

THE STONE OBJECTS

THE MORTAR FRAGMENTS (Fig.45) by P. Carstairs

The stone was identified by Philip Powell at the University Museum, Oxford.

Five mortar fragments have been found on the site, representing a maximum of 4 mortars. One large piece of base (1) and one small fragment of rim (2) were unstratified; two joining pieces of rim (3) came from a layer (F573) of late 14th-century dump which sealed the demolition over Building D, which may have been a kitchen; and one piece of rim (4) came from a possible posthole (F1061) in Building D.

Mortars were used in the kitchen for the preparation of food, which was either pounded or ground in the mortar with a pestle. All the mortar fragments here showed signs of being used for grinding rather than pounding, judging from the patterns of wear. The rim fragments were all worn on the inside surface, with a horizontal pattern of wear increasingly pronounced towards the bottom parts of the fragments. The fragment of base (No. 1) showed wear in the area where the sides of the mortar would have been, rather than in the centre where the mortar would have been worn had it been used for pounding.¹

Fragment No. 1, the large piece of base, was unstratified and weathered, with the bottom part of a lug (part of a handle) surviving. Its (stone) fabric has been identified as 'forest marble' which is a fairly local limestone, the nearest source being at Filkins, Oxon. Two other fragments were also made of Forest Marble (Nos. 2 and 3), and may have come from the same mortar; No. 3 had a square handle-lug and flat rim. The other mortar fragment (No. 4) however was made of Corallian limestone which is also local, the source probably being Wheatley. This piece was thicker than the other rim fragments and had an ornately carved runnel.

1. WS11, U/S.
2. WS55, U/S.
3. WS48, F573, Phase 4/2, Group 21 (two fragments).
4. WS46, F1061, Phase 2, Group 25.

Note

1. See G.C. Dunning in *Excavations in King's Lynn 1963-70* (Soc. for Medieval Archaeol. Monogr. ser. no. 7 ()), 320ff for wear on mortars.

THE HONES (Fig. 46) by P. Page

A total of 5 hones were recovered. Their (parent material) mineral composition was kindly identified by Philip Powell.

1. Broken quartz-mica schist hone, from floor level of Building P. SF21, F92, Phase 1, Group 1.
2. Large worn silver grey quartz-mica schist hone from demolition of Building J. SF210, F284, Phase 5, Group 23.

3. Broken silver-grey quartz-mica schist hone, 89 mm. x 38 mm. x 12 mm.; from 'floor' of Building M. SF281, F417, Phase 4/2, Group 7.
4. Small silver grey quartz mica schist hone. Hole for suspension at one end. Break has occurred at that point. Recovered from demolition debris over Building C. SF332, F1129, U/S.
5. Broken liver-coloured quartzite hone; 60 mm. x 32 mm. x 14 mm. From cobble surface within Building Q. SF212, F432, Phase 2, Group 4.

THE QUERNS by P. Page

Two quern fragments were recovered; the stone was identified by Philip Powell.

1. A small fragment of Niedermedig lava quern c. 40 mm. x 20 mm. x 18 mm. from the demolition of Building H. WS54, F420, Phase 5, Group 22.
2. Quern fragment of millstone grit from central Northern England. Quern was incorporated in a post setting within the hall (A/1). WS41, F618, Phase 4/2, Group 20.

THE FLINTS by C. Halpin

SF.No:	F.	Ph.	Gp
192	Fragmentary blade (with blade scars).	U/S	- -
199	Shatter fragment.	F284/1	5 23
323	Blade with fine retouch.	F434/1	0 -
327	Fragmentary blade (patinated).	F310	5 23
588	?Waste flake.	F717/1	5 23
589	Natural flint.	F204/1	0 -
590	Struck flake.	F610/1	5 23
591	Fragmentary blade.	U/S	- -
592	Natural flint.	F119	5 23

The flints are of indeterminate date.