

Ancient Monuments Laboratory
Report 23/91

THWING, YORKSHIRE:
CHARCOAL IDENTIFICATION

Rowena M O Gale

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Summary

This report includes the identification of charcoal from the remains of firewood used during the Late Bronze Age and the Anglo-Saxon occupation 700-900 AD.

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THWING, YORKSHIRE: CHARCOAL IDENTIFICATION

Rowena Gale

Eight samples of charcoal from Late Bronze age and Anglo-Saxon firewood were recieved for species identification.

PREPARATION AND EXAMINATION

The fragments of charcoal were fractured to reveal clean, flat surfaces and initially sorted into groups based on the features observed with a X20 handlens. Representative samples from each group were selected for further detailed examination. These fragments were fractured in the transverse, tangential longitudinal and radial longitudinal planes and examined using an epi-illuminating microscope at magnifications of up to X400. The anatomical structure was compared to authenticated reference material.

RESULTS

Late Bronze Age

1. T90 I11 (4) GAM Inner ditch, near antler
Quercus sp., oak, 1 fragment heartwood;
4 fragments sapwood timber.

Fraxinus sp., ash, 3 fragments, largish stem or branch.
2. T90 I11 (2) GAB Inner ditch
Quercus sp., 2 fragments sapwood, large branch or timber.
3. T90 I11 (2) GAB Inner ditch
Quercus sp., 2 fragments sapwood, large branch or timber.
4. T90 I11 (4) GAM Inner ditch - Id. by Wendy Carruthers.
Quercus sp., 9 fragments heartwood;
1 fragment sapwood;
6 fragments highly fired and distorted.
9 fragments heartwood.

cf. *Quercus* sp., highly fired.

Fraxinus excelsior, 3 fragments large timber;
5 fragments medium timber;
9 fragments branch wood.

cf. *Acer* sp., maple (or Pomoideae), 4 fragments w.
(Pomoideae, subfamily of the family Rosaceae,
includes *Crataegus* sp., hawthorn; *Malus* sp., apple;
Pyrus sp., pear; *Sorbus* sp., rowan, wild service tree
and whitebeam. The anatomical structure of these
genera is very similar.)

cf. Pomoideae, 1 fragment.

Corylus avellana, 7 fragments.

cf. *Corylus* sp., hazel (or *Alnus* sp., alder), 6
fragments w.

Salix sp., willow, or *Populus* sp., poplar, 1 fragment
w. (These closely related genera are very
similar anatomically).

w = ? woodworm damage i.e. holes present.

5. T82 J12/F30 <90> POst-pipe of rampart post hole.
Quercus sp., 9 fragments sapwood, probably stem.

Fraxinus sp., 31 fragments, stem.

Corylus sp., 4 fragments, stem.

Anglo-Saxon occupation 700-900 AD

6. T82 K11/F5
Quercus sp., 24 fragments sapwood, timber, wide stem or
branch wood.

7. T82 L12/F1
Quercus sp., 11 fragments heartwood;
5 fragments sapwood.

Corylus sp., 2 fragments stem (including 1 = 1.5 cm in
diameter).

8. T82 L12/F8 <190>
Corylus sp., 10 fragments.

Salix sp., or *Populus* sp., 12 fragments.