

APPENDIX 5: ASSESSMENT OF STONE (HUMANLY-MODIFIED AND UNWORKED)

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Two stone artefacts were recovered from ARC 330 98 in Zone 3, two from ARC HRD 99 and twelve from ARC WNB 98.
- 1.2 The stone accessions were recovered by hand excavation, with the exception of one from ARC WNB 98 which was found during the metal-detecting/field-walking project.
- 1.3 Although of only limited potential, the stone artefacts may assist the following fieldwork event aims:
- To establish a record of changing settlement and landscape morphology for the area, including habitation areas and associated enclosures and trackways, etc.
 - To determine the function of these areas and changes through time

2. Methodology

- 2.1 The stone artefacts were accessioned in accordance with the Museum of London system; accession numbers were allocated to each artefact and simple outline drawings of the objects were done on the backs of the accession cards. A number of the stone types, for example the lava stone, were identified by eye. More specific stone identifications await further analysis of the assemblage.
- 2.2 The records have been entered onto the Oracle relational database and transferred to RLE Datasets. No sampling of the accessioned stone artefacts was undertaken.

3. Quantification

- 3.1 The stone can be quantified using tables:

Table 31: Assessment of Stone (Humanly-Modified and Unworked) from ARC 330 98

Context	Count	Material	Comments [brief description: form/ type/ decoration/ working presence]
149	1	Stone	Smoothing stone; large flat fragmentary piece with one very smooth surface; used for smoothing or grinding
559	1	Lava stone	Very small and abraded quern fragment

Table 32: Assessment of Stone (Humanly-Modified and Unworked) from ARC HRD 99

Context	Count	Material	Comments [brief description: form/ type/ decoration/ working presence]
152	2	Stone	<32> Fragments from the same hone; mica-schist.
CH39+600	1	Stone	<67> Quern fragment with one very worn surface and the remains of two vertical round holes – for handles?

Table 33: Assessment of Stone (Humanly-Modified and Unworked) from ARC WNB 98

Context	Count	Material	Comments [brief description: form/ type/ decoration/ working presence]
1027	1	Flint	<1> Naturally occurring spherical flint nodule
0	1	Flint	<2> Naturally occurring spherical flint nodule
784	1	Stone	<3> Hone or smoothing stone fragment
267	1	Lava stone	<20> Quern; small abraded fragment.
375	1	Stone	<40> Quern; small fragment
375	2	Stone	<41> Quern; complete thickness; slightly burnt
375	4	Stone	<43> Quern; parts of a very large quern; slightly burnt
375	3	Stone	<44> Quern; complete thickness
412	1	Stone	<39> Quern; one flat surface and part of a horizontal handle slot remain
412	1	Stone	<42> Quern; fragment with outer edge and one surface remaining
601	2	Stone	<21> Quern; small undiagnostic fragments with mortar traces; reused?
0	1	Stone	<119> Curving fragment recovered from the pre-excavation field-walking project; appears to be heavily burnt and is possibly associated with an industrial process

4. Provenance

- 4.1 The smoothing stone from ARC 330 98 came from [149], (sub-group 3015), Down's Road pit fill and the quern fragment came from [559], (sub-group 3044), Down's Road ditch fill.
- 4.2 The hone from ARC HRD 99 was recovered from [152] (sub-group 725) demolition spread over kilns. This context also produced pottery dating to the 11th to 13th centuries, as well as residual Roman pottery. The quern was recovered from Chainage 39+600.
- 4.3 A number of the querns from ARC WNB 98 came from the fills of pits. The exception to this was the fragments from [375] (sub-group 310), part of the external face of the wall of an oven. All of the latter fragments showed signs of having been burnt. The hone and one of the naturally occurring spherical flint nodules came from fills. Little dating evidence was found with any of the stone artefacts with the exception of <20> [267] which came from the fill of a pit that also produced pottery dating to *c* 1175 to *c* 1250.
- 4.4 Most of the artefacts are fragmentary but all are in a stable condition.

5. Conservation

- 5.1 No conservation treatment is required for the accessioned stone artefacts. They are stable and packed appropriately for archive.
- 5.2 All of the stone types will require identification but this is unlikely to damage the artefacts in any way or to conflict with their long term storage.
- 5.3 All of the accessioned stone artefacts should be retained.

6. Comparative material

- 6.1 The material should be compared with the stone artefacts from sites in the vicinity. Archaeological work in Zone 4 produced five abraded fragments of lava stone quern; this stone type should be compared with the lava stone quern fragments from Zone 3. Lava stone querns were imported in large numbers from the Mayan region of northern Europe throughout the Roman and early medieval periods. The lava stone querns from Zones 3 and 4 probably come from this source but further analysis will be required to confirm this identification. Three stone mortars and a hone, all thought to date to the medieval period, were found at ARC PFM 98; once their stone types have been identified it will be of interest to compare them to the stone types of the artefacts from Zone 3. It is hoped that patterns in the use of certain types of stone may be identified and that conclusions can be reached about the trade in stone artefacts in this region, possibly reflecting changes in the economic activity in the area through time.
- 6.2 Further work is required on the form of the quern from ARC HRD 99 and this may include comparison with published quern assemblages.

6.3 The stone types of all the accessioned stone artefacts will require identification. This should enable a more detailed analysis of the origins of the stone types and a discussion on any trade patterns that can be identified. As detailed above, the stone assemblage may be compared then to others from the surrounding area; for example those from Zone 4 and ARC PFM 98, in order to see if any trade patterns can be identified.

7. **Potential for further work**

7.1 It is not thought that the stone artefacts can assist the landscape zone aims and are more suited to addressing the fieldwork event aims.

7.2 The stone artefacts can assist the following fieldwork event aims:

- *To establish a record of changing settlement and landscape morphology for the area, including habitation areas and associated enclosures and trackways, etc.*
- *To determine the function of these areas and changes through time*

7.3 The stone artefacts provide further evidence for human occupation and activity in the area. Their exact dating is, at present, unclear. It is hoped that with further integration of the accessioned finds, the stratigraphy and the pottery dating that their place within the context of the site and the processes going on there, will become clearer. The hones and querns have the potential to inform about domestic activity in the area and also trade routes (stone querns and other artefacts were often traded over long distances).

7.4 The following work is required:

- Identification of the stone types of sixteen artefacts
- Integration of the finds and stratigraphic information
- Stone artefact catalogue
- Comparative work with similar assemblages
- Text
- It is estimated that *c* 5 illustrations will be required.

8. **Bibliography**

None

