

THE ANALYSIS OF SOME COFFIN FITTINGS FROM WHARRAM PERCY CHURCH

Justine Bayley
Ancient Monuments Lab.

Fittings from eleven coffins were examined and analysed using the Milliprobe (an X-ray fluorescence spectrometer). The strength of the signal detected for any element is related to its concentration in the object but absolute compositions cannot be determined. The results are therefore expressed in terms elements detected (d) and whether the signals were strong (s) or weak (w). In most cases the weak signals for iron are contaminants, coming from corrosion products or underlying metal.

<u>A.M. Lab. No.</u>	<u>Elements detected</u>	<u>Description</u>
794487	Cu, Sn, Zn (ds). Pb (dw)	Head of Tack - Gunmetal
794488	Sn (ds). Fe (dw)	Shiney white metal to which iron handle is attached - Tinplate
794489	Pb (ds). Sn, Fe (d). Cu (dw)	Grey surface on iron handle - Solder/pewter coating
794490	Pb, Sn (ds)	Decorative foil strip - Pewter
794491	Sn (ds). Cu, Fe (dw)	White metal surface on iron handle - Tinning
794492	Fe (d)	Handle and mounting loop - Iron
794493	Fe (dw)	Unlike the other iron objects this was only weakly magnetic and was therefore probably just iron corrosion products or possibly a thin iron sheet
794494	Cu, Zn (ds). Pb, Fe (dw)	Head of domed nail - Brass containing a little lead
794495	Pb, Sn (ds). Cu, Fe (dw)	White area on iron handle - Solder/pewter coating
794496	Sn (ds). Fe (dw)	White metal - Tinplate
794497	Cu, Zn (ds). Fe (dw)	Decorated plate - Brass Handle is iron

A number of these objects have a black surface that appears to be some sort of 'lacquer'. It may always have been black or may have been clear and has decayed to its present state. It has not been analysed.

Key to elements detected:- Cu=copper, Zn=zinc, Sn=tin, Pb=lead, Fe=iron.