

Ancient Monuments Laboratory
Report 23/89

MINERAL PRESERVED WOOD ASSOCIATED
WITH METALWARE FROM WETWANG SLACK
YORKSHIRE.

Jacqui Watson

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Summary

Identification report on wood associated with 5 pieces
of metalwork from the Iron Age cemetery.

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Mineral preserved wood associated with metalwork from Wetwang Slack,
Yorkshire.

780015 WT AT /pub 211

Iron ferrule with mineral preserved wood in socket, but too hard to sample for species identification. From the preserved cross section it is possible to suggest that it was a coppiced pole of a diffuse porous wood.

780024 WT GW WT274

Iron coffin staple with mineral preserved oak (Quercus sp.). The staple has been used to join two pieces of wood with tangential surfaces which have a minimum depth of 22mm.

780025 WT GX

780026 WT GY

Two iron coffin staples, one at least has tangential surface oak (Quercus sp.) with a minimum depth of 34mm.

If the three coffin staples belong to the same coffin, the wood preserved on them suggests that the original planks were made from tangentially split or flat sawn timber. The former is more likely as the latter requires a great deal of effort and large saws, which have not been identified in Iron Age levels. No carpentry details were preserved, but the coffin was presumably held together with pegged or tenonned joints.

WT 191 EA Burial 244

Copper alloy ferrule with mineral preserved wood, Salix sp. (willow). or Populus sp. (poplar).
SEM No.B333