

HYDE ABBEY - REDISCOVERING THE LOST MINSTER OF ALFRED THE GREAT

Bringing the stones in the West Wall back to life

The wall alongside the road named Hyde Gate (the "West Wall") on the northern edge of Winchester features a variety of stone reused from Hyde Abbey. The wall is located close to the western perimeter of the Hyde Abbey complex, and abuts the wall which formed the north side of the Almoner's Hall.

The wall itself was built in the 20th

century from stone and flint from the abbey complex, and may have come from the original perimeter wall. This used to be located about 20 metres to the west of the current wall.

An app has been produced by the Digital Media Department of the University of Winchester to bring these stones back to life. Using a mobile device (eg tablet, smartphone

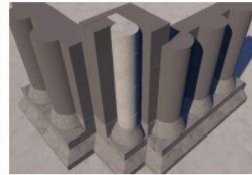
etc) and a small image (a "QR code") on an information board adjacent to the stone, the app converts the stone to a 3D image. Based on sketches of the architecture by Ross Lovett, the department has created a digital image of the architectural feature of an abbey building. The app can operate on a mobile device, personal computer or via the internet.



The west wall adjoining Hyde Gate looking north



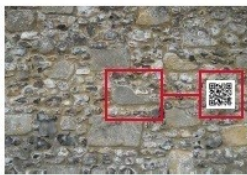
A QR code which enables a mobile device to register a featured stone



The embedded nook shaft stones forming part of a column



Mobile device showing app in use



An embedded nook shaft stone with associated QR code in the wall adjoining Hyde Gate



The sketch showing the stone as part of a column in the reveal of a building



The digital image of the doorway featuring the embedded shafts

Embedded nook shaft stone

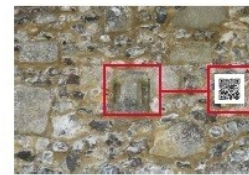
Embedded nook shaft stones (named "whistle stones" by Hyde900) form part of a shaft or column. The straight projection would not have been visible, as it was used to tie the structure back into the main body of the wall. The tying-in end of the stone would be hidden in such a way as to create the illusion of the shaft being a freestanding structure.

The stones, carved both from Quarr and Caen stone, display a variety of different tooled finishes. Similar stones have been found in Hyde, Micheldever, and Headbourne Worthy.

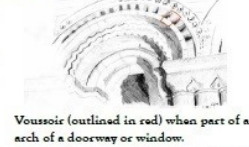
Similar stones can be seen in the ambulatory of Norwich Cathedral.

Decorative voussoir with fluted moulding

This stone, sourced from Quarr on the Isle of Wight, would have formed part of a Norman arch as a voussoir (a wedge shaped stone) of a doorway or window. Whilst the door or window itself would be narrow, the arch might have 12-14 feet wide by the time the masonry had been stepped out in several mouldings to take up the thickness of the wall. Although the fluted design is not of a particularly common style, the simplicity and boldness of the ornament is characteristic of the period.



The decorative fluted voussoir stone with associated QR code in the wall adjoining Hyde Gate. It is in an inverted position as compared with its original position in an arch.



Voussoir (outlined in red) when part of an arch of a doorway or window.



The digital image of the doorway showing the decorative voussoir forming part of the arch



Voussoir, originally forming part of an arch, reused in an inverted position in the west wall, with associated QR code



The sketch shows the voussoir (outlined in red) used in the archway of a door



The digital image of the doorway showing the voussoir forming part of the arch.

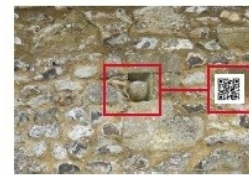
Voussoir with roll moulding

The voussoir incorporates a roll moulding, and forms part of an arch of a window or doorway. The narrow width of the voussoir is indicative of an early date in the Norman period, but the style is common over much of the medieval period.

Springer stone with lozenge and ball moulding

This stone is known as a springer stone, and forms the lower end of the door arch. It has been reused in the wall in an upside down position. The decoration is known as a lozenge and ball moulding.

It dates from Norman times and is cut from Quarr stone, from the Isle of Wight.



Stone with lozenge and ball moulding reused in the west wall, with associated QR code.



Sketch of the doorway featuring the ball and lozenge springer stone (outlined in red) and used to create the digital image



The digital image of the doorway showing the springer stone at the conclusion of the arch.

Acknowledgements

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