

# ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY

## REPORT

2319

<b>SERIES/No</b>	CONSULTANT	
<b>AUTHOR</b>	Dr F W Andesson	July 1977
<b>TITLE</b>	Report on mortar samples from ST. AUGUSTINE'S ABBEY, Canterbury	

ST. AUGUSTINE'S ABBEY, Canterbury.

Report on samples of mortar by F.W.Anderson July, 1977.

A. Normal mortars.

A1. 1189 (FWA37), 1480 (FWA34), 1059 (FWA41), 1095 (FWA39).

Sand mode 0.330-0.340 mm diam. Sand amount 40-65% by volume  
These mortars compare well with examples of Group A1 from other localities except that the sand is a little coarser than average. All are from 12th.Cent. fabrics, i.e. Lillieshall Abbey, Bury St. Edmunds Abbey, Thetford Priory, Weeting Castle and Orford Castle.

A2. 394 (FWA35), 1808 (FWA31), 1060 (FWA43), 836 (FWA42), 1911 (FWA26).

The sand is coarser than in A1, mode 0.410-0.470 mm.diam. Sand amount 50-85% by volume. Most of the other examples of Group A2 known are of 12th.Cent. date i.e. Framlingham Castle, Denny Abbey, Ewenny Priory, Castle Rising, Binham Priory, Farnham Castle, Greyfriars Gt. Yarmouth.

B. Renderings.

B1. 1964 (FWA38). Sand grade 0.30 mm diam., 35% by volume.

The amount of sand is greater than is usual in a rendering but less than that found in a normal mortar.

B2. 2186 (FWA33), 1064 (FWA45), 1068 (FWA44), 1063 (FWA40).

In these four samples the sand is much coarser than in B1. The sand mode is 0.41-0.49mm diam. Sand volume 20-25%. These are either under plasters or renderings or screedings or sand deficient mortars. The low sand content has has partly made up by the addition of brick or tile fragments

C. Plasters.

431 (FWA36). The sand mode is 0.27 mm diam. and sand volume 10%.

The sample was taken from the back of a Roman tile. It probably represents a top plaster, an almost identical specimen came from Castle Rising (12th.Cent.) and a similar one from Neath Abbey (12th.Cent).

F. Non-typical Mortars.

2039 (FWA32). Sand mode 0.28mm diam. volume 65%. The sand is unsorted and unlike any other seen either at St. Agustines or elsewhere. It looks like the work of an amateur builder.

*FWS*

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