

WINCHESTER - preliminary examination of wood

Wood samples from various excavations in Winchester during the 1950's were given a preliminary sorting. Most consisted of now dry and distorted stem material with some charcoal. The transverse section of each sample was briefly examined under a low-power reflected light microscope (x10-x30) - no thin sections were taken; therefore identification doesnot claim to be accurate. Oak and ash are readily identifiable; those labelled 'birch type' or 'alder/hazel type' signify a rough grouping of species, according to vessel size and distribution, and ray size. Where possible, the number of growth rings and the felling season are indicated.

Recommendations: most of the wood appears to be still identifiable, despite severe distortion and shrinkage due to drying out. For an assessment of the entire assemblage of wood species being exploited in the area, thorough identification of the large groups of material would be worthwhile e.g. SGT 57 L16-L17 or MBS 54 F72.

Submitted to Dr J.R. Collis, April, 1981

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Winchester

MBS 53 L112 Charcoal- birch type twig

MBS 53 F11/3 Not birch as on label - charcoal oak stem 18 years old,
18mm diameter

MBS 54 F14/3 Oak charcoal

MBS 54 F14/4 Oak stem c.22 years old, summer cut

MBS 54 F72/4 Two fragments oak, 5 fragments birch/alder type

MBS 54 F72/5 Radial oak board, c.50 quite wide rings

Radial fragments oak & beech type

MBS 54 F72/6 Two fragments oak, one ash with very narrow rings, several
alder/hazel/beech type fragments including turning waste,
some unidentified twigs.

MBS 54 F72/6-10 layer 4 Twisted twigs of willow type

MBS 54 F72/10 Twigs alder/hazel & birch type

11 ash pegs, 6 oak fragments, 1 willow type, 2 birch type

2 thin radial oak boards, twig alder type

twigs hazel type; many very distorted unidentified fragments

Basketwork - probably willow type twig

MBS 54 F97/2 Oak stem

L230 Unidentifiable

L250 Oak charcoal fragments

1381.00.293 Oak charcoal fragments

1381.00.361 NOT WOOD

1381.72.13 Fragments oak and ash

1381.97.1 Oak fragment

1580.00.32/2 NOT WOOD

1580.00.47 NOT WOOD

Oak

1580.00.48 Charcoal of oak, two stems willow type 12 years old

1580.00.49 Oak

1580.00.51 Twig beech type 3 years old

1580.00.66 Conifer fragment badly infested with wood borer & fungus,
oak fragment with metal deposit

1580.09.0/1 Charcoal beech type

1530.18.0 Oak

1580.21.1 Twig beech type

SRC 54 B layer 14 Fragments ash & birch type

SRC 54 B layer 15 Oak charcoal

SRC 54 B layer 20 Fragment across edge of twig, willow type

SRC 54 IV layer 2 Oak fragment

SGS 54 A layer 1 Ash

SGS 54 A layer 12 Oak twig 9 years old, winter cut

SGS 54 C layer 4 Twig willow type

Charcoal twig alder/hazel type 6years old, 16mm diameter,
winter cut

TCT 55 L18 Thin fragment oak

TCT 55 L19 Twigs alder/hazel type: age 5, diameter 15mm, winter cut
age 6, diameter 5mm, winter cut
age ?, diameter 14mm;
age 5, diameter 10mm, winter cut

POT 56 L1 Unidentified

POT 56 L2 Fragment oak & bark

MW 56 L3 Split fragment willow type; unidentified 10 year old twig, winter cut

SGT 57 L16-L17 Large quantity twigs alder/hazel type, ash, oak, birch
type, much distorted & unidentified

SGT 57 L18 Fragments oak & birch type, many indeterminate

SGT 57 L21 Twig hazel type 20 years old, 40mm diameter

SGT 57 L26 Oak radial fragment with c.40 rings; bark; twig hazel type
5 years old, 10mm diameter, winter cut; oak twig

SLH 57 F4/1 Charcoal hazel type twig c.35 years old, 25mm diameter

SLH 57 L49 Charcoal twigs hazel type: age 20, diameter 50mm wide rings, winter cut
age c.15, diameter 23mm, uniform rings
age c.35, diameter 40mm, narrow rings
age 20, diameter 18mm, narrow rings
age 14, diameter 50mm, wide rings,
summer cut?

SLH 57 F59 Charcoal birch

LOT 33/L6 Charcoal twig alder/hazel type, 8 years old, 19mm diameter, winter cut

Stems of oak; 5 of ash 10 years old, 15mm diameter, winter cut;
 one willow type 7 years old, 13mm diameter, winter cut; one
 hazel type 7 years old, 14mm diameter, winter cut

WE 53/9 7 L10 Oak stave

WE 58/9 F2 Beech type radially split timber, wide rings, 140mm radius

EUB 59 L17 Thin radial oak board retained for dendrochronology

EUB 59 L18 Fragment beech type

EUB 59 L19 Birch stems 100mm & 140mm diameter

Oak stem 30mm diameter, 15 years old

EUB 59 L21 Oak fragments & alder type stem

EUB 59 L23 Oak stem 14 years old

EUB 59 L24 Oak fragments

TSR 65 F18/1 Charcoal two fragments alder/hazel type