

Activity 2: Stratigraphy Answers

Task 1 Answers

1. What is the earliest date layer 8 could have been formed?

2nd century AD

2. Which layers were formed during the Roman period? (The Roman period began in Britain in the mid-1st century AD)

8, 7, 6 and 5. Layer 8 contains Roman pottery, so must be Roman in date. Layers, 7, 6 and 5 are cut through by a Roman wall. Therefore, they must have been there before the wall was built, to have been cut by it.

3. Which layers were formed after the Roman period but before the Victorian period?

4 and 3. There is Victorian pottery in layer 2, so this layer dates to the Victorian period, but not before it!

4. What date must the monastery have been built after?

1272 – The wall cuts through layer 3 with the coin dated to 1272, which means the coin had already been buried after the construction of the monastery. The earliest year that the coin could have been in the ground is 1272, because that's the start of the reign, so at the earliest, the coin was made in the first year of the reign of Edward I and immediately dropped.

5. Why is the coin from 1960 found deeper under the ground than the Edward I coin?

It had been drawn down into the ground by tree roots. The tree-pit or tree-throw as they are also called are evidence for where a tree used to be.