

Ancient Monuments Laboratory
Report 20/91

CARISBROOKE CASTLE:
WOOD IDENTIFICATION

Rowena M O Gale

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Summary

A sample of mineral replaced wood from a grave was identified as most probably Salix sp. or Populus sp.

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CARISBROOKE CASTLE: WOOD IDENTIFICATION

Several small fragments of mineral replaced wood from an object decorated with iron and copper alloy studs were found on the left side of a skeleton in grave 1607.

The wood fragments, sample number 812568, were examined using an epi-illuminating microscope. The anatomical structure was in very poor condition but the features observed suggested a tentative identification of *Salix* sp. (willow) or *Populus* sp. (poplar). The two genera are closely related members of the family Salicaceae and are very similar in structure. It is not possible to separate them reliably using anatomical characters alone.