

1.1 Assessment of the Stone

by Ruth Shaffrey

- 1.1.1 All retained stone was examined visually.
- 1.1.2 Three pieces of stone were recovered during the excavations at Hurst Wood (Table 31). These are listed in the tables below. One chunk of sandstone, which appears to be glazed, was recovered from the topsoil (context 1). It is worth investigating this to discover if it is natural or a result of glass-working or other manufacturing process. In addition to this specimen, two fragments of lava were recovered from a subsoil context (context 2). Although these show no evidence of working, lava is known to have been imported as a rotary quern and millstone material and these fragments probably originated from artefacts of this type. An unworked chert pebble was recovered from the investigations at Leacon Lane (Table 32).
- 1.1.3 The sandstone and pebble were probably available locally but the lava fragments were originally imported from the Rhineland.
- 1.1.4 No conservation is required. All of the stone from Hurst Wood should be retained until final decisions are taken about the scope of further research at Landscape Zone Level, but the unworked pebble from Leacon Lane may be discarded.

Potential for further work

- 1.1.5 Further work might investigate the glass-coated stone and its origins. This would provide evidence for the nature of possible manufacturing activity in the vicinity, although in the absence of any dating evidence this will be of limited value. No other work is recommended.

Table 31: Summary of stone from Hurst Wood Detailed Excavation

Context	Count	Material	Comments
1	1	Sandstone	Looks like glazed stone
2 SF1	2	Lava	Rounded fragments, weathered.

Table 32: Summary of stone from Leacon Lane WBSDI

Context	Count	Material	Comments
8	1	Chert pebble	Angular fragment

