- 6.1 The architectural context of this fragment can be studied through publications such as those written by Richard K Morris (1978-9 and 1992).
- 6.2 Stones are found on Bronze Age settlement sites and are usually referred to as 'baking stones' upon which food was cooked, or pestles, used for grinding. It is considered that the stone is more probably a pestle. There are no comparative examples from the CTRL works in this area.

7. Potential for further work

- 7.1 This item of architectural stone has no further potential beyond the record made in this assessment report.

7.2 The Late Bronze Age stone 'pestle' will help to clarify food preparation methods in the Late Bronze Age and adds to the corpus of domestic material recovered from Cobham Golf Course.

8. Bibliography

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