

Chellaston Boulton Moor Fields 3 and 4

## The worked stone

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A quarter fragment of a Millstone Grit lower rotary quern of typical Roman form was found on the surface at Boulton Moor. Two additional fragments of Millstone Grit querns were recovered from context 7500 and pit fill 7534, the latter of these certainly from a rotary quern, and the former too small for type to be identified. Five further fragments of Millstone Grit representing two items were found during evaluation phases (7504, 7507) and might also be from querns, but are too small to be certainly identified. There is some variation in the rock type, suggesting that five querns are represented.

A fragment of large rubber was found in pit 7553 (7554). This is a large cobble that is well smoothed on one face and along one edge creating a slight facet. It could be residual from Iron Age activity nearby or might well be contemporary with the Roman activity. Saddle querns and rubbers remained in use, possibly with a different function following the introduction of the rotary quern.

The querns and rubber are indicative of general domestic activity and the preparation of food. The use of Millstone Grit is typical, with major production of these querns known to have occurred in Derbyshire during the Roman period, probably alongside smaller scale manufacturing.

Two further pieces of stone found during evaluation phases are of less certain identifications. One piece of sandstone has pock marks on one face and grooves on the edge at right angles to it (7507). It is roughly oblong shaped and is probably building stone but could possibly be a reworked millstone. The same context produced a large block of sandstone with one flat face and two flat edges. This was presumably used as building stone but does not retain any tool marks suggesting it was dressed.

## Catalogue of worked stone

**Rotary quern.** Millstone Grit. Coarse grained gritty slightly feldspathic sandstone, but not fresh surface. Small circumference fragment with part of curved edge and flat pecked and worn face. Measurements are indeterminate. Weighs 45g. Ctx 7534. Fill of pit 7671

**Quern.** Millstone Grit. Medium - coarse grained poorly sorted sandstone containing lots of grit. Fragment with flat pecked grinding surface and rounded pecked outer face. Top and centre do not survive. This could be from a rotary quern, but it looks more likely to be from a saddle quern. Measures >95mm long x >110mm wide x 85mm thick. Weighs 1228g. SF5. Ctx 7500.

**Rubber.** Fine grained micaceous red sandstone. Fragment of large cobble, burnt with one flat worn face, used for rubbing. One edge adjacent to the main rubbing face has also been worn through use creating a slightly faceted edge. Measures >90mm long x 120mm wide x 52mm thick. Weighs 784g. Ctx 7554. Fill of pit 7553.

**Lower rotary quern.** Millstone Grit. Typical coarse gritty feldspathic gritstone. Fragment with roughly worked flat base, straight vertical pecked edges and sloped straight pecked grinding surface

with some rotational wear. Eye is missing. Measures >450mm diameter x 65mm thick. SF 1. Unstratified.

**Possible quern or millstone fragment.** Millstone Grit. Two adjoining pieces. One possible tooled face, but no edges or centre. Weighs 1884g + 1689g. Weighs 3573g. Ctx 7504. Pit fill

**Possible quern or millstone fragment.** Millstone Grit, slightly finer grained. Three adjoining fragments of flat stone. Both faces possibly worked and worn but no obvious pecking nor edges or centre. Weighs 1618g. Ctx 7507. Pit fill

**Possible building slab or millstone fragment.** Sandstone. Approximately oblong piece with deep spaced pecking on one face and grooves on what might be the edge, fine grained sandstone, c3000g. Weighs 3000g. Ctx 7507. Pit fill

**Structural slab.** Sandstone. Medium to coarse grained well sorted micaceous sandstone with occasional small rounded quartz clast. Large block/slab with one flat worn face and two flat edges. Presumably used structurally, although no evidence of tool marks survives. Ctx 7507. Pit fill