

Ninety one artifacts from the Swan Lane site were received for wood identification. Seventy one of these were conserved in polyethylene glycol and the remaining twenty were waterlogged and preserved in a mild fungicide solution.

Small sections were taken from the items with a razor blade and mounted in a glycerine solution on microscope slides. The fabric of some of the wet samples was very soft and these were frozen before sectioning to give more support to the tissues. 90% alcohol was used as a wetting agent prior to sectioning on the items conserved in P.E.G.. The slides were examined using a light microscope.

The samples were similar to named reference material as follows:-

CON 375	A.N. 361	<u>Quercus</u> sp., oak.
CON 2112	A.N. 1169	Med. comb. <u>Buxus</u> sp., box.
CON 2112	A.N. 1173	<u>Alnus</u> sp., alder.—
CON 2152	A.N. 1249	Disc with central hole. <u>Taxus</u> sp., yew.
CON 2209	A.N. 1340	Med. stopper. <u>Buxus</u> sp., box.
CON 2209	A.N. 1341	<u>Acer</u> sp., maple or sycamore.
CON 2209	A.N. 1342	Med. bobbin. <u>Buxus</u> sp., box.
CON 2209	A.N. 1343	Possibly <u>Abies</u> sp., silver fir.
CON 2209	A.N. 1344	Pin. <u>Prunus</u> sp., cherry.
CON 2056	A.N. 1345	Med knife. <u>Taxus</u> sp., yew.
CON 2158	A.N. 1347	Roman writing tablet in several fragments. <u>Quercus</u> s
CON 2158	A.N. 1348	Med. bobbin. <u>Buxus</u> sp., box.
CON 2017	A.N. 1349	Med. <u>Quercus</u> sp.
CON 2207	A.N. 1355	Med. comb. <u>Buxus</u> sp., box.
CON 2187	A.N. 1413	Roman writing tablet. <u>Cedrus</u> sp., cedar or <u>Abies</u> sp. silver fir.
CON 2187	A.N. 1414	Roman writing tablet. <u>Picea</u> sp., spruce or <u>Larix</u> sp., larch.
CON 2187	A.N. 1415	Spatula . <u>Quercus</u> sp.
CON 2187	A.N. 1416	Peg. <u>Buxus</u> sp., box.
CON 2187	A.N. 1417	Comb. <u>Buxus</u> sp., box.
CON 2215	A.N. 1639	Writing tablet. <u>Picea</u> sp., spruce or <u>Larix</u> sp, larch
CON 2215	A.N. 1638	Roman writing tablet. Conifer, probably <u>Abies</u> sp.
CON 2055	A.N. 1702	Pin. <u>Taxus</u> sp., yew.
CON 2055	A.N. 1703	Pin. <u>Taxus</u> sp.
CON 2055	A.N. 1704	Box. <u>Acer</u> sp., maple or sycamore.
CON 2055	A.N. 1705	Med. <u>Fagus</u> sp., beech.
CON 2018	A.N. 1706	Pin. <u>Taxus</u> sp., yew.

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CON 1031	A.N. 1707	Portion of decorated counter. <u>Buxus</u> sp., box.
CON 2025	A.N. 1708	Pin. <u>Taxus</u> sp., yew.
CON 889	A.N. 1709	Needle. <u>Taxus</u> sp., yew
CON 2018	A.N. 1710	Med. <u>Prunus</u> sp., cherry.
CON 2018	A.N. 1711	Med. <u>Quercus</u> sp., oak.
CON 2018	A.N. 1712	<u>Taxus</u> sp., yew.
CON 2102	A.N. 1713	Med. comb. <u>Buxus</u> sp., box.
CON 2102	A.N. 1714	Med. nail, iron/wood/leather. <u>Quercus</u> sp.
CON 2018	A.N. 1716	Med. pattern. <u>Fagus</u> sp., beech.
CON 2018	A.N. 1719	Med. <u>Fagus</u> sp.
CON 2018	A.N. 1720	Needle. <u>Cedrus</u> sp., cedar or <u>Abies</u> sp., silver fir.
CON 2018	A.N. 1721	Pin. <u>Prunus</u> sp., cherry.
CON 350	A.N. 1722	Med. circular object with central hole. <u>Quercus</u> sp.
CON 2013	A.N. 1723	Possibly pattern, leather/wood. Probably family <u>Salicaceae</u> which includes <u>Salix</u> sp., willow and <u>Populus</u> sp., poplar. The structure of this sample was too collapsed to be certain.
CON 2018	A.N. 1723	<u>Quercus</u> sp., oak. This item and the previous one appear to have the same number - one may be incorrect.
CON 2025	A.N. 1725	Med. stopper. <u>Quercus</u> sp. or <u>Castanea</u> sp., sweet chestnut. The structure of these two genera is very similar except <u>Quercus</u> has broad rays. There are no broad rays visible in the stopper but this may be because it is made from a portion of immature branch wood. <u>Quercus</u> would seem the more likely choice but one could not rule out the possibility of <u>Castanea</u> .
CON 950	A.N. 1726	Med. Probably <u>Fraxinus</u> sp., ash but very compressed.
CON 2051	A.N. 1727	Pin. <u>Prunus</u> sp., cherry.
CON 2018	A.N. 1728	Med. bucket. <u>Cedrus</u> sp., cedar / <u>Abies</u> sp., silver fir.
CON 2030	A.N. 1729	Med. <u>Fagus</u> sp., beech.
CON 2001	A.N. 1730	Med. stake. <u>Quercus</u> sp.
CON 2050	A.N. 1731	Med. spatula. <u>Quercus</u> sp.
CON +	A.N. 1732	Med. bowl. In very poor condition structurally but possibly <u>Prunus</u> sp., cherry.
CON 1574	A.N. 2259	Med. peg and wedge. Both <u>Quercus</u> sp.
CON B50B	A.N. 2430	Wedge. <u>Quercus</u> sp.
CON 2001	A.N. 2434	Pin. <u>Taxus</u> sp., yew.
CON +	A.N. 2435	<u>Buxus</u> sp., box.
CON 2050	A.N. 2437	Med. peg. <u>Acer</u> sp., maple or sycamore.
CON 2055	A.N. 2636	Pin. <u>Taxus</u> sp., yew.
CON +	A.N. 2637	Pin. <u>Taxus</u> sp., yew.
CON 2057	A.N. 2638	Med. Family <u>Salicaceae</u> which includes <u>Salix</u> sp., willow and <u>Populus</u> sp., poplar.
CON 2266	A.N. 2640	Med. bowl. <u>Fraxinus</u> sp., ash.
CON 2134	A.N. 2644	Med. bowl. <u>Fraxinus</u> sp.
CON 1292	A.N. 2642	Med. piece of structure. <u>Quercus</u> sp.
CON 2257	A.N. 2643	Large circular object with central hole and vegetative deposit on surface; some charring on the edges. A. Main object - <u>Quercus</u> sp. B. Vegetative deposit - very fragile with no structure remaining.
CON 1905	A.N. 4073	Roman. <u>Fraxinus</u> sp., ash.
CON +	A.N. 4092	Pin <u>Quercus</u> sp.

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CON	+	A.N.	4093	Pin. <u>Taxus</u> sp.,yew.
CON	+	A.N.	4090	Pin. <u>Taxus</u> sp.
CON	2132	A.N.	4611	Med. peg. <u>Quercus</u> sp.
CON	2105	A.N.	4624	Pin. <u>Taxus</u> sp.,yew.
CON	2105	A.N.	4625	Pin. <u>Prunus</u> sp., cherry.
CON	2150	A.N.	4630	Med. <u>Fagus</u> sp., beech.
CON	2150	A.N.	4672	Med. stake. <u>Quercus</u> sp.
CON	2184	A.N.	4675	Roman stake/peg. <u>Buxus</u> sp.,box.
CON	2150	A.N.	4671	Med. stake. <u>Quercus</u> sp.
CON	2278	A.N.	4673	Med. bowl. <u>Alnus</u> sp.,alder.
CON	1801	A.N.	4674	Pin. <u>Prunus</u> sp.,cherry.
CON	2277	A.N.	4676	Doorlatch. <u>Quercus</u> sp.
CON	1354	A.N.	4677	Med. barrel and withies. Barrel- <u>Quercus</u> sp. Withies- <u>Corylus</u> sp.,hazel
CON	2130	A.N.	4678	Pin. <u>Buxus</u> sp.,box.
CON	2150	A.N.	4682	Med. <u>Quercus</u> sp.
CON	2150	A.N.	4683	Med. handle. <u>Buxus</u> sp.,box.
CON	3258	A.N.	4684	Med. stake. <u>Quercus</u> .sp.
CON	2198	A.N.	4686	Roman stopper in ceramic. Corky cells and groups of fibres very similar to those in the bark of <u>Quercus</u> <u>suber</u> , cork oak, ;resistance to water makes this medium very suitable for bottle stoppers.
CON	2141	A.N.	4700	Pin. <u>Taxus</u> sp., yew.
CON	2065	A.N.	4721	Med. bowl. <u>Fagus</u> sp.,beech.
CON	2065	A.N.	4723	Med. <u>Fagus</u> sp., beech.
CON	2078	A.N.	4724	<u>Prunus</u> sp., cherry.
CON	2065	A.N.	4725	Pin. <u>Taxus</u> sp.,yew.
CON	2084	A.N.	4727	Med. Structurally in very poor condition. Possibly either <u>Alnus</u> sp.,alder or family Salicaceae , poplars and willows,but not enough characters were visible to confirm either.
CON	2042	A.N.	4736	Med. <u>Fraxinus</u> sp.,ash.
CON	2134	A.N.	4737	Med. bowl. <u>Fraxinus</u> sp.,ash.
CON	2199	A.N.	4749	Roman. Probably <u>Cedrus</u> sp.,cedar.
CON	2130	A.N.	4744	Med. stake. <u>Quercus</u> sp.
CON	2065	A.N.	4758	Med. <u>Cedrus</u> sp., cedar.
CON	2064	A.N.	4760	Peg. <u>Taxus</u> sp.,yew.
CON	2022	A.N.	4788	Pin. <u>Taxus</u> sp.,yew.
CON	+	A.N.	4790	Pin. <u>Taxus</u> sp.,yew.
CON	+	A.N.	4792	<u>Corylus</u> sp.,hazel.
CON	2051	A.N.	4808	Med. stake. <u>Quercus</u> sp.
CON	2142	A.N.	4810	Med. Possibly <u>Quercus</u> sp. but there are no broad ra visible so one could not rule out <u>Castanea</u> sp., sweet chestnut.
CON	2278	A.N.	4814	Med. <u>Quercus</u> sp.
CON	2134	A.N.	4815	Med. barrel. <u>Quercus</u> sp.
CON	2046	A.N.	4819	Med. <u>Quercus</u> sp.
CON	2137	A.N.	4992	Med. <u>Quercus</u> sp.
CON	2274	A.N.	5005	Med. stake. <u>Quercus</u> sp.
CON	2056	A.N.	5006	Med. stake . <u>Quercus</u> sp. -3 fragments.

Comments.

Many of the woods used for these artifacts are from species which were growing in the British Isles in both Roman and Mediaeval times. The exceptions being Cedrus, Abies, Picea, Larix, and Quercus suber. The first four of these were introduced to this country from Europe in the 17th century. Quercus suber, a native of the Mediterranean region, is not suited to cultivation in the cool climate of Britain. It is thought that Castanea sativa, sweet chestnut, was introduced from Europe by the Romans. If this is so, the home grown timber supply would not have been of much significance until the later Roman period.

Table 1 is compiled from the identifications where the reference information also included the type of artifact. It shows that woods whose particular properties suited the function of the artifact were specifically selected.

Books referred to :-

- Edlin H.L., British woodland trees. Batsford. 1944
Phillips E.W.J., Identification of softwoods by their microscopic structure. Forest Products Research Bulletin no .22. H.M.S.O.1979.
Schweingruber F.H., Microscopic wood anatomy. F.Fluck-Wirth.1982.
Wilkinson G., A history of Britains trees. Hutchinson. 1981.

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TABLE 1 . Showing the number and type of artifacts made from particular species of wood.

	<u>Acer</u>	<u>Alnus</u>	<u>Buxus</u>	<u>Cedrus</u> <u>Abies</u>	<u>Fagus</u>	<u>Frax-</u> <u>inus</u>	<u>Quercus</u>	<u>Picea</u> <u>Larix</u>	<u>Prunus</u>	<u>Taxus</u>
Barrel							2m			
Bobbin			2m							
Bowl		1m			1m	3m			?1m	
Box	1									
Bucket				1m						
Comb			3m							
Counter			1m							
Doorlatch							1			
Knife handle			1m							1m
Needle				1						1
Pattern					1m					
Peg	1		2				2m			1
Pin			1				1		5	14
Spatula							2			
Stake							8m			
Stopper			1m				1m 1r			
Wedge							2			
Writing tablets				2r			1r	2r		

m = Mediaeval
r = Roman