

Ancient Monuments Laboratory
Report 43/90

STOGURSEY CASTLE, SOMERSET:
IDENTIFICATION OF FOURTEENTH
CENTURY WOOD FROM THE MOAT.

V Straker

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Summary

A number of wooden objects were recovered from the castle moat during excavation in 1983 and the wood has been identified in advance of conservation. *Quercus* sp. (Oak), *Fraxinus excelsior* (Ash), *Taxus baccata* (Yew) and *Ulmus* sp. (Elm) were recorded.

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The castle at Stogursey was probably first established by the de Courcis family and the first reference to the castle is in 1090 (Aston and Leech, 1977). All the wooden objects are fourteenth century in date and come from the moat, which was examined during a watching brief by R.McDonnell for the Landmark Trust and HBMC. There are 10 further objects to be identified which are already undergoing conservation.

Find Number	Object	Identification
16	offcut	<u>Quercus</u> sp. (Oak)
54	offcut	<u>Quercus</u> sp.
66	fragment of plank	<u>Quercus</u> sp.
67	fragment of plank	<u>Quercus</u> sp.
70	offcut	<u>Quercus</u> sp.
71	small wedge	<u>Quercus</u> sp.
103	offcut	<u>Quercus</u> sp.
108	fragment of plank	<u>Quercus</u> sp.
112	?	<u>Quercus</u> sp.
118	piece of lath	<u>Quercus</u> sp.
119	piece of lath	<u>Quercus</u> sp.
120	pole with tapered end	<u>Quercus</u> sp.
121	fragment of channeling	<u>Quercus</u> sp.
122	piece of lath	<u>Quercus</u> sp.
131	?	<u>Quercus</u> sp.
132	?	<u>Quercus</u> sp.
133	bucket stave	<u>Quercus</u> sp.
138	fragment of plank	<u>Quercus</u> sp.
141	piece of lath	<u>Quercus</u> sp.
144	strip	<u>Quercus</u> sp.
152	thin plank	<u>Quercus</u> sp.
154	drilled wedge	<u>Quercus</u> sp.
162	fragment with mortice	<u>Quercus</u> sp.
57	strip	<u>Taxus baccata</u> (Yew)
76	peg	<u>Taxus baccata</u>
114	section of bow	<u>Taxus baccata</u>
134	section of bow	<u>Taxus baccata</u>
145	slither	<u>Taxus baccata</u>
146	piece of lath	<u>Taxus baccata</u>
17	lid of bowl	<u>Fraxinus excelsior</u> (Ash)
34	bowl	<u>Alnus</u> sp. (Alder)
69	? section of bow	<u>Ulmus</u> sp. (Elm)

Comments

The planks are all radially cut/split. The taxa are native to the British Isles.

Reference

Aston, M. and Leach, R. 1977 Historic Towns in Somerset. CRAAGS.