

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

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### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Five stone artefacts were recovered from ARC 330 98 in Zone 4.
- 1.2 The stone accessions were recovered by hand excavation.
- 1.3 The stone artefacts may assist the following fieldwork event aim:
  - To determine the form, function and chronology of occupation

### 2. Methodology

- 2.1 The stone artefacts were accessioned in accordance with the Museum of London system.
- 2.2 The records have been entered onto the Oracle relational database and transferred to RLE Datasets
- 2.3 No sampling of the accessioned stone artefacts was undertaken.

### 3. Quantifications

*Table 15: Assessment of Stone (Humanly-Modified and Unworked) from ARC 330 98*

Context	Count	Material	Comments [brief description: form/ type/ decoration/ working presence]
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1186	1	Stone	<46> Small flint sphere; naturally occurring
373	1	Stone	<85> Hone; a fragment of stone with two worn surfaces and two very worn edges; used as a smoothing or polishing stone.
633	1	Stone	<82> Quern; five fragments of a lava stone quern; probably Niedermendig lava. All are worn and abraded and no original surfaces remain.
1186	1	Stone	<59> Smoothing stone? A small fragment with one smoothed surface
666	1	Stone	<108> Quern; part of a large saddle quern found with a group of Sarsen stones; probably late prehistoric in date

#### 4. Provenance

4.1 The naturally occurring small stone sphere and the possible smoothing stone fragment came from [1186] sub-group 4087, the fill of prehistoric storage pit [1172] (Figure 6). The hone came from [373] sub-group 4082, the fill of prehistoric pit [374] (Figure 7). The fragmentary lava stone quern came from [633] sub-group (4120), the fill of a Roman dew pond [630], which also produced fragments of later prehistoric pottery (Figure 9). The large saddle quern <108> [666] was found associated with the group of sarsen stones which may be the remains of a megalithic monument (Figure 9).

4.2 Most of the artefacts are fragmentary but all are in a stable condition.

#### 5. Conservation

5.1 No conservation treatment is required.

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 The naturally occurring flint sphere may be discarded; the remaining stone artefacts should be retained for further research.

## 6. **Comparative material**

6.1 The material should be compared with other material from sites in the vicinity.

6.2 The saddle quern is of particular interest. It was identified as a saddle quern by Jon Cotton and this has been confirmed by Philippa Bradley. Saddle querns are large stones with a flattened surface upon which grain was ground with a smaller stone. Saddle querns date from the Neolithic through to the Roman period. The present example was found still set in the ground (ie *in situ*), in close proximity to a group of sarsens and it is of the same stone type. This indicates two possibilities. Firstly, that the saddle quern was used at the same period as the possible megalithic monument or secondly, that it is one of the monument's stones removed at a later date (possibly the later Bronze Age/Iron Age) for reuse as a quern. Further work is required on the form of the saddle quern (initial comparisons indicate that it is unusually large) and comparison should be made with published quern assemblages.

6.3 The lava stone quern fragments almost certainly date to the Roman period and were found in the fill of a Roman pond. Lava stone querns were commonly used in the Roman period and are frequently found on Roman sites in south-east England.

6.4 The stone types of all the accessioned stone artefacts will require identification and this will allow them to be analysed further in terms of trade. The stone assemblage should be compared to others from the surrounding area.

## 7. **Potential for further work**

7.1 The accessioned ceramic finds have potential to assist with the following landscape zone aim:

- *The socio-economic landscape of the later agriculturalists (2000-100BC)*

7.2 The stone accession with the most potential for this landscape zone aim is the saddle quern. Saddle querns were used from the Neolithic through to the Roman period. The Zone 4 example was found associated with a group of sarsens, thought to have formed part of a megalithic monument. It may have been used at the same period as the possible megalithic monument or may be one of the monument's stones removed at a later date (possibly the later Bronze Age/Iron Age) for reuse as a quern. Further work is required on the form of the saddle quern and comparison should be made with published quern assemblages.

7.3 The stone artefacts may assist the following fieldwork event aims:

- *To determine the form, function and chronology of occupation*

The stone assemblage is small but the 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. Since stone querns and other artefacts were often traded over long distances it is hoped that some of the stone artefacts may be able to inform about trade patterns. The saddle quern and its relationship to the possible megalithic monument will require further analysis.

7.4 The following work is required:

- Identification of the stone types of three artefacts
- Integration of the finds and stratigraphic information
- Stone artefact catalogue
- Comparative work with similar assemblages
- Specialist to investigate the saddle quern
- Text
- It is estimated that *c* 3 illustrations will be required.

## 8. Bibliography

None

