

ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY REPORT

3911

SERIES/No CONTRACTOR

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TITLE Stanch Meadow, Brandon;
Wood

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1500

Site : Stanch Meadow, Brandon
County : Suffolk
Code : BRD 018
Director : R. Carr
Geology : Sands and gravels, overlain by valley peats
at low elevations
Type of site : Middle Saxon settlement
Material : Wood

Brandon (BRD 018) : Wood

Most of the structural wood from the site (planks from the building and piles from the causeway) consisted of oak. Pieces suitable for dendrochronology have been submitted to the Sheffield Dendrochronology Laboratory. All oak wood from the site (apart from very small fragments) has been examined by Richard Darrah with a view to gaining information on production and woodworking techniques. The remaining material is listed here.

Context No.	Description	Taxon
1016 (Building 1094)	Large irregular stake. Approx. $\frac{1}{4}$ of branch/trunk c. 16cm diameter. No bark	Willow (<u>Salix</u> sp.)
1036 (Building 1094)	Decayed wood, fragments.	Ash (<u>Fraxinus</u> sp.)
1049 (Building 1094)	Decayed wood fragments	Oak (<u>Quercus</u> sp.)
1056 (Building 1094)	Centrally-split branch c. 14cm diameter. No bark. Length c. 29cm.	Ash (<u>Fraxinus</u> sp.)
1814 (Building 1986)	Badly decayed small frags.	Oak (<u>Quercus</u> sp.)
1980 (Stakehole line (4) 1582)	Decayed fragments of stake	? Hazel/alder ?(<u>Corylus/Alnus</u> sp.)
1981 (Stakehole line (7) 1582)	Stake with no bark. Trimmed to irregular 5-facetted point. Max diameter 6cm, length c. 30cm.	? Hazel/alder ?(<u>Corylus/Alnus</u> sp.)
1954 (Stakehole line 1583)	Broken stake fragments, no bark. Comprises $\frac{1}{2}$ section of branch c. 5cm diameter. Trimmed to irregular 4-facetted point.	Hazel (<u>Corylus</u> sp.)
1955 (Stakehole line 1583)	Stake with bark. Part-trimmed to point. Max. diam. c. 5.5cm, length c. 30cm. Decayed	Hawthorn-group (<u>Crataegus</u> -group)
3028 (1)	Stake with bark. Trimmed to 5-facetted point. Max.diam. c. 5cm.	Hazel (<u>Corylus</u> sp.)
3030 (Stakehole line (3) 1583)	Stake with bark. Trimmed to irregular 5-facetted point. Max. diam. 5.5cm, length c. 36cm. Decayed.	Hazel (<u>Corylus</u> sp.)
3032 (Stakehole line (6) 1583)	Stake fragments, no bark. Approx. 5cm, diameter	Hazel/alder (<u>Corylus</u> or <u>Alnus</u> sp.)
3033 (Stakehole line (7) 1583)	Tip of stake, 4-facetted. Max. diam. 3.5 + cm. Decayed.	Hazel (<u>Corylus</u> sp.)
3034 (Stakehole line (18) 1583)	Stake made from split branch ($>\frac{1}{2}$) Max. diam. 5.5cm, length c. 28cm	Hazel/alder (<u>Corylus</u> or <u>Alnus</u> sp.)

1941 (Non-structural)	Decayed wood fragments	Oak (<u>Quercus</u> sp.)
1956 (Non-structural)	Broken and decayed fragments of stake tip.	Oak (<u>Quercus</u> sp.)
1952 (Non-structural)	Part-charred wood fragment	Ash (<u>Fraxinus</u> sp.)

The wood identified as hazel or hazel/alder was generally in a very poor state of presentation. Features associated with the vessels (eg. spiral thickening and multiple perforation plates) were often not clearly visible and hence in some cases it was not possible to distinguish between hazel and alder. The cell structure of the remaining material was in a better condition.