KH

AML Report 2772

SHAUG. .OOR SITE 10 CHARCOAL EXAMINATION

Sampling and identification methods

Soil samples were collected from contexts containing charcoal on these Bronze Age cairn sites. One bag from each context was dried, weighed, gently sieved through a 1 mm mesh and any large stones removed by hand. The residue was then shaken automatically through 3 sieves, examined, and most of the identified wood charcoal was weighed. All of the charcoal, up to a maximum of 300 fragments per sieve, was identified. The finer material (less than 2.36 mm) was quickly sorted for small twigs and these were also identified.

Summary of results and discussion

The soil sample weights varied between 0.5 and 1.5 Kg approximately. The 2 samples from the "old land surface" (773293, C176 and 773297, C178) contained no identifiable charcoal. The fill of a small pit (773300, C191) almost beneath the ring of a cairn also produced very little charcoal. The sample from outside the "pot shadow" in Monument 2 (771654, C192) contained no charcoal, in contrast to that from inside the "pot shadow" (773294, C150).

The remaining samples were all from pits containing large amounts of charcoal. The estimated concentration of charcoal for each of these varied between 20-50 g/Kg of dry deposit, with the exception of 773289 (C145) which contained 3 times the average amount, and Pit 153 which produced more than 50% charcoal by weight. C145 was the deposit which produced faience beads but the meaning, if any, of this coincidence is not known.

The general pattern of charcoal results was very similar for all of the contexts examined. Oak (Quercus sp) was dominant, being represented by hundreds of pieces per sample and accounting for 98% of all identified fragments. Other taxa were present in very small amounts (usually only a few fragments per sample). Leguminosae twig (eg Gorse/Furze) occured in most samples and Calluna sp. (Heather) in about half of the charcoal pits. It was not possible to distinguish root from stem in this small diameter material. The possibility that some could be intrusive recent root must be allowed for when their relevance to the Bronze Age environment is considered. Charcoal from mature timbers of Hazel (Corylus avellana L) occured in the majority of samples: Rosaceae, subfamily Pomoideae (eg. Hawthorn), and Salix sp. (Willow) in one sample each. Some samples contained bark.

Sample 773291 (C174) produced one fragment of Viscum album L. (Mistletoe).(?) This was not definitely identified in any other context. This rarely occurs on archaeological sites and is therefore of some interest. Its presence, however, should not be seen as necessarily significant (particularly as it was not present in any quantity): it could have been accidentally introduced with the oak wood.

Other miscellaneous charred material from a few samples included Gorse spines, ?bracken fronds, nutshell, and a fragment of ?charred liverwort. These have been retained for further examination.

Carole A. Keepax

ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY

MATERIAL CHARCOAL

SITE: SHAUGH MOOR SITE 10 (DATE:)

SHEET: 1

AM No	X-Ray No	Photo No	Description and Report	Ref No
773295	"Charcoal scatter in shallow scoop with potsherds".		Sample wt:- 7 g (NB This was washed through a 1 mm sieve before submission). Quercus sp, Oak (Wt:- 1.95 g). Corylus sp, Hazel.	C78
771655	"Cremation. Shallow scoop with potsherds on OGS".		(NB This was washed through a 1 mm sieve before submission). Quercus sp. Corylus sp. Leguminosae (eg. Ulex sp, Furze). One fragment nutshell. One fragment ?charred liverwort.	C69
773299	"Cremation".		Sample wt:- 505 g Quercus sp. (Wt:- 16.45 g). Corylus sp. Leguminosae Calluna sp. (Heather).	C193

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MATERIAL CHARCOAL

SITE: SHAUGH MOOR SITE 10..... (DATE:)

SHEET: .....2.....

AM No	X-Ray No	Photo No	Description and Report	Ref No
773300	"Layer 189, Pit 190. Almost beneath ring of cairn"		Sample wt:- 1028 g Quercus sp. (few fragments only).	C191
773292	"Cremation. Lower fill. Fill 173, pit 170".		Sample wt:- 792 g Quercus sp. (Wt:- 14.82 g). Corylus sp. Leguminosae Calluna sp.	C175
773292	"Cremation. Lower fill". (see above).		Sample wt:- 821 g Quercus sp. (Wt:- 19.65 g). Leguminosae Calluna sp.	C175
773293	"From OLS 115 below area 161".		Sample wt:- 1496 g No charcoal present.	C176
773297	"From OLS 115 beneath cairn, below ch 129".		Sample wt:- 1637 g Few small, unidentifiable, charcoal fragments.	C178

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MATERIAL CHARCOAL

SITE: SHAUGH MOOR SITE 10 (DATE:)

SHEET: 3

AM No	X-Ray No	Photo No	Description and Report	Ref No
773291	"Fill 173, pit 170. Upper fill". (see 773292).		Sample wt:- 831 g Quercus sp. (Wt:- 21.32 g). Corylus sp. Leguminosae Calluna sp. Viscum album L, Mistletoe, (?)	C174
771654	"Outside pot shadow". (See 773294).		Sample wt:- 819 g No charcoal present.	C192
773289	"Cremation with bead".		Sample wt:- 418 g Quercus sp. (Wt:- 32.88 g). Corylus sp. Leguminosae Calluna sp. Viscum sp??	C145
773294	"Mon 2. Sealed below capstone. Central pot shadow. Cremation". (See 771654).		Sample wt:- 696 g Quercus sp. (Wt:- 10.85). Corylus sp. Leguminosae Calluna sp.	C150

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MATERIAL CHARCOAL

SITE: SHAUGH MOOR SITE 10 (DATE:)

SHEET: 4

AM No	X-Ray No	Photo No	Description and Report	Ref No
773288	"Mon 117.	Cremation".	Sample wt:- 740 g Quercus sp. Corylus sp. Leguminosae Calluna sp.	C169
7712001 or 772507	"Cairn 71. charcoal".	Pit	Sample wt:- 476 g Quercus sp. (Wt:- 20.17 g). Corylus sp. Rosaceae, subfamily Pomoideae (eg. Hawthorn).	
773283	"Cremation	pit".	Sample wt:- 609 g Quercus sp. Corylus sp. Leguminosae Salix sp, Willow. A few gorse spines and fragments of ?bracken fronds.	C201
771653 773275 773285			These small hand-picked samples were not identified.	C165 C129 C162