

SWAAG: Hagg Farm: 2019 Querns

- Having the querns to hand has been useful, as further joins were found for YQS 8280, and the other dimensions could be tightened up.
- We now have 3 likely beehives, 7 Standard discs, 9 large discs & 2 misc querns ( $\Sigma=21$  querns), which is quite a large assemblage for a civil site (comparable to Hayton, East Yorks)
- This is starting to turn into a modestly significant collection of non-lava disc querns. A quick check through my records shows the comparative sites with discs made from local stone. When the time comes to look at the assemblage as a whole, we might find some interesting areas – certainly an examination of fragment sizes shows this assemblage is more broken up than those at Catterick.

| Site            | No local discs |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Wattle Syke     | 41 +4?         |
| Shiptonthorpe   | 41             |
| Catterick       | 39             |
| Dalton Parlours | 24             |
| Malton/ Norton  | 19             |
| Haggs Farm      | 16 + 2?        |
| Hayton          | 16             |
| Rudson          | 15             |

- They all appear to be in local stone – so the absence of [military] lava querns is interesting – as, if a military site association is established, it would support the argument that lava supplies had ceased by the late 4<sup>th</sup> C.
- The high proportion of ‘large’ discs may be significant, as elsewhere this is a Late Roman characteristic.

John

6/2/20

**Summary – Rotary Querns**

| Date   | SF No                        | YQS No | Type                  | U/L | %     | Diam (mm) | Rim Ht (mm) | Est Wt (Kg) | Usage (%) | Lith |
|--------|------------------------------|--------|-----------------------|-----|-------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|------|
| 2018   | 33                           | 8055   | Beehive               | U   | 13    | 400       | >120        | 28          | ?         | S/S  |
| 2018   | 23                           | 8060   | Developed Beehive     | U   | 15    | 385       | >80         | 21          | ?         | S/S  |
| 2017   | 10                           | 7602   | Disc (poss Beehive?)  | L   | c.15  | >360      | c.70        | 22          | 50?       | MSG  |
|        |                              |        |                       |     |       |           |             |             |           |      |
|        |                              |        | <b>Standard Discs</b> |     |       |           |             |             |           |      |
| 2018   | 21                           | 8064   | Disc                  | U   | 11    | c.360     | >70         | 21          | 40        | S/S  |
| 2017   | 5                            | 7599   | 'Traprain Law' Disc   | U   | 24    | 400       | 45          | 14.5        | 50-75     | MSG  |
| 2018   | 20                           | 8063   | 'Traprain Law' Disc   | U   | 12    | c.410     | 43          | 14          | 55-75     | MSG  |
| 2018   | 42                           | 8065   | Disc (Rough-out?)     | L   | 25    | 420       | 110-120     | 52          | Nil?      | MSG  |
| 2017   | 4                            | 7601   | (TL?) Disc            | L   | c.45  | 430       | 90          | 23          | 25-50     | MSG  |
| 2019   | 63                           | 8283   | Disc                  | U   | 4     | c.425     | 55          | 22          | 40-70     | S/S  |
| 2019   | 67                           | 8284   | Disc                  | U   | 11    | c.425     | 45          | 16          | 80-85     | S/S  |
|        |                              |        |                       |     |       |           |             |             |           |      |
|        |                              |        | <b>Large Discs</b>    |     |       |           |             |             |           |      |
| 2018   | 39                           | 8057   | Disc                  | U   | 13    | 460       | 40          | 14          | 80-90     | MSG  |
| 2018   | 29                           | 8039   | Traprain Law' Disc    | U   | 40-45 | 485       | 40-50       | 19          | 55-90     | MSG  |
| 2011/7 | 11/ 16                       | 5286   | 'Traprain Law' Disc?  | U   | c.35  | 550       | 50          | 27          | 25-75     | MSG  |
| 2019   | 64                           | 8287   | (TL?) Disc            | U   | 10-15 | c.550     | 80          | 40          | 5         | S/S  |
| 2019   | 57, 59<br>60, 68,<br>69, 18? | 8280   | Disc                  | L   | 54    | 540       | 50-60       | 36          | 40-55     | S/S  |
| 2018   | 30                           | 8059   | (TL?) Disc            | L   | 25    | 450       | 40          | 21          | 70-90     | MSG  |
| 2018   | 34                           | 8056   | (TL?) Disc            | L   | 15-20 | 470       | 45-50       | 22          | 40-70     | MSG  |
| 2018   | 25                           | 8053   | (TL?) Disc            | L   | 17    | 490       | 55-60       | 28          | 60-70     | MSG  |
| 2017   | 6                            | 7600   | Disc                  | L   | 10-15 | c.500     | 65          | 32          | 50        | MSG  |
|        |                              |        |                       |     |       |           |             |             |           |      |
|        |                              |        | <b>Misc Discs</b>     |     |       |           |             |             |           |      |
| 2018   | 29                           | 8054   | Disc                  | L?  | 2-3   | >120      | <55         | c.11        | >70       | MSG  |
| 2019   | 58                           | 8279   | Disc                  | L?  | 15    | >300      | -           | -           | -         | S/S  |

Catalogue of 2019 Fragments (from 2/2/20 examination)

**'Standard' Disc Hand Querns (Diam 400mm +/-40mm)**

No 1: Probable Lower Stone: SF 58 Context 127

*Description:* c.15% fragment, with half of a small 'eye, but total removal of the rim.

*Lithology:* Sandstone?

*Dimensions:* Diam. >300mm: Central perforation diam. c.30mm: YQS 8279

*Comment:* the small diameter of the eye suggests that this is a 'standard' lower stone.

No 2: Disc Quern - Upper Stone: SF 63 Context 116

*Description:* c.4% rim fragment: Upper surface pecked flat and assumed horizontal; Edge pecked vertical; G/S is worn flat, assumed to be concave (c.20mm).

*Lithology:* Fine grained, well sorted gritstone

*Dimensions:* Diam. c.425mm (+/-25mm): Height Rim 55mm, Centre <50mm: Weight 0.876kg, Est. intact 22kg: Estimated wear 40-70% YQS 8283

*Comment:* Similar lithology to SF 60 but no obvious join: [As there are no observable vesicules (trapped gas), or characteristic dark grey colour, this looks to be an unlikely lava candidate]

No 3: Disc Quern – Upper stone: SF 67 No Context [labelled OB2 A3]

*Description:* c.11% rim fragment; pecked flat (2mm undulations); no evidence of hopper; Edge is pecked, with vertical base and curved top; G/S is worn flat.

*Lithology:* Fine grained, well sorted gritstone

*Dimensions:* Diam. c.425mm (+/-25mm): Height Rim 45mm: Centre >50mm; Hopper width <120mm; Weight 1.769kg, Est. intact 16kg): Est wear 80-85%; YQS 8284

**Large Hand Querns (Diam. 450-550mm)**

No 4: Lower Stone: SF 57, 59, 60, 68, 69 Context 127; (plus SF 18; Context 81?)

*Description:* 52% fragment in seven joining pieces, broken radially (after?) extensive chordal edge removals; G/S is flat and horizontal; the outer area shows circular wear; unusually, the inner area also appears worn; the absence of a 'lip' around the perforation and any convexity due to wear of the outer areas, both suggests little used.

*Lithology:* Fine to medium grained gritstone.

*Dimensions:* Diam. c.540mm; Height Rim 50-60mm; Perforation hour-glass: diam. top 40mm, min c.30mm, base 70mm: Aggregate weight 19.4kg; Est intact 36kg; Est wear 40-55%; YQS 8280

No 5: Upper Stone (Traprain Law-type) or small Millstone SF 64 Context 127

*Description:* 10-15% fragment: Broken radially; Upper surface is peck dressed, with a broad (60mm wide), shallow (7mm high) collar and slight traces of a hopper; Edge is peck-dressed, starts vertical, but curves inward, with some damage to its upper rim;; G/S is flat; an outer 55mm band has been randomly peck dressed, the inner area has vestiges of 3-4 parallel groves.

*Lithology:* Fine grained sandstone.

*Dimensions:* Diam. around 550mm: Height Rim 80mm, Centre 90mm: Hopper width c.120mm, Depth >20mm; Weight 5kg, Est. intact 40kg; from weight and rim height, little evidence of significant use (Est c.5%) YQS 8287,

*Comment:* Although lacking evidence of a hopper or a handle slot in the upper surface, the slight 'collar' suggests a Traprain Law-type quern. If so, it is one of the largest diameters and the most massive thickness yet recorded.

As its estimated intact weight significantly exceeds the expected manual limit for a hand quern of c.30-35kg, it is possible that this was a small, collared millstone. Although of a similar diameter and lithology to Lower stone 4, the differing degrees of usage makes it unlikely that they were a working pair.