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A J Arnold, R E Howard and Dr C D Litton

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Summary

Of 252 samples from various high roofs of Ely Cathedral considered in this programme, 153 were selected for analysis, this producing 16 site chronologies. Of these chronologies, nine, comprising 108 samples, could be dated, with two further samples being dated individually. Seven chronologies, comprising 21 samples, did not date. There remain 22 individual samples ungrouped and undated.

The earliest material, felled in the mid-eleventh century, is found in the west tower turrets. Slightly later timbers, felled in the early-twelfth century, are found in the nave roof. Both probably represent reused Romanesque material.

Although two timbers of the nave roof were felled in AD 1223/24, the majority here was probably felled between AD 1290 and AD 1310. An individual nave timber has an estimated felling date in the range AD 1343-58. The latest nave material dates to the mid- to late-eighteenth century.

The Lady Chapel has material with an estimated felling AD 1297 to AD 1332, and 1318-53. A further timber has an estimated felling date in the range AD 1341-71, others being felled in AD 1726.

The south transept roof contains material estimated to have been felled c AD 1425/26.

Keywords

Dendrochronology Standing Building

Author's address

Department of Mathematics, University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD.

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Frontispiece: The Nave at Ely Cathedral. (© Crown copyright. NMR. AA98/00006)



Introduction

The site of Ely Cathedral (TL 541 803; Fig 1) has been a place of worship since at least AD 673, when Etheldreda, daughter of the king of East Anglia, founded a nunnery there. The site was sacked by the Danes in the AD 870s, but it was rebuilt, and by the tenth century had become a monastery of the Benedictine order. Nothing now, however, survives of the Anglo-Saxon church, which was entirely demolished when construction of the present building was commenced under the direction of Abbot Simeon in AD 1083. This work was largely complete by AD 1109 and Ely was elevated to the status of a cathedral as part of the Norman reforms of the English Church.

The cathedral was originally built with a central nave with aisles, crossed by the main north and south transepts which was topped by a low tower with a spire. At the west end of the cathedral was a further, smaller transept (with St. Catherine's Chapel), topped by a central tower between them. The west end of this original nave was terminated by a fine Romanesque facade to which was added the two-storey Galilee Porch, a later alteration in the Gothic style completed in AD 1215. The earliest surviving parts of the present cathedral, the north and south transepts, the south door and the nave, date from this time.

Slightly later in the thirteenth century, under Bishop Hugh Northwold, the short Romanesque asped choir of three bays to the east of the crossing was extended eastwards with a new six-bay addition. In addition work was undertaken to reconstruct the central tower at the west end. It is believed on documentary sources that the work on this retro-choir, or presbytery with its shrine of Saint Etheldreda, was complete by AD 1252.

In AD 1322 the central square Norman tower collapsed, destroying part of the choir and possibly part of the nave too. It was Alan of Walsingham who undertook repair of the damage taking the opportunity to widen the crossing, demolishing the first three western bays of the nave in the process, and topping the whole with the impressive octagonal lantern for which Ely Cathedral is famous. The fall of the tower and construction of the octagon interrupted work on the Lady Chapel, which had begun in AD 1321, and it was not completed until AD 1349.

At some time in the fifteenth century, the exact date is not recorded, an earthquake caused the collapse of the north-west transept. This was never rebuilt. However, further construction work was undertaken later with the Bishops' Chapels being completed in AD 1486 and AD 1530. The last great rebuilding and extension of the cathedral came during the early-sixteenth century, when two fine chantry chapels were built between the south transept and the Presbytery.

At the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the surrounding medieval buildings were either demolished or put to other uses and those that still survive are now used for many different purposes. The importance of the cathedral itself remained as the seat of the Bishop for a large portion of East Anglia. The painted decoration and carved statues all suffered under the fury of the iconoclasts of Henry VIII's time, but here and there faint traces remain.

In the mid-eighteenth century, the medieval rood screen was removed, thus providing

an open view which combines superbly with the spaciousness of the octagonal crossing (Frontispiece). The ceiling of the nave was boarded over and painted during the Victorian period and is a fine example of its time. A simple present-day plan of the cathedral is shown in Figure 2.

Sampling - AD 1987 - 90 and AD 1997 - 2002

Initially this programme of tree-ring dating considered an overall total of 252 samples from the various high roofs of the cathedral. Each sample has been given the code ELY-C (for Ely Cathedral) and is listed in Table 1. A large number of these samples, ELY-C01 - 167, were obtained during short periods of repair and restoration to small sections of the roofs between about AD 1987 and AD 1990.

These earlier samples, those obtained AD 1987 - 90, were generally taken as slices from rotted or decayed sections of timber. These decayed sections were often being removed to allow new pieces to be spliced in to the larger sound sections of timber remaining *in situ*. Samples were also obtained as slices from what appeared to be riven boards or planks set across rafters, or placed from collar to collar of the frames. In addition a few samples were obtained as graticule readings from some of the furniture, choir stalls, and backboards for example, on an occasional basis.

Because of the nature of the AD 1987 - 90 repair programme the early samples were generally obtained in a random, *ad hoc*, fashion determined more by the progress of this renovation work, rather than by a dedicated programme of dendrochronological research with the sampling of specific areas. Although the original location of all these sample timbers was recorded at the time, it was seen that many slices had fewer than 54 rings, less than the minimum for satisfactory tree-ring analysis, and such timbers were discarded. In some cases the sections of timber obtained were too decayed to be useable and these were discarded too. This is denoted by the term 'nk' (not kept) in Table 1. These samples thus do not form part of the present analysis. Furthermore, due to limited funding at that time, only a small number of the suitable samples that were initially obtained, those from about 40 timbers, were analysed as part of the earlier tree-ring dating programme.

It was only from the roof of the south transept, when scaffolding was in place in AD 1992, that satisfactory core samples, ELY-C168 - 176 and ELY-C185, could be obtained from suitable timbers with sufficient numbers of rings, and sapwood, or at least the heartwood/sapwood boundary. Additional core samples, ELY-C177 - 183 were obtained from timbers of the Lady Chapel roof, as part of a programme of research, when the lead covering was repaired in AD 1993.

Between AD 1993 and AD 2002 intermittent sampling has also been undertaken from some of the buildings of the cathedral complex, ie The Bishop's Palace. A much larger sampling programme from other buildings, such as the Cannonry, the Black Hostelry, and funded by English Heritage, has been undertaken since AD 2001. This is the subject of a separate report (Arnold *et al* 2004). The samples from these buildings have also been given the code ELY-C, and have been numbered consecutively from that last sample obtained from the cathedral. A further small batch of samples, ELY-C305 - 313, was then obtained from the stair treads of the west tower turrets and analysed as part of a programme of research in AD 1994. One sample, ELY-C24, was obtained as a graticule reading from a choir stall backboard, one of the few pieces of cathedral furniture of fixings to be examined. These proved to be the last samples from the cathedral itself until the present programme of analysis began. Thus, given that samples have also come from other parts of the cathedral complex at different times, the samples from the cathedral roofs listed in Table 1 do not always run in consecutive order.

Sampling AD 2003

In AD 2003 English Heritage proposed a new programme of tree-ring analysis of timbers from the cathedral. As part of this new work it was decided that not only should a selection of the best samples obtained between AD 1987 and AD 1993, but never measured, now be analysed, but that further coring also be undertaken.

However, rather than dilute the number of samples taken by extending coring to wider ranging and additional areas within the cathedral, it was proposed that more intensive coring be undertaken only on those areas that had previously been sampled. It was hoped that this method of further intensive coring in specific areas would increase the number of samples cross-matching, and that the new samples would include more with complete sapwood. It was hoped that this approach would thus not only increase the number of timbers dated, but also increase the precision of the results obtained. It was believed that the dating of a larger amount of material more precisely might demonstrate possible phases of felling and potential stages of construction within the roofs.

With this sampling proposal in mind, therefore, some 56 further samples were obtained from the nave roofs. These new samples were designated ELY-C501 - 56. These newly obtained samples were to be analysed in conjunction with all those previously taken from the cathedral in earlier programmes of analysis.

Other areas, which had been sampled in the past, were also assessed in the hope of obtaining further samples, and samples with complete, or at least simply more sapwood. Such areas, the west tower / belfry for example, however, were found either to be lacking suitable accessible timbers, or had timbers that were now hidden by replacement lead work, as in the Lady Chapel roof for example. Additional samples could not be obtained from such areas.

Thus, taking both the previously obtained material (analysed and not), and the newly obtained cores, an overall total of 252 samples from the various high cathedral roofs were initially considered as part of this new programme of tree-ring dating. Of this initial overall total, 99 had to be rejected. Most of these rejects had too few rings for satisfactory analysis, though some were not analysed because, although they had sufficient rings, they may not have had sapwood or the heartwood/sapwood boundary. This programme of research therefore considers the data from 153 measured samples.

This sampling information given above is summarised overpage:

Sample area	Number of samples obtained / analysed	Sample numbers
Nave roof	226 / 132	ELY-C01 – 167 ELY-C302 – 304
Lady Chapel roof	10 / 9	ELY-C301 – 556 ELY-C168 – 178 ELY– C185
South transept roof West tower turrets	7 / 7 9 / 5	ELY-C177 – 183 ELY-C305 – 313

Views of the nave roof are shown in Figures 3a - c. A view of the Lady Chapel roof is shown in Figure 4, with a drawing of a truss in this roof being given in Figure 5, and a plan in Figure 6.

The positions of the timbers cored were recorded at the time of sampling on drawings made by Elaine Guilding and Robert Howard at the time of the AD 1987 – 90 survey. These are reproduced here as Figures 31a to 33q. It should be pointed out that not all the timbers in the roof are illustrated in these drawings so that in some cases the position of some individual timbers is not shown. Details of the samples are given in Table 1. In this report the frames, bays, and individual timbers etc, have been numbered from east to west or from north to south as appropriate.

Further areas of possible sampling.

Given that in this new programme of work additional samples were to be obtained only from those areas which had been sampled before, a number of important areas of the high roofs would remain un-sampled. Such areas would include the Octagon lantern, and the Choir / east end. Other areas, although having benefited from some very small-scale sampling are poorly represented. However, although such areas were not sampled as part of this programme, they were to be assessed as to their suitability for dendrochronological dating as part of any possible future programme of tree-ring analysis.

Presbytery / choir / east end

From documentary sources, the Presbytery is believed to belong to Bishop Hugh Northwold's ambitious mid-thirteenth century expansion plans, when, to the original three Romanesque bays east of the crossing, a further six bays were added. Part of this roof was probably damaged by the fall of the central Romanesque tower in AD 1322, and parts may have been altered by the construction of the Octagon thereafter. This part of the cathedral roof has not been sampled before. Unfortunately it appears to have been replaced yet again and is now largely modern, ie, eighteenth-century. It does however contain a number of timbers re-used as purlins, raking shores, and struts. A modest amount of sampling from these timbers, and any other later oak material would certainly be worthwhile. Not only might this prove the date of the original construction but, knowing from documentary evidence the sources of the modern timber, it might also provide a reference chronology from a known location. A view of this roof is given in Figure 7.

The Octagon

The famous Octagon at Ely Cathedral has not been sampled either. This is in part because the date of its construction, *c* AD 1330, is well known from the documentary sources. The source of some of the timber is also known, documentary material indicating this as being Chicksands in Bedfordshire.

The Galilee Porch roof

Much of this roof, which has also not been sampled, has been replaced with relatively modern, probably eighteenth-century timbers, but this is not certain. It may be earlier, but it could also be later. It does however retain a small number of reused timbers which might be from the original early-twelfth century roof. With further tree-ring sampling it might be possible to more reliably demonstrate the stages of felling represented in this roof.

The west tower

Although this has been sampled before little satisfactory dating has resulted. It may, therefore, be worth obtaining additional samples. The great difficulty with this roof is one of access. Many of the oak timbers are at a great height and impossible to reach safely without a scaffolding tower, a boarded platform, and safety harness. Given the problems of access into the tower, it would be very difficult to get this equipment in to place.

If at any time in the future work is done in any of these roofs, if the lead covering and roof boards are ever removed for example, and a safety platform is put in place, sampling of the timbers in all these areas should be most strongly considered.

<u>Analysis</u>

Each sample to be analysed was prepared by sanding and polishing, and the growthring widths of all 153 were measured; the data of these measurements are given at the end of the report. The data of all these samples were compared with each other by the Litton/Zainodin grouping procedure (see appendix).

At a minimum *t*-value of 4.5 two larger groups, and 14 smaller groups of crossmatching samples could be formed. The largest of these groups contains a total of 43 samples, cross-matching with each other at relative positions as shown in the bar diagram, Figure 8. All 43 samples were combined at their indicated relative off-set positions to form site chronology ELYCSQ01, with a combined overall length of 300 rings. Site chronology ELYCSQ01 was compared with a large number of reference chronologies for oak indicating a series of satisfactory *t*-value cross-matches when the date of its first ring is AD 1029 and the date of its last ring is AD 1328. Evidence for this dating is given in the *t*-values of Table 2.

The next major group comprises a total of 33 samples, cross-matching with each other at relative positions as shown in the bar diagram, Figure 9. These 33 samples

were combined at their indicated relative off-set positions to form site chronology ELYCSQ02, with a combined overall length of 135 rings. Site chronology ELYCSQ02 was also compared to a large number of reference chronologies for oak indicating a series of satisfactory *t*-value cross-matches when the date of its first ring is AD 1206 and the date of its last ring is AD 1340. Evidence for this dating is given in the *t*-values of Table 3.

The next three groups comprise 7, 9, and 6 samples, cross-matching at relative positions as shown in the bar diagrams Figures 10, 11, and 12, with combined overall lengths of 112, 200, and 203, rings respectively. These respective groups were combined to make site chronologies ELYCSQ03, ELYCSQ04, and ELYCSQ05, which were then dated as spanning the years AD 1315 - AD 1426, AD 891 - AD 1090, and AD 1592 - AD 1794, respectively. Evidence for the dating of these three site chronologies is given in Tables 4 - 6.

A further 11 smaller groups, consisting of between two and five samples each, could also be formed, the relative positions of the cross-matching samples in all these groups being shown in the bar diagrams Figures 13 - 23. Only four of these site chronologies could be dated, three of them matching particularly well with European reference chronologies, specifically those from the Baltic regions. Evidence for the dating of this material is given in Tables 7 - 10.

Each site chronology was compared against all the others, and against the remaining single ungrouped samples. There was, however, no further satisfactory cross-matching. In some cases an attempt was made to date the samples of the smaller site chronologies, ie ELYCSQ08 and ELYCSQ11, by taking sub-groups of samples from them and comparing these with the reference chronologies. There was, however, no further satisfactory cross-matching.

Finally, each of the 24 remaining ungrouped single samples was then compared individually with a full range of reference chronologies, including those from the Baltic regions. This indicated satisfactory dating for two further samples, ELY-C53 and ELY-C159, both from the nave roof. ELY-C53 has 133 rings dated as spanning AD 1002 - AD 1134, while ELY-C159 has 156 rings dated as spanning AD 1133 - AD 1288. Evidence for this dating is given in the *t*-values of Tables 11 and 12.

Thus, of the 252 samples initially considered, 99 were rejected as unsuitable, and 153 were measured. Of these, 108 samples can be formed in to one of nine dated site chronologies, with two further samples being dated individually. A further 21 samples can be formed in to one of seven undated site chronologies. A total of 131 samples can thus be dated or grouped. Twenty-two samples remain ungrouped and undated.

These analytical results are summarized overpage.

Site chronology or sample	Number of samples	Number of rings	Date span (where dated)
ELYCSQ01 (see Fig 8)	43	300	AD 1029 - 1328
ELYCSQ02 (see Fig 9)	33	135	AD 1206 - 1340
ELYCSQ03 (see Fig 10)	7	112	AD 1315 - 1426
ELYCSQ04 (see Fig 11)	9	200	AD 891 - 1090
ELYCSQ05 (see Fig 12)	6	203	AD 1592 - 1794
ELYCSQ06 (see Fig 13)	3	181	AD 1109 - 1289
ELYCSQ07 (see Fig 14)	2	207	AD 1097 - 1303
ELYCSQ08 (see Fig 15)	5	161	Undated
ELYCSQ09 (see Fig 16)	3	177	Undated
ELYCSQ10 (see Fig 17)	2	161	AD 1019-1179
ELYCSQ11 (see Fig 18)	4	154	Undated
ELYCSQ12 (see Fig 19)	2	153	Undated
ELYCSQ13 (see Fig 20)	2	150	Undated
ELYCSQ14 (see Fig 21)	3	122	Undated
ELYCSQ15 (see Fig 22)	2	93	Undated
ELYCSQ16 (see Fig 23)	3	96	AD 933 - 1028
ELY-C53	1	133	AD 1002 - 1134
ELY-C159	1	156	AD 1133 - 1288

Interpretation

The nave roof (site chronologies ELYCSQ01, SQ02, SQ04, SQ05, SQ06, and SQ07)

A number of dated samples from the nave roof retain complete sapwood. This means that they retain the last sapwood ring that the tree produced before it was felled, and the date of this last ring is the date at which the timber represented was cut. Other samples retain the heartwood/sapwood boundary which, while not providing a precise felling date, does allow for the reliable estimation of a likely felling date range. Unsurprisingly, given the number of samples analysed and the range of places from which samples have been taken, there appears to be a spread of felling dates for timber used in the nave roof.

The earliest material from the nave roof detected in this programme of analysis appears to be represented by the nine samples of site chronology ELYCSQ04. The majority of these samples do not retain the heartwood/sapwood boundary and it is thus not possible to determine a reliable felling date range for the timbers represented. The samples do, however, all cross-match together with high *t*-values, suggesting that they are from a similar source, and all the samples have very early last measured ring dates. These range from AD 982 on sample ELY-C533 to AD 1066 on sample ELY-C109.

Only one sample, ELY-C133, in site chronology ELYCSQ04, retains the heartwood/sapwood boundary, this being dated to AD 1090. Using a 95% confidence limit of 15 to 40 sapwood rings on mature oaks from this part of England would give the timber represented by this sample an estimated felling date in the range AD 1105 to AD 1130. Given that the sampled timbers do show evidence for reuse, by way of redundant mortices and peg holes, it is likely that all these timbers are indeed early timbers that have been reclaimed and reused.

It would appear, however, that the majority of timbers from the nave roof, almost all those represented in site chronologies ELYCSQ01 and ELYCSQ02, have felling dates clustering in a relatively short time period. This appears to range from the late-thirteenth century to the early-fourteenth century.

The latest certain felling date for any of these timbers is that represented by sample ELY-C33, in site chronology ELYCSQ02. This sample retains complete sapwood with a last measured ring date of AD 1304. Other samples in this chronology which retain complete sapwood have very similar dates; AD 1303 for samples ELY-C65 and C77, AD 1302 for samples ELY-C34, C51, and C91, AD 1301 for sample ELY-C108 and AD 1299 for sample ELY-C552.

Other samples in site chronology ELYCSQ02 are from timbers which may possibly have been felled a few years earlier than this. The earliest heartwood/sapwood boundary of any sample in site chronology ELYCSQ02 is found at relative position 62, AD 1267, on sample ELY-C551, with the next earliest being at relative position 68, AD 1273, on sample ELY-C528. However, it is certainly not impossible for these timbers to have been felled in the early-fourteenth century as well.

It is also possible that some timbers were felled a few years later than the bulk of those represented by site chronology ELYCSQ02. The latest heartwood/sapwood boundary is found at relative position 87, AD 1292, on sample ELY-C543. Were this timber to have been felled in, say, AD 1304 too, it would have had only 12 sapwood rings. Such a low number is below the usual 95% confidence limit of 15 sapwood rings. However, given the number of samples obtained it is not unexpected to find a small number of samples with less than this minimum.

The relative position of the heartwood/sapwood boundaries on the majority of other dated samples in site chronology ELYCSQ02 are generally very similar, ranging by only 14 years from relative position 71, AD 1276, on samples ELY-C522 and C523, to

relative position 85, AD 1290, on sample ELY-C36. Such a spread, while not necessarily representative of timbers with an identical felling date, is certainly indicative of a narrow range of felling dates, such as that indicated by those samples in site chronology ELYCSQ02 with complete sapwood.

Unlike a number of samples in site chronology ELYCSQ02, only one of those from the nave roof in site chronology ELYCSQ01, sample ELY-C524, retains complete sapwood. This sample has a last, complete sapwood, ring date of AD 1223, this being the felling date of the timber represented. Most of the other samples retain only the heartwood/sapwood boundary and it is thus not possible to determine with complete certainty the exact felling date of any of those timbers represented, though it is possible to estimate a likely felling date range.

The bar diagram of site chronology ELYCSQ01, Figure 8, shows that the heartwood/sapwood boundary on the bulk of samples moves gradually forward in time, from relative position 227, AD 1255, on sample ELY-C503, to relative position 264, AD 1292, on sample ELY-C537, a spread of 37 years. Again, the dates of the heartwood/sapwood boundaries indicate felling dates ranges in the late-thirteenth to early-fourteenth centuries. Using a 95% confidence limit of 15 to 40 sapwood rings on mature oaks from this part of England would give the two timbers represented by sample ELY-C503 and C537 estimated felling date ranges of AD 1270 to AD 1295, and AD 1307 to AD 1332, respectively. The estimated felling date ranges for the other samples with only the heartwood/sapwood boundaries lie between these two extremes.

Indeed, in looking at the bar diagram for site chronology ELYCSQ01 in Figure 8, it is just possible that groups of samples may represent stages of felling. One might consider samples ELY-C01, C04, C14, C501, C503, and C504 as representing one phase of felling, with samples ELY-C05, C45, C54, C58, C502, C516, and C554, representing another phase of felling perhaps some ten to 15 years later. A subsequent phase of felling, perhaps some ten years after this, might be seen in a larger series of samples whose heartwood/sapwood boundary varies from relative position 250, AD 1278, to relative position 255, AD 1283. The dates of the heartwood/sapwood boundaries are again indicative of timbers being felled between the late-thirteenth and the early-fourteenth centuries. There is no indication, however, of a date-trend paralleling the probable direction of construction, from east to west. Rather, we find timber with a mixture of felling dates at each end of the nave roof, and indeed in the middle of the roof as well.

Sample ELY-C149 in site chronology ELYCSQ01, certainly represents a timber felled later. This sample has a last measured ring date of AD 1328, this also being the heartwood/sapwood boundary date. Using a 95% confidence limit of 15 to 40 sapwood rings on mature oaks from this part of England would give the timber represented by this sample an estimated felling date range of AD 1343 - 68. The sample may represent a reclaimed timber from elsewhere in the cathedral that has been spliced in to the scissor brace that has been sampled.

Site chronology ELYCSQ05 (bar diagram Fig 12) contains six dated samples, four of which, ELY-C104, C110, C151, and C153, are also from the nave roof. Two of the samples, ELY-C104 and C110, retain complete sapwood, with last measured ring

dates of AD 1794 and AD 1791, respectively. These are thus the felling dates of the timbers represented. It is possible that the timber represented by sample ELY-C153, which has eight sapwood rings and a last measured ring date of AD 1783 was felled at about this time also.

The timber represented by sample ELY-C151 is likely to have been felled earlier. This sample has 15 sapwood rings, which is not complete, with a last measured ring date of AD 1750. It is likely that the timber was felled sometime between AD 1751 and AD 1775.

Three further samples from the nave roof, ELY-C157, C160 and C162, are to be seen in dated site chronology ELYCSQ06. It can be seen from Table 6 that this site chronology cross-matches best with a series of reference chronologies from the Baltic region, suggesting that these samples are from that area. The average last heartwood ring date on these three samples is AD 1283. Using a sapwood estimate of 9 to 35 rings would give the timbers represented, riven boards covering common rafters, an estimated felling date in the range AD 1292 to AD 1318.

Site chronology ELYCSQ07 contains one sample, ELY-C161 from a timber of the nave roof which is of probable Baltic origin, as again shown by its cross-matching with a series of reference chronologies from that area. Sample ELY-C161, in site chronology ELYCSQ07, has a heartwood/sapwood boundary date of AD 1189. Using a sapwood estimate of 9 to 35 rings would give the timber represented, another riven board covering common rafters, an estimated felling date in the range AD 1204 - 24. The second sample in chronology ELYCSQ07, ELY-C24, is from a choir backboard. This sample has a last measured heartwood ring date of AD 1303, but does not have the heartwood/sapwood boundary. It is thus not possible to estimate its felling date except to say that it is unlikely to be before AD 1312, based on a minimum of nine sapwood rings.

Two samples from the nave roof have been individually dated. ELY-C53 has a last measured ring date of AD 1134 but does not have the heartwood/sapwood boundary and it is thus not possible to reliably estimate its likely felling date range. It is, however, unlikely to have been felled before AD 1149, based on a minimum number of 15 sapwood rings.

Sample ELY-C159 has a last measured, heartwood/sapwood boundary, date of AD 1288. This timber, a riven board, is probably of Baltic origin. It is estimated that this timber has a felling date in the range AD 1297 to AD 1328, this figure based on a sapwood estimate of 9 - 35 sapwood rings for this region.

A number of other samples from the nave roofs are to be found in the remaining undated site chronologies. These are on occasion, however, to be found mixed with samples from other parts of the cathedral, as in site chronologies ELYCSQ08, or ELYCSQ09.

South transept roof. (bar diagram Fig 10, ELYCSQ03)

Two of the seven dated samples, ELY-C178 and C181, from the south transept roof

in site chronology ELYCSQ03, retain complete sapwood, with last measured ring dates, and thus felling dates, of AD 1425 and AD 1426, respectively. The relative positions of the heartwood/sapwood boundaries on the other dated samples in this site chronology ELYCSQ03 are consistent with a group of timbers having a generally similar felling date.

Lady Chapel roof (ELYCSQ01, SQ02 and SQ05, bar diagram Fig 8, Fig 9, and Fig 12)

Five of the ten samples from the Lady Chapel roof, ELY-C168, C169, C171, C173, and C175, have been dated as part of three different site chronologies. The earliest material from the roof detected in this analysis appears to be represented by samples ELY-C168 and C175, which have heartwood/sapwood boundary dates of AD 1303 and AD 1282 respectively. Using the usual allowance of 15 - 40 sapwood rings for these samples would give the respective timbers represented estimated felling dates in the range AD 1318 to AD 1343, and AD 1297 to AD 1322. It is possible that both timbers were felled at the same time between AD 1318 and AD 1322, where the felling date ranges of each sample overlaps.

A further sample from the Lady Chapel, ELY-C171, in site chronology ELYCSQ02, has 19 sapwood rings, with a last measured ring date of AD 1340. Using the same sapwood estimate as above, 15 - 40 rings, and allowing for the last measured ring date, would give the timber represented by this sample an estimated felling date in the range AD 1341 to AD 1361. It is again possible that this timber was felled at the same, or at least a similar time, to those others from the Lady Chapel discussed above.

Two timbers from the Lady Chapel that were certainly felled later are represented by samples ELY-C169 and C173, both in site chronology ELYCSQ05. These two samples both have complete sapwood, and the same last measured ring date of AD 1736. This is thus the felling date for both timbers.

West tower turrets (ELYCSQ10, SQ16, bar diagram Fig17 and Fig 23)

Site chronologies ELYCSQ10 and ELYCSQ16 comprise samples from timbers in the west tower turrets, four stair beams, ELY-C309, C310, C312, and C313, and a small board, ELY-C26. Two of the samples, ELY-C310 and C313, have an average last heartwood ring date of AD 1028. This gives the timbers represented an estimated felling date in the range AD 1043 - 68. This figure is based on a sapwood range of 15 to 40 rings. Two other timbers, represented by samples ELY-C26 and C312, are probably of Baltic origin, with one certainly, and possibly both, having a felling date of AD 1179.

An attempt to summarise these interpretations, and indicate the felling date, or the estimated felling date range of samples, or groups of samples within the roofs, is given overpage.

Sampling area	Sample numbers	Felling date or felling date range
West tower turrets	C309/310, C313 C26, C312	AD 1043 - 68 AD 1179
Nave	C03, C47, C88, C109, C133, C135, C303, C304, C533	AD 1105 - 30
Nave	C524, C525	Probably both samples AD 1223
Nave	C161	AD 1298 - AD 1324
Nave	C01, C04/5, C14, C16, C32- 4, C36-8, C40, C42, C45, C49, C51/2, C54, C58, C65, C71, C74, C81, C87/8, C91-94, C96, C102, 104/5, C108, C110/11, C118, C140, C501- 07, C509-14, C516/7, C522- 25, C528, C530-32, C537/8, C540-43, C548/9, C551-56	c AD 1290 - AD 1310
Nave	C157, C160, C162	AD 1292 - AD 1318.
Nave	C159	AD 1297 - AD 1323
Nave	C149	AD 1343 - 68
Nave	C151 C110, C104 C153	AD 1751 - 75 AD 1791, AD 1794 AD 1790 - AD 1815
Lady Chapel roof	C175 C168 C171 C169, C173	AD 1288 - AD 1313 AD 1318 - 43 AD 1341 - 61 AD 1736
South transept roof	C177 – 183	AD 1425, AD 1426
Nave	C53	Not before AD 1149

A bar diagram showing the relative positions of the dated site chronologies and the two samples dated individually is given in the bar diagram, Figure 24.

<u>Conclusion</u>

Analysis by tree-ring dating has produced 16 site chronologies, ELYCSQ01 - 16. These comprise 108 samples in nine dated site chronologies, with two further samples being dated individually. Seven site chronologies, comprising 21 samples, are undated. There are a further 22 samples that are both ungrouped and undated.

This analysis has provided felling dates, or estimated felling date ranges, for timbers from a number of different locations in the high roofs. As suspected on carpentry and structural ground, tree-ring analysis has shown that these timbers have a wide spread of felling dates, showing the reuse of Romanesque material, early-fourteenth century material, fifteenth-century material, and eighteenth-century repairs.

The earliest material detected in this programme of analysis appears to be that represented by three samples, ELY-C309, C310 and C313, from the turrets of the west tower, with an estimated felling date in the mid- to later-eleventh century, between AD 1043 - 68. It is possible that these timbers were original to the Romanesque cathedral, which was commenced under Abbot Simeon, and believed to be complete by AD 1109, and that they have been reused in their present location. The west tower turrets contain another early timber, represented by sample ELY-C312. This has a last complete sapwood ring date, and thus a felling date of AD 1179.

It is possible that the next latest felling is represented by a group of nine samples from the nave roof, in site chronology ELYCSQ04 (bar diagram Fig 11). It is possible to determine a felling date range for only one of the timbers represented, this being between AD 1105 and AD 1130. Given the degree of cross-matching between the samples, however, it is likely that they represent a near single phase of felling in the early-twelfth century. If this is correct the timbers possibly represent further material from the original Romanesque cathedral, reused in the construction of the later roof.

The next latest material is also found in the nave roof and is represented by samples ELY-C524 and C525 in site chronology ELYCSQ01 (bar diagram Fig 8). Both have almost identical heartwood/sapwood boundaries, suggesting very similar felling dates, with sample ELY-C524 having a complete sapwood ring date, and thus a felling date, of AD 1223. It is possible that these timbers represent material felled for work on the Presbytery, or choir, which was commenced under Bishop Hugh Northwold at about this time and continued into the AD 1250s.

There then follows the felling of the majority of timbers, mainly from the nave roof, as represented by most of those samples in site chronologies ELYCSQ01 and ELYCSQ02 (bar diagram Figs 8 and 9). The felling of these timbers takes place in a fairly narrow time span between about AD 1290 and AD 1310.

Three further samples from the nave roof, represented by ELY-C157, C160 and C162 in site chronology ELYCSQ06 (bar diagram Fig 13), are probably felled at about the same time as the majority of timbers discussed immediately above, and may be

representative of the same phase of work. These timbers, riven boards across the rafter frames have an estimated felling date in the range AD 1292 to AD 1318. It is probable that the timber used for these boards originates in the Baltic region of Europe.

While there is documentary evidence for the mid-thirteenth century work of Bishop Northwold on the Presbytery and west tower, it would appear there is no direct historical context or previous documentary record for this late-thirteenth or early-fourteenth century work to the nave roof. It is possible that work on the nave was simply a project to replace the old Romanesque nave roof with the more up to date form used in the Presbytery.

An individual sample from the nave roof, ELY-C149, represents an outlier from the many body of felled timber. It is estimated that the timber has a felling date in the range AD 1343 to AD 1358.

The latest material from the nave roof is represented by samples ELY-C104, C110, C151, and C153. The timber represented by sample ELY-C151 has an estimated felling date in the range AD 1751 to AD 1785. Samples, ELY-C110 and C104 represent timbers felled in AD 1791 and AD 1794, respectively. It is likely that the timber represented by sample ELY-C153 was felled at about this time too. The felling of these timbers presumably relates to late-eighteenth century repairs as well.

Elsewhere in the cathedral, the earliest material from the Lady Chapel roof detected in this programme is represented by samples ELY-C168 and C175, which have estimated felling dates in the range AD 1318 to AD 1353, and AD 1297 to AD 1332. It is possible that both timbers were felled at the same time between AD 1318 and AD 1332, where the felling date ranges of each sample overlap. A further timber from the Lady Chapel, represented by ELY-C171, has an estimated felling date in the range AD 1341 - 71. It is again possible that this timber was felled at the same or similar time. It is probable that the felling of these timbers is directly related to the construction of the Lady Chapel in the early- to mid-fourteenth century.

Two other timbers from the Lady Chapel, represented by samples ELY-C169 and C173, both with complete sapwood, were felled in AD 1726. These probably represent eighteenth-century repair work.

From the south transept roof come a group of seven dated samples, two of which, ELY-C178 and C181, have complete sapwood. These two samples indicate felling dates of AD 1425 and AD 1426, respectively for the timbers represented. The relative positions of the heartwood/sapwood boundaries on the other dated samples in this site chronology, ELYCSQ03, are consistent with a group of timbers having a very similar, if not identical, felling date. It is possible that these represent repairs or complete renewal of the south transept roof after the undated collapse in this part of the cathedral following an earthquake.

These conclusions may be sumarised as overpage.

Sampling area	Felling date or estimated felling date range	Historical context
West tower turrets	AD 1043 - 68	Original Romanesque work
Nave roof	AD 1105 - 30	Original Romanesque work
Nave roof	AD 1223	Material destined for mid- thirteenth century Presbytery?
Nave roof	c AD 1290 - AD 1310	Replacement of original Romanesque roof
Nave roof	AD 1343 - 58	Repair timber
Nave roof	AD 1751 - 85 AD 1791, AD 1794	Late-eighteenth century repairs
Lady Chapel roof	Early- to mid-fourteenth century	Original early- to mid-fourteenth century building
	AD 1726, AD 1726	Late-eighteenth century repairs
South transept roof	AD 1425 / AD 1426	Repairs after undated fifteenth century collapse

Two major site chronologies, consisting of 43 and 33 samples respectively have been formed. Although these site chronologies overlap in time, AD 1029 - AD 1328, and AD 1206 – AD 1340, they do not cross-match with each other. This would suggest that the respective timbers of each site chronology come from different localities, some distance apart. From documentary evidence the source of some timber felled in the mid-thirteenth century, and supposedly destined for the west tower and probably the Presbytery also, is known. Two sources are known to be near Alconbury in Huntingdonshire, and Kingswood in Essex. It is possible that some of the late-thirteenth and early-fourteenth century timber used in the nave is from the same sources. Judging by the other different groups of samples created, it is possible that other sources of timber are also used.

Certainly one other source that is identified seems to be indicated by the cross-

matching is the Baltic. It is again possible that some of the undated material, both undated site chronologies and single sample are from different sources in Europe. Thus, using this tree-ring analysis it may be possible to further refine the dates obtained if they can be linked with documentary information for repair or modification. This may aid in the identification of the source roof, or roofs, of the reused material. The documentary sources may also provide information about the woodland sources of this timber.

Of the 22 ungrouped and undated samples almost half have less than 60 rings which, whilst sufficient for satisfactory for analysis, is relatively low. The longest ungrouped and undated sample, ELY-C11, has 123 rings. Some of these longer samples do show some slight distortion, perhaps due to stressed growing conditions, and this might account for them not dating. Many of the other such samples show no problems.

It is possible that the lack of dating for some samples is due to their being of a date and or from an area for which there are no relevant reference chronologies available. Further sampling from Ely Cathedral might help date some of these samples. Given the nature of the material used in the roof and the extent of reused old timbers it is also possible that some of the undated samples represent singletons of diverse date. Such timbers are often difficult to date, particularly when they have lower numbers of growth-rings.

An assessment of fixtures and fittings

Whilst the new programme of tree-ring analysis of the high roofs was in progress the opportunity was taken to examine items within the cathedral under the general heading 'fixtures and fittings', a term that is taken to cover three categories: furniture, panels, and doors, although there are some other timber items. Overall there is nothing that appears at first inspection to be particularly ancient or unusual. There are, however, two interesting features that might repay some dendrochronological investigation, if only to verify their dates with greater certainty, and possibly determine the provenance of the wood used. These are the misericords in the choir, and a muniments chest, currently placed in the south transept.

Misericords and other seats of the choir Figs 25 and 26

The misericords are placed on both sides of the choir in three tiers, or ranks, of seats, with only the rear rank to each side being classic examples. These are of the typical tilting type seat with a slightly dished shelf upon which to rest when stood up. Some of these are believed to be of thirteenth century date, others are believed to be fourteenth century (Fearn, 1997). The undersides of the tilting pieces are decorated with carved figures, leafs, scrolls, and other motifs. It is believed that a study of these has been made, but whether published, or indeed even how available this study is, is not certain.

The misericords, and indeed the stalls in which they are housed, that is the sides and backs of the seats, and the divisions between each seat, all appear to have good ring

counts. They are not exceptionally tight, as might be expected of Baltic timber, but have sufficient rings and should provide good samples. This might suggest they are made from English oak, but again this is unknown.

Sampling could probably be undertaken by taking the seats off their hinges, preparing an edge, and reading *in situ* with a graticule. It would also be possible to photograph a prepared edge. Similar methods have been successfully applied to misericords in the past, such as those at Southwell Minster in Nottinghamshire, with satisfactory result being obtained. This might be a little more difficult at Ely, however, because of the unusual hinge type. Because small wooded plugs cover the screws, it is difficult to see how the hinges attached to the seat. This is an area that the Clerk of Works may be able to help with. An alternate, and possibly additional, source of samples might be other parts of the stalls. The divisions between them could be cored, with a microborer, near the floor in which case it would not be possible to see the core sites afterwards.

The forward ranks of seating here appear quite different and are probably much more recent. They might be eighteenth century, but it is more likely that they are of nineteenth-century date. It would again probably be possible to get samples by graticule reading. If they are relatively late, it might also be possible to find out from documentary sources where the timber used came from.

The misericords and other seats at Ely Cathedral contain large quantities of oak paneling with posts, rails, and carved decorative pieces. Some portions of it, base or cross rails for example, could be cored and might provide worthwhile samples. Most of the other pieces, however, could not be cored because they are too thin, and edges could only be read with a graticule if the entire structure were taken apart. None of this paneling looks earlier than the nineteenth century, but this would certainly be worth checking if, and when, any work on them is ever undertaken.

Muniments chest, Fig 27

There is also the muniments chest, or 'strong box', currently held in the south transept of the cathedral. This chest is about 2.5 metres long, by about 1 metre wide, and about 0.70 metres deep. It is made up of a number of boards held together by extensive, and impressive, ironwork. It is known as the 'Reformation Chest', because of some believed connection to its possible date, though no authority is certain of its provenance. It appears as if there has been quite a certain amount of patching and splicing in of pieces to it, and many of the timbers have different grain patterns to each other. The lid, and parts of the front in particular, appear to be slightly wide ringed. The side or end pieces on the other hand do appear to have very narrow rings; it is possible that these pieces are of Baltic origin. At the time of assessment the back of the chest was difficult to see, this being against the wall.

Most of the ends of the boards of the muniments chest are covered by metal straps, or are hidden in joints. Fortunately the end, or side, pieces have good areas of exposed rings. These could be prepared fairly easily and read with a graticule. However a potential problem with these pieces is that the exposed edges might not prepare very well and it would be difficult to get a clean, readable surface.

Apart from these larger items there are a number of other candidates for possible tree-ring dating, though possibly no less interesting. There are, for example, a small number of kneelers in the cathedral, possibly eight in total. It is probably unlikely that any of these is any earlier than the nineteenth century, though it is possible that they might be of eighteenth-century date, though again, there is no authoritative view on these items. The majority of these kneelers are oak where the shelf portions of them (where prayer books would be rested) do have exposed ends with quite good ring counts. It would be very easy to take readings of these.

Benches, pews, and other items

There are also a few benches, pews, stands, and small tables or desks that show some areas of end-grain. Each item usually presents only one available edge for sampling, and from the standpoint of tree-ring dating, they generally tend to have low, though probably sufficient, numbers of rings for analysis. Most items show quite clean end-grain surfaces and would need little preparation. These could be quite easily read with a graticule. Most of these items again appear to be nineteenth century, but once again this is not certain.

Graticule readings could also be made quite easily from a very modern looking set of oak benches, steps, and stands currently placed at the crossing. These must have been obtained in the last 10 years or so, and the source of the timber might be known. This source could be English, but it would not be surprising if was foreign. Several very clean edges are available with little preparation being required, with the ring counts certainly looking suitable.

Paneling

Another, rather more remote, possibility for tree-ring analysis is the paneling within the cathedral. This is naturally to be found in great quantities not only in the choir above the misericord stalls, but also in several chapels at Ely. On the whole this again all appears to be of either eighteenth or nineteenth-century date. Apart from a few decorative mouldings there is nothing that looks particularly ancient. Unfortunately, this paneling could not be cored because of its thinness, and it would probably be impossible to get a graticule reading without taking sections of it apart. There might be some elements of various sections that could be core sampled, some posts or rails for example, but they might produce short cores and have too few rings.

Doors

The final items assessed are the doors; there are naturally quite a number of these. All of them appear to be made of rather clean, squarely cut, and well-planed planks, suggesting that they may be of relatively late date. None of the doors appeared stylistically to be of exceptional antiquity. Judging by the grain, the door planks do have quite good ring counts, and they would probably produce suitable tree-ring samples. The problem with these is again that of sampling. A couple of the doors, particularly the large west door in the Galilee Porch, are in theory thick enough to be cored with a micro-borer. The problem would be in reaching the outer planks through the surrounding architrave, and in coring the inner planks. The planks are all set so closely together that it would be almost impossible to find an edge from which to start drilling. It is unlikely that a graticule reader could be used either, firstly because this would require taking this huge door off its hinges, and secondly there is an architrave strip hiding the bottom and top edges of the door planks.

All the other doors have similar problems. The 'Prior's Door' off the south nave aisle, for example, is again made up of a series of close-set, clean-planned planks that look relatively late. They too appear to have good ring counts. However, it would again be very difficult to core them, and probably impossible to read rings with a graticule because of architrave strips at top and bottom.

Lintels

In connection with the doors it was noted that one or two of them had wooden lintels. The door to the south-west tower stair, the one which leads to the Glass Museum, has what appear to be five, probably reused, timbers in it. These timbers appear to have sufficient rings for satisfactory analysis and consideration might be given to sampling these as well.

Passageway roof

Other wooden objects seen include the new oak beamed roof between the choir aisle and the Lady Chapel. The source of the timber is probably well documented, as of course is its date, the roof being 'unveiled' in AD 2000. Depending on where the wood has come from it might provide some useful modern reference material. This roof could be cored quite easily in the same way as any other.

Shuttering boards, Fig 28

The ceilings vaults of the passageways leading up through the south-west tower have the remains, here and there, of shuttering boards. These are small strips of wood, 3 -4 cms wide by about 8 - 10 cms long, by perhaps 1 cm thick. They are set into the mortar of the vault. Such pieces are seen elsewhere, Lincoln Cathedral for example, but have not been sampled. Usually, and this is the case at Ely Cathedral, they are too small, with low ring counts, or too fragile, to produce useable samples. About six such pieces were seen at Ely Cathedral.

Wall beams, Fig 29

Another area of possible sampling is a series of long oak timbers set horizontally within the walls of the south-west tower, roughly just below bell-chamber level. It is difficult to understand what these timbers do (though them may be some sort of bracing), or how they were put in place. This is in large measure because only parts

of each timber are visible. In some cases timbers cross in front of window openings, and pass through voids cut in the walls. The timbers are fixed at their ends by being tennoned into short cross pieces, which are themselves set in to small voids in the walls of the tower. The tennon of the long pieces pass right through the mortices of the end cross pieces, the tennon being held by a wedge or small chock. The majority of these timbers would probably provide satisfactory tree-ring samples.

Window and door frame

Within the cathedral there is on display an oak window-frame. This is believed to have come from Prior Crauden's Study in the Prior's House, one of the precinct buildings. The frame consists of two upright posts and a lintel, with various carved pieces as decoration. The grain on the uprights suggests quite good ring counts, and it would be easy to core these. The lintel on the other hand looks like it is derived from fast-grown timber and thus likely to have a low number of rings. The decorative pieces could not be cored and could not be read with a graticule unless the frame is partially dismantled. On the basis of stylistic evidence it is believed that this piece dates from *c* AD 1325.

Also on display is an oak door-frame consisting of two uprights and a lintel, Fig 30. The uprights again look as if they would provide suitable samples for tree-ring analysis, and could be sampled by coring. The lintel appears to have very wide rings and this timber would probably not be worth sampling. No indication of the possible date of this door is given.

Recommendations

If consideration is given to the possibility of sampling any of these items it is recommended that some order or priority might be suggested. This order is based on a combination of factors such as the likely age and interest in the item, the likelihood of obtaining a reliable date, and the difficulty of, or disruption caused by, sampling.

Priority should perhaps be given to the misericords, with sampling to include not only the seats themselves, but also the stalls that house them. Both elements ought to produce useable samples, it is likely that they are the same date, but it is possible that the timber could be from different sources. Analysis will hopefully establish the date of these items more reliably.

Secondly, consideration should be given to sampling the muniments chest. This ought to provide up to six samples with little detrimental impact on the piece. The date of this object appears to be unclear. It is possible that the sampled elements of the chest are of Baltic, or at least European, origin.

Thirdly it is suggested that the sampling of the kneelers set at various points round the cathedral be considered. The dates of items of this nature seem to be at best rather indeterminate, often thought of as being eighteenth or nineteenth century, though usually completely unknown. It is possible that many such items from many other sites are simply discarded as being of no interest. Analysis of some of these items might establish a more accurate date for this type furniture in general. These would be easy to sample, by reading with a graticule, and would cause little disruption.

Finally, it is suggested that the horizontal beams of the south-west tower might be sampled. It is known that the cathedral suffered earthquake damage in the past and these may have been inserted as a result to 'clamp' and strengthen the stonework.

If further sampling were considered the modern oak stands and steps at the crossing might be the next best candidates, followed by the door and window frames on display. It is not certain where these items have come from, and they would provide only 2 - 3 samples each.

The sampling of the doors is not recommended unless they are thought to be particularly old, or their dates are in dispute. They would in any case be difficult to sample. Nor is the sampling any paneling recommended. It would be pleasing to establish dates for various pieces, but unless they are taken apart it would be difficult to obtain readings. This applies to many of the smaller items of furniture too, assuming of course that they were of interest. The shuttering boards in the ceilings are probably original, but are unlikely to provide satisfactory samples and the sampling of these is not recommend.

In conclusion it is possible to state that the sampling and analysis of additional material from Ely Cathedral, both from the roof and from the fixtures and fittings could have significant benefits. Not only would it help inform the future management of the site but it would provide data on the historic context of the building too. The overall dates, and the possible phases and sequential development of several areas of roofing which are unknown or uncertain at the moment might be more reliably determined. The extent of reuse of earlier material, or the insertion of later repair and alteration material, is also unclear, and this too might be established.

The dating and phasing of several elements of the furniture, fixtures, and fittings is likewise uncertain. There is little scientific evidence for the dating of this class of item, some of them potentially important pieces. It is possible that smaller items, kneelers and pews for example, which are sometimes considered less important, may not receive the conservation and management that they deserve.

The sampling and analysis of these additional roofs, and some elements of furniture and fittings, might go some way to resolving these potential problems.

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Sample number	Sample location	Total rings	*Sapwood rings	First measured ring date	Last heartwood ring date	Last measured ring date
	Nave roof	Ū	0	5		
ELY-C01	North lower rafter, frame 7	101	h/s	AD 1156	AD 1256	AD 1256
ELY-C02	North rafter, frame 4	nm			المشغر تجنبه تعنين بالمتار	
ELY-C03	North upper rafter, frame 15	100	no h/s	AD 966		AD 1065
ELY-C04	South rafter, frame 14	230	h/s	AD 1029	AD 1258	AD 1258
ELY-C05	South rafter, frame 5	82	h/s	AD 1190	AD 1271	AD 1271
ELY-C06	South rafter, frame 4	nm	ana mar cont			
ELY-C07	South rafter, frame 6	98	no h/s	100 500 mm and well and		محروبية فقد محد
ELY-C08	North rafter, frame 5	nm				
ELY-C09	South ashlar, frame 18	nm				
ELY-C10	North rafter, frame 6	nm				
ELY-C11	South sole piece, frame 3	123	23C			
ELY-C12	North sole piece, frame 6	82	2			معلم وليت فيترد البلية البري
ELY-C13	North sole piece, frame 11	81	h/s	Main anns anns anns anns Anns		يغد فند فند ويم وجز ورب
ELY-C14	North sole piece, frame 13	133	h/s	AD 1124	AD 1256	AD 1256
ELY-C15	South ashlar, frame 20	nm				
ELY-C16	South ashlar, frame 28	70	14	AD 1220	AD 1275	AD 1289
ELY-C17	North rafter, frame 28	nm				
ELY-C18	South rafter, frame 31	nm		and their and and and and		
ELY-C19	North sole piece, frame 30	nm			and plant and lower and lower	
ELY-C20	South sole piece, frame 31	nm	-yadi myal			
ELY-C21	North rafter, frame 34	nm		MMR Qual Just may deal		

Table 1: Details of samples from the high roofs of Ely Cathedral

Sample number	Sample location	Total rings	*Sapwood rings	First measured ring date	Last heartwood ring date	Last measured ring date
	Nave roof	•	-	-	Ŭ	J. J
ELY-C22	Block, frame 18 - 19, south side	136	no h/s			
ELY-C23	North sole piece, frame 18	nm			and train and rain parts	
ELY-C24	Choir stall back-board	207	no h/s	AD 1097		AD 1303
ELY-C25	North sole piece, frame 37	nm		Angle Adult & Safety, pages pages Traps		
ELY-C26	Small board, west tower turret	63	h/s	AD 1088	AD 1150	AD 1150
ELY-C27	North lower rafter, frame 31	nm		ala. Inter data tang tang tang		
ELY-C28	North rafter, frame 18	nm		atu, ben, ben ann ann		
ELY-C29	North scissor brace, frame 18	nm		ind, our case and can and		
ELY-C30	North scissor brace, frame 19	nm				and part and real part -and
ELY-C31	Lower collar, frame 15	nm			where every matter mark press limit	and any one are are
ELY-C32	South scissor brace, frame 28	67	8	AD 1220	AD 1278	AD 1286
ELY-C33	Lower collar, frame 28	83	22C	AD 1222	AD 1282	AD 1304
ELY-C34	Lower collar, frame 30	83	23C	AD 1220	AD 1279	AD 1302
ELY-C35	South scissor brace, frame 30	nm				
ELY-C36	Upper collar, frame 30	84	2	AD 1209	AD 1290	AD 1292
ELY-C37	Upper collar, frame 34	81	29C	AD 1223	AD 1274	AD 1303
ELY-C38	South scissor brace, frame 34	83	4	AD 1207	AD 1285	AD 1289
ELY-C39	Upper collar frame 34	nm				
ELY-C40	Lower collar, frame 34	70	2	AD 1222	AD 1289	AD 1291
ELY-C41	North rafter, frame 35	nm		ware rand ward made ware read		
ELY-C42	North sole piece, frame 35	62	15C	AD 1223	AD 1269	AD 1284

Sample number	Sample location	Total rings	*Sapwood rings	First measured ring date	Last heartwood ring date	Last measured ring date
	INAVE TOOL					
ELY-C43	South rafter, frame 36	nm	Made Law, Socie			
ELY-C44	South sole piece, frame 36	74	h/s		ويتبط الملك البيان برجية بيوت ليون	parts (parts) parts (and starts)
ELY-C45	South sole piece, frame 37	83	8	AD 1191	AD 1265	AD 1273
ELY-C46	North sole piece, frame 37	nm	and the set			and case and have been and
ELY-C47	Support, frame 37	98	no h/s	AD 904		AD 1001
ELY-C48	South rafter, frame 37	nm				
ELY-C49	North sole piece, frame 38	65	h/s	AD 1217	AD 1281	AD 1281
ELY-C50	South sole piece, frame 39	105	21C	ativa anna band band paral		
ELY-C51	South ashlar, frame 39	68	16C	AD 1235	AD 1286	AD 1302
ELY-C52	South rafter, frame 39	85	h/s	AD 1201	AD 1285	AD 1285
ELY-C53	North sole piece, frame 39	133	no h/s	AD 1002		AD 1134
ELY-C54	North rafter, frame 39	78	h/s	AD 1196	AD 1273	AD 1273
ELY-C55	North sole piece, frame 40	66	h/s			daga balan taku ugu Ayak babi
ELY-C56	South sole piece, frame 40	nk				
ELY-C57	South ashlar, frame 40	nk		المعاد المواد بالمواد والمراد		
ELY-C58	North rafter, frame 40	82	h/s	AD 1194	AD 1275	AD 1275
ELY-C59	North scissor brace, frame 40	nk		بلجرافته فيستعا فحالهما		
ELY-C60	South scissor brace, frame 40	nk				and and any more than
ELY-C61	North sole piece, frame 40	nk			week week and week hade loads	
ELY-C62	North rafter, frame 41	nk				Jack Jack State Constants
ELY-C63	North sole piece, frame 41	nk				

Sample number	Sample location	Total rings	*Sapwood rings	First measured ring date	Last heartwood ring date	Last measured ring date
	Nave roof	Ū	Ū		0	0
ELY-C64	North rafter, frame 42	nk			محاد جدا محاد الحا الحا	
ELY-C65	North ashlar piece, frame 43	81	15C	AD 1223	AD 1288	AD 1303
ELY-C66	North rafter plate, frame 42	nk				
ELY-C67	North sole piece, frame 43	67	h/s			
ELY-C68	North sole piece, frame 44	nk				
ELY-C69	North plank frame 45 – 50	nm		المراجع ويرجع ويرجع والمراجع والمراجع والمراجع		म्पूर्व मोर्ड मेला क्या प्रकार
ELY-C70	Plank, location uncertain	55	9			400 pair pair par 100 par
ELY-C71	South rafter, frame 41	87	h/s	AD 1203	AD 1289	AD 1289
ELY-C72	South sole piece, frame 41	153	h/s			
ELY-C73	South rafter, frame 42	nk		والجار والجار معينه تعينه ويتبار		
ELY-C74	North scissor brace, frame 42	70	5	AD 1219	AD 1283	AD 1288
ELY-C75	South sole piece, frame 43	nk				
ELY-C76	South rafter, frame 44	nk				
ELY-C77	South sole piece, frame 45	nk				
ELY-C78	South sole piece, frame 46	nk			~~~~~~	
ELY-C79	North sole piece, frame 46	nk			فستد بلعة فعو يسم بعد	
ELY-C80	North scissor brace, frame 47	69	2			
ELY-C81	North sole piece, frame 47	62	h/s	AD 1217	AD 1278	AD 1278
ELY-C82	South rafter, frame 47	nm	work lowed lowed			
ELY-C83	Lower collar, frame 50	nm		والمرا المراد المراد المراد والمراد والمراد		local acts facts area and area
ELY-C84	North sole piece, frame 52	76	23			

Sample number	Sample location	Total rings	*Sapwood rings	First measured ring date	Last heartwood ring date	Last measured ring date
	Nave roof	U	Ū	Ū	U U	Ŭ,
ELY-C85	North aisle rafter	63	8		hard and hard sure land	
ELY-C86	North sole piece, frame 45	nm				
ELY-C87	South rafter, frame 51	95	h/s	AD 1195	AD 1289	AD 1289
ELY-C88	North lower rafter, frame 52	126	no h/s	AD 908		AD 1033
ELY-C89	South scissor brace, frame 53	nm		and the star star was seen		
ELY-C90	North scissor brace, frame 53	nm		and the test the pay		
ELY-C91	North rafter, frame 53	89	21C	AD 1214	AD 1281	AD 1302
ELY-C92	South rafter, frame 53	68	h/s	AD 1218	AD 1285	AD 1285
ELY-C93	North rafter, frame 54	80	h/s	AD 1204	AD 1283	AD 1283
ELY-C94	North rafter, frame 55	84	2	AD 1202	AD 1283	AD 1285
ELY-C95	North sole piece, frame 56	85	no h/s			न्दर्भ सार्थ जन्म स्वय-स्वयः प्राय
ELY-C96	North rafter, frame 56	62	no h/s	AD 1208		AD 1269
ELY-C97	Lower collar, frame 56	nm				
ELY-C98	South rafter, frame 57	nm				
ELY-C99	North sole piece, frame 57	nm		ويتبد وتعتر وتحر وتحر وتحر وتحر		
ELY-C100	North sole piece, frame 58	nm				والمواد بالبحة المحالة المحالة ويجهم ويوسع
ELY-C101	North rafter, frame 58	nm		with him him yay may any		
ELY-C102	South rafter, frame 58	75	h/s	AD 1205	AD 1279	AD 1279
ELY-C103	South rafter, frame 58	nm	Justi Diris Aust			
ELY-C104	South firring piece 59	105	22C	AD 1690	AD 1772	AD 1794
ELY-C105	South rafter, frame 59	86	2	AD 1200	AD 1283	AD 1285

Sample number	Sample location	Total rings	*Sapwood rings	First measured ring date	Last heartwood ring date	Last measured ring date
	Nave roof	-	-	-	-	Ū.
ELY-C106	South sole piece, frame 59	91	no h/s	per has been been even		Main and and the last state
ELY-C107	North rafter, frame 60	nm				
ELY-C108	South sole piece, frame 61	86	17C	AD 1216	AD 1284	AD 1301
ELY-C109	North rafter, frame 62	156	no h/s	AD 911		AD 1066
ELY-C110	Plank to south aisle frame 62	102	15C	AD 1690	AD 1776	AD 1791
ELY-C111	North sole plate, frame 62	113	h/s	AD 1166	AD 1278	AD 1278
ELY-C112	South sole piece, frame 62	nm		about proof days from some ware		Maile Mail Saile Saile Saile Saile
ELY-C113	North rafter, frame 63	nm		नक और तहर तक प्रकार		angan kangi dingi pang kangi kang
ELY-C114	North rafter, frame 64	nm				
ELY-C115	South ashlar, frame 64	165	h/s			link line line terr ann an
ELY-C116	North rafter, frame 64	nm				
ELY-C117	North rafter, frame 65	nm				112 40 107 107 107
ELY-C118	North rafter, frame 65	77	h/s	AD 1204	AD 1280	AD 1280
ELY-C119	South scissor brace, frame 62	nm				anda betw into some some
ELY-C120	South rafter, frame 63	nm				
ELY-C121	South scissor brace, frame 63	63	no h/s		-are and the data are and	
ELY-C122	South sole piece, frame 65	nm				+
ELY-C123	Lower collar, frame 65	nm				
ELY-C124	South scissor brace, frame 65	nm	pain pain tang	-445 2000 2000 2000 2000 2000		
ELY-C125	South rafter, frame 65	nm				aline alia and and and and
ELY-C126	South sole piece, frame 66	nm			and deb area to a sea over	

Sample number	Sample location	Total rings	*Sapwood rings	First measured ring date	Last heartwood ring date	Last measured ring date
	Nave roof	U	U	U U	C C	-
ELY-C127	South sole piece, frame 57	nm				
ELY-C128	North sole piece, frame 67	nm				
ELY-C129	North scissor brace, frame 67	61	11	Bar bar can can bak ann		
ELY-C130	South sole piece, frame 68	nm				
ELY-C131	Upper collar, frame 68	nm				
ELY-C132	North sole piece, frame 68	nm	and see lead	440 June 1447 June 1440	*****	
ELY-C133	North rafter, frame 68	185	h/s	AD 906	AD 1090	AD 1090
ELY-C134	North scissor brace, frame 69	nm				
ELY-C135	North sole piece, frame 69	116	no h/s	AD 894		AD 1009
ELY-C136	Board support north, frame 69	nm		المراجع المحاد محاد محاد المحاد		
ELY-C137	North scissor brace, frame 71	nm			nere actor actor here deal here	هملته مقتنه الشفؤ فينته وبيتيه ويتبن
ELY-C138	South sole piece, frame 71	nm				
ELY-C139	South scissor brace, frame 71	nm	100 VIII. 400			التبو علم بنية للمار كنه علم
ELY-C140	North sole plate, frame 72	81	h/s	AD 1206	AD 1286	AD 1286
ELY-C141	South scissor brace, frame 72	nm	beef area bee		wana kawa banda kawa kawa mana.	
ELY-C142	North sole piece, frame 74	83	no h/s			
ELY-C143	Strut to north rafter, frame 74	nm				ويستر منصر المرد البرد
ELY-C144	South scissor brace, frame 75	nm				
ELY-C145	North scissor brace, frame 75	nm	there are and	Mally Josef Andre - and wide	and they have been been been	
ELY-C146	North sole piece, frame 76	nm				الجوز شعب مشب وسيد لموا
ELY-C147	North rafter, frame 76	nm		-		

Sample number	Sample location	Total rings	*Sapwood rings	First measured ring date	Last heartwood ring date	Last measured ring date
	Nave roof					
ELY-C148	North strut, frame 77	nm				
ELY-C149	South scissor brace, frame 77	100	h/s	AD 1229	AD 1328	AD 1328
ELY-C150	North sole piece, frame 77	nm				
ELY-C151	North sole piece, frame 78	73	15	AD 1678	AD 1735	AD 1750
ELY-C152	North scissor brace, frame 78	nm				
ELY-C153	Riven plank, location uncertain	80	8	AD 1704	AD 1775	AD 1783
ELY-C154	Riven plank, location uncertain	54	22C			
ELY-C155	Riven plank, location uncertain	60	4			
ELY-C156	Riven plank, frame 17	104	no h/s			
ELY-C157	Riven plank, frame 31	181	3	AD 1109	AD 1286	AD 1289
ELY-C158	Riven plank, frame 22	120	h/s		ware made and a set only made	بالتج بمحد لجمع محم أسلو
ELY-C159	Riven plank, frame 23	156	h/s	AD 1133	AD 1288	AD 1288
ELY-C160	Riven plank, frame 17	146	7	AD 1137	AD 1275	AD 1282
ELY-C161	Riven plank, frame 16	136	4	AD 1158	AD 1189	AD 1293
ELY-C162	Riven plank, frame 15	134	h/s	AD 1156	AD 1289	AD 1289
ELY-C163	Riven plank, location uncertain	nm				وسوار واست واست العام
ELY-C164	Riven plank, frame 3	nm				
ELY-C165	Riven plank, frame 36	nm				
ELY-C166	Riven plank, frame 7	nm				
ELY-C167	Riven plank, frame 2	nm		And the set of the set		tre our les site en sur

Sample number	Sample location	Total rings	*Sapwood rings	First measured ring date	Last heartwood ring date	Last measured ring date
	Lady Chaper root					
ELY-C168	North wall plate at west end	106	h/s	AD 1198	AD 1303	AD 1303
ELY-C169	Tiebeam at west end	145	23C	AD 1592	AD 1713	AD 1736
ELY-C170	Upper wall plate, north side	68	18	ويوبه مشت باورد بالت تاريخ اللي	1941 pro 1940 - 1940 - 1940	
ELY-C171	Lower wall plate north side	99	19	AD 1242	AD 1321	AD 1340
ELY-C172	Lower collar truss 1	94	23			
ELY-C173	Ridge, truss1 - 3	75	22C	AD 1662	AD 1714	AD 1736
ELY-C174	Lower wall plate, south side	54	h/s			
ELY-C175	Upper wall plate, south side	60	9	AD 1223	AD 1273	AD 1282
ELY-C176	Parapet tie, south side	nm				
ELY-C185	Upper purlin east side bay 3	121	38C			
	South transept roof					
ELY-C177	East rafter 1, bay 5	67	h/s	AD 1338	AD 1404	AD 1404
ELY-C178	West rafter 2, bay 4	99	33C	AD 1327	AD 1392	AD 1425
ELY-C179	West rafter 3, bay 5	61	h/s	AD 1341	AD 1401	AD 1401
ELY-C180	West rafter 1, bay 5	69	h/s	AD 1338	AD 1406	AD 1406
ELY-C181	East rafter 2, bay 5	112	18C	AD 1315	AD 1408	AD 1426
ELY-C182	East rafter 4, bay 5	76	h/s	AD 1334	AD 1409	AD 1409
ELY-C183	East principal brace truss 5	72	no h/s	AD 1317		AD 1388
Sample location	Total rings	*Sapwood rings	First measured ring date	Last heartwood ring date	Last measured ring date	
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North lower rafter, frame 76	150	h/s				
North upper rafter, frame 52	90	no h/s	AD 924	stands applied strict lawys byond	AD 1013	
South lower rafter, frame 15	155	no h/s	AD 891		AD 1045	
West tower turrets						
North east turret, stair beam 103	nm				وببلة عليه إعتراني ومراحم	
North west turret, stair beam 107	nm					
North west turret, stair beam 110	nm	and and are			ana a shine and a same same	
North west turret, stair beam 109	nm		and has not not use		abilit dawn bawl Jawa Jawa Jawa	
North west turret, stair beam 108	64	no h/s	AD 933		AD 996	
North east turret, stair beam 91	72	h/s	AD 957	AD 1028	AD 1028	
South east turret, stair beam 95	96	no h/s				
North west turret, stair beam 56	161	29C	AD 1019	AD 1150	AD 1179	
North east turret, stair beam 78	92	h/s	AD 936	AD 1027	AD 1027	
	Sample location North lower rafter, frame 76 North upper rafter, frame 52 South lower rafter, frame 15 West tower turrets West tower turrets North east turret, stair beam 103 North west turret, stair beam 107 North west turret, stair beam 109 North west turret, stair beam 108 North west turret, stair beam 108 North west turret, stair beam 108 North east turret, stair beam 91 South east turret, stair beam 95 North west turret, stair beam 56 North west turret, stair beam 78	Sample locationTotal ringsNorth lower rafter, frame 76150North upper rafter, frame 5290South lower rafter, frame 15155West tower turretsWest tower turretsNorth east turret, stair beam 103nmNorth west turret, stair beam 107nmNorth west turret, stair beam 107nmNorth west turret, stair beam 109nmNorth west turret, stair beam 10864North west turret, stair beam 9172South east turret, stair beam 9596North west turret, stair beam 56161North west turret, stair beam 7892	Sample locationTotal rings*Sapwood ringsNorth lower rafter, frame 76 North upper rafter, frame 52 South lower rafter, frame 15150 90 no h/s 155h/s no h/sWest tower turretsWest tower turrets North west turret, stair beam 103 nm North west turret, stair beam 107 nm North west turret, stair beam 109 nm North west turret, stair beam 109 nm North west turret, stair beam 108 North west turret, stair beam 108 North west turret, stair beam 91 South east turret, stair beam 95 South east turret, stair beam 56 North west turret, stair beam 78 South east turret, stair beam 78Total south stair beam 78 South east turret, stair beam 78	Sample locationTotal rings*Sapwood ringsFirst measured ring dateNorth lower rafter, frame 76 North upper rafter, frame 52 South lower rafter, frame 15150 90 155h/s no h/s AD 924 AD 924 AD 891West tower rafter, frame 15155 155no h/s no h/sAD 924 AD 891West tower turrets AD 891North east turret, stair beam 103 North west turret, stair beam 107 North west turret, stair beam 107 North west turret, stair beam 109 North west turret, stair beam 109 North west turret, stair beam 108 North west turret, stair beam 108 64 AD 933 North east turret, stair beam 91 72 South east turret, stair beam 95 96 No no h/s AD 957 South east turret, stair beam 56 North west turret, stair beam 78 92 h/sAD 936	Sample locationTotal rings*Sapwood ringsFirst measured ring dateLast heartwood ring dateNorth lower rafter, frame 76 North upper rafter, frame 52 South lower rafter, frame 15150h/sNorth upper rafter, frame 1590no h/sAD924South lower rafter, frame 15155no h/sAD891West tower turretsVest tower turretsNorth east turret, stair beam 103 North west turret, stair beam 107 North west turret, stair beam 107 North west turret, stair beam 109 North west turret, stair beam 108 North west turret, stair beam 108 North east turret, stair beam 108 North east turret, stair beam 91 North west turret, stair beam 91 North west turret, stair beam 91 North west turret, stair beam 95 South east turret, stair beam 56 North west turret, stair beam 56 North west turret, stair beam 78 South east turret, stair beam 78 South east turret, stair beam 78 South 22 North west hore as turret, stair beam 78	

Sample number	Sample location	Total rings	*Sapwood rings	First measured ring date	Last heartwood ring date	Last measured ring date
	Nave roof					
ELY-C501	North upper rafter, frame 7	80	h/s	AD 1182	AD 1261	AD 1261
ELY-C502	South rafter, frame 7	72	h/s	AD 1196	AD 1267	AD 1267
ELY-C503	South rafter, frame 9	95	h/s	AD 1161	AD 1255	AD 1255
ELY-C504	North rafter, frame 14	211	h/s	AD 1046	AD 1256	AD 1256
ELY-C505	North rafter, frame 16	70	2	AD 1212	AD 1279	AD 1281
ELY-C506	South rafter, frame 16	79	h/s	AD 1202	AD 1280	AD 1280
ELY-C507	North rafter, frame 29	54	h/s	AD 1228	AD 1281	AD 1281
ELY-C508	Upper collar, frame 29	78	h/s		landi birli masa nafa énia énia	
ELY-C509	North rafter, frame 30	64	h/s	AD 1217	AD 1280	AD 1280
ELY-C510	North rafter, frame 31	68	h/s	AD 1211	AD 1278	AD 1278
ELY-C511	South rafter, frame 31	54	h/s	AD 1231	AD 1284	AD 1284
ELY-C512	Upper collar, frame 31	54	6	AD 1239	AD 1286	AD 1292
ELY-C513	Upper collar, frame 33	58	6	AD 1229	AD 1280	AD 1286
ELY-C514	South rafter, frame 33	65	h/s	AD 1223	AD 1287	AD 1287
ELY-C515	Upper collar, frame 36	58	1	ومتر الجلم فيتر جين بين و		
ELY-C516	Upper collar, frame 64	95	h/s	AD 1179	AD 1273	AD 1273
ELY-C517	Upper collar, frame 66	89	13	AD 1208	AD 1283	AD 1296
ELY-C518	North rafter, frame 67	54	h/s			
ELY-C519	Upper collar, frame 67	54	h/s			بقوت فتوت ويتبد ويتبد
ELY-C520	South rafter, frame 67	56	h/s			
ELY-C521	South rafter, frame 68	54	h/s	्याः प्राप्तः स्वर्थं वारः स्वरः		

Sample number	Sample location	Total rings	*Sapwood rings	First measured ring date	Last heartwood ring date	Last measured ring date
	Nave roof	0	5	J		
ELY-C522	Upper collar, frame 71	54	h/s	AD 1223	AD 1276	AD 1276
ELY-C523	Upper collar, frame 72	54	h/s	AD 1223	AD 1276	AD 1276
ELY-C524	Upper collar, frame 73	68	25C	AD 1156	AD 1198	AD 1223
ELY-C525	South rafter, frame 74	56	18	AD 1160	AD 1197	AD 1215
ELY-C526	North upper rafter, frame 76	77	45C			
ELY-C527	Upper collar, frame 76	83	h/s			and and size and
ELY-C528	North rafter, frame 77	67	11	AD 1218	AD 1273	AD 1284
ELY-C529	South rafter, frame 77	68	10			teri ant leni ann i-si ann
ELY-C530	North rafter, frame 79	67	h/s	AD 1217	AD 1283	AD 1283
ELY-C531	Upper collar, frame 79	112	8	AD 1169	AD 1272	AD 1280
ELY-C532	Upper collar, frame 80	86	6	AD 1206	AD 1295	AD 1291
ELY-C533	South upper rafter, frame 15	64	no h/s	AD 919		AD 982
ELY-C534	Upper collar, frame 15	nm	प्रसर्व प्रसर्व स्वरत	alaa aan aay jey by by		
ELY-C535	North scissor brace, frame 15	nm		and Anto Serie Serie	استرجب بعنو العلم العلم	
ELY-C536	North scissor brace, frame 16	54	h/s			
ELY-C537	South rafter, frame 19	86	h/s	AD 1207	AD 1292	AD 1292
ELY-C538	North rafter, frame 19	97	h/s	AD 1195	AD 1291	AD 1291
ELY-C539	North rafter, frame 22	nm				lands benefi barra, yana yana barra
ELY-C540	North rafter, frame 24	73	h/s	AD 1214	AD 1286	AD 1286
ELY-C541	North scissor brace, frame 29	68	5	AD 1221	AD 1283	AD 1288
ELY-C542	South scissor brace, frame 29	59	h/s	AD 1227	AD 1285	AD 1285

Sample number	Sample location	Total rings	*Sapwood rings	First measured ring date	Last heartwood ring date	Last measured ring date
	Nave roof	0	0	3	5	5
ELY-C543	Lower collar, frame 29	63	h/s	AD 1230	AD 1292	AD 1292
ELY-C544	Lower collar, frame 31	54	11		*****	
ELY-C545	North rafter, frame 32	54	h/s		angan pengen began bagan bagan bagan	
ELY-C546	Upper collar, frame 32	nm				المتد همة منت منت علم
ELY-C547	North rafter, frame 33	nm		Joint and some your data new	المرد ويون فينز بون المرد	
ELY-C548	North rafter, frame 34	61	h/s	AD 1222	AD 1282	AD 1282
ELY-C549	North rafter, frame 35	56	h/s	AD 1230	AD 1285	AD 1285
ELY-C550	South rafter, frame 35	54	h/s			
ELY-C551	Upper collar, frame 35	70	19	AD 1217	AD 1267	AD 1286
ELY-C552	Lower collar, frame 37	83	16	AD 1217	AD 1283	AD 1299
ELY-C553	South rafter, frame 38	65	h/s	AD 1219	AD 1283	AD 1283
ELY-C554	North rafter, frame 38	60	h/s	AD 1215	AD 1274	AD 1274
ELY-C555	Upper collar, frame 42	58	no h/s	AD 1217		AD 1274
ELY-C556	Upper collar, frame 43	60	no h/s	AD 1170		AD 1229

* h/s = the heartwood/sapwood boundary is the last ring on the sample

C = complete sapwood retained on sample, the last measured ring date is the felling date of the timber

nm = sample not measured

nk = sample not kept due to having less than 50 rings

Table 2: Results of the cross-matching of site chronology ELYCSQ01 and relevant reference chronologieswhen first ring date is AD 1029 and last ring date is AD 1328

Span of chronology	<i>t</i> -value	
AD 1173 - 1295	10.3	(Howard <i>et al</i> 1992)
AD 1060 - 1262	9.3	(Howard <i>et al</i> 2000a)
AD 413 - 1728	8.7	(Tyers and Groves 1999 unpubl)
AD 1160 - 1407	8.0	(Groves <i>et al</i> 1997)
AD 1161 - 1289	7.9	(Howard <i>et al</i> 1993a)
AD 1083 - 1981	7.6	(Bridge 1988)
AD 882 - 1981	7.1	(Laxton and Litton 1988)
AD 1200 - 1541	7.0	(Howard <i>et al</i> 1998)
	Span of chronology AD 1173 - 1295 AD 1060 - 1262 AD 413 - 1728 AD 1160 - 1407 <i>AD 1161 - 1289</i> AD 1083 - 1981 AD 882 - 1981 AD 1200 - 1541	Span of chronology t-value AD 1173 - 1295 10.3 AD 1060 - 1262 9.3 AD 413 - 1728 8.7 AD 1160 - 1407 8.0 AD 1161 - 1289 7.9 AD 1083 - 1981 7.6 AD 882 - 1981 7.1 AD 1200 - 1541 7.0

Table 3: Results of the cross-matching of site chronology ELYCSQ02 and relevant reference chronologieswhen first ring date is AD 1206 and last ring date is AD 1340

Reference chronology	Span of chronology	t-value	
Reading Waterfront, Berks	AD 1160 - 1407	6.4	(Groves <i>et al</i> 1997)
Southern England	AD 1083 - 1981	5.8	(Bridge 1988)
East Midlands	AD 882 - 1981	5.5	(Laxton and Litton 1988)
Kent-88	AD 1158 - 1540	5.2	(Laxton and Litton 1989)
England London	AD 413 - 1728	5.2	(Tyers and Groves 1999 unpubl)
Donnington-le-Heath Manor, Leics	AD 1127 - 1269	5.2	(Esling et al 1989)
Cross Keys Inn, Leicester	AD 1104 - 1309	5.1	(Howard <i>et al</i> 1988)
England	AD 401 - 1981	4.6	(Baillie and Pilcher 1982 unpubl)

Table 4: Results of the cross-matching of site chronology ELYCSQ03 and relevant reference chronologieswhen first ring date is AD 1315 and last ring date is AD 1426

Reference chronology	Span of chronology	<i>t</i> -value	
Ware Priory, Ware, Herts	AD 1223-1416	8.7	(Howard <i>et al</i> 1997b)
England London	AD 413 - 1728	7.1	(Tyers and Groves 1999 unpubl)
19, Henley Street Alcester, Warwicks	AD 1322 - 1393	6.4	(Alcock <i>et al</i> 1989)
Southern England	AD 1083 - 1981	6.4	(Bridge 1988)
East Midlands	AD 882 - 1981	6.1	(Laxton and Litton 1988)
Chicksands Priory, Beds	AD 1200 - 1541	6.1	(Howard <i>et al</i> 1998)
Sinai Park, Staffs	AD 1227 - 1750	5.7	(Tyers 1997a)
Reading Waterfront, Berks	AD 1160 - 1407	5.7	(Groves <i>et al</i> 1997)

Table 5: Results of the cross-matching of site chronology ELYCSQ04 and relevant reference chronologieswhen first ring date is AD 891 and last ring date is AD 1090

Reference chronology	Span of chronology	<i>t</i> -value	
London Fennings Wharf	AD 802 - 1354	10.9	(Tyers 1997b)
England London	AD 413 - 1728	10.5	(Tyers and Groves 1999 unpubl)
London Fleet Valley	AD 745 - 1226	9.6	(Tyers and Hibbard 1993)
London Billingsgate	AD 611-1243	9.5	(Hillam 1992)
London Bull Wharf	AD 620 - 1181	8.0	(Tyers and Boswijk1997)
Westwick Cottage, Hemel Hempstead, Herts	AD 940 - 1179	6.6	(Howard <i>et al</i> 1997a)
Hansacre Hall, Staffs	AD 965 - 1279	5.3	(Esling <i>et al</i> 1990)

Table 6: Results of the cross-matching of site chronology ELYCSQ05 and relevant reference chronologieswhen first ring date is AD 1592 and last ring date is AD 1794

Reference chronology	Span of chronology	<i>t</i> -value	
Old Barn, Stratford upon Avon, Warwicks	AD 1591 - 1735	9.8	(Howard <i>et al</i> 1996)
East Midlands	AD 882 - 1981	9.7	(Laxton and Litton 1988)
Main Street, Cosby, Leics	AD 1642 - 1734	9.5	(Alcock <i>et al</i> 1991 unpubl)
Quenby Hall, Leics	AD 1575 - 1724	9.2	(Howard <i>et al</i> 1993b)
Chicksands Priory, Beds	AD 1670 - 1814	8.4	(Howard <i>et al</i> 1998)
Stoneleigh Abbey, Stoneleigh, Warwicks	AD 1646 - 1813	8.2	(Howard <i>et al</i> 2000b)
Burleigh House, Burleigh, Cambs	AD 1686 - 1809	7.2	(Howard <i>et al</i> 1992)
England	AD 401 - 1981	5.6	(Baillie and Pilcher 1982 unpubl)

Table 7: Results of the cross-matching of site chronology ELYCSQ06 and relevant reference chronologies when first ring date is AD 1109 and last ring date is AD 1289

Reference chronology	Span of chronology	<i>t</i> -value	
GDANSK	AD 996 - 1985	5.1	(Eckstein 1989 unpubl)
FLE-4M2	AD 1131 - 1350	4.6	(Fletcher 1978 unpubl)
YOR-Z01M	AD 1113 - 1381	4.5	(Fletcher and Morgan 1981)
BALTIC	AD 1156 - 1697	4.3	(Tyers and Groves pers comm)
REF-7	AD 993 - 1267	4.1	(Fletcher 1977)

Table 8: Results of the cross-matching of site chronology ELYCSQ07 and relevant reference chronologies when first ring date is AD 1097 and last ring date is AD 1303

Reference chronology	Span of chronology	<i>t</i> -value	
GDANSK	AD 996 - 1985	8.1	(Eckstein 1989 unpubl)
FLE-4M2	AD 1131 - 1350	7.5	(Fletcher 1978)
BALTIC	AD 1156 - 1697	6.3	(Tyers and Groves pers comm)
Ewerby, Notts	AD 1174 - 1314	6.2	(Howard <i>et al</i> 1991)
Hadleigh, Suffolk	AD 1157 - 1431	4.7	(Howard <i>et al</i> 1990 unpubl)

Table 9: Results of the cross-matching of site chronology ELYCSQ10 and relevant reference chronologies when first ring date is AD 1019 and last ring date is AD 1179

Reference chronology	Span	of chronology	<i>t</i> -value	
Angle Choir, Lincoln Cathedral Peterborough Cathedral, Cambs		912 - 1248 887 - 1225	8.1 8.0	(Laxton and Litton 1988) (Types 1999)
St Hugh's Choir, Lincoln Cathedral	AD	882 - 1191	7.8	(Laxton and Litton 1988)
East Midlands		882 - 1981	7.5 6 7	(Laxton and Litton 1988)
Forehill, Ely, Cambs	AD AD	963 - 1128	6.7	(Nayling 1999)
Enmw89	AD	860 - 1790	5.4	(Tyers and Groves pers com)
England	AD	401 - 1981	5.0	(Baillie and Pilcher 1982 unpubl)

Table 10: Results of the cross-matching of site chronology ELYCSQ16 and relevant reference chronologieswhen first ring date is AD 933 and last ring date is AD 1028

Reference chronology	Span	of chronology	<i>t</i> -value	
East Midlands	AD	882 - 1981	8.3	(Laxton and Litton 1988)
St Hugh's Choir, Lincoln Cathedral	AD	882 - 1191	7.6	(Laxton and Litton 1988)
London Fleet Valley	AD	745 - 1226	6.4	(Tyers and Hibbard 1993)
Angle Choir, Lincoln Cathedral	AD	912 - 1248	5.8	(Laxton and Litton 1988)
England London	AD	413 - 1728	5.3	(Tyers and Groves 1999 unpubl)
London Fennings Wharf	AD	802 - 1354	5.1	(Tyers 1997b)
London Bull Wharf	AD	620 - 1181	5.0	(Tyers and Boswijk1997)

Table 11: Results of the cross-matching of sample ELY-C53 and relevant reference chronologieswhen first ring date is AD 1002 and last ring date is AD 1134

Reference chronology	Span	of chronology	<i>t</i> -value	
St Hugh's Choir. Lincoln Cathedral ENYO67 East Midlands	AD AD AD	882 - 1191 440 - 1823 882 - 1981 887 - 1325	7.1 7.0 6.4	(Laxton and Litton 1988) (Tyers and Groves pers com) (Laxton and Litton 1988) (Tyers 1999)
Angle Choir, Lincoln Cathedral ENNW0245 Forehill, Ely, Cambs	AD AD AD AD	887 - 1225 912 - 1248 892 - 1618 963 - 1128	5.9 5.7 5.7 4.8	(Tyers 1999) (Laxton and Litton 1988) (Tyers and Groves pers com) (Nayling 1999)

Table 12: Results of the cross-matching of sample ELY-C159 and relevant reference chronologieswhen first ring date is AD 1133 and last ring date is AD 1288

Reference chronology	Span of chronology	<i>t</i> -value	
GDANSK	AD 996 - 1985	7.1	(Eckstein 1989 unpubl)
Hadleigh, Suffolk	AD 1157 - 1431	5.3	(Howard et al 1990 unpubl)
FLE-4M2	AD 1131 - 1350	5.2	(Fletcher 1978)
BALTIC	AD 1156 - 1697	4.7	(Tyers and Groves pers comm)
Ewerby, Notts	AD 1174 - 1314	4.1	(Howard <i>et al</i> 1991)

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Figure 1: Map to show general location of Ely Cathedral

Figure 2: General plan of Ely Cathedral.





Figure 3a: View of the nave roof looking west to east at walk-way level. (© Crown copyright. NMR. BB87/7303)

Figure 3b: Photograph of the south side of the nave roof at wall plate level taken during repairs. (© Crown copyright. NMR. BB87/7319)



Figure 3c: Photograph of the nave roof showing the crossing of the scissor braces just above the level of the ceiling. (© Crown copyright. NMR. BB87/7325)



Figure 4: Photograph of the Lady Chapel roof showing the modern softwood trusses. (© Crown copyright. NMR. BB88/5843)







Figure 6: Plan of the Lady Chapel roof showing approximate location of sampled timbers (after Purcell, Miller, Tritton, and Partners)





Figure 7: Photograph of the Presbytery Roof. (© Crown copyright. NMR. BB98/17656)



Figure 8: Bar diagram of the samples in site chronology ELYCSQO1 in last measured ring position

white bars = heartwood rings, shaded area = sapwood rings

h/s = heartwood/sapwood boundary is last ring on sample

C = complete sapwood retained on sample, the last measured ring date is the felling date of the timber

	Relative
Total	heartwood/sapwood
rings	boundary position
56	169
68	170
60	
95	227
211	228
101	228
230	220
80	230
72	235
82	243
83	237
78	245
95	245
60	246
82	247
68	250
113	250
75	251
64	252
112	244
77	252
79	252
54	253
70	251
60	245
05	400 255
80 67	200 255
54	433 256
62	230
86	241
85	257
84	255
73	258
87	261
95	261
97	263
86	257
86	264
89	255
106	275
<u>h/s</u> 100	300
300 years re	elative

280



Figure 9: Bar diagram of the samples in site chronology ELYCSQO2 in last measured ring position

- Off-
- set

white bars = heartwood rings, shaded area = sapwood rings

h/s = heartwood/sapwood boundary is last ring on sample

	Relative		
Total	heartwood/sapwood		
rings	boundary position		
()			
02 50			
- 38 - 54			
54	/1		
54	71		
62 (F	13		
05	76		
67	68		
68	80		
59	80		
56	80		
67	73		
70	62		
58	75		
81	81		
65	82		
68	78		
70	78		
83	80		
70	70		
70	84		
84	85		
54	81		
63	87		
83	78		
86	79		
83	74		
89	76		
68	81		
81	69		
81	83		
83	76		
99	116		

140 years relative



Figure 10: Bar diagram of the samples in site chronology ELYCSQ03

white bars = heartwood rings, shaded area = sapwood rings

h/s = heartwood/sapwood boundary is last ring on sample



Figure 11: Bar diagram of the samples in site chronology ELYCSQ04

white bars = heartwood rings, shaded area = sapwood rings h/s = heartwood/sapwood boundary is last ring on sample



Figure 12: Bar diagram of the samples in site chronology ELYCSQ05

white bars = heartwood rings, shaded area = sapwood rings

h/s = heartwood/sapwood boundary is last ring on sample



Figure 13: Bar diagram of the samples in site chronology ELYCSQ06

Figure 14: Bar diagram of the samples in site chronology ELYCSQ07



white bars = heartwood rings, shaded area = sapwood rings h/s = heartwood/sapwood boundary is last ring on sample



Figure 15: Bar diagram of the samples in site chronology ELYCSQ08





white bars = heartwood rings, shaded area = sapwood rings

h/s = heartwood/sapwood boundary is last ring on sample



Figure 17: Bar diagram of the samples in site chronology ELYCSQ10

Figure 18: Bar diagram of the samples in site chronology ELYCSQ11



white bars = heartwood rings, shaded area = sapwood rings

h/s = heartwood/sapwood boundary is last ring on sample



Figure 19: Bar diagram of the samples in site chronology ELYCSQ12

Figure 20: Bar diagram of the samples in site chronology ELYCSQ13



white bars = heartwood rings, shaded area = sapwood rings

h/s = heartwood/sapwood boundary is last ring on sample



Figure 21: Bar diagram of the samples in site chronology ELYCSQ14

Figure 22: Bar diagram of the samples in site chronology ELYCSQ15



white bars = heartwood rings, shaded area = sapwood rings h/s = heartwood/sapwood boundary is last ring on sample



Figure 23: Bar diagram of the samples in site chronology ELYCSQ16

white bars = heartwood rings, shaded area = sapwood rings

h/s = heartwood/sapwood boundary is last ring on sample



Figure 24: Bar diagram to show relative position of the nine dated site chronologies, and the two individually dated samples

****	Total rings	Relative end position	
	98	138	
	200	200	
	133	244	
	161	289	
	156	398	
	181	399	
	207	413	
	300	438	
	135	449	
	112	536	
	203	904	
900 920 years relative			

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Figure 25: A view of the choir stalls. (© Crown copyright. NMR. BB94/2760)

Figure 26: Photograph of a typical misercord. (© Crown copyright. NMR. AA66/860)



Figure 27: The muniments chest (photo Dr Peter Marshall)



Figure 28: Photograph showing the remains of two shuttering boards (photo Dr Peter Marshall)



Figure 29: Photograph of the horizontal beams in the south-west tower (photo Dr Peter Marshall)


Figure 30: Door frame (photo Dr Peter Marshall)



Figure 31a: Nave roof, frame 2 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 31b: Nave roof, frame 3 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 31c: Nave roof, frame 4 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 31d: Nave roof, frame 5 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 31e: Nave roof, frame 6 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 31f: Nave roof, frame 7 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 31g: Nave roof, frame 9 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)

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Figure 31h: Nave roof, frame 11 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 31i: Nave roof, frame 13 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 31j: Nave roof, frame 14 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 31k: Nave roof, frame 15 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 31I: Nave roof, frame 16 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 31m: Nave roof, frame 17 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 31n: Nave roof, frame 18 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



84

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Figure 31o: Nave roof, frame 19 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 31p: Nave roof, frame 20 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 31q: Nave roof, frame 22 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 31r: Nave roof, frame 23 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 31s: Nave roof, frame 24 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 31t: Nave roof, frame 28 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 31u: Nave roof, frame 29 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



16

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Figure 31v: Nave roof, frame 30 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 31w: Nave roof, frame 31 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 31x: Nave roof, frame 32 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 31y: Nave roof, frame 33 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 31z: Nave roof, frame 34 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 32a: Nave roof, frame 35 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 32b: Nave roof, frame 36 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 32c: Nave roof, frame 37 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)







Figure 32e: Nave roof, frame 39 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)














Figure 32m: Nave roof, frame 47showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 32n: Nave roof, frame 50 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 32o: Nave roof, frame 51 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 32p: Nave roof, frame 52 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 32q: Nave roof, frame 53 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



113

Figure 32r: Nave roof, frame 54 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 32s: Nave roof, frame 55 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 32t: Nave roof, frame 56 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 32u: Nave roof, frame 57 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 32v: Nave roof, frame 58 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 32w: Nave roof, frame 59 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 32x: Nave roof, frame 60 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



120

Figure 32y: Nave roof, frame 61 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 32z: Nave roof, frame 62 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 33a: Nave roof, frame 63 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 33b: Nave roof, frame 64 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 33c: Nave roof, frame 65 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 33d: Nave roof, frame 66 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 33e: Nave roof, frame 67 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 33f: Nave roof, frame 68 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 33g: Nave roof, frame 69 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 33h: Nave roof, frame 71 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 33i: Nave roof, frame 72 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 33j: Nave roof, frame 73 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 33k: Nave roof, frame 74 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 33I: Nave roof, frame 75 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 33m: Nave roof, frame 76 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 33n: Nave roof, frame 77 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 33o: Nave roof, frame 78 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 33p: Nave roof, frame 79 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Figure 33q: Nave roof, frame 80 showing sampled timbers (after Elaine Guilding) (viewed from the west looking east)



Data of measured samples - measurements in 0.01 mm units

ELY-C01A 101

85 115 129 185 161 177 121 114 96 70 64 57 127 64 92 124 193 131 144 134 130 74 239 207 176 130 162 200 118 67 124 145 74 170 202 144 92 127 141 108 152 105 125 106 88 128 135 154 116 87 95 62 77 88 96 82 68 84 88 108 84 68 113 101 84 100 72 114 85 93 103 57 73 105 74 72 73 45 52 34 44 73 82 91 128 118 100 106 106 176 148 178 169 137 198 191 169 122 151 280 213

ELY-C01B 101

149 67 105 171 155 169 127 122 98 66 68 55 131 66 90 128 181 139 137 133 134 84 234 215 185 138 170 203 108 67 127 146 75 179 204 142 89 123 135 112 170 119 130 105 91 132 127 155 124 93 80 67 98 89 92 80 63 101 94 111 83 72 105 101 86 96 82 109 87 87 114 56 82 99 80 70 69 52 46 44 40 79 81 86 138 116 83 119 102 185 178 188 180 132 186 176 169 114 161 262 210

ELY-C03A 97

246 228 247 227 147 121 119 190 186 195 217 204 161 173 225 174 189 177 165 287 183 168 169 182 203 382 283 220 173 221 251 186 188 211 234 221 166 145 132 213 371 326 196 125 150 118 145 134 90 101 80 80 110 125 115 141 159 154 179 159 225 152 191 160 206 239 207 156 138 174 197 368 287 131 180 167 163 69 74 174 122 124 102 74 74 128 131 112 110 135 120 79 114 115 133 131 98 ELY-C03B 98

194 178 129 135 119 224 201 206 189 232 171 206 255 143 192 229 191 297 213 168 199 179 227 211 220 217 196 189 133 158 202 223 195 195 224 221 186 182 273 210 238 175 180 142 156 124 126 143 68 88 122 144 164 168 190 201 207 174 215 195 226 155 241 283 367 294 268 273 175 263 200 130 217 175 175 82 80 90 114 145 117 106 111 171 194 259 297 437 389 229 364 293 283 257 221 199 157 278 ELY-C04A 230

268 186 87 125 135 169 133 107 154 110 101 146 149 169 151 64 83 114 116 122 156 113 133 165 118 121 121 103 104 100 88 97 94 82 97 68 114 158 122 154 86 109 75 98 107 83 74 77 99 85 79 129 102 135 115 83 97 105 124 88 134 70 113 125 117 122 103 101 113 102 113 102 111 60 66 54 56 61 67 92 112 99 79 64 81 78 77 68 84 70 70 76 68 109 127 90 68 71 65 70 40 80 79 70 62 65 59 70 53 70 72 79 81 71 71 49 49 62 54 62 68 45 51 42 47 37 41 51 48 49 47 54 50 42 50 28 38 26 42 32 29 45 22 38 44 44 31 36 29 38 37 37 32 32 38 33 41 46 42 38 34 52 49 35 48 40 41 50 35 43 37 34 42 29 54 55 45 49 35 49 46 49 41 38 51 46 40 40 36 39 46 38 38 36 38 41 42 52 48 45 64 41 42 40 29 36 33 32 35 41 44 39 47 38 47 45 58 49 74 44 66 52 49 44 45 46 71 64 60 67

ELY-C04B230

274 186 96 118 147 162 138 115 142 112 112 137 154 172 158 79 92 113 125 135 167 124 142 168 117 122 117 110 106 96 86 96 81 83 98 74 111 161 123 157 83 107 81 89 102 80 81 74 94 82 79 121 79 134 126 80 87 99 114 70 138 69 113 130 125 113 102 97 115 100 104 82 107 51 63 57 60 66 61 93 103 95 76 70 79 77 74 68 90 81 63 74 71 99 112 91 71 62 73 76 51 71 80 72 56 65 60 66 51 62 80 73 86 68 72 45 55 63 53 60 58 52 44 41 49 44 49 39 50 50 46 45 50 47 56 37 29 24 34 40 28 32 28 38 37 43 39 33 32 35 40 31 36 37 38 31 44 43 40 35 37 51 38 33 46 43 45 48 34 40 36 33 49 36 49 51 44 44 043 43 55 37 44 49 35 49 36 33 33 48 35 41 33 46 50 41 46 44 46 66 50 35 43 33 34 35 24 30 40 44 49 34 47 48 43 59 59 67 42 64 57 49 43 51 47 73 59 55 49

141

ELY-C12B 78 146 50 32 38 51 195 206 179 109 110 187 117 139 190 116 92 101 124 133 185 225 307 226 268 293 179 204 163 310 372 433 417 282 247 299 166 89 68 68 60 110 129 129 219 220 142 77 153 197 273 278 170 147 109 122 168 187 271 214 154 144 75 112 100 191 220 179 133 110 111 89 82 56 109 113 164 134 79

ELY-C12A 82 317 356 173 89 109 62 85 295 253 330 255 209 230 213 158 181 163 145 154 182 205 169 169 161 176 206 217 152 203 132 167 147 192 229 229 162 129 90 57 54 52 54 92 120 99 182 174 154 84 101 131 213 250 156 100 90 119 128 111 198 164 153 116 50 63 71 126 120 113 132 74 81 60 61 89 90 109 193 115 142 135 110

75 80 80 80 85 95 120 150 105 90 85 80 95 85 65 90 95 75 80 130 155 130 170 125 110 150 115 90 95 130 140 140 105 95 85 105 100 110 120 50

120 150 135 165 130 110 150 120 100 100 125 150 150 110 90 120 115 110 75 85 80 80 70 ELY-C11B 120 130 140 130 170 100 160 185 170 110 110 125 120 80 90 85 145 190 150 200 145 145 140 120 125 100 100 185 280 225 205 290 215 190 240 215 255 155 160 170 220 255 170 220 315 180 220 130 150 130 125 120 80 80 170 165 100 90 105 170 195 180 145 130 100 130 200 115 130 95 75 100 95 95 100 90 70 80 85 85 130

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86 196 98 147 212 166 276 353 409 407 286 188 239 281 278 219 271 299 115 144 136 143 139 225 183 225 320 214 89 141 151 258 124 156 200 252 158 215 192 186 242 187 209 159 191 176 120 254 246 238 154 125 96 88 86 92 107 158 150 132 143 111 115 82 126 182 127 117 94 196 179 200 161 118 113 118 189 238 214 138 129 106 93

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92 118 211 152 159 143 104 275 202 224 305 236 164 195 293 248 159 238 189 204 391 189 210 295 174 153 128 179 194 115 100 165 95 96 94 63 64 77 90 98 107 123 85 96 92 97 84 128 134 156 127 121 115 85 123 148 137 191 108 194 195 160 140 88 132 127 102 103 124 204 179 189 138 170 95 61 70 107 67 51 103 136 121 165 185 182

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96 112 202 147 156 155 121 281 207 205 322 244 176 208 268 260 147 240 179 208 389 199 214 296 159 159 124 183 187 121 104 160 96 97 91 59 64 78 83 113 108 115 92 85 98 89 87 139 126 151 116 122 111 86 96 159 139 185 117 200 183 161 136 78 135 135 95 89 140 202 177 181 179 161 91 62 84 110 60 51 105 124 115 172 188 191

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212 203 160 117 381 222 241 236 219 266 180 110 163 141 140 251 262 178 219 178 173 203 215 278 331 193 239 168 235 231 225 237 194 230 204 286 172 218 203 195 259 183 181 172 146 106 158 154 151 192 249 254 202 247

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APPENDIX

Tree-Ring Dating

The Principles of Tree-Ring Dating

Tree-ring dating, or *dendrochronology* as it is known, is discussed in some detail in the Laboratory's Monograph, 'An East Midlands Master Tree-Ring Chronology and its uses for dating Vernacular Building' (Laxton and Litton 1988) and, Dendrochronology; Guidelines on Producing and Interpreting Dendrochronological Dates (English Heritage 1988). Here we will give the bare outlines. Each year an oak tree grows an extra ring on the outside of its trunk and all its branches just inside its bark. The width of this annual ring depends largely on the weather during the growing season, about April to October, and possibly also on the weather during the previous year. Good growing seasons give rise to relatively wide rings, poor ones to very narrow rings and average ones to relatively average ring widths. Since the climate is so variable from year to year, almost random-like, the widths of these rings will also appear random-like in sequence, reflecting the seasons. This is illustrated in Figure 1 where, for example, the widest rings appear at irregular intervals. This is the key to dating by tree rings, or rather, by their widths. Records of the average ring widths for oaks, one for each year for the last 1000 years or more, are available for different areas. These are called master chronologies. Because of the random-like nature of these sequences of widths, there is usually only one position at which a sequence of ring widths from a sample of oak timber with at least 70 rings will match a master. This will date the timber and, in particular, the last ring.

If the bark is still on the sample, as in Figure 1, then the date of the last ring will be the date of felling of the oak from which it was cut. There is much evidence that in medieval times oaks cut down for building purposes were used almost immediately, usually within the year or so (Rackham 1976). Hence if bark is present on several main timbers in a building, none of which appear reused or are later insertions, and if they all have the same date for their last ring, then we can be quite confident that this is the date of construction or soon after. If there is no bark on the sample, then we have to make an estimate of the felling date; how this is done is explained below.

The Practice of Tree-Ring Dating at the University of Nottingham Tree-Ring dating Laboratory

1. Inspecting the Building and Sampling the Timbers. Together with a building historian the timbers in a building are inspected to try to ensure that those sampled are not reused or later insertions. Sampling is almost always done by coring into the timber, which has the great advantage that we can sample *in situ* timbers and those judged best to give the date of construction, or phase of construction if there is more than one in the building. The timbers to be sampled are also inspected to see how many rings they have. We normally look for timbers with at least 70 rings, and preferably more. With fewer rings than this, 50 for example, sequences of widths become difficult to match to a unique position within a master sequence of ring widths and so are difficult to date (Litton and Zainodin 1991). The cross-section of the rafter shown in Figure 2 has about 120 rings; about 20 of which are sapwood rings.

To ensure that we are getting the date of the building as a whole, or the whole of a phase of construction if there is more than one, about 8 to 10 samples per phase are usually taken. Sometimes we take many more, especially if the construction is complicated. One reason for taking so many samples is that, in general, some will fail to give a date. There may be many reasons why a particular sequence of ring widths from a sample of timber fails to give a date even though others from the same building do. For example, a particular tree may have grown in an odd ecological niche, so odd indeed that the widths of its rings were determined by factors other than the local climate! In such circumstances it will be impossible to date a timber from this tree using the master sequence whose widths, we can assume, were predominantly determined by the local climate at the time.



Fig 1. A wedge of oak from a tree felled in 1976. It shows the annual growth rings, one for each year from the innermost ring to the last ring on the outside just inside the bark. The year of each ring can determined by counting back from the outside ring, which grew in 1976.



Fig 2. Cross-section of a rafter showing the presence of sapwood rings in the left hand corner, the arrow is pointing to the heartwood/sapwood boundary (H/S). Also a core with sapwood; again the arrow is pointing to the H/S. The core is about the size of a pencil.



Fig. 3 Measuring ring widths under a microscope. The microscope is fixed while the sample is on a moving platform. The total sequence of widths is measure twice to ensure that an error has not been made. This type of apparatus is needed to process a large number of samples on a regular basis.



Fig 4. Three cores from timbers in a building. They come from trees growing at the same time. Notice that, although the sequences of widths look similar, they are not identical. This is typical.
Sampling is done by coring into the timber with a hollow corer attached to an electric drill and usually from its outer rings inwards towards where the centre of the tree, the pith, is judged to be. An illustration of a core is shown in Figure 2; it is about 15cm long and 1cm diameter. Great care has to be taken to ensure that as few as possible of the outer rings are lost in coring. This can be difficult as these outer rings are often very soft (see below on sapwood). Each sample is given a code which identifies uniquely which timber it comes from, which building it is from and where the building is located. For example, CRO-A06 is the sixth core taken from the first building (A) sampled by the Laboratory in Cropwell Bishop. Where it came from in that building will be shown in the sampling records and drawings. No structural damage is done to any timbers by coring, nor does it weaken them.

During the initial inspection of the building and its timbers the dendrochronologist may come to the conclusion that, as far as can be judged, none of the timbers have sufficient rings in them for dating purposes and may advise against sampling to save further unwarranted expense.

All sampling by the Laboratory is undertaken according to current Health and Safety Standards. The Laboratory's dendrochronologists are insured.

- 2. *Measuring Ring Widths*. Each core is sanded down with a belt sander using medium-grit paper and then finished by hand with flourgrade-grit paper. The rings are then clearly visible and differentiated from each other with a result very much like that shown in Figure 2. The core is then mounted on a movable table below a microscope and the ring-widths measured individually from the innermost ring to the outermost. The widths are automatically recorded in a computer file as they are measured (see Fig 3).
- 3. Cross-matching and Dating the Samples. Because of the factors besides the local climate which may determine the annual widths of a tree's rings, no two sequences of ring widths from different oaks growing at the same time are exactly alike (Fig 4). Indeed, the sequences may not be exactly alike even when the trees are growing near to each other. Consequently, in the Laboratory we do not attempt to match two sequences of ring widths by eye, or graphically, or by any other subjective method. Instead, it is done objectively (ie statistically) on a computer by a process called cross-matching. The output from the computer tells us the extent of correlation between two sample sequences of widths or, if we are dating, between a sample sequence of widths and the master, at each relative position of one to the other (offsets). The extent of the correlation at an offset is determined by the *t*-value (defined in almost any introductory book on statistics). That offset with the maximum t-value among the t-values at all the offsets will be the best candidate for dating one sequence relative to the other. If one of these is a master chronology, then this will date the other. Experiments carried out in the past with sequences from oaks of known date suggest that a t-value of at least 4.5, and preferably at least 5.0, is usually adequate for the dating to be accepted with reasonable confidence (Laxton and Litton 1988; Laxton et al 1988; Howard et al 1984-1995).

This is illustrated in Fig 5 with timbers from one of the roofs of Lincoln Cathedral. Here four sequences of ring widths, LIN-C04, 05, 08, and 45, have been cross-matched with each other. The ring widths themselves have been omitted in the *bar-diagram*, as is usual, but the offsets at which they best cross-match each other are shown; eg the sequence of ring widths of C08 matches the sequence of ring widths of C45 best when it is at a position starting 20 rings after the first ring of C45, and similarly for the others. The actual *t*-values between the four at these offsets of best correlations are in the matrix. Thus at the offset of +20 rings, the *t*-value between C45 and C08 is 5.6 and is the maximum found between these two among all the positions of one sequence relative to the other.

It is standard practice in our Laboratory first to cross-match as many as possible of the ringwidth sequences of the samples in a building and then to form an average from them. This average is called a *site sequence* of the building being dated and is illustrated in Fig 5. The fifth bar at the bottom is a site sequence for a roof at Lincoln Cathedral and is constructed from the matching sequences of the four timbers. The site sequence width for each year is the average of the widths in each of the sample sequences which has a width for that year. Thus in Fig 5 if the widths shown are 0.8mm for C45, 0.2mm for C08, 0.7mm for C05, and 0.3mm for C04, then the corresponding width of the site sequence is the average of these, 0.55mm. The actual sequence of widths of this site sequence is stored on the computer. The reason for creating site sequences is that it is usually easier to date an average sequence of ring widths with a master sequence than it is to date the individual component sample sequences separately.

The straightforward method of cross-matching several sample sequences with each other one at a time is called the 'maximal *t*-value' method. The actual method of cross-matching a group of sequences of ring-widths used in the Laboratory involves grouping and averaging the ring-width sequences and is called the 'Litton-Zainodin Grouping Procedure'. It is a modification of the straight forward method and was successfully developed and tested in the Laboratory and has been published (Litton and Zainodin 1991; Laxton *et al* 1988).

4. **Estimating the Felling Date.** As mentioned above, if the bark is present on a sample, then the date of its last ring is the date of the felling of its tree. Actually it could be the year after if it had been felled in the first three months before any new growth had started, but this is not too important a consideration in most cases. The actual bark may not be present on a timber in a building, though the dendrochronologist who is sampling can often see from its surface that only the bark is missing. In these cases the date of the last ring is still the date of felling.

Quite often some, though not all, of the original outer rings are missing on a timber. The outer rings on an oak, called *sapwood* rings, are usually lighter than the inner rings, the *heartwood*, and so are relatively easy to identify. For example, sapwood can be seen in the corner of the rafter and at the outer end of the core in Figure 2, both indicated by arrows. More importantly for dendrochronology, the sapwood is relatively soft and so liable to insect attack and wear and tear. The builder, therefore, may remove some of the sapwood for precisely these reasons. Nevertheless, if at least some of the sapwood rings are left on a sample, we will know that not too many rings have been lost since felling so that the date of the last ring on the sample is only a few years before the date of the original last ring on the tree, and so to the date of felling.

Various estimates have been made and used for the average number of sapwood rings in mature oak trees (English Heritage 1998). A fairly conservative range is between 15 and 50 and that this holds for 95% of mature oaks. This means, of course, that in a small number of cases there could be fewer than 15 and more than 50 sapwood rings. For example, the core CRO-A06 has only 9 sapwood rings and some have obviously been lost over time - either they were removed originally by the carpenter and/or they rotted away in the building and/or they were lost in the coring. It is not known exactly how many sapwood rings are missing, but using the above range the Laboratory would estimate between a minimum of 6 (=15-9) and a maximum of 41 (=50-9). If the last ring of CRO-A06 has been dated to 1500, say, then the estimated felling-date range for the tree from which it came originally would be between 1506 and 1541. The Laboratory uses this estimate for sapwood in areas of England where it has no prior information. It also uses it when dealing with samples with very many rings, about 120 to the last heartwood ring. But in other areas of England where the Laboratory has accumulated a number of samples with complete sapwood, that is, no sapwood lost since felling, other estimates in place of the conservative range of 15 to 50 are used. In the East Midlands (Laxton et al 2001) and the east to the south down to Kent (Pearson 1995) where it has sampled extensively in the past, the Laboratory uses the shorter estimate of 15 to 35 sapwood rings in 95% of mature oaks growing in these parts. Since the sample CRO-A06 comes from a house in Cropwell Bishop in the East Midlands, a better estimate of sapwood rings lost since felling is between a minimum of 6 (=15-9) and 26 (=35-9) and the felling would be estimated to have taken place between 1506 and 1526, a shorter period than before. (Oak boards quite often come from the Baltic and in these cases the 95% confidence limits for sapwood are 9 to 36 (Howard et al 1992, 56)).

Even more precise estimates of the felling date and range can often be obtained using knowledge of a particular case and information gathered at the time of sampling. For example, at the time of sampling the dendrochronologist may have noted that the timber from which the core of Figure 2 was taken still had complete sapwood but that none of the soft sapwood rings were lost in coring. By measuring into the timber the depth of sapwood lost, say 2 cm, a reasonable estimate can be made of the number of sapwood rings lost, say 12 to 15 rings in this case. By adding on 12 to 15 years to the date of the last ring on the sample a good tight estimate for the range of the felling date can be obtained, which is often better than the 15 to 35 years later we would have estimated without this observation. In the example, the felling is now estimated to



Fig 5. Cross-matching of four sequences from a Lincoln Cathedral roof and the formation of a site sequence from them.

The *bar diagram* represents these sequences without the rings themselves. The length of the bar is proportional to the number of rings in the sequence. Here the four sequences are set at relative positions (*offsets*) to each other at which they have maximum correlation as measured by the *t*-values.

The *t*-value/offset matrix contains the maximum *t*-values below the diagonal and the offsets above it. Thus, the maximum *t*-value between C08 and C45 occurs at the offset of +20 rings and the *t*-value is then 5.6.

The *site sequence* is composed of the average of the corresponding widths, as illustrated with one width.

have taken place between AD 1512 and 1515, which is much more precise than without this extra information.

Even if all the sapwood rings are missing on a sample, but none of the heartwood rings are, then an estimate of the felling-date range is possible by adding on the full compliment of, say, 15 to 35 years to the date of the last heartwood ring (called the heartwood/sapwood boundary or transition ring and denoted H/S). Fortunately it is often easy for a trained dendrochronologist to identify this boundary on a timber. If a timber does not have its heartwood/sapwood boundary, then only a *post quem* date for felling is possible.

- 5. **Estimating the Date of Construction**. There is a considerable body of evidence collected by dendrochronologists over the years that oak timbers used in buildings were not seasoned in medieval or early modern times (English Heritage 1998 and Miles 1997, 50-55). Hence provided all the samples in a building have estimated felling-date ranges broadly in agreement with each other, so that they appear to have been felled as a group, then this should give an accurate estimate of the period when the structure was built, or soon after (Laxton *et al* 2001, figure 8 and pages 34-5 where 'associated groups of fellings' are discussed in detail). However, if there is any evidence of storing before use or if there is evidence the oak came from abroad (eg Baltic boards), then some allowance has to be made for this.
- 6. Master Chronological Sequences. Ultimately, to date a sequence of ring widths, or a site sequence, we need a master sequence of dated ring widths with which to cross-match it, a Master Chronology. To construct such a sequence we have to start with a sequence of widths whose dates are known and this means beginning with a sequence from an oak tree whose date of felling is known. In Fig 6 such a sequence is SHE-T, which came from a tree in Sherwood Forest which was blown down in a recent gale. After this other sequences which cross-match with it are added and gradually the sequence is 'pushed back in time' as far as the age of samples will allow. This process is illustrated in Fig 6. We have a master chronological sequence of widths for Nottinghamshire and East Midlands oak for each year from AD 882 to 1981. It is described in great detail in Laxton and Litton (1988), but the components it contains are shown here in the form of a bar diagram. As can be seen, it is well replicated in that for each year in this period there are several sample sequences having widths for that year. The master is the average of these. This master can now be used to date oak from this area and from the surrounding areas where the climate is very similar to that in the East Midlands. The Laboratory has also constructed a master for Kent (Laxton and Litton 1989). The method the Laboratory uses to construct a master sequence, such as the East Midlands and Kent, is completely objective and uses the Litton-Zainodin grouping procedure (Laxton et al 1988). Other laboratories and individuals have constructed masters for other areas and have made them available. As well as these masters, local (dated) site chronologies can be used to date other buildings from nearby. The Laboratory has hundreds of these site sequences from many parts of England and Wales covering many short periods.
- 7. Ring-width Indices. Tree-ring dating can be done by cross-matching the ring widths themselves, as described above. However, it is advantageous to modify the widths first. Because different trees grow at different rates and because a young oak grows in a different way from an older oak, irrespective of the climate, the widths are first standardized before any matching between them is attempted. These standard widths are known as ring-width indices and were first used in dendrochronology by Baillie and Pilcher (1973). The exact form they take is explained in this paper and in the appendix of Laxton and Litton (1988) and is illustrated in the graphs in Fig 7. Here ring-widths are plotted vertically, one for each year of growth. In the upper sequence of (a), the generally large early growth after 1810 is very apparent as is the smaller later growth from about 1900 onwards when the tree is maturing. A similar phenomena can be observed in the lower sequence of (a) starting in 1835. In both the widths are also changing rapidly from year to year. The peaks are the wide rings and the troughs are the narrow rings corresponding to good and poor growing seasons, respectively. The two corresponding sequence of Baillie-Pilcher indices are plotted in (b) where the differences in the immature and mature growths have been removed and only the rapidly changing peaks and troughs remain, that are associated with the common climatic signal. This makes cross-matching easier.



Fig. 6 Bar diagram showing the relative positions and dates of the first rings of the component site sequences in the East Midlands Master Dendrochronological Sequence, EM08/87



Fig 7. (a) The raw ring-widths of two samples, THO-A01 and THO-B05, whose felling dates are known. Here the ring widths are plotted vertically, one for each year, so that peaks represent wide rings and troughs narrow ones. Notice the growth-trends in each; on average the earlier rings of the young tree are wider than the later ones of the older tree in both sequences.

Fig 7. (b) The *Baillie-Pilcher* indices of the above widths. The growth-trends have been removed completely.

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