

APPENDIX 5: ASSESSMENT OF STONE ARTEFACTS

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Conservation by Liz Barham

1. Introduction

1.1 Five stone artefacts were recovered by means of hand excavation during site works.

1.2 The stone accessions may assist the following fieldwork event aim:

- *to determine the function and economic basis of the site*

2. Methodology

2.1 All the finds were examined. Each find was given an individual accession number, and the data was recorded on accession cards and on the Oracle database.

3. Quantification

Table 14: Assessment of stone artefacts

Context	Special Number	Material	Count	Period	Comments (Description)
600	64	Stone	1	MD	Large rim fragment from a round bodied mortar, possibly from Bethesden in Kent.
231	92	Stone	1	MD	Part of the square base of a round bodied mortar; the corners of the base forming the lugs on the body. Possibly from Bethesden in Kent.
280	81	Stone	1	MD	Flat base of a round bodied mortar with two lug handles remaining. Purbeck 'marble', from Dorset; 13 th /14 th century.
190	42	Stone	1	MD	Part of a fine-grained sandstone hone.
709	49	Stone	1	PM	Part of a pencil; 18 th /19 th century.

4. Provenance

- 4.1 The four medieval stone accessions all came from contexts associated with the moated site. Stone mortar <92> came from demolition debris filling the drain and mortars <81> and <64> came from pit fills. The hone was recovered from the primary moat fill. The post-medieval pencil fragment was found in a dump associated with smithing.
- 4.2 The medieval stone accessions form a small but interesting group of domestic objects, at least one of which is imported from Dorset. The stone of the other three requires further work to identify the sources.

5. Conservation

- 5.1 There are no analysis or illustration requirements for the stone accessioned finds. They are stable and are packed appropriately for archive.

6. Comparative material

- 6.1 The medieval stone objects are of interest as evidence of the trade in stone domestic articles. The production of mortars from Purbeck 'marble' in Dorset occurred largely in the 13th and 14th centuries and they are found throughout southern Britain. The stone of the other mortars will require identification; it is thought to possibly be a local Kentish stone but this will need to be confirmed. Comparative work should be done with other, surrounding sites of a similar period to see what evidence they produced for similar objects and whether there are any differences between the material recovered from Parsonage Farm and their assemblages.

7. Potential for further work

- 7.1 The only Fieldwork Event Aim that this material may assist is:
- *to determine the function and economic basis of the site*
- 7.2 What sort of domestic activities do these artefacts indicate; does the presence of the Purbeck 'marble' mortar indicate a degree of wealth? These objects can help in building up a picture of the types of activities that were taking place on the site in the medieval period. They can also indicate the types of trading patterns that existed.
- 7.3 The only Landscape Zone Aim that this material can assist is as follows:
- *Towns and their rural landscapes (100BC-AD1700)*
- 7.4 The artefacts, as stated above, may be of use in trying to determine what types of activities took place at the moated site and, therefore, help in understanding the types of settlements that existed in the rural landscape in the medieval period in this area. They may also be of use in terms of determining the types of trade that went on and the distances that material travelled as part of that trade.

8. Bibliography

None