

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

To be read in conjunction with

THE CARISBROOKE HAND: ANGLO-SAXON SCULPTURE AND THE HAND OF GOD?

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APPENDIX: THE CARISBROOKE HAND AND THE USE OF QUARR STONE

Quarr Stone, a type of Bembridge limestone, was quarried in the Binstead area adjoining the north-west coast of the Isle of Wight (fig 1). Its principal source was the area to the south of Holy Cross church, providing excellent, easily carved freestone.¹ It was used for pilaster strips, long and short quoins and other components of tenth and eleventh century churches in the Hampshire basin and along the Sussex coast as far east as Lewes.² It had a similar distribution when used in late Anglo-Saxon stone sculpture.³ Quarr stone continued in use after the Conquest into the late eleventh century and beyond.⁴ A wider post-Conquest geographical distribution can be demonstrated eastwards and north-eastwards, including the White Tower (Tower of London), St Augustine's Abbey Canterbury, Canterbury Castle, St Martin-le-Grand Dover and various churches in east Kent.⁵ The Quarr stone quarries would appear to have a limited life in the post-Conquest period. It has been noted that only the plinth of Canterbury Castle's keep, a building dating to c 1100, was of Quarr stone, with the ashlar and mouldings above being of Caen stone.⁶ A similar sequence can be seen at the broadly contemporary church at Brook, also in Kent, with much of the building being

¹ Hopson and Farrant 2015, 132.

² Jope 1964, 101.

³ Tweddle *et al* 1995, fig 5.

⁴ Anderson and Quirk 1964, 116–17.

⁵ Tatton-Brown 1980, 213.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 214.

constructed of Quarr stone, but with the western tower containing Caen stone.⁷ The ultimate irony is that the Romanesque sculpture of a nimbed bird, a symbol of St John the Evangelist, now reset in the porch at Binstead church⁸ is carved from Caen limestone, rather than Quarr stone.

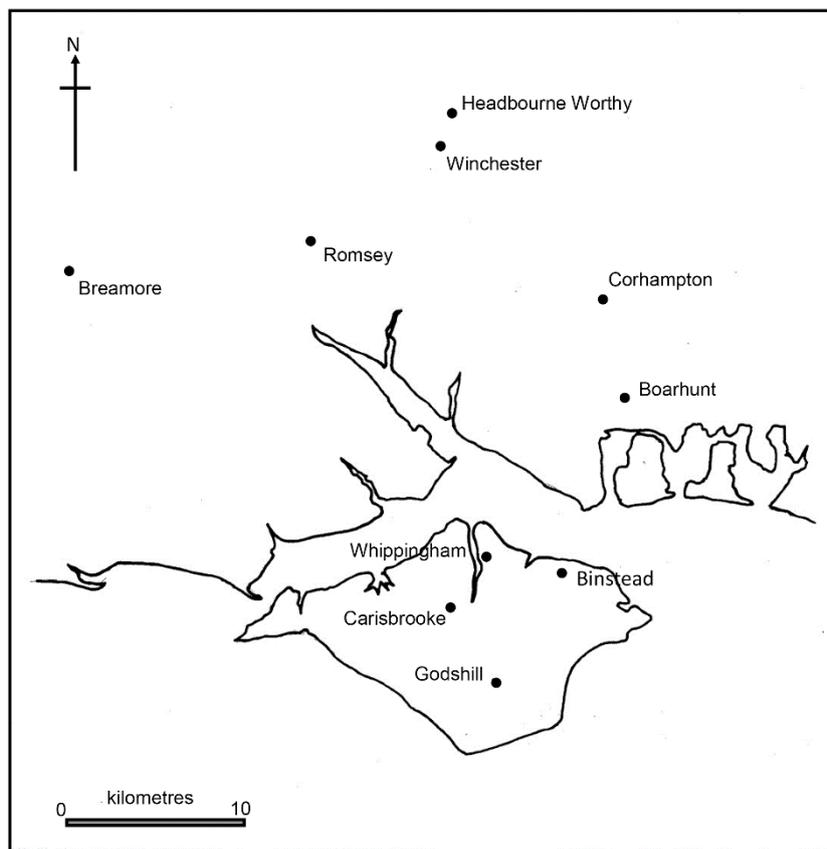


Fig 1: The Isle of Wight and southern Hampshire showing sites mentioned within this area.

The use of Quarr stone at Carisbrooke, along with the subsequent identifications of three pre-Conquest sculptures at built into the fabric of Whippingham church and a possible instance at Godshill, would appear to be of significance regarding the status of these churches. All three churches were ‘given’ by William fitzOsbern to Lyre Abbey so can be shown to have been existence by 1071.⁹ All can also be shown to be amongst the nine ‘high status’ churches of the Isle of Wight identified using a quantitative approach adapted from Teresa Hall’s work on Dorset minsters.¹⁰ In addition to this, all three churches had been within relatively extensive estates at or before 1066. Bowcombe had been assessed at four hides and contributed to Amesbury’s ‘farm of one night’.¹¹ The place-name Whippingham has three entries in the Hampshire Domesday folios, all of which had been held of King Edward, suggesting that the

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ Margham 2016a.

⁹ Hockey 1981, nos 17, 11.

¹⁰ Margham 2016b, 55; Hall 2000, 4–7.

¹¹ Williams and Erskine 1989, 52; Williams and Martin 1992, 162.

estate had recently become fragmented in 1066.¹² Whilst the place-name Godshill was not recorded in Domesday Book, it would appear to have been within the estate of Sandford with Week, which was rated at three hides in 1066,¹³ a relatively substantial estate for the Isle of Wight. A similar analysis can be undertaken for sites in mainland Hampshire and beyond that have Quarr stone sculpture and architectural sculpture listed in the *Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture* volume IV.¹⁴ Apart from the Quarr stone sculpture from Winchester Old Minster, Winchester New Minster and two parish church sites in Winchester, six further sites with such sculpture can be identified from the *Corpus* (table 1):

Table 1. Quarr stone sculpture in south-east England documented in the *Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture* volume IV.

| <i>Corpus</i> volume IV reference and date of sculpture | Landholder 1066 (Williams and Martin 1992) | Comments |
|---|---|---|
| Bishopstone 01 (sundial), probably 9 th c | Bishop of Chichester [Selsey] 25 hides (38) | See transferred from Selsey to Chichester in 1075 |
| Boarhunt 01 (window), 10/11 th c | Bishop of Winchester's monks for their sustenance ½ hide (100) | Two other holdings in Boarhunt: 3 men of King Edward 11½ hides (105); 2 manors of King Edward in alod 1 hide (108-9) |
| Corhampton 01 (sundial), 11 th c; 02 & 03 (pilaster bases), 11 th c; 04 (doorway), 11 th c | Alwine of King Edward 3 hides (108) | |
| Headbourne Worthy 01 (rood) 10/11 th c; 02 (grave cover) uncertain | Cypping of King Edward 1 hide (112); Eadsige 1 hide and 1 virgate (112) | 'This manor .. was bought from the church .. that the Church of St Peter should receive it back from the bishopric with all its stock after the third heir' (112) |
| Sompting 14 (capitals), 11 th c | Leofwine of King Edward 17 hides (69) | |
| Stratfield Mortimer 01 (grave cover), 11 th c | Two thegns in parage 6 hides (155) | |

¹² Williams and Erskine 1989, 39v, 53, 53v.

¹³ Williams and Erskine 1989, 39v.

¹⁴ Tweddle *et al* 1995.

It can thus be demonstrated that sculptural use of Quarr stone is associated with churches on relatively large estates and/or on estates that either were or had been held by bishops in 1066 or by King Edward. The Quarr stone for the Carisbrooke hand can be seen as part of this prestigious use of this 'high status' material for sculpture and architectural sculpture at ecclesiastical sites in the late Anglo-Saxon period.¹⁵

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¹⁵ The Breamore rood, the Romsey rood and much of the pre-Conquest sculpture from Winchester were carved from Oolitic limestone from the Bath area. The Winchester Old Minster grave marker (Winchester (Old Minster) 2), along with two other pieces from Winchester and one each from Selsey and Arundel, is fashioned from Bembridge limestone, also from the Isle of Wight (Tweddle *et al* 1995).