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Ancient Monuments Laboratory  
Report 19/89

IDENTIFICATION OF WOOD PRESERVED ON  
WATER-PIPE COLLARS FROM WINCHESTER,  
HAMPSHIRE.

Jacqui Watson

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HAMPSHIRE.

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Summary

Identification report on wood associated with four  
Roman water-pipe collars.

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## Identification of wood preserved on water-pipe collars from Winchester.

### Cathedral Green

CG 1689

Oak (Quercus sp.) was preserved on fragments 8 and 4.

CG 1692

Alder (Alnus sp.) was preserved.  
SEM No.B267.

CG 2065

Alder (Alnus sp.) was preserved.  
SEM No.B268.

Water pipes commonly appear to be made from oak. The use of alder is rare probably because this wood is normally managed as a coppice rather than allowed to grow into trees large enough for water pipes. The wood itself is resistant to decay in waterlogged conditions and would be a good choice for this function.

### Brook Street

BS 7829

No wood was preserved on this iron water-pipe collar, which was quite surprising as the corrosion products on it suggest that it came from waterlogged levels and such conditions normally favour the preservation of organic materials. Possibly the collar was not attached to a wooden pipe when buried.