

Report by F. Anderson, 3rd. January 1982.

The Abbey is situated on the Hastings Beds of the Wealden (Lower Cretaceous) in an area of alternating sandstones and clays. To the North are small islands of Purbeck (Upper Jurassic) limestones and shales.

There are too few samples to do more than guess at the building stones used to build the Abbey in the late 11th. Century but as the Purbeck provided the best local material it is probable that Purbeck limestone was the basic building stone. The more easily worked Greensand could have been used for door and window frames. For indoor decorative work probably Caen or one of the similar limestones from ~~Calvados~~ Calvados was used together with Purbeck Marble from Dorset and perhaps some Italian marbles. Roofing was probably of Horsham Stone, a local Wealden sandstone.

- 811657. A cream-coloured, coarse, shelly limestone. The shells are mainly as cast. This is probably the limestone variously known as the 'Feather-bed', the 'Upper Broken-shell Limestone' or the 'Soft Burr' which is at the base of the Upper Purbeck and which has been used as a building stone in Dorset down to recent times.
- 811658. A typical Purbeck shelly limestone.
- 811659. A hard, pale grey crystalline limestone. Probably Purbeck but could be Lias.
- 811660. Slightly calcareous sandstone. Looks like a roofing slab. Could be Horsham Stone.
- 811661. A brecciated marble. May be a import from Italy?
- 811662. Graphite. From Switzerland?
- 811663. Purbeck Marble. Imported from Dorset as a veneer?
- 811664. Soft, creamy, fine-grained limestone. Looks like Caen or one of the closely related Calvados limestones.
- 811665. Hard grey tuffaceous limestone. Probably one of the limestones from the Lower Purbeck.
- 811666. A reddish sandstone. This could be a fragment of burnt Greensand, a stone once in great demand for hearths and fireplaces.
- 811667. Pale grey-green calcareous sandstone, glauconitic. This is a Greensand. From a window?

*F. Anderson*