

19. Querns

David Heslop

1. Rotary quern

North-east buildings, Anglo-Saxon cemetery, 3645
Fragment (<10%) of disk quern, probably upper
stone, with diameter in excess of 42cm, and a
thickness, having a flat top and vertical wall. The
central hole is not extant, and the grinding face
is missing. Fine-grained, light grey-brown Carboniferous
sandstone, slightly micaceous and with bands of
ferruginous staining through the rock.

2. Rotary quern

Northern defences, medieval deposit, 2145 (85HB)
(*fig. 19.1*)

Half fragment of top stone or disk quern (46.5cm
diameter and 6cm thickness) with conical hopper,
5.1cm diameter narrowing to 4.0cm at grinding face.
Slight slope down on top surface and sloping outer
wall. Very crude but regular tooling, running in
short lines, executed with 11mm wide, D-shaped

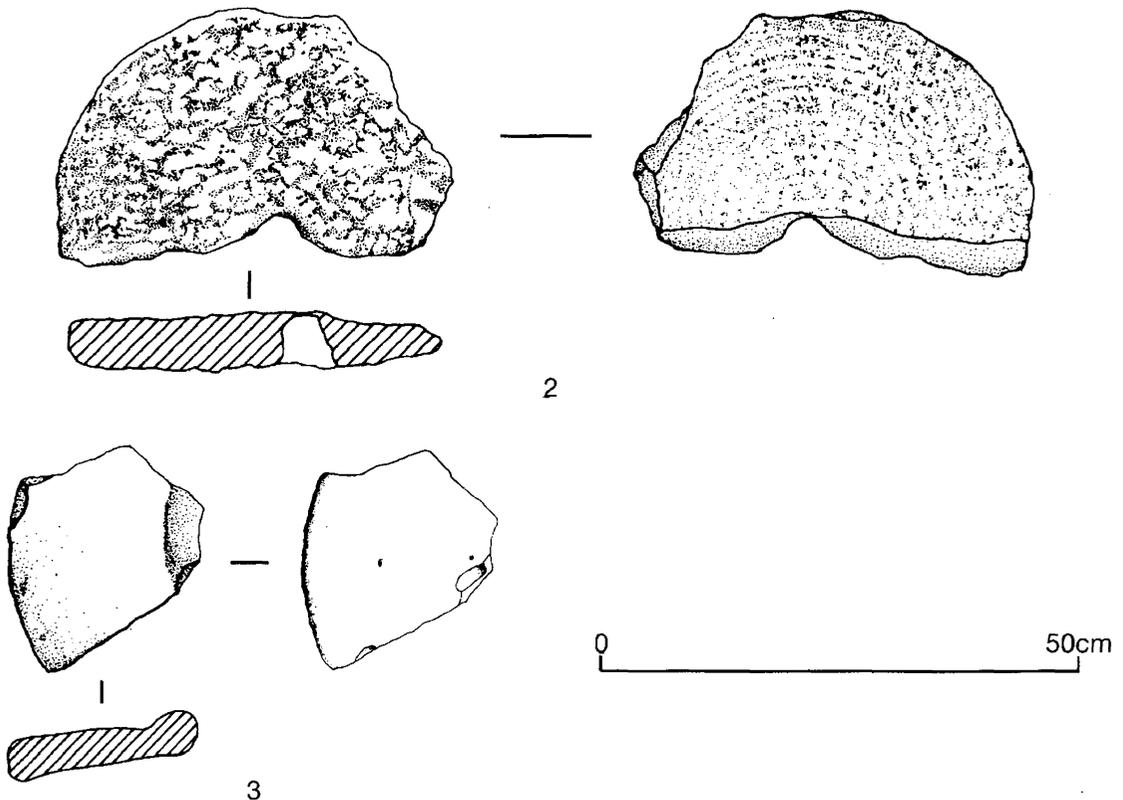


Fig. 19.1 Querns. Scale 1:8.

point. The grinding face has surviving dressing using a fine, pointed tool, over about half of the surface and concentric wear lines on the remainder. Light brown, well-sorted and rounded Carboniferous sandstone.

3. Rotary quern

Northern defences, Norman/early medieval ditch, 2437 (86AN) (*fig. 19.1*)

Top stone quarter fragment of collared disk quern, diameter around 45cm, with a thickness of 5.1cm at the eye, reducing to 4.2cm at the rim. The collar stands 12mm high. No tooling on outer surface. Coarse grained, well-sorted sub-angular, micaceous and fossiliferous light-grey sandstone, probably Millstone Grit, and quite unlike any of the other

Castle querns, being of a lithology with much better milling properties.

4. Rotary quern

Northern defences, post-medieval levelling, 2545 (87AP)

Fragment (less than 10% extant) of a simple disk quern, 8cm thick with an estimated diameter of 45cm. Tooling apparent on outer wall, using a round-tipped hammer, 6mm across. The grinding surface was dressed with irregular peck-marks using a different tool from the outer surface, a D-shaped chisel or pick, 7mm across.

Fine-grained light grey-brown, well-sorted and rounded Carboniferous sandstone, without inclusions or fossil pits. Probable local source.

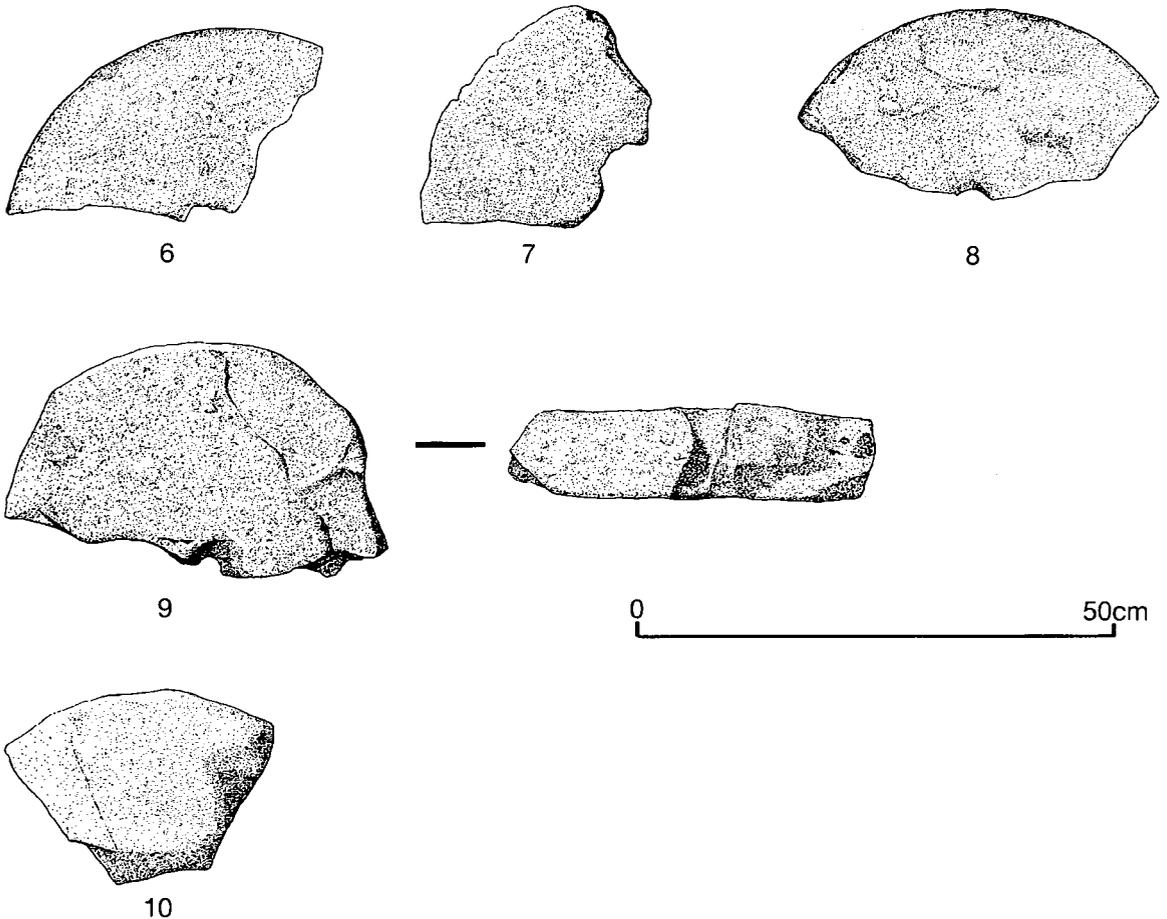


Fig. 19.2 Querns. Scale 1:8

5. Rotary quern

Northern defences, Norman/early medieval, 2667 (87DH)

Very small fragment (<5%) of disk quern, top or base, with a diameter of about 45cm, and a thickness of about 4.5cm at centre, narrowing towards the edge. Grinding face showing fresh dressing, from small pointed tool. No tooling on top surface or wall. Fine-medium grained local sandstone, moderately sorted and sub-angular grains with occasional larger inclusions of quartz. Sooting on non-grinding face.

Querns described in the Newcastle City Archaeological Unit archive

[Identification and suggested dates by George Jobey; Petrological identification by Tim Pettigrew of Sunderland Museum.]

6. Possible topstone

North of west granary, Anglo-Saxon, 245R2 (77DD), S53 (*fig. 19.2*)

Carboniferous sandstone. Excessive wear. A late Roman date is suggested.

7. Possible topstone

North of west granary, Anglo-Saxon, 245R2 (77DD), S56 (*fig. 19.2*)

Carboniferous sandstone, bearing traces of burning. A late Roman date is suggested.

8. Possible topstone

Above *via praetoria* (north), Norman clay bank, 455 (82CL), S64 (*fig. 19.2*)

The lower and wider part of the hopper taking a pivot. Carboniferous sandstone. GJ would accept a late Roman date, but would prefer it to be early medieval.

9. Topstone with hopper

Over west granary, Anglo-Saxon, 101R1 (78B1), S66 (*fig. 19.2*)

Probably had an iron spindle. Carboniferous sandstone. GJ suggests a late Roman date onwards.

10. Topstone, possibly a manufacturing reject

North of west granary, Anglo-Saxon, 135R1 (78FC), S67 (*fig. 19.2*)

Carboniferous sandstone. GJ suggests a late Roman date.

Quern from the excavations at the Bridge Hotel in 1995–6

A. T. Croom

11. Topstone (D(approx.):600mm B:80mm).

Bridge Hotel excavations, 18.2

Approximately 45% of a sandstone sub-circular upper stone with a collar around the eye. The grinding surface has a pecked surface, and there are traces of burning round the outer edge. It is possible from the size of this stone that it was used in a geared mill.

Parallels: South Shields, Welfare 1983, fig. 85, no. 2.

