

Radiocarbon samples from a Neolithic Causewayed enclosure at Briar Hill,  
Northampton.

Samples from pits and ditches were identified prior to radiocarbon dating. It should be noted that because of the small size of the samples, it was not feasible to remove fragments for examination at high magnifications. Identifications are based only on transverse fractures observed at low magnifications (up to 40X).

The taxa identified were Oak (Quercus sp.), Prunus sp. (e.g. Blackthorn), Rosaceae subfamily Pomoideae (e.g. Hawthorn), Hazel or Alder (Corylus/Alnus sp.) and Ash (Fraxinus excelsior L.). All of these taxa are very common on sites of all periods throughout lowland Britain.

The detailed results for each sample were as follows. All of the material was from mature timbers (i.e. no curvature observed on the growth rings).  
794859 P76D6256 (inner enclosure ditch)

Prunus sp.

Rosaceae, Pomoideae

794861 P76A6051 (inner enclosure ditch)

Quercus sp.

Prunus sp.

Rosaceae, Pomoideae

Fraxinus sp.

794862 P76C3275 (inner ditch, outer enclosure)

Quercus sp.

794863 P76C3503 (inner ditch, outer enclosure)

Quercus sp.

794865 P76A7185 (inner ditch, outer enclosure)

Prunus sp.

794866 P76A3020 (inner ditch, outer enclosure)

Prunus sp.

Rosaceae, Pomoideae

Quercus sp.

Corylus/Alnus sp. ?

794867 P67C3116 (inner ditch, outer enclosure)

Prunus sp.

794868 P76C3251 Pit cut into inner ditch)

Quercus sp.

794869 P76C3335 (Pit? in upper fill of inner ditch)

Quercus sp.

794870 P76C2011 Pit cut by outer ditch)

Quercus sp.,

794871 P76B6116(Pit inside enclosure)

Quercus sp.

794872 P76B6047 (Pit inside enclosure)

Prunus sp.

Quercus sp.

Corylus/Alnus sp.

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