

grand architecture, but strong enough to fill in the gaps. This may account for many of the fragments showing signs of burning.



Malmstone fragment from the late medieval period



Magnified image of Malmstone fragment

This piece of Malmstone was recovered from excavations at the Evans Halshaw site in 2000. During the 13th to 14th century a substantial masonry structure was constructed in this area, almost certainly forming part of a monastic building within the precinct of the medieval monastery of Hyde Abbey. The rough appearance of the one tooled edge supports the supposition that it formed part of a structure such as an oven, as opposed to a more architectural use.



Malmstone with clawed tooling markings



Magnified image of Malmstone fragment

The clawed tooling on one face indicates it may have been worked later on in the medieval period, so post Norman. This is another fragment found during excavations at the Evans Halshaw Garage in 2000. It was located to the south of the church but still probably within the precinct of the abbey- so the stone is potentially from ancillary buildings.

Purbeck marble



Purbeck marble - part of stiff leaf decorative stonework



Magnified image of Purbeck marble fragment

This is an attractively worked fragment of a 'stiff leaf' piece of stonework. It would have been part of a stylized three-lobed carved foliage, usually an enrichment of bosses and capitals. It evolved from crocketed capital designs, mostly English. It was found in 1999 in a spoil heap during the Hyde Abbey Excavation programme.

If you would like to be involved in this Hyde900 project or would like any further information, please do contact us on david@pekingparismorgan.com or access the website below. Should you have, or know of someone who may have, stones from the abbey there is a form available on the website below.

Hyde Abbey stone – where did it come from, and how did it get to Hyde?

The builders constructing an abbey in Winchester faced the problem of there being no local source of building stone except for flint. Whilst acceptable for foundations and infill of walls, this material was not deemed to be of sufficient quality for facework in major buildings; the builders of the abbey were aiming to build a new abbey at Hyde that would rival the best in Europe. With the building of the new abbey, New Minster would become redundant. However, a fundamental tenet of the Benedictines was that there should be continuity of services that was unbroken day and night, 365 days a year. The abbey would have access, of course, to the building stone of the New Minster. However, this would not have been available until at least the east end of the new building and possibly the transepts as well, had been completed sufficiently for services to continue on the move to Hyde in 1110.

The nearest significant source of quality building stone was Selborne Malmstone but this was also unacceptable for facework. The nearest source of quality stone was from the Chilmark/Chicks Grove quarries. However these were 35 miles away, and of limited availability. Thus the builders turned to such sources as Quarr on the Isle of Wight, Caen in Normandy and, to a limited extent, Purbeck. Despite the longer distances, the low (comparatively) cost of sea transport made its use more economical.

Overland transport has been quoted as costing as much as the ex-quarry value of the stone for a 15 mile journey. This severely limited the use of stone where there was no access to navigable rivers or the sea. Whilst it is possible that the River Itchen was navigable for barges as far as Winchester during the period that the abbey was built, there could have been a five to ten mile journey by two wheeled cart to the Hyde site.

Hyde Abbey stone under the microscope

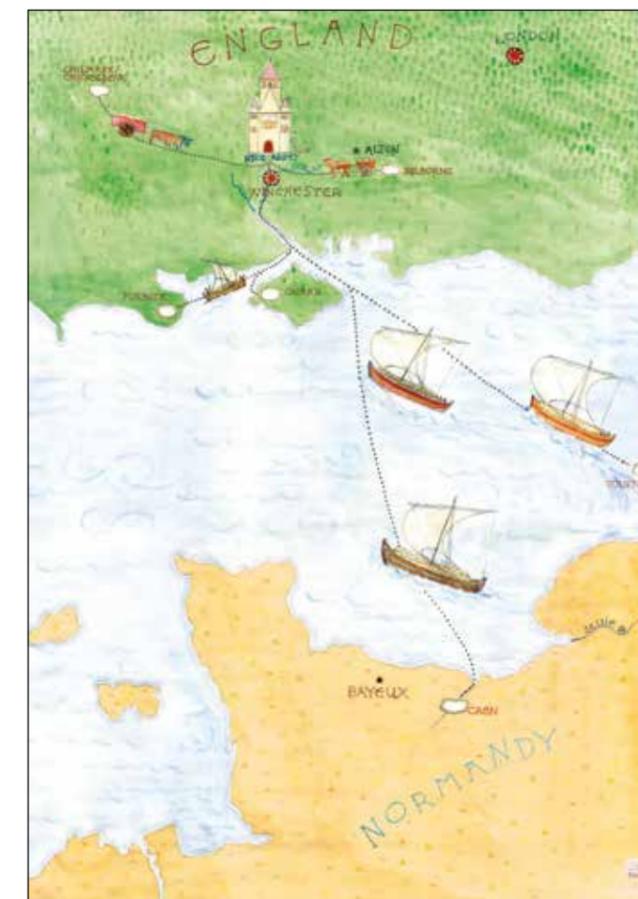
The samples described in this handout have been provided by Winchester Museum Services, and arise from archaeological excavations of the Hyde Abbey, which took place between 1995 and 2000.

Future Research

It appears that no overall analysis has been made of the types of stone, and the relative quantities, used in the various buildings of Hyde Abbey. We aim to carry out future research in this area based upon the several hundred 'finds' that have been retained from the various excavations into the abbey.

Routes to Hyde

The visualisation here, showing boats used to transport the stone from Caen is based on a tableau in Bayeux Museum of stone being loaded for use in the building of Winchester Cathedral.



Hyde Abbey stone – sources and route to Hyde

Bath stone – an oolitic limestone

Two samples of oolitic limestone, most probably from the Bath beds. Oolitic limestone is made up of tiny egg like nodules known as ooliths. In the case of Bath stone these ooliths are relatively large, as compared, for example, to Portland stone.



Bath stone fragment from Norman period Magnified image of Bath stone fragment

The axe marks on this piece are typical of tool marks seen on the majority of stonework from the Norman period. A stone axe was used to shape the stone as well as to create a finished surface. Deeper and less tidy tool marks are visible on the bed joints of the stone, where they wouldn't be seen but would act as a key for the lime mortar. The stone type is an oolitic limestone (meaning its structure is made up of tiny egg like nodules known as ooliths) and most probably Bath stone. The fragment was once part of a Norman shaft or column from Hyde Abbey. It was recovered from the site of the east end of the abbey church (although this was not necessarily its original location).

The samples were found during the 1995-99 Hyde Abbey Excavation programme, run as part of the Winchester Museums Service Community Archaeology Programme.



Bath stone fragment with mortar. Magnified image of Bath stone fragment

This piece appears to have been part of the moulding from a small Capital from the Early English period. On close inspection, it is possible to see how the face of the stone is weathered back in comparison to the top bed joint, on which axed tooling and remnants of lime mortar can still be seen. This suggests that the capital was exposed to the elements and an external feature. This fragment of oolitic limestone contains more fossils than the first stone.

Caen stone – a fine grained limestone

Caen stone is a soft and tight grained limestone with very few imperfections. This makes it an ideal stone for carving and intricate mouldings. It can sometimes be difficult to identify stones that are so pure because they lack many of the distinguishing features of coarser stones. However, under magnification Caen stone has characteristic black flecks as well as a yellowish marbling. Broadly speaking, it has been used in England since the date of the Norman conquest.



Caen stone with 'boastered' finish Magnified image of Caen stone

This small fragment of ornament is worked from Caen Stone and has a 'boastered' finish. A boaster is a wide masonry chisel which produces tool marks not unlike that of the axe, albeit slightly neater and less pronounced.

The piece is likely to have come from an ornate internal feature and probably dates from the mid medieval period. Whilst this is probably from Hyde Abbey, the provenance is not certain.



Caen stone with an 'axed' finish Magnified image of Caen stone

This portion of ashlar block has been worked from Caen stone and finished with an axe. It found during the 1995-99 Hyde Abbey Excavation programme. It is from the site of the east end of the abbey church (although this does not necessarily indicate its location in the building).



Caen stone with clawed tooling Magnified image of Caen stone fragment

This appears to be part of a decorative cluster shaft. It was probably an internal feature as the clawed tooling on its surface is so well preserved. The stone is Caen and it was probably worked in the mid-medieval period. It was found during the 1995-99 Hyde Abbey Excavation programme and again, is from the site of the east end of the abbey church.

Quarr stone – a coarse grained shelley limestone

Quarr stone comes from the Isle of Wight. It has a very characteristic open and porous texture made up from compacted and fossilised shells. Quarr stone was used extensively, we believe, in the building of New Minster, but was substantially worked out by the mid-12th century. The examples here from Hyde Abbey may well have been reused from New Minster.



Quarr stone with axed finish. Magnified image of Quarr stone fragment

This broken corner was almost certainly once part of an ashlar block with an axed finish indicating that it is probably Norman in origin. The term ashlar refers to a type of masonry walling (usually reserved for buildings of importance) in which the blocks used have been carefully squared and dressed. The blocks are laid in horizontal courses with vertical joints. This ashlar block was hewn from one of the Quarr stone beds from the Isle of Wight. Quarr stone has a very characteristic open and porous texture made up from compacted and fossilised shells. Whilst this is probably from Hyde Abbey, the provenance is not certain.



Quarr stone with clawed finish. Magnified image of Quarr stone fragment

This ashlar fragment is also hewn from Quarr Stone but is from a denser bed, where the fossilised shells are smaller and more tightly packed. The close up image reveals a very similar structure to the previous example. It has been finished with a claw, suggesting it was worked in the late medieval period. It was found during excavations by Winchester Museums Archaeology Section in 2000 at the Evans Halshaw Garage (now Silchester Place, Hyde Street). This is slightly to the south of the church but still probably within the precinct of the abbey, so the stone is potentially from ancillary buildings.

Tournai marble



Tournai marble spiral twist columns Magnified image of Tournai marble

This piece of Tournai marble was almost certainly part of one of a set of spiral twist columns from Hyde Abbey. Larger sections of three such columns were also found, and are on display at Winchester Museum. Tournai marble comes from a town of the same name in Belgium. The stone is difficult to carve and has poor weathering properties. They are therefore likely to have been used in the interior of a building in the Hyde Abbey complex, most probably the abbey church. It was found during the 1972 excavation of the abbey.

Malmstone – a limestone

Malmstone is an Upper Greensand and is a grey, lime-rich, fine-grained silty sandstone with few fossils. Apart from many samples found from Hyde Abbey, its use appears to be confined to church and vernacular buildings in the immediate area to which it occurs. Its use in the buildings of Hyde Abbey is likely to be in reconstruction or new buildings in the abbey in the late medieval period, for structures like ovens - it's not really good enough for