Burton Dassett Southend

Part 2 Section 8.9

Domestic Stonework

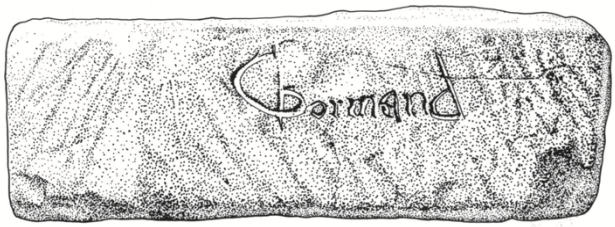
by
Iain Soden, John Crossling
and Nicholas Palmer

and

Part 2 Section 8.10

Architectural Stonework

by
Iain Soden



The results of the excavations conducted at Burton Dassett Southend 1986-88, together with subsequent fieldwork (fieldwalking, and recording of the Chapel and Priest's House) are disseminated in two parts.

Part 1 is the printed volume *Burton Dassett Southend, Warwickshire: A Medieval Market Village* by Nicholas Palmer and Jonathan Parkhouse, Society-for Medieval Archaeology Monograph 44 (2022). The printed volume contains the following sections:

1. Introduction and background (aims and origin of the project, key issues, archaeological and historical contexts, fieldwork scope and methodology, summaries of earthwork survey and fieldwalking)
2. The archaeological sequence (summary of the structural evidence, ordered by phase)
3 Spatial organisation and the buildings at Southend
4 Daily life and economy at Southend
5 Conclusion
Bibliography

Part 2 consists of a series of digital files in .pdf and .xlsx format, available via the Archaeological Data Service at https://doi.org/10.5284/1083492. Whilst Part 1 is a free-standing narrative, Part 2 includes the detailed descriptions and specialist analyses underpinning the printed volume. It consists of the following sections:

6.1 Geology by John Crossling
6.2 Soils by Magdalen Snape
6.3 Earthwork survey by Nicholas Palmer
6.4 Excavation methods by Nicholas Palmer
6.5 Dovehouse Close fieldwalking 1987 & Chapel Ground fieldwalking 1991 by Nicholas Palmer
7. Fieldwork (detailed description of the structural evidence at individual context level, ordered by area/tenement and phase) by Nicholas Palmer
8.1 Medieval pottery by Stephanie Rátkai
8.2 Coins and jettons by Wilfred Seaby
8.3 Copper alloy objects by Alison R Goodall with contribution by Dr John Blair
8.4 Analyses of copper alloy objects by Dr Roger Brownsword and E E H Pitt
8.5 Pewter objects by Brian Spencer and Nicholas Palmer, with analyses of pewter spoons by Dr Roger Brownsword and E E H Pitt
8.6 Lead objects by Nicholas Palmer
8.7 Ironwork by Dr Ian H Goodall, with spurs by Blanche Ellis
8.8 Bone, jet, glass and miscellaneous by Iain Soden and Nicholas Palmer
8.9 Domestic stonework by Iain Soden, John Crossling and Nicholas Palmer
8.10 Architectural stonework by Iain Soden
8.11 Stone roofing material by Nicholas Palmer
8.12 Roof tiles and ceramic artefacts by Susan Lisk
8.13 Archaeometallurgical investigation of the smithy and other evidence by Dr J G McDonnell and Alison Mills
8.14 Coal by Dr A H V Smith
8.15 Human remains by Ann Stirland
8.16 Clay tobacco pipe by Nicholas Palmer
8.17 Flint by Dr L H Barfield
8.18 Late Bronze Age pottery by Alistair Barclay
8.19 Roman and Saxon pottery by Paul Booth
8.20 Faunal remains by Julie Hamilton
8.21 Plant economy by Lisa Moffett
8.22 Radiocarbon dating of spelt wheat by Rupert Housley
8.23 Archaeomagnetic dating of hearths by Paul Linford
9. Miscellaneous data tables

The bibliography, incorporating all the works cited in Part 1 and Part 2, is also available digitally.

DOMESTIC STONEWORK

by Iain Soden, John Crossling and Nicholas Palmer

1-6 Mortars *(Figures 8.9.1 – 8.9.3)*

The mortar fragments range from a fine, decorated fragment of Purbeck marble (no 1) to much rougher examples made of the local ironstone, 'Hornton stone' (nos 2-3).

1. Rim fragment of mortar, decorated inside with relief carving of figure with hands pressed together and head, possibly helmeted, at angle to body; outside pecked, top smooth. Fossiliferous limestone mottled pink and greenish buff; Purbeck Marble (Upper Jurassic). Diam *c*310mm, Ht 89mm max, Th 22-28mm. (D Unstrat).

Burton Dassett lies on the north-western edge of the distribution of Purbeck Marble mortars (Dunning 1977, 323-7, fig 146), although there are examples known from Oxford , from mid/late 13th-, mid 14th- and late 15th-century contexts (Palmer 1980, fig 35, fiche 2 D06, nos 16, 18 and un-numbered); Northampton, from a later 15th-century context (Dunning 1979, 284, fig 124); and Coventry, from a context of *c*1300 (Wright and Stewart 1987, 100, fig 54 no 17).
The carved decoration, which must have formed a frieze around the top of the inside, is unparalleled, although there is a mortar from Wharram Percy decorated around the *outside* of its rim (Andrews and Milne 1979, 128, fig 69 no 23).

2. Base and side fragment of small, oval mortar, with diagonally placed, rounded lug handles, traces of three surviving out of four. Roughly tooled inside and out, some wear on bottom. Arenaceous ferruginous limestone; Jurassic Marlstone Rock Formation, `Hornton Stone′. The closest outcrop is on the Burton Dassett Hills overlooking the site. *c*205mm x *c*185mm, Ht. 123mm; internal *c*145m x *c*135mm, depth 90mm. (756/1, ph D15, mid/late 15c).

3. Base and handle fragments (joining) of circular mortar with one round-sectioned loop handle and one opposing lug handle (possibly cut down from broken loop). Roughly tooled inside and out, no wear. Arenaceous ferruginous limestone; Jurassic Marlstone Rock Formation, `Hornton Stone′. Diam 293mm, Th sides 37-55mm base 102mm, Ht 185mm max. (Handle: 697, ph D26, late 15c; base: 810/1, ph D24, early/mid 15c, built into wall).

4. Rim fragment of small mortar with square lipped spout. Inside smooth, outside weathered, rim burnt. Creamy very fine grained porcellaneous limestone; `White Lias′ or Langport Member (Upper Triassic) of which the nearest outcrops are at Compton Verney, Lighthorne and Moreton Morrell. Diam *c*140mm, Depth *c*60mm, Th 19-28mm. (2188, ph K5, early 15c demolition).

5. Base fragment of mortar, sloping sided, bottom worn down. Creamy white oolitic limestone; unusually pale, possibly Great Oolite limestone (Middle Jurassic), of which the nearest sizeable outcrop is just south of Sibford Ferris in Oxfordshire. Diam 210mm max, Th 24-44mm, Ht 135mm max. (2055, ph I5, mid 15c demolition).

6. Fragments (joining) from mortar with four tapering lug handles, one with runnel with three parallel grooves. One side has a deep (100mm) semicircular cut out of it, another a slight worn depression. Vertical tooling on outside, inside smooth but with a group of deep vertical scratches, bottom unevenly worn. Buff coloured medium grained calcareous sandstone, grains predominantly quartz with a lesser amount of feldspar and a small amount of muscovite mica, moderately well cemented. Possibly Permo-Triassic Sandstone from the Midlands. 330mm x 320mm, Ht 240mm; internal Diam 250mm, depth 185mm. (368, ph D28, topsoil; 1209, ph D26, late 15c).

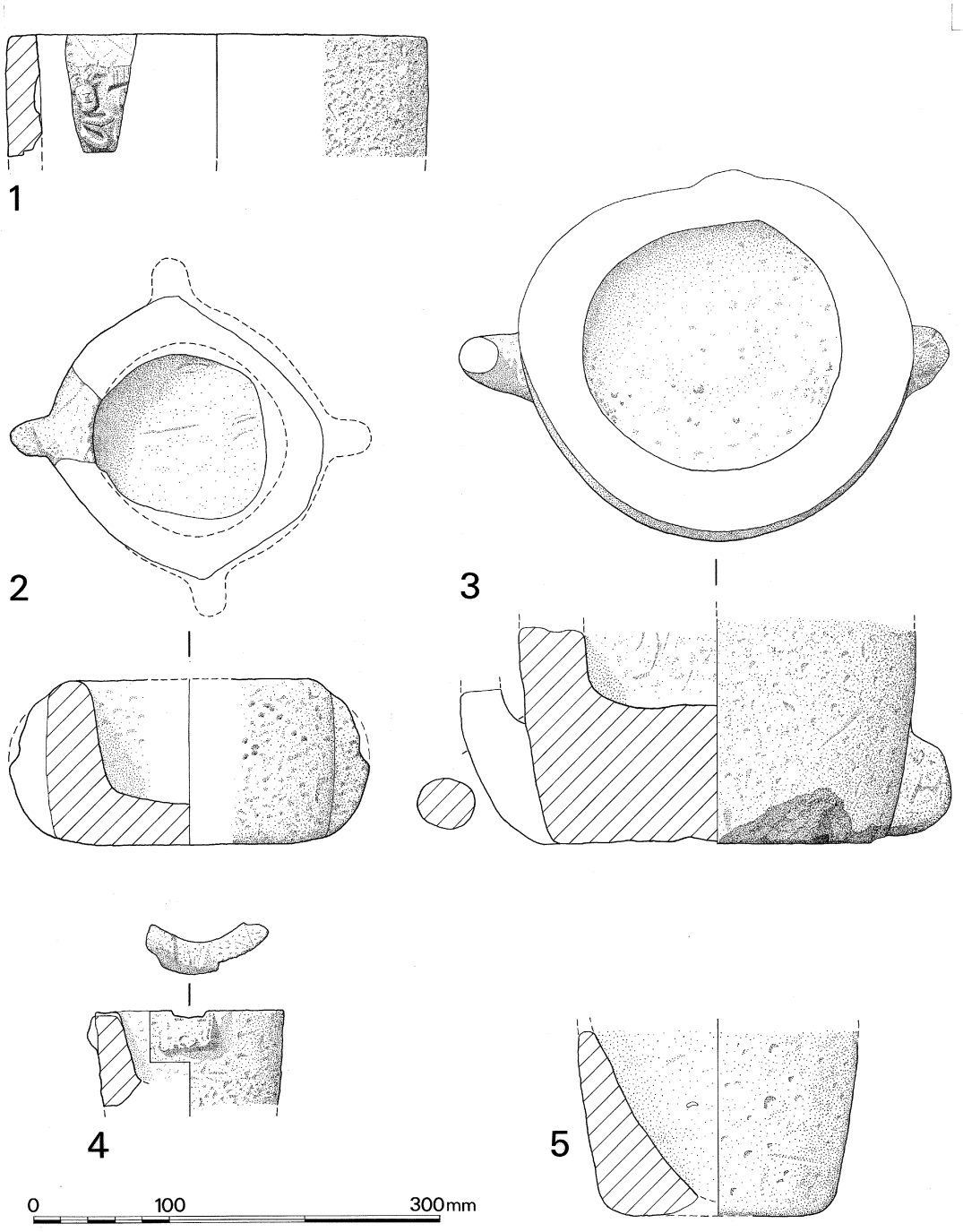


Figure 8.9.1: Domestic Stonework:
Mortars 1-5

Figure 8.9.2:
Decorated Purbeck marble mortar fragment (Domestic Stonework no. 1)

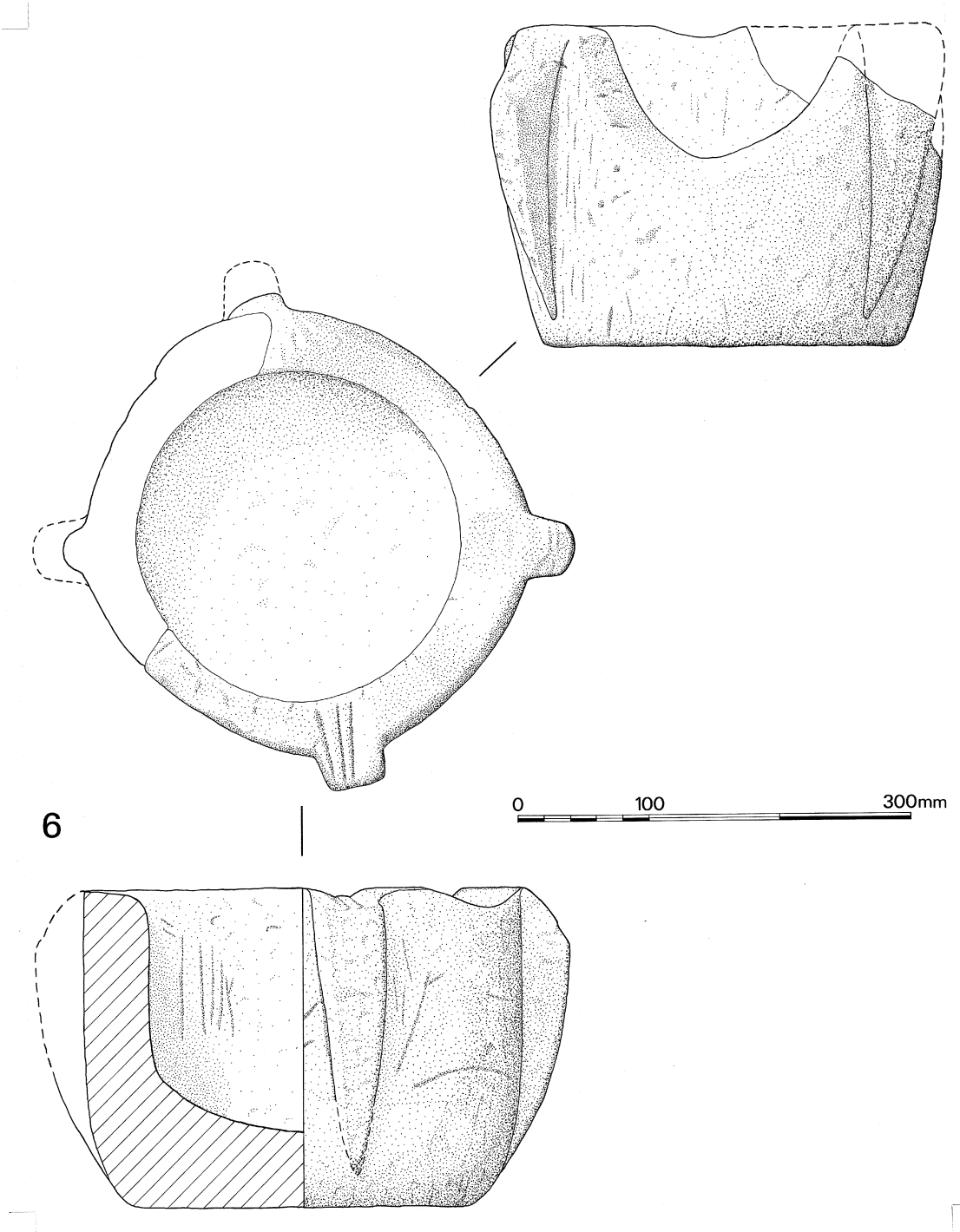


Figure 8.9.3: Domestic Stonework: Mortar 6

7-26 Querns *(Figures 8.9.4 – 8.9.5; nos 11-14, 18, 20, 21, 24, 26 unillustrated)*

The majority of the quern fragments are coarse gritstones and conglomerates but there is also a second, less numerous, group of lavas. Most of the fragments are imported from sources in Britain and abroad well known for quern and millstone production in the medieval period, and before and since: Derbyshire, Penallt/Forest of Dean and Mayen/Niedermendig in North Germany (Tucker 1977, 13-14; Crawford and Roder 1955, 68-76). Querns from the same sources are also found on Roman sites in the area (Palmer forthcoming; Evans and Crossling 1994; Booth and Crossling 2001).

7-14 Millstone Grit

Nos 7-14 make up the largest group of one identical rock type. The rock is a pinkish buff coarse sandstone or grit containing a number of scattered angular predominantly white or transparent quartz fragments, up to 13mm, together with a lesser quantity of pink iron stained quartz fragments. Pink feldspar fragments are also quite abundant and dark ferro-magnesium minerals make up most of the balance of the material of the rock. Carboniferous Millstone Grit, possibly from the Derbyshire area (Tucker 1977, 13).

No 7 displays obvious layers where there is a concentration of coarser material. This may represent graded bedding. No 10. is predominantly finer grained than the others but the particle make up is so similar that it probably derives from the same source, but from a different less coarse horizon.

7. Lower stone rim fragment? Flat surface. Diam *c*550mm, Th 92mm. Grooved on two faces from reuse as a sharpening stone before incorporation into a wall. (2025/1, ph H2, early/mid- late 13c).

8. Lower stone fragment. Sloping surface with parallel radial grooves. Th 50mm x 170mm max. (2052, ph I5, mid 15c demolition).

9. Upper stone fragment? Th 45mm max x 90mm max. (767, ph D15, mid/late 15c).

10. Upper stone fragment. Top smooth and well finished. Diam *c*400mm, Th 65mm max. (927/4, ph D15, mid/late 15c).

11. Lower stone fragments. Sloping surface. Th 72mm max x 130mm max. (2055, ph I5, mid 15c demolition).

12. Two lower stone fragments (non-joining). Flat/slightly sloping surface. Both burnt. Th 46mm x 120mm max. (2187/1, ph K3, early 14c); Th 55mm x 132mm max. (2234, ph K5, early 15c demolition).

13. Fragment. Th 80mm max x 35mm max. (66, ph A6, late 15c demolition).

14. Fragment. Th 62mm max x 130mm max. (2055, ph I5, mid 15c demolition).

15-18 Coarse sandstone/gritstone

Nos 15-18 are also a coarse sandstone/gritstone but one that is slightly greyer in appearance and has a markedly different make up. The majority of the grains are again milky quartz but generally

smaller in size. The larger particles are predominantly white ?mudstone with a few larger clasts (up to 17mm across) of brown mudstone. The mudstone fragments are slightly rounded and the cement is very slightly calcareous. Not local, and probably not Millstone Grit.

15. Lower stone rim fragment. Flat surface? Diam c450mm, Th 38mm. (66, ph A6, late 15c demolition).

16. Lower stone rim fragment. Sloping surface. Diam *c*450mm, Th 52mm. (50/1, ph A7, *c*17c).

17. Lower stone rim fragment. Sloping surface. Diam *c*400mm, Th 55mm. (2040, ph I5, mid 15c demolition).

18. Lower stone fragment. Th 58mm max x 95mm max. (2133, ph H4, mid/late 14c).

19-21 Old Red Sandstone Conglomerate

Nos 19-21 consist of a very distinctive coarse pinkish quartz conglomerate. The largest clasts are rounded vein quartz pebbles with a few brown siltstones. The material is very poorly sorted and shows only limited signs of bedding. In this instance the pink colouration is secondary and may be due to iron staining from haematite. This material is Old Red Sandstone conglomerate from the Forest of Dean or from the known millstone quarries at Penallt, Gwent (Tucker 1977, 13-14).

19. Upper stone rim fragment. Sloping surface. Diam *c*350mm, Th 88mm. (867, ph E6, late 15c).

20. Fragment. Th 45mm x 72mm max. (2283, ph K4, mid 14/early 15c).

21. Fragment. Th 68mm max x 105mm max. (other fragments discarded). (2296, ph K3, early 14c).

22-24 Lava

Nos 22-23 are a grey vesicular andesitic lava, with uniform vesicles (<4mm) and sparse presence of a white mineral. This is consistent with the description of the Mayen or Niedermendig tephrite lava from the Eifel Hills of Germany (Peacock 1980, 49; Crawford and Röder 1955). No 24 is markedly different in character. It is a small fragment of grey vesicular andesite, with fewer vesicles, some smaller and some considerably larger, occasionally with amygdaloidal mineral growth.

22. Lower stone rim fragment. Flat surface. Diam *c*450mm, Th 27mm. (2236, ph K5, early 15c demolition).

23. Two lower stone fragments (non-joining). Flat surface with parallel radial grooves. Possible spindle hole. Th 80mm x 175mm max; Th 80mm x 125mm max. (Unstrat. Found in garden of Home Farm Cottages, Little Dassett, SP 39075199).

24. Fragment. 75mm max. (369/5, ph F8, topsoil).

25-26 Others

25. Upper stone rim fragment. Dark grey/brown medium grained well cemented sandstone. Not local; just possibly from a fine grained horizon of Millstone Grit. Flat surface. Groove on top. Th 50mm x 70mm max. (1209, ph D26, late 15c).

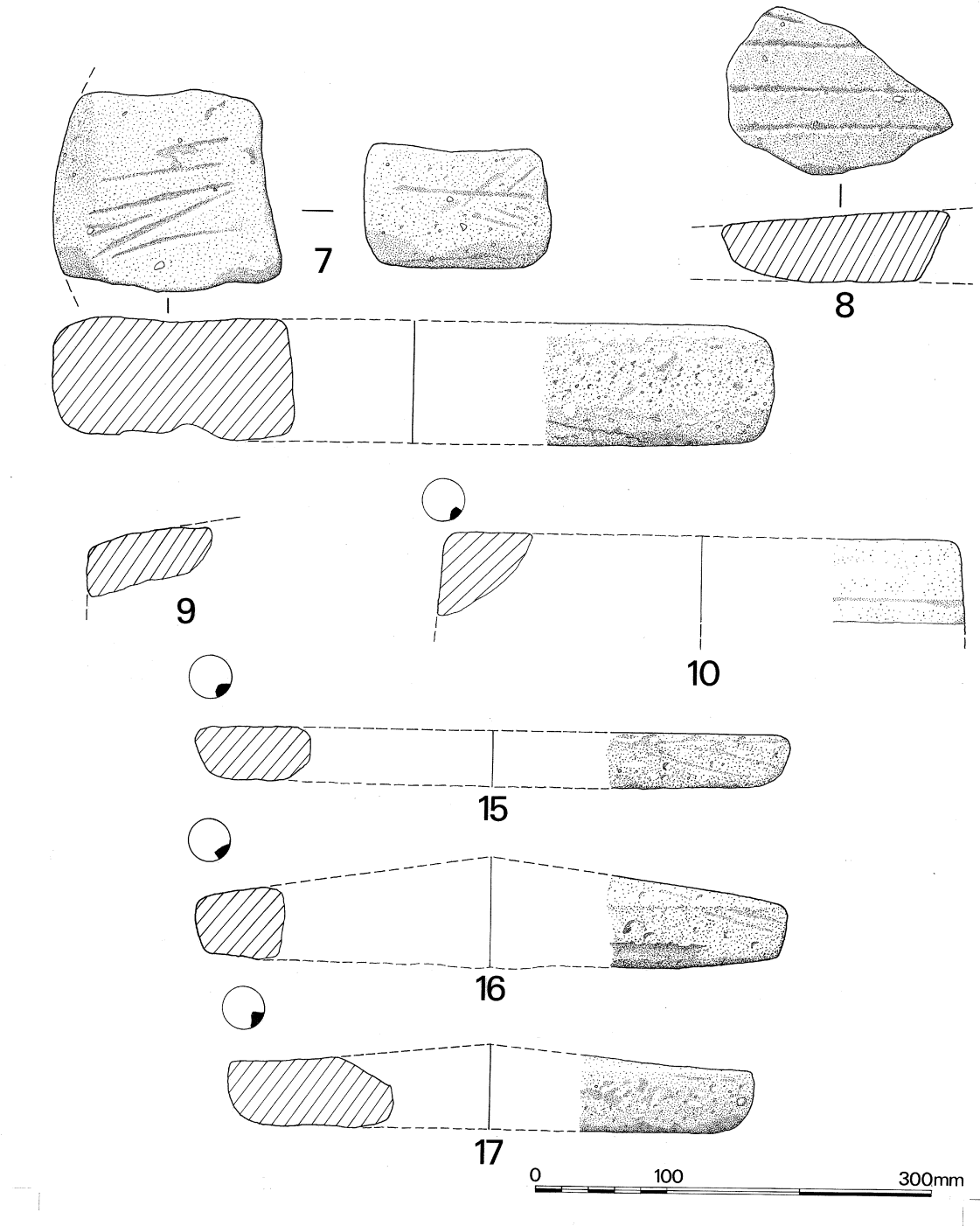


Figure 8.9.4
Domestic Stonework: Querns 7-17

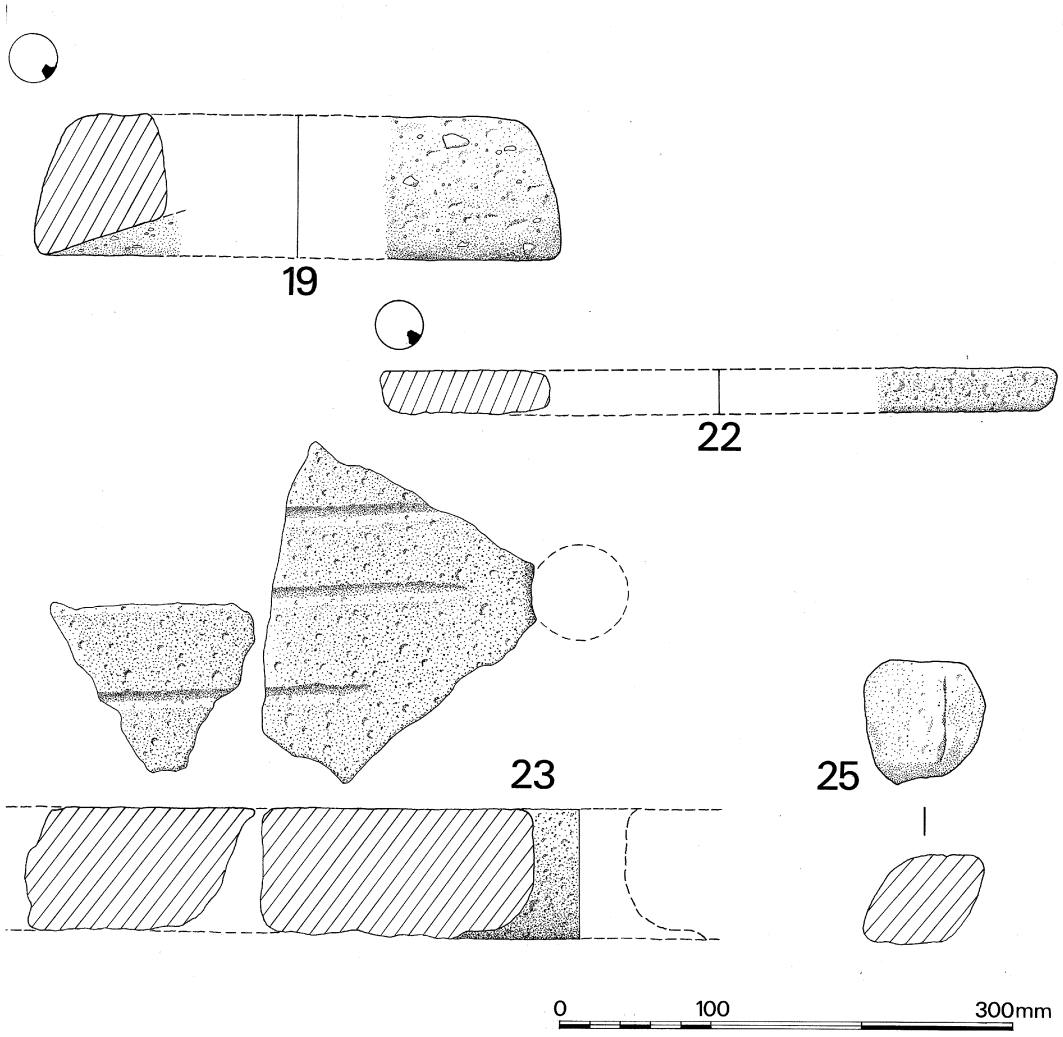


Figure 8.9.5
Domestic Stonework: Querns 19-25

26. Upper stone rim fragment. Red/brown medium grained sandstone with a rather sugary texture that suggests it has been subjected to considerable heat and has started to transform into a quartzite. Not local but there are many areas where sandstones have been subjected to heat and pressure where it could have come from; Scotland, the Lake District or even Wales are possible origins. Top smooth and well finished. Th 25mm max x 48mm max. (1164, ph F4, early/mid 15c).

27-88 Hones *(Figures 8.9.6 – 8.9.7)*

The site produced a large group of 62 hone fragments which have been divided into seven types and a miscellaneous category according to rock type. The large majority are purpose- made hones but nos 87 and 88 may reflect opportunistic use of material found around the site. Some of the rock types were widely traded: the type 1 schist and type 3 purple phyllite hones, which make up over half the assemblage, are imported items, common on English sites but with a north European distribution (Moore 1978, 61-73; Moore and Oakley 1979, 280-3; Ellis and Moore 1990, 279-87). Others are of more local origin; types 2, 4, 5 and 6 all probably from within Warwickshire, types 2 and 6 from the north of the county.

There is no pattern to the chronological distribution of types although the number of type 5 (Triassic sandstone) hones from fieldwalking suggests that these continued in use into the post medieval period.

(Thin sections of nos 39, 48, 52, 63, 69, 79, 83, 84 and 88 are held in the site archive).

27-62 Type 1: Quartz mica schist

The largest group is composed of quartz biotite muscovite schist (Ellis Type IA(1)) (Ellis 1969, 137-43). Although the nearest source of such material is the Moine Schist in Scotland, it also occurs in Scandinavia and in the light of the well documented trade in `Norwegian ragstone′ schist hones from quarries at Eidsborg, Norway (Moore 1985, 65) the latter seems the likely source. Within the type there were two groups, separated by colour and proportion of mica to quartz, type 1b being blue-grey and having a higher proportion of mica than the more pale- grey type 1a. This division corresponds to two facies of Norwegian Ragstone, blue-grey
`Hardstein′ and silver-grey `Blaustein′ (Moore 1985, 65).

Type 1a: Grey quartz biotite muscovite schist

27. Irregular fragment, L 67mm. (238/1, ph A2, late 13c).

28. Waisted, L 31mm. (2263, ph K5, early 15c demolition).

29. Damaged fragment, L 54mm. (1776, ph D14, early/mid 15c).

30. Waisted, damaged fragment, L 45mm. (1790, ph D14, early/mid 15c).

31. Waisted, end fragment, L 54mm. (1578/2, ph D24, early/mid 15c).

32. Waisted, L 56mm. (2096, ph I4, early/mid 15c)

33. Waisted, L 55mm. (2052, ph I5, mid 15c demolition).

34. Slight wear, L 70mm. (2052, ph I5, mid 15c demolition).

35. Damaged fragment, L 112mm. (2045, ph W3, mid 15c demolition).

36. Waisted, groove on one face, L 84mm. (2062, ph W3, mid 15c demolition).

37. L 56mm. (513, ph D15, mid/late 15c).

38. Waisted, groove on one face, L 80mm. (1202, ph D25, mid/late 15c).

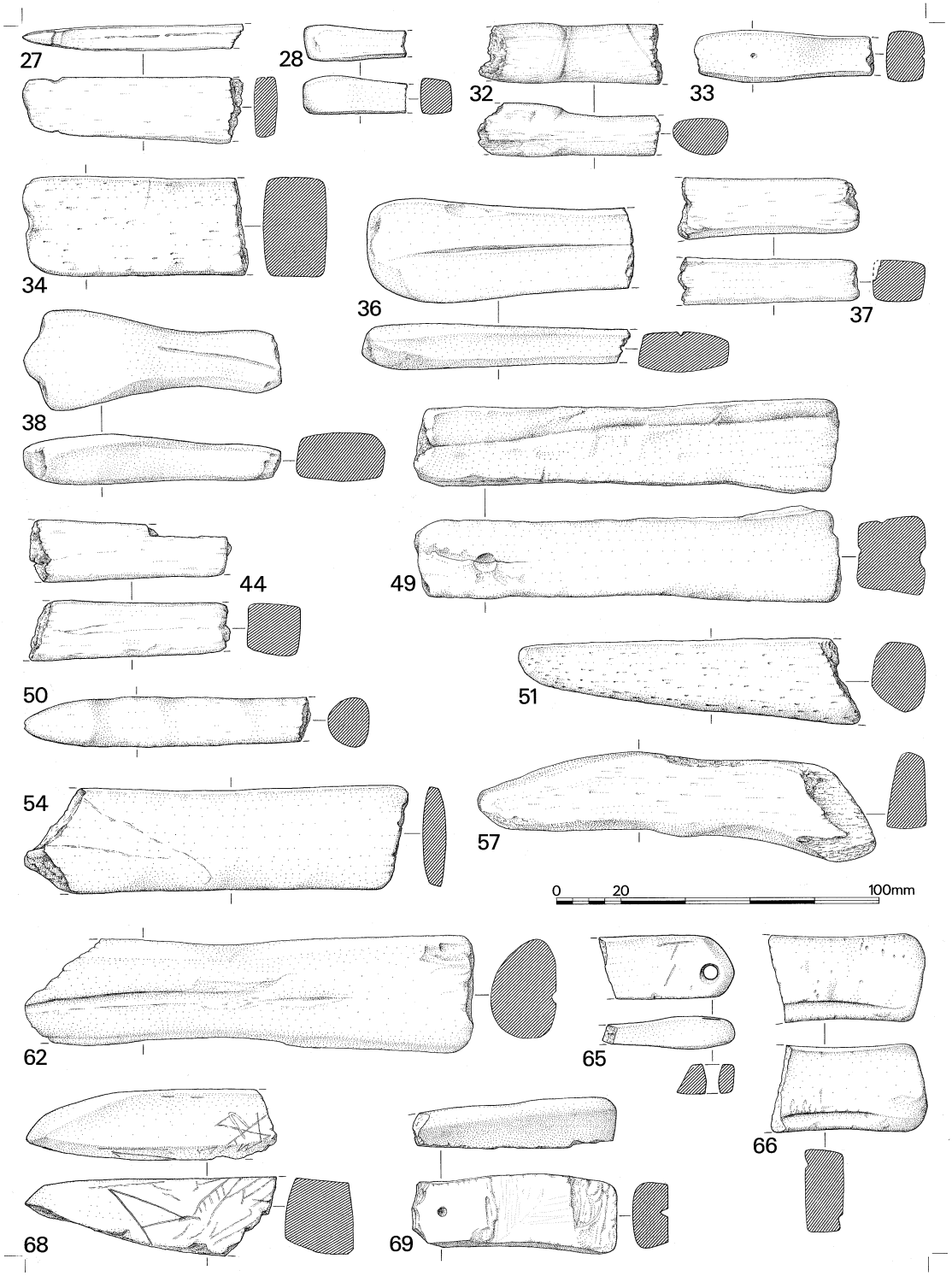


Figure 8.9.6
Domestic Stonework: Hones 27-69

39. Slightly waisted, groove on one face, L 41mm. (A 7, ph A6, late 15c demolition).

40. Irregular fragment, L 44mm. (7/2, ph A6, late 15c demolition).

41. End fragment, L 73mm. (1203, ph D26, late 15c).

42. Fragment, L 67mm. (697, ph D26, late 15c).

43. Fragment, L 35mm. (310/2, ph D17, topsoil).

44. Slightly waisted, L 62mm. (368, ph D28, topsoil).

45. Fragment, L 15mm. (368/2, ph D28, topsoil).

46. Two grooves on one face, L 81mm. (368/4, ph D28, topsoil).

47. Damaged fragment, L 49mm. (2013, ph H8, topsoil).

48. Fragment, L 42mm. (2013, ph H8, topsoil).

Type 1b: Blue-grey quartz biotite muscovite schist with cavities probably representing weathered out feldspars.

49. Central grooves on opposed faces, attempt at piercing, L 132mm. (2056/1, ph I2, early/mid-late 13c).

50. Fragment with worn point, L 89mm. (2234, ph K5, early 15c demolition).

51. Fragment with worn point, L 105mm. (2235, ph K5, early 15c demolition).

52. Slightly waisted end fragment, L 72mm. (2236, ph K5, early 15c demolition).

53. Sub-rectangular, L 71mm. (2047, ph W2, early/mid 15c).

54. Evenly waisted, L 121mm. (1665/3, ph E5, early/mid 15c).

55. Fragment, L 54mm. (2040, ph I5, mid 15c demolition).

56. Curved fragment, L 74mm. (1202, ph D25, mid/late 15c).

57. Irregular, very waisted, L 124mm. (31, ph A6, late 15c demolition).

58. Central longitudinal groove, L 88mm. (1142, ph E6, late 15c).

59. Waisted, L 75mm. (682/1, ph D27, late 15c demolition).

60. Slightly waisted, L 64mm. (369/1, ph E8, topsoil).

61. Slightly waisted, L 73mm. (369/2, ph E8, topsoil).

62. Slightly waisted, L 140mm. (2011, ph I6, topsoil).

63-67 Type 2: Coal measure sandstones

Grey, fine grained sandstone with muscovite mica. Possibly from the Eastern margins of the Warwickshire coalfield, Westphalian A or B, from Griff/Chilvers Coton. No 63 has small scale current bedding in carbonaceous material.

63. Fragment, L 38mm. (2432, ph H1, 12c-early 13c).

64. Worn to a `chisel′ point, L. 62mm. (2125, ph H4, mid/late 14c).

65. Slightly waisted, pierced for suspension, L 41mm. (2043, ph I5, mid 15c demolition).

66. End fragment, grooves on opposing faces, L 48mm. (695, ph D26, late 15c).

67. Broken end worn by use, L 35mm. (F Unstrat).

68-69 Type 3: Purple Phyllite

Quartz muscovite metasiltstone, very fine grained (Ellis type IB(1), Ellis 1969, 144-6). Uncertain provenance, probably Norwegian or German (Moore 1985, 68).

68. Worn to a point, L 79mm. (1260, ph D26, late 15c).

69. Attempted piercing, L 64mm. (2484, ph L3, topsoil).

70-71 Type 4: possible Triassic Sandstone

Medium to fine grained sandstone. Predominantly quartz with small amounts of muscovite mica, sparse iron-magnesium minerals, very well cemented. Possibly Bromsgrove Sandstone, ‘Warwick stone’.

70. Large fragment, wear on one face. *c*135mm x *c*110mm x *c*63mm. (2040, ph I5, mid 15c demolition).

71. Rectangular fragment, inscribed with the patterns of a board for `Nine Men′s Morris′, a game popular in the middle ages. Other contemporary examples of boards inscribed on stone are known from Treworld and elsewhere in Cornwall (Dudley and Minter 1966, 56-7, fig 17 nos 1-2), Salisbury (Saunders and Saunders 1991, 174, fig 51 no 53, from Old Sarum) and Castle Acre Castle, Norfolk (Coad and Streeten, 1982, 260-1). The small size of the board may mean that it was only a design and not for actual play. The reverse side is inscribed with another rectangular design. L 54mm. (839, ph E7, late 15c demolition).

72-82 Type 5: Triassic Sandstone

All primarily quartz with muscovite and biotite mica, sparse iron-magnesium minerals and occasional feldspar. The source could be one of a number of Warwickshire quarries.

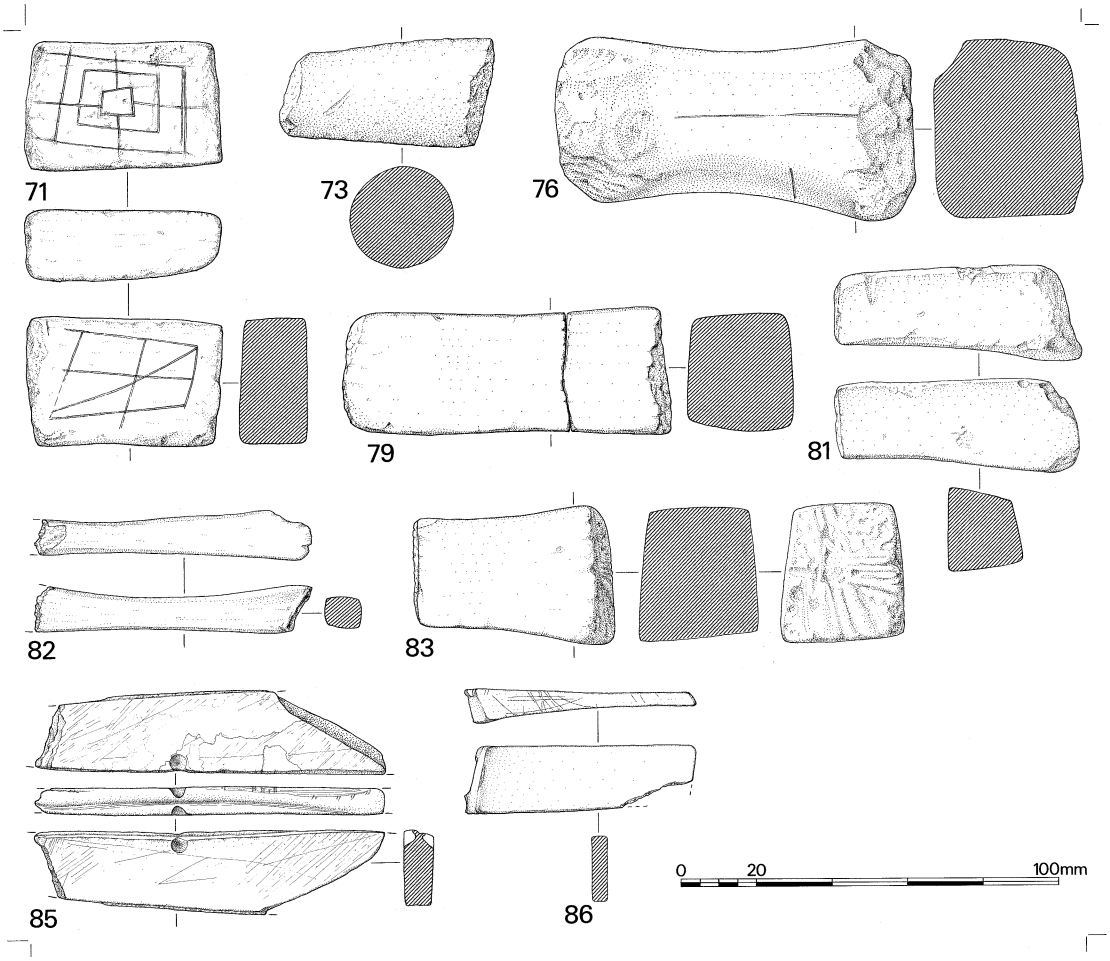


Figure 8.9.7
Domestic Stonework: Hones 71-86

5a: Coarser grained Triassic sandstone.

72. Slightly waisted, L 36mm. (1202, ph D25, mid/late 15c).

73. Slightly waisted, L 58mm. (1111, Z6, fieldwalking).

74. Slightly waisted, L 68mm. (1117, Z6, fieldwalking).

75. Grooved on one face, shallow gouge in end, L 45mm. (Unstrat, BD87 fieldwalking).

5b: Medium grained Triassic sandstone.

76. Waisted, L 92mm. (1134, ph D25, mid/late 15c).

77. Fragment, L 26mm. (683/1, ph D27, late 15c demolition).

78. End fragment, one face grooved, L 71mm. (1068, Z3, fieldwalking).

79. End fragment, L 90mm. (1069, Z3, fieldwalking).

80. Waisted, L 31mm. (2523, BD91 fieldwalking).

5c: Finer grained Triassic sandstone.

81. Slightly waisted, L 66mm. (1275/1, ph D24, early/mid 15c).

82. Slightly waisted, L 73mm. (36, ph A5, mid/late 15c).

83-84 Type 6: Calcareous Sandstones

Fine grained, highly calcareous sandstone, well sorted, slightly micaceous (muscovite and biotite), possibly from the Warwickshire coalfield, although similar calcareous sandstones occur in the Keele formations. No 83 is slightly coarser grained, with more quartz and rare mica.

83. Slightly waisted, sharpening grooves at one end forming a cross, L 55mm. (2428, ph K1, 12c-early 13c).

84. Fragment, L 132mm. (1214, ph D26, late 15c).

85-86 Type 7: Welsh Slate

Quartz veined, high quality slate.

85. Attempted piercing, L 95mm. (926, ph D27, late 15c demolition).

86. Fragment, L 62mm. (1/1, ph A8, topsoil).

87-88 Miscellaneous fragments

87. Fine grained, red/brown muscovite mica sandstone. Laminated, slightly flexed (probably a tectonic feature). Possibly Hartshill, Precambrian/Cambrian quartzite. Irregular fragment. (682/1, ph D27, late 15c demolition).

88. Very fine grained chloritic siltstone, with quartz biotite muscovite and chlorite, possibly exposed to low grade contact metamorphism. L 72mm. (D Unstrat).

89-96 Spindlewhorls *(Figure 8.9.8)*

Eight stone spindlewhorls all are of local Blue Lias Formation (Jurassic) limestone. It is possible that there was a small local industry producing such articles, perhaps even in Southend which is no more than a mile from where the closest Blue Lias Formation outcrops occur.

89. Spindlewhorl. Diam 30mm, Ht 15mm, bore 11mm. (1326, ph F3, early 14c).

90. Spindlewhorl. Diam 31mm, Ht 15mm, bore 9mm. (2105, ph I3, 14c).

91. Spindlewhorl. Diam 24mm, Ht 16mm, bore 9mm. (1132, ph D24, early/mid 15c).

92. Spindlewhorl fragment. Diam 30mm, Ht 20mm, bore 9mm. (1288/5, ph D24, early/mid 15c).

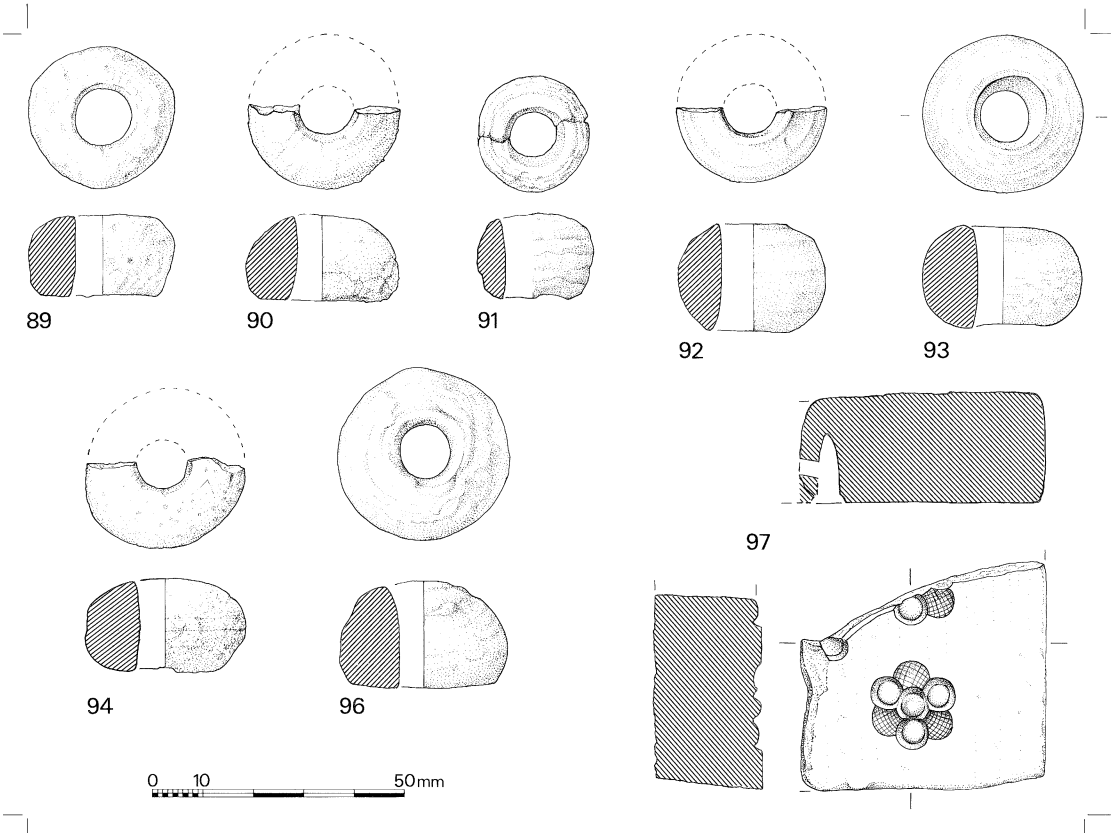


Figure 8.9.8
Domestic Stonework: Spindle whorls 89-96, mould 97

93. Spindlewhorl. Diam. 33mm, Ht 19mm, bore 10mm. (430, ph D15, mid/late 15c).

94. Spindlewhorl fragment. Diam 32mm, Ht 16mm, bore 9mm. (625, ph D15, mid/late 15c).

95. Spindlewhorl fragment. Diam *c*24mm, Ht 12mm. (1, ph A8, topsoil).

96. Spindlewhorl, scorched. Diam 36mm, Ht 19mm, bore 9mm. (2103, ph H7, 16c?).

97 Mould *(Figure 8.9.8)*

97. Mould fragment, 47mm x 42mm x 21mm, in Local Blue Lias Formation limestone (Jurassic), for casting sexfoil, floral mounts, probably in pewter as the mould showed no surface trace of having been used to cast in copper alloy (information from Roger Brownsword). The mounts, of which one and part of a second survived (diam 18mm, depth of relief 2-3mm), had alternate cross hatched and plain petals around a plain centre. (369/2, ph E8, topsoil).

Similar metalworking moulds have been found in large quantities in Coventry and others have come from Worcester and London (Telford 1956, 3-8; Carver 1980, 201, fig 61; Egan and Pritchard 1991, 239, fig 154). However examples in stone and clay have also been found on a number of village sites (West Whelpington, Jarrett 1970, 292, no 19, pl 31, 2 (stone); Lyveden, Bryant and Steane 1969, 36, fig 15i (clay); Hangleton, Holden 1963, 150-1, fig 30 no 4 (clay)), where they were presumably discarded by itinerant metalworkers. Isolated examples should therefore not be taken to suggest extensive metalworking activity.

ARCHITECTURAL STONEWORK

by Iain Soden

Forty nine fragments of architectural stonework were collected from the site. All were of local ironstone from the Marlstone Rock Formation, so-called 'Hornton stone', and presumably came from quarries on the hills to the east of the site along with virtually all the building stone. About half the fragments were from door and window surrounds; most of the rest were sockets for timberwork, along with a few pieces from fixtures such as troughs, a drain and a hearth. Although few were found in situ, most of the fragments will have derived from the excavated buildings. Only two items seem out of place and may have come from elsewhere: a fragment of tracery (no 13) and the moulded drain/gutter head (no 45) which could have come in rubble from the parish church or possibly the manor house. On the other hand a number of surviving sub-manorial medieval houses in the region had traceried windows in their halls, including Leadenporch House, Deddington, Priory Farm, Balscott, and Grange Farm, Balscott (Wood-Jones 1962, 31-6, fig 6, 42-9, figs 8-9, and 49-52, fig 10).

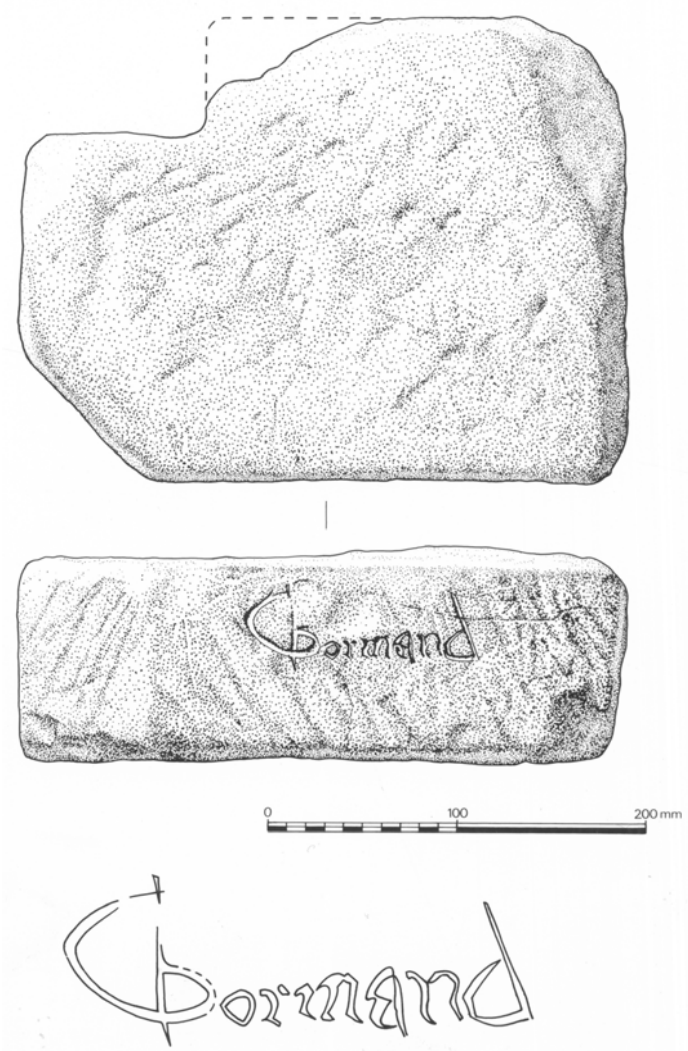


Figure 8.10.1
Architectural Stonework

Figure 8.10.2
Door jamb inscribed with the name Gormand (Architectural stone no 1)

1-11 Door/window jambs *(Figures 8.10.1 – 8.10.3)*

The jamb fragments probably originated in door or window openings. Of particular note is no 1, a door jamb section inscribed with the name 'Gormand'. A peasant family called Gormand or Goremund can be traced in Burton Dassett from 1280-*c*1400 (Palmer and Dyer 1988, 218). This piece, with its implications for functional peasant literacy, has been discussed elsewhere (Palmer and Dyer 1988). Most of the jambs had a decorative chamfer on the outside and many came from splayed openings. Tooling was diagonal and fairly light, with little attempt made to produce a smooth finish. A number of the jambs with internal splayed openings came from demolition rubble over the Area K house and granary (nos 5-6, 9-11). Similar fragments were found *in situ* forming the jambs of the north and south doorways of the house.

1. Right door jamb section with external chamfer and damaged internal rebate (90mm x 55mm deep). Inscribed in upper and lower case late medieval lettering with the name 'Gormand'. 320mm x 243mm x 97mm. Faced sides with light diagonal tooling. Top and left side scorched. (1229/1, ph D25, mid-late 15c).

2. Door/window jamb section with external chamfer. Signs of scorching. 265mm x 195mm x 130mm. (699/2, ph D22, late 13c).

3. Door jamb section with narrow external chamfer. 315mm x 270mm x 270mm. (2247/1, ph K2, early/mid-late 13c).

4. Door/window jamb section with external chamfer and internal splay. Scorched, edges very worn. 245mm x 230mm x 90mm. (2143/1, ph I4, early/mid 15c).

5. Door/window jamb section with narrow external chamfer and internal splay. Wide, pronounced diagonal tooling. 320mm x 180mm x 250mm. (2260, ph K5, early 15c demolition).

6. Door/window jamb section with internal splay. 260mm x 205mm x 190mm. (2236, ph K5, early 15c demolition).

7. Door/window jamb section with chamfer or splayed opening. Diagonal tooling. 240mm x 250mm x 220mm. (998/2, ph E4, mid 14c).

8. Door/window jamb section with splayed opening. 390mm x 180mm x 160mm. (708, ph D27, late 15c demolition).

9. Door/window jamb section with splayed opening. 320mm x 250mm x 165mm. (2190, ph K5, early 15c demolition).

10. Door/window jamb section with splayed opening. 320mm x 230mm x 205mm. (2235, ph K5, early 15c demolition).

11. Door/window jamb section with splayed opening. 260mm x 190mm x 210mm. (2235, ph K5, early 15c demolition).

12-15 Window fragments *(Figures 8.10.3 – 8.10.4)*

A few fragments came definitely from windows; apart from a section of mullion (no 12) and the fragment of early 14th-century tracery (no 13), which may have come either from an elaborate hall window or in rubble from the church, there were two corner sections of chamfered window sill (nos 14-15), the latter with a socket for a timber frame in the top.

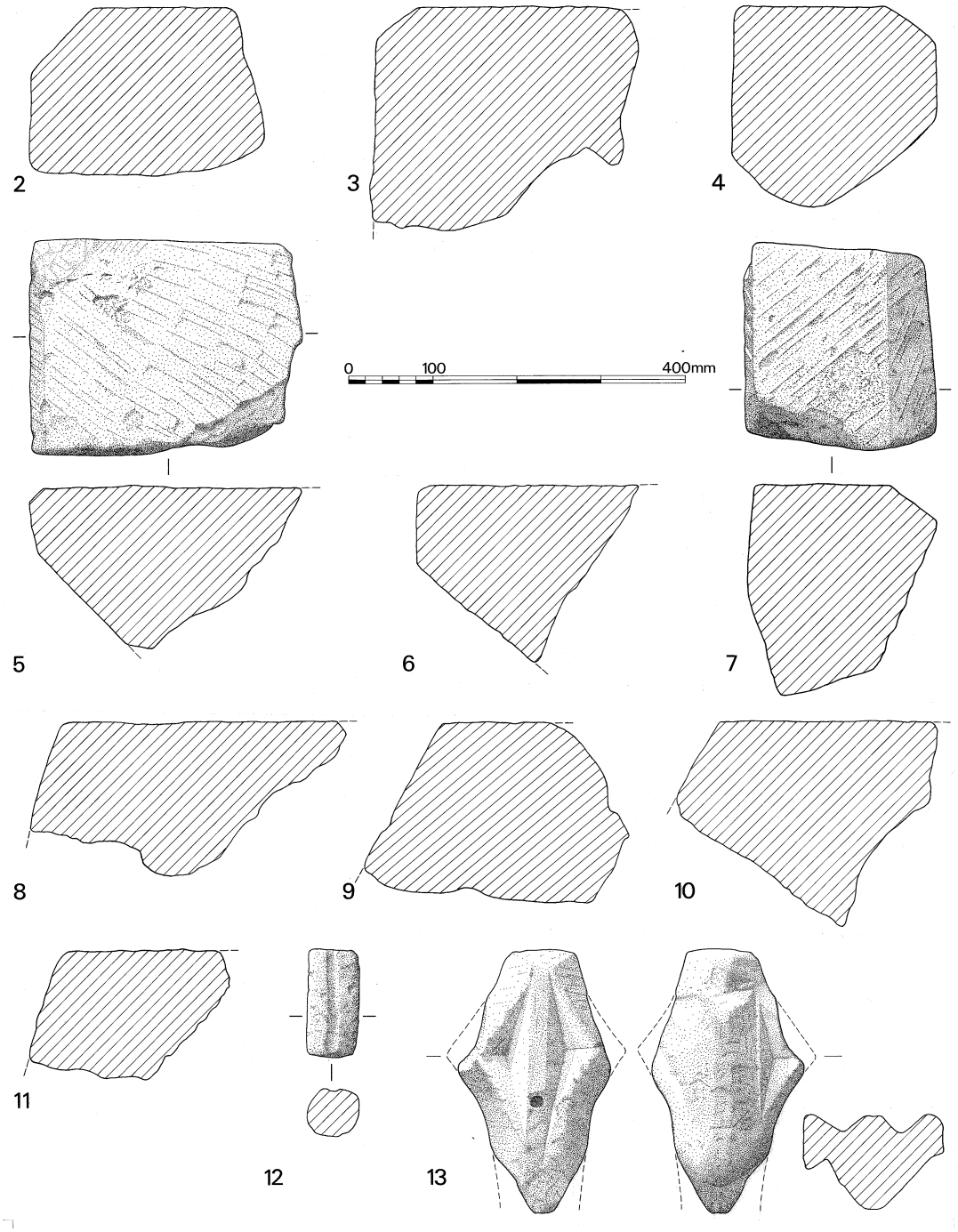


Figure 8.10.3: Architectural Stonework, 2-13

12. Fragment of very worn window mullion. Shallow groove on one side 128mm x 60mm. (7/2, ph A6, late 15c demolition).

13. Tracery fragment. 305mm x 187mm x 110mm. (D unstrat). *Dr John Blair writes*: Fragment of straight window mullion with two opposed cusps, from a Decorated period window with straight intersecting tracery. Early 14th-century. Cf a window of *c*1300 from Stanton St John, Oxfordshire.

14. Chamfered block from end of window sill. 340mm x 140mm x 85mm. (560, ph D27, late 15c demolition).

15. Chamfered block from end of window sill. Socketed for window frame. 340mm x 200mm x 125mm. (694, ph D27, late 15c demolition).

16-22 Sill/plinth fragments *(Figure 8.10.4)*

Other chamfered blocks were rougher, and while some may have been window sills, most were probably from wall plinths. No 20 was found in situ where it had been reused as a step in a gateway. The narrow block (no 21), chamfered on both sides, was probably part of a low plinth for an internal timber partition. No 22 may have come from a chamfered threshold.

16. Chamfered block from a window sill or plinth, two fragments; probably from same feature as no 17. 390mm x 220mm x 60mm. (1261/1, ph E6, late 15c).

17. Chamfered block from a window sill or plinth; probably from the same feature as no 16. 220mm x 205mm x 90mm. (1261/1, ph E6, late 15c).

18. Chamfered block from a window sill or plinth. 285mm x 165mm x 75mm. (2052, ph I5, mid 15c demolition).

19. Flat, roughly chamfered block with signs of scorching, probably from a window sill or plinth. 220mm x 160mm x 60mm. (2247/1, ph K2, mid/late 13c).

20. Large, chamfered plinth fragment. Found *in situ*, reused as a step in a gateway. 820mm x 320mm x 140mm. (1137/1, ph D26, late 15c).

21. Block, chamfered on opposing sides, from a plinth for an internal partition wall. 190mm x 270mm x 105mm. (2044/1, ph I5, mid 15c demolition).

22. L-shaped block with chamfer and rebate; scorched. Possibly originally set against a door jamb at the end of a chamfered threshold. 225mm x 205mm x 105mm. (2307, ph I4, early/mid 15c).

23-28 Pivot stones and small post sockets *(Figure 8.10.4)*

Nos 23-28 were small socketed stones. They fall into two groups: those with concentric wear marks from movement within the socket (nos 23-5), pivot stones, and those without wear, which seem to have been small fixed post settings or sockets (nos 26-8). Both pivot stones and small sockets are relatively common finds on village sites, including Upton, Gloucs (Hilton and Rahtz 1966, 115, ST 51, fig 11 ST 22 pivots , ST 44, unworn socket), Goltho and/or Barton Blount (Beresford 1975, 43, door pivots) and Lyveden (Bryant and Steane 1975, 145, fig 55 no 33, pivot, and 148-9, fig 56 no 38, unworn socket). The pivot stones were used for doors and gates (Hilton

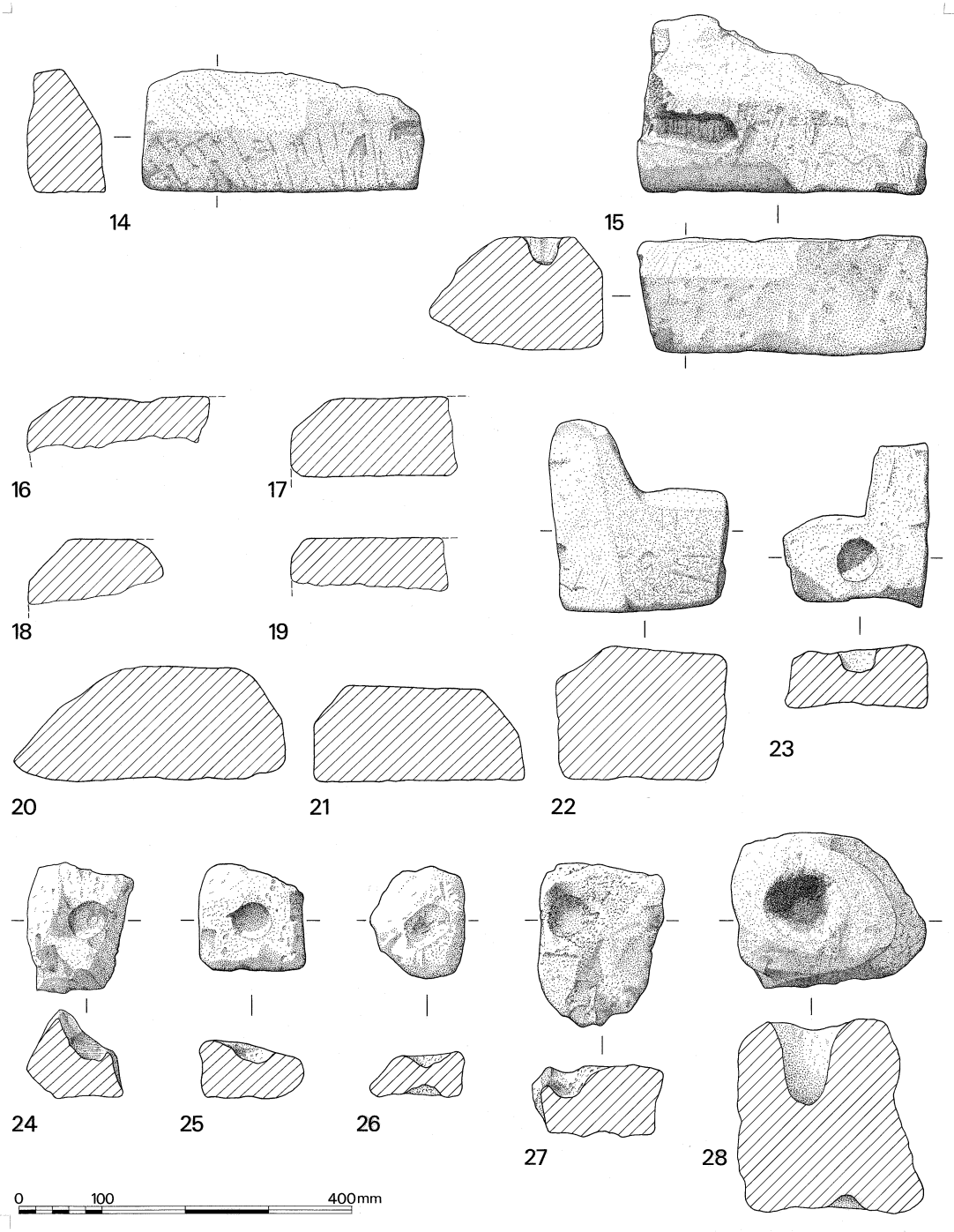


Figure 8.10.4: Architectural Stonework 14-28

and Rahtz 1966, 115, ST 51) and for other apparatus. At Lyveden a possible use for potters′ wheels is suggested (Bryant and Steane 1971, 76, fig 23 a and c). Another fragment from Lyveden with a number of worn sockets of different diameters is described as a `door pivot′, found `reused′ in a hearth (Bryant and Steane 1975, 149, fig 56 no 40). The multiple sockets make this unlikely as a door pivot and it could have belonged to a mechanism connected with the hearth. The unworn sockets also had various uses in and outside buildings. At Wharram Percy a combination of postholes, pivots and sockets supported a fence, presumably with gates (Wrathmell 1989, 33, fig 20, fiche C12-C13; 56, fig 37, nos 43-44; Andrews and Milne 1979 128, fig 69 no 22).

Of the Burton Dassett pivot stones no 23 may have supported a door, although the large number of iron hinge pivots found suggests that hinges were normally used for this. No 24 was found *in situ*, set into the centre of the floor of the western room of the D26 house. In this position it probably supported some mechanism other than a door.

The unworn socket no 27 came from a hearth and may have been the setting for some kind of kitchen equipment such as a spit or cauldron stand. In view of its height no 28 was probably a crude cresset lamp rather than a timber socket.

23. L-shaped pivot stone, with a circular worn socket in the middle of one arm. Presumably a door pivot. Wear on one inner corner of the block points to an ill-fitting door. 200mm x 180mm x 76mm; socket diam 46mm x 28mm deep. (2052, ph I5, mid 15c demolition).

24. Irregular pivot stone with central, circular socket with concentric wear marks. 155mm x 120mm x 115mm; socket diam 46mm x 28mm deep. Found *in situ* set into centre of floor. (1203, ph D26, late 15c).

25. Sub-rectangular pivot stone with central, ovoid socket hole, worn smooth. 130mm x 120mm x 65mm; socket diam. 47-52mm x 20mm deep. (2465, ph L3, Topsoil).

26. Flat, sub-rounded block with central, shallow socket, unworn with tooling marks. A possible second, shallower socket can be seen in the opposing face. 130mm x 110mm x 55mm; main socket diam 52mm x 20mm deep. (E unstrat).

27. Sub-rectangular block with off-centre, unworn ovoid socket. 196mm x 148mm x 88mm; socket diam 50-55mm x 30mm deep. (2044/1, ph I5, mid 15c demolition).

28. Tall stone block with deep, rough, unworn central socket. 160mm x 180mm x 220mm; socket diam 70-75mm x 90mm deep. Probably a crude lamp rather than a timber socket, although no trace of burning survived. (694, ph D27, late 15c demolition).

29-36 Large post sockets *(Figure 8.10.5; 30, 32 unillustrated)*

Nos 29-36 were larger stone blocks of various shapes and sizes containing hollowed out sockets. Although such objects are known from a number of sites their purpose is not certain. Two examples from Treworld, Cornwall are interpreted as timber settings (Dudley and Winter 1966, 56, pl 10a nos 3 and 5, quoting another from Houndtor) and a double socket (no 6) is interpreted as a mould for tin ingots. An example from Hangleton is described as a small trough (Holden 1963, 153, fig 32 no 2). It seems most likely that the sockets were timber settings. Some of the longer ones from Burton Dassett (eg nos 31, 35-36) might have formed part of drains, but they could equally have supported sections of partition wall. No 33 was found, possibly *in situ*, in a post base at one end of the yard behind the A5 house.

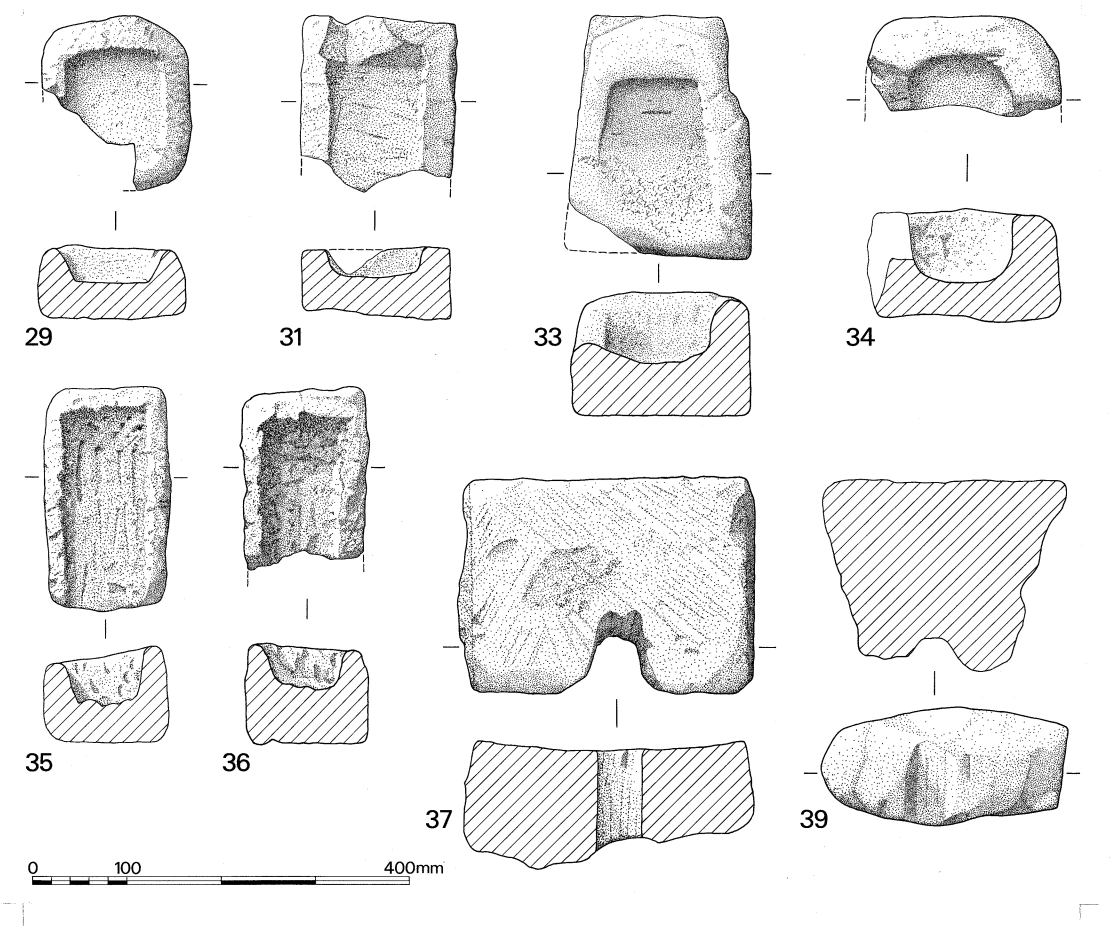


Figure 8.10.5: Architectural Stonework 29-39

29. Rectangular block fragment, 185mm x 155mm x 70mm, with rectangular, flat bottomed socket, 130mm x 105mm x 40mm. Scorched on one side. (924, ph D26, late 15c).

30. Rectangular block fragment with hollowed out socket, 50mm deep. (867, ph E6, late 15c).

31. Rectangular block fragment, 185mm x 160mm x 70mm, with rectangular, hollowed out socket, 160mm x 110mm x 20mm. (1174, ph D26, late 15c).

32. Rectangular block fragment, 140mm max x 105mm max x 65mm, with sub-rectangular, hollowed out socket, up to 20mm deep. (1261/1, ph E6, late 15c).

33. Trapezoid block with hollowed out socket. Found, probably *in situ*, in post base. (24, ph A5, mid/late 15c).

34. Sub-rectangular block fragment, 200mm x 90mm x 110mm, with sub-rounded socket, 110mm across x 75mm deep. (E/F Unstrat).

35. Rectangular block, 235mm x 125mm x 100mm, with roughly tooled, rectangular socket 205mm x 95mm x 50mm. (433/1, ph D13, early/mid 14c).

36. Rectangular block 180mm max x 125mm x 105mm, with rectangular socket 150mm max x 90mm x 50mm, hollowed out. Socket and surfaces roughly tooled. (2068, ph J4, early 15c).

37-39 Stones with vertical sockets *(Figure 8.10.5; 38 unillustrated)*

Nos 37-39 had vertical sockets cut into their sides, presumably to support timber uprights, such as door cases. Nos 38 and 39 came from demolition rubble close to the north-east and south- west doors of the room to the east of the hall of the E6 house.

37. Rectangular block with vertical socket cut into one side. Upper face and sides with light, diagonal tooling on two axes. 300mm x 220mm x 130mm; socket W 45mm. (1000, Z1 fieldwalking).

38. Block with vertical socket in side, surfaces worn, with faint tooling. Socket W 45mm. (984, ph E7, late 15c demolition).

39. Trapezoid block with vertical socket in side, lightly tooled. 200mm x 260mm x 120mm; socket W 35mm. (987, ph E7, late 15c demolition).

40 Hearth Stone *(Figure 8.10.6)*

Most of the hearths found in the buildings were rough and irregular. One exception was Hearth 818 in the E3 house which was finely worked with a rounded moulding forming a decorative kerb around the edge.

40. Corner section of hearth, with rounded moulding forming a decorative kerb around the edge. 300mm x 300mm x 190mm. Scorched on top. One of seven stones making up a rectangular hearth (750mm x 700mm). (818/1, ph E3, early 14c).

41-44 Troughs *(Figure 8.10.6, 43-44 unillustrated)*

A number of fragments of vertical-sided stone troughs were found in rubble layers. Such troughs can still be seen in many of the older farmyards in the area. Their original function was probably as feeders for livestock, although the basin fragment with a drain hole (no 42) may have had a more domestic function.

41. Vertical sided trough fragment; five joining fragments. 440mm x 440mm x 200mm; inside D 160mm, Side W 65mm. (924, 1174, ph D26, late 15c).

42. Base fragment of basin with roughly central drain hole. 250mm x 235mm x 85mm, side W 25mm; drain diam 12mm. (985, ph E7, late 15c demolition). A similar object came from Much Park Street, Coventry (Wright and Stewart 1987, 101, fig 55 no 22).

43. Trough side fragment. W 10-50mm. (D Unstrat).

44. Trough side fragment. W 45mm, inside D. 145mm. (2282/1, ph K4, mid 14/early 15c).

45-49 Miscellaneous *(Figure 8.10.6, 49 unillustrated)*

45. Four fragments of stone drain or gutter head. Rounded decorative moulding along each corner. One end with circular rebated socket (diam 105mm) for pipe of another material. Small fixing

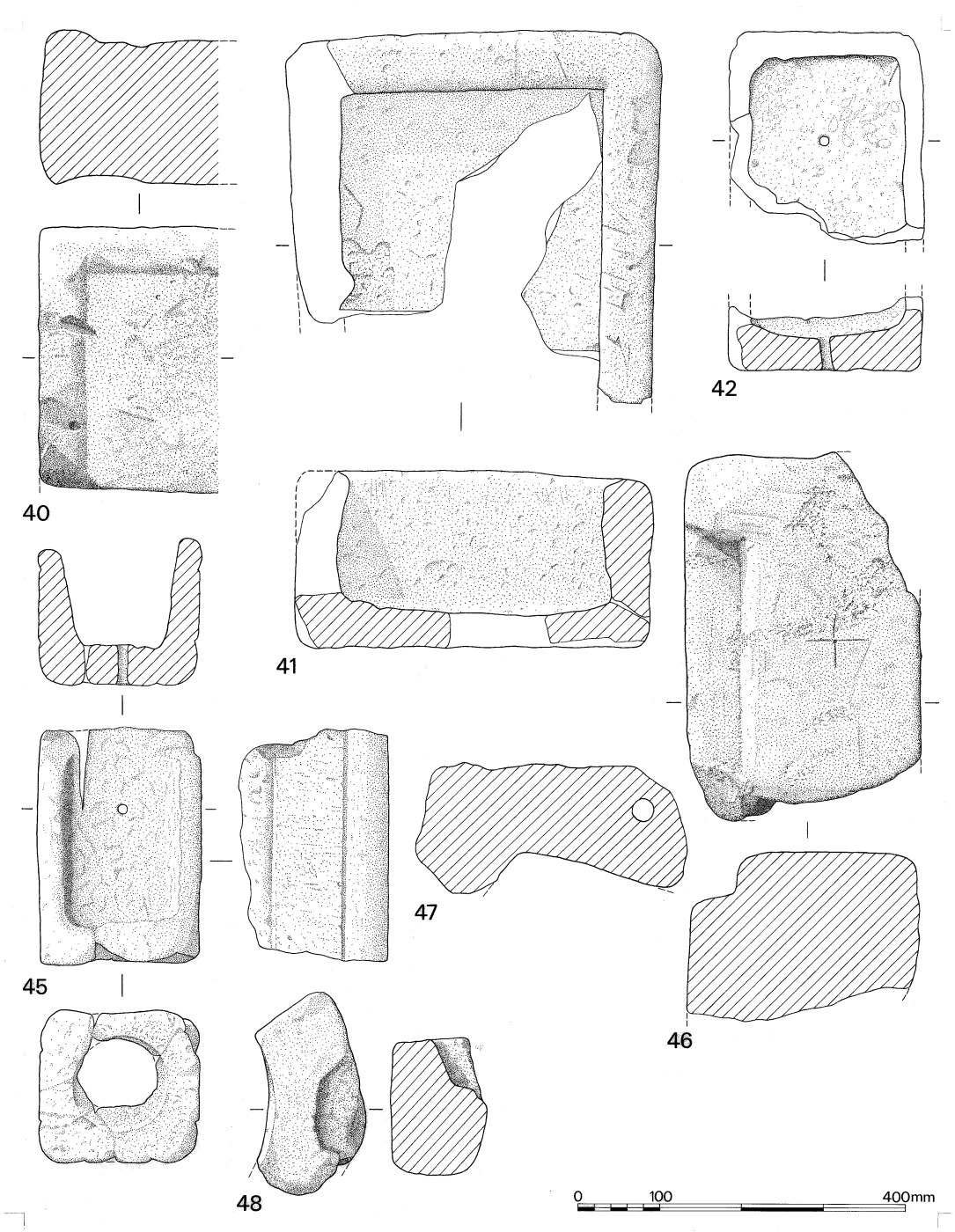


Figure 8.10.6: Architectural Stonework 40-48

hole (diam 10mm) in centre of bottom face. 280mm x 200mm x 180mm. (2052, ph I5, mid 15c demolition).

46. Block with rebate along one side and with mason's setting-out mark in the form of a cross with centrally drilled hole. Similar marks are known from Fountains Abbey (Coppack 1986, 65, fig 11 no 4) and Wharram Percy (Andrews and Milne 1979, 128, fig 69 no 20). (861/1, ph F5, mid/late 15c).

47. Irregular block with hole (diam. 28mm) neatly drilled through at one end. 320mm x 140mm x 170mm. (2282/1, ph K4, mid 14/early 15c).

48. Curved stone with socket on convex side. Little of socket area survives. 240mm x 120mm x 160mm; Socket D. 50mm. (2070, ph J4, early 15c).

49. Fragment of curved stone, tooled on top surface. Possibly trough side fragment. W 67mm. (2068/1, ph J4, early 15c).