

Identification of charcoal samples from Battle Abbey. Interim Report.

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Sixty charcoal samples from Battle Abbey were submitted for identification. They fell into three main types: large samples consisting mainly of large fragments more than 10mm across, small samples of fragments less than 10mm across, and "soil" samples containing a small amount of charcoal. The fragments were examined under reflected light at magnifications of up to 30X. It was not possible to make definite identifications of all the material. Some fragments were therefore removed for subsequent examination at high magnifications (marked * on the lists below). Some of the identifications should be regarded as tentative until these results are available.

Samples 818683-818686 were required for possible radiocarbon dating, and were therefore identified in clean conditions and handled with polythene gloves.

The following taxa were thought to be present (listed in approximate order of frequency of occurrence):-

C.f. Birch (Betula sp.)

Oak (Quercus sp.)

Hazel &/or Alder (Corylus/Alnus sp.)

C.f. Beech (Fagus sp.)

Ash (Fraxinus sp.)

C.f. Blackthorn? (Prunus sp.)

Willow or Poplar? (Salix /Populus sp.)

C.f. Hawthorn-type (Rosaceae, subfamily Pomoideae)

Holly?? (Ilex sp.)

The results for each sample are given below. The taxa are listed in approximate order of frequency of occurrence within each sample. The fragments were apparently from mature timbers or branches (i.e. no curvature observed on the growth rings) unless stated otherwise.

Samples consisting mainly of large fragments

818642 RIII (706)

C.f.Birch

Hazel/Alder,some twiggy *

Oak(1 fragment)

C.f.Beech (1 frag.)

Willow/Poplar? twiggy (1 frag.)*

818643 RIII (230)

C.f.Birch,some twiggy

Hazel/Alder*

Willow/Poplar?*N.B.Shaped into a peg about 10cm in diameter.Total length
of fragments about 80mm.

C.f.Beech

Beech/Prunus twig *

818644 RII (807)

Willow (,Poplar)?*

Hazel/Alder,some twiggy*

C.f.Birch,mainly twiggy

Oak

Beech/Prunus twig*

818645 RIII (860)

No structure visible

818646 RIII (230)

C.f.Birch,some twiggy

Hazel/Alder,some twiggy*

Ash,some twiggy

Willow/Poplar?*

818647 RIII (236)

Hazel/Alder, some twiggy*

Oak

C.f. Birch, some twiggy

Beech/Prunus sp.?? (1 frag.)

818648 RIII (237)

C.f. Beech

C.f. Birch

Hazel/Alder, some twiggy*

Ash

Oak

818649 RIII (221)

Ash (1 frag.)

818650 RIII (229)

Hazel/Alder, mainly twiggy*

C.f. Beech twig* (1 frag.)

818651 RVII (700)

C.f. Birch, twiggy (1 frag.)

818652 RII (857)

Hazel/Alder twig/branch* (1 frag.)

818653 RI (859)

C.f. Beech (1 frag.)

818654 HF 304

Ash

Hazel/Alder twig/branch* (1 frag.)

C.f.Birch (1 frag.)

818655 RVII 704

Oak

818656 RIII 225

C.f Beech twig/branch* (1 frag.)

Hazel/Alder twig* (1 frag.)

818657 RVIII 716

Oak

C.f.Beech (1 frag.)

818658 RII 811

Hazel/Alder*

Ash (1 frag.)

818659 RII 211

C.f.Birch twig/branch (1 frag.)

818660 RVII 701

Hazel/Alder twiggy* (1 frag.)

818661 RIV 243

C.f.Birch

818662 RVIII 702

Unidentified twig/branch*

818663 RIV (621)

Hazel/Alder* (1 frag.)

818664 RIII (224)

C.f.Birch?twig/branch* (1 frag.)

818665 RVIII (710)

Coally material

818666 RIV (276)

Hazel/Alder*	}	few fragments each
C.f.Birch		

818667 RIII (277)

Ash twig (1 frag.)

818668 RIII (264)

Ash

C.f.Birch (1 frag.)

Unidentified* (1 frag.)

Bark

818669 RIII (230)

Hazel/Alder,some twiggy*

C.f.Birch*

Ash(1 frag.)

Willow (/Poplar)?*(1 frag.)

C.f.Beech twig (1 frag.)

818670 RVI (286)

C.f.Beech*

C.f.Birch twig (1 frag.)

818671 RIII (238)

Very heavy mineral material (refer to technology)

818672 Q (500)

C.f.Birch (1 frag.)

818673 Q (543)

C.f.Birch (1 frag.)

Bark?

818674 L (307)

Hazel/Alder

Oak (1 frag.)

818675 E/J baulk (332)

C.f.Birch, some twiggy

Oak twiggy

818676 H 503

Hazel/Alder twig* (1 frag.)

C.f.Birch* (1 frag.)

818677 E/J baulk 341

C.f.Birch (1 frag.)

Hazel/Alder* (1 frag.)

Bark

818678 E/J baulk (302)

Ash

818679 HF (311)

C.f.Birch*

818680 JF 131

C.f.Birch*

818681 HJ baulk 514

Hazel/Alder* (1 frag.)

818683 RIII 615

Willow/Poplar?? (1 frag.)

818682 131

Coally material

818684 RVI 269

Oak (1 frag.)

818685 RII 819

C.f.Beech? (1 frag.)

818686 RIV 294

Oak twig/branch

Samples consisting mainly of small fragments

RI 859 16A

Oak

C.f.Prunus sp.??*

Ash (1 frag.)

RI 859 16

C.f.Beech/Prunus sp.

Oak

C.f.Hawthorn-type*

Hazel/Alder twig/branch*

RI (859) 16 Cont'd

C.f. Birch (1 frag.)

RII (833) 7

Oak

RII (833) 7A

Oak (1 frag.)

C.f. Birch (1 frag.)

C.f. Prunus sp. (1 frag.)

RII (841) 14

Oak?

Prunus sp.? (1 frag.)

RII (841) 14 A

Oak (1 frag.)

Oak? wood replaced by mineral material

RIII (230) 17

C.f. Birch*

Oak

Prunus/C.f. Beech, some twiggy*

Hazel/Alder*

Holly?? twig*

RIII (230) 17

C.f. Birch*

Prunus/C.f. Beech

Willow/Poplar, some twiggy*

Oak

Hazel/Alder*

Ash

RIII (230) 17 B

C.f.Birch*

Hazel/Alder*

Prunus sp.?*

} Several fragments each

Oak

L F324 13

Oak

C.f.Birch

Prunus sp. /c.f Beech

} few fragments each

P F410 10

Oak

P F410 12

Oak

Q 567 15

Uncharred root fragments

Soil samples containing charcoal

RII F 333 6

"From construction phase outside the reedorter. Med-16thC."

C.f.Hawthorn-type twig

RIV 267 8

"Fireplace in reedorter."

C.f.Beech/Prunus sp.*

Willow/Poplar?* (1 frag.)

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