

## **Assessment of the Stone from Ladybridge Farm, Nosterfield (OSA05 EV11)**

### ***Alan Vince***

A collection of stone from excavations at Ladybridge Farm, Nosterfield, was submitted for identification and assessment.

### **Description**

(165) Fragment of fine-grained sandstone boulder. L: 170mm. B: 110mm. Th: 70mm. The sandstone has several trace fossils, probably burrows running vertically through the rock. The original rounded surface is stained red to a depth of c.1-2mm but whether this is due to adsorption of iron or other material or oxidation of iron through heating is unclear. The broken faces seem to indicate two levels of weathering, suggesting that the cobble was rolled after breakage and then finally cracked without further rolling. This suggests that the red staining (which is confined to the original surface) is not related to human activity and that this is an unworked erratic.

(197) Two fine-grained sandstone boulders. (i) L: 300mm. B: 120mm. Th: 135mm. (ii) L: 200mm. B: 160mm. Th: 95mm. (ii) has borings similar to those in (165) and a reddened surface. One face has chipping without subsequent reddening. An unworked erratic.

(200) Fine-grained sandstone cobble. L: 180mm. B: 135mm. Th: 45mm. An unworked glacial erratic. Slight reddening of surface, as on (165).

(207) Fine-grained, micaceous sandstone boulder. L: 290mm. B: 150mm. Th: 45mm. Like (165), this piece shows evidence for three phases of erosion: an initial rounding, rough rolling of the top cracked face and finally unweathered cracks. An unworked erratic.

(213) Fine-grained, micaceous sandstone boulder. L: 280mm. B: 155mm. Th: 35mm. Similar pattern of rounding to (207). An unworked erratic.

### **Assessment**

It is clear from their archaeological context that these stones have been brought to the site, or at least moved, by human agency. However, there is no evidence that they were modified and the reddening noted on several of them is probably due to staining from iron-rich water.

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