



GLOUCESTER
CATHEDRAL

BID *for* A PIECE OF YOUR CATHEDRAL

STONE AUCTION





WELCOME TO *Gloucester Cathedral's* FIRST EVER SEALED-BID STONE AUCTION

We are delighted to offer you the opportunity to own a historically significant stone which once formed part of the fabric of Gloucester Cathedral.

Sealed-bids can be handed in to the Cathedral Welcome Desk using the bidding envelopes located next to the stone displays, or alternatively you can email your sealed-bid to development@gloucestercathedral.org.uk. The auction closes on Saturday 20 November so all bids must be placed by then, and the highest bid holder for each stone will be contacted with the good news on Monday 22 November.*

Proceeds raised from the auction will go directly towards the upkeep of our magnificent building. Thank you for your ongoing support of Gloucester Cathedral.

*Each stone has a reserve placed upon it. If it is not met, the stone will remain the property of Gloucester Cathedral.



Lot ONE

Dimensions

1 metre x 35cm x
25.5cm

Approx. weight: 190
kilos

Geology

Painswick stone,
Middle Jurassic,
Inferior Oolite
Group

Last year we completed a major project to restore and conserve our beautiful North Ambulatory, which included the addition of six new gargoyles.

Excitingly, this piece of stone represents the last remaining piece of the original gargoyles, which once stood on the 15th century parapet. Look carefully and you can see the tooling marks left by a medieval double-edged axe, as well as the hindlegs of the gargoyle.

If gargoyles could talk, this one would no doubt have a remarkable story to tell: it is thought to have been damaged during the siege of Gloucester in 1643, much like many other gargoyles and statues in the building.

Reserve price: £800





Lot TWO

Dimensions

25.5cm x 25.5cm x
25.5cm
Approx. weight: 38
kilos

Geology

Modern
Minchinhampton Stone,
Burleigh Quarry

A little-known fact is that Gloucester Cathedral once operated its own quarry in Minchinhampton, which was on lease from Simmonds Quarry during the mid-to-late 1950s. Sadly the experiment was not successful; the stone proved to be unfit for purpose, and only a small amount was ever used.

That does, however, make this piece of stone even more significant. It is one of very few remaining examples of stone that was taken from that quarry and used during the 1955 restoration of the Cathedral. It formed part of the base shaft of a North Ambulatory Pinnacle.

Reserve price: £70





Lot THREE

Dimensions

29cm x 15cm x
14cm

Approx. weight: 15
kilos

Geology

Painswick stone,
Middle Jurassic,
Inferior Oolite Group

This intriguing piece of stone is a fragment from the bottom bed of a pinnacle base shaft, taken from the North Ambulatory. It dates to the restoration of the 1890s under Frederic Waller, and you can still see clearly the geometrical scribing used to mark the positioning of square slate dowels. These dowels were used to connect the stones together within the bedding and joints.

Unlike most medieval Painswick stones, the Painswick stones quarried during the Victorian and Modern periods were not 'Freestone'; this means they were less homogenous, and presented defined natural bed layers which made them prone to splitting.

This proved to be a major fault on free-standing architectural features such as pinnacles, and none of those from the 1890s have survived intact. This fragment is hugely significant because it is one of the last pieces of evidence of their existence that we have left.



Reserve price: £120



Lot FOUR

Dimensions

19cm x 27cm x
30cm
Approx. weight: 35
kilos

Geology

Medieval Painswick
Freestone, Middle
Jurassic, Inferior Oolite
Group

This is what's known as a 'master mullion' and is a piece of stone dating to the medieval times and forming part of the North Ambulatory parapet. It was used to support castellated and traceried stones on the parapet and, similarly to Lot Three, you can see examples of scribing lines.

Curiously, these lines are unrelated to the actual shape of the master mullion profile. Instead, it's thought that the lines indicate it could previously have been part of a tracing slab used for setting out by medieval masons before being split into several stones. The masons didn't have drawing paper like we do today, of course, so stone slabs were frequently used as a 'canvas' to set out designs.

A similar tracing slab has survived and has been recycled into a fireplace lintel in the Parliament Room, but these survivals are rare, so this is an exciting opportunity to acquire one.

Reserve price: £160





Lot FIVE

Dimensions

9cm x 9cm x 15cm
Approx. weight: 3
kilos

Geology

Minchinhampton
Stone, Middle
Jurassic, Great Oolite
Group



While Lot Four was a 'master mullion', here we have a fragment of a 'slender mullion' which came from the North Ambulatory parapet dating to the 1890s.

The square in the centre is a slate dowel hole, and it is accompanied by mortar bedding cross marks to enable mortar grip.

Although it may only be small in size, this piece of stone represents one of the most important innovations for keeping parapets standing!

Reserve price: £50



Lot SIX

Dimensions

47cm x 31cm x
36cm
Approx. weight: 36
kilos

Geology

Victorian Painswick
stone, Middle
Jurassic, Inferior
Oolite Group



We are pleased to offer you the chance to bid for an incredibly rare example of a triangular-section pinnacle, which was the central pinnacle used to support the Holy Cross at the East End of the Lady Chapel.

Given its role of supporting the Holy Cross, there is little doubt that it was designed by John Loughborough Pearson and Frederic Waller in 1894 to symbolise the Holy Trinity. As the Cathedral Church of St Peter and the Holy and Indivisible Trinity, this pinnacle is symbolic of our Christian origins.

Reserve price: £200



Lot SEVEN

Dimensions

84cm x 42cm x
25.5cm

Approx. weight: 170
kilos

Geology

Medieval Painswick
Freestone, Middle
Jurassic, Inferior
Oolite Group

One of the most notable things about this 15th century stone are the tool marks, which give us a unique insight into the way masons once worked.

We can make out tooling marks left by a double-edged axe, as well as small scratching marks left by a small-toothed scratcher to even up the axe marks. Furthermore, the right-hand side vertical joint has a position mark scribed on the surface, which would have been made by the mason to indicate the nature and position of the face of the block; similar positioning marks continue to be used to this day.

This stone forms part of the gutter course of the 15th century parapet, and it is remarkable to think of the history that it has witnessed. It's also the perfect size for a flower-bed planter!

Reserve price: £300





Lot EIGHT

Dimensions

39cm x 39cm x
74cm

Approx. weight: 180
kilos

Geology

Victorian Painswick
stone, Middle
Jurassic, Inferior
Oolite Group

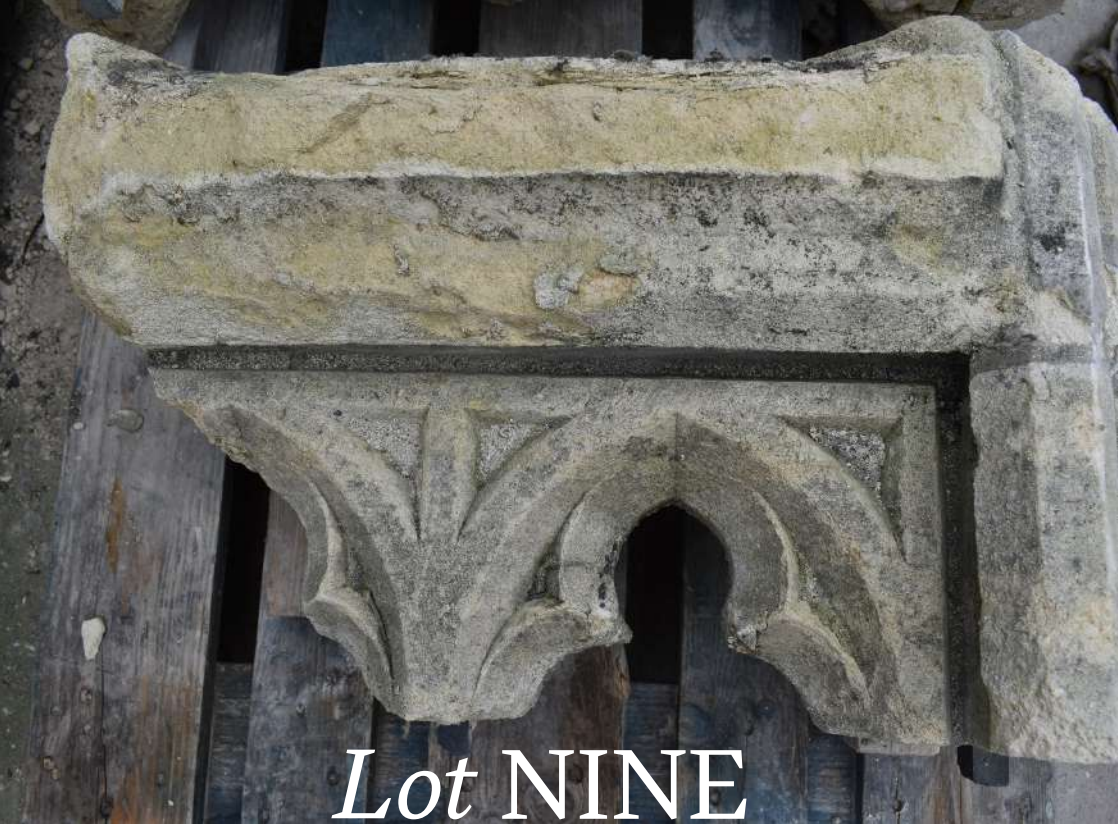


This piece of stone is instantly recognisable as a pinnacle from the North Ambulatory's iconic skyline, dating to the 1890s. It is made from Victorian Painswick stone, which is characterised by soft beds making it prone to splitting.

In the 1870s Frederic Waller had started to reintroduce the historic vernacular types of stones used by medieval masons (Painswick and Minchinhampton) due their durability, but by this point, much of the best quality Painswick and Minchinhampton stone had either been exhausted or was inaccessible to any quarrying activities.

A lack of good quality stone was a concern for all the Surveyors of the Fabric, until 1973 when it was decided to use the French Middle Jurassic Oolitic Limestone Lepine, following the example set by Canterbury and Chichester Cathedrals. As a result, this beautiful piece of stone offers an intriguing lesson in historic geology.

Reserve price: £400



Lot NINE

Dimensions

63cm x 38cm x
36cm

Approx. weight: 180
kilos

Geology

Painswick stone,
Middle Jurassic,
Inferior Oolite group

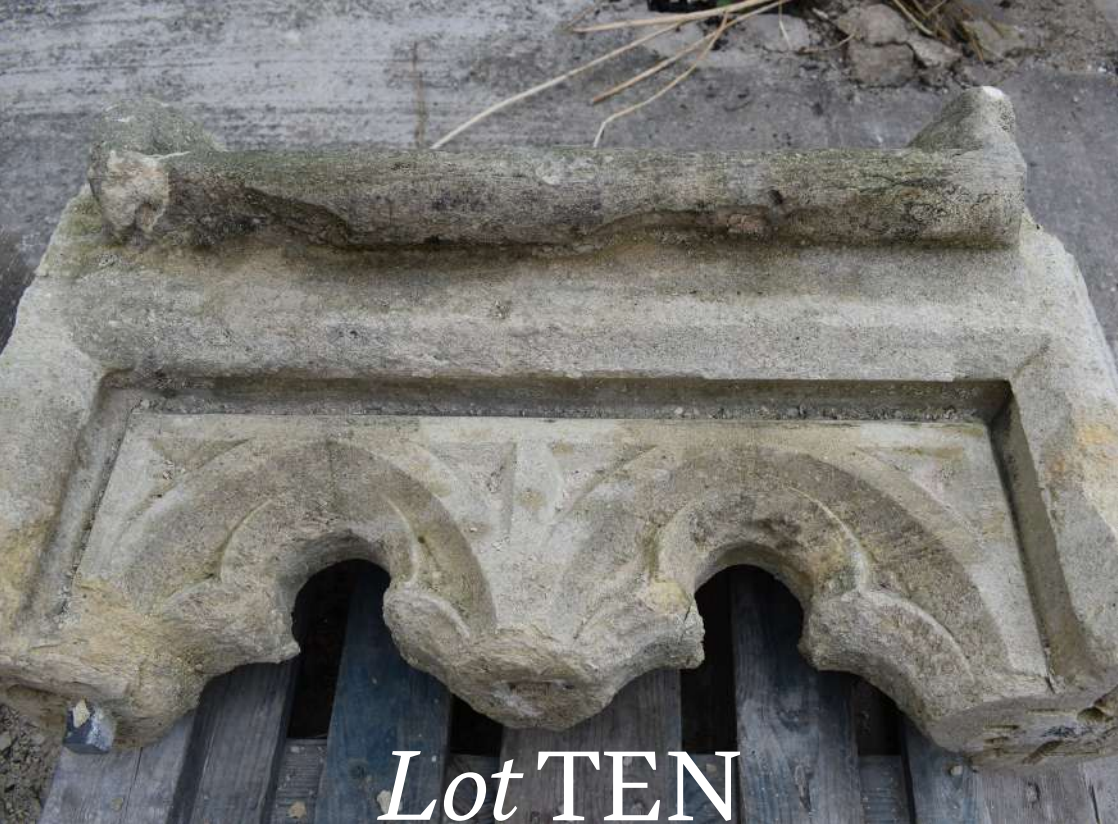
Frederic Waller seemed to have been way ahead of his time regarding his attention to the historic fabric, as evidenced in this rare embrasure stone from the North Ambulatory parapet.

It is part 15th century and part late 19th century, and we can see how the medieval stone has been fitted with three piecings: the main one with the trefoil traceries fitted to the coping section with a tenon and mortise joint, plus two small vertical moulded piecings to the right-hand side.

This wasn't a cost-effective way to work and it would have been easier to make a new stone altogether, but it is testament to Waller's conservational care.

Reserve price: £140





Lot TEN

Dimensions

78cm x 36cm x
37cm

Approx. weight: 210
kilos

Geology

Victorian
Minchinhampton
stone

Similarly to Lot Nine, here is another section from the North Ambulatory parapet dating to the 1890s.

It is made from Minchinhampton stone, and although it would have been positioned way up high on the building, every attention has been paid to detail.

By purchasing it as part of this auction, you can play your part in ensuring its story continues.

Reserve price: £200



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THANK YOU *for*
SUPPORTING
our inaugural
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