

## The Worked Stone

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### Summary

The Stages 6-9 excavations produced a stone assemblage comprising six worked items and several unworked but utilised pieces. This includes a single large saddle quern, two hammerstones, a smoothing pebble, four chunks of building stone and several pieces of possible roof stone.

### Description

The most significant item is a single quartzite saddle quern recovered from the fill of Early Iron Age waterhole 3881 (3880: SF 303). It was manufactured from a boulder (Fig xxx) with only the edges of the stone around the grinding surface having been shaped and only the grinding surface pecked. It has been well used (there are areas of polish at the edges) and the quern now has a slight curve longitudinally whilst across its width it is flatter in the centre but steeper at the sides. Other prehistoric stone use is represented by a well-used smoother recovered from pit fill 1751 and two hammerstones recovered from the fill of middle Iron Age pit 3745 (3749).

During the Roman period, several chunks of stone were used in construction including one flat specimen probably used in a floor or wall (fill 1471 of enclosure ditch 1458). Two slabs are most likely to have been part of a floor, especially as one shows evidence of wear on one face (fill 885 of pit 889 and fill 1288 of pit 1282). A number of small thinly bedded and flat fragments of limestone may have been used or intended for use as roof stones but the fragments are too small to be sure.

A further slab with at least one perfectly squared edge (SF 151) was recovered from post-medieval fill 1047 of ditch 2136 and was probably used as part of a wall course.

### Discussion

The quartzite pebbles used for hammerstones would have been widely available in the area either within the Northern Drift or as remnants of the Drift (Sumbler et al 2000, 73). Boulders of quartzite, such as that used for the saddle quern, are much less common but have certainly been observed in the past (Arkell 1947, 194) and it seems reasonably likely that one could have been collected from within a few miles of the site. All the limestone fragments, whether used for building, or possibly roofing, could also have been collected from nearby exposures and thus all the stone used on site is of local origin.

Table 1: Summary of utilised stone

Item	Ctx	Description	Lithology
Saddle quern	3880 (SF 303)	End fragment of large but thin unformed saddle quern	Quartzite
Hammerstones	3749 (SF 300 and 361)	Various levels of percussion marks	Quartzite pebbles
Possible roof stones	933, 973, 1009, 1616	Seven small thinly bedded and flat fragments possibly roof stones, although none retain evidence of use	Limestone
Probable building stone	1047 (SF 151), 885, 1471, 1288	Four blocks or slabs either used in flooring (1288) or in walls.	Shelly limestones
Smoother	1751	Pebble with one smoothed and curved edge. Measures 45 x 40 x 27mm	Sandstone pebble