

ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY

REPORT

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| AUTHOR | Alison M Donaldson May 1977 CRAWLEY EDGE, STANHOPE, WEARDALE BOTANICAL |
| TITLE | |

CRAWLEY EDGE, STANHOPE, WEARDALE.

BOTANICAL REPORT

This excavation, by Robert Young, Department of Archaeology, University of Durham, was of a Bronze Age cairn on the moors north of Stanhope.

The site was originally visited to determine if there was any trace of a buried soil under the stones of the cairn. There was no evidence of this however and probably the soil was even scooped away first.

However at the end of the excavation a small central pit was found, with a dark sticky fill with charcoal and pot fragments. The matrix material looked rather like burnt soil, but contained no pollen. There was in any case some penetration of modern rootlets to this level.

The charcoal was identified as follows:

Quad.3 Pot pit (2 bags)

Quercus (Oak)

Quad.3 Sample 5.

Quercus (Oak)

Quad.3 Pit fill immed. below sample 5 and associated with pots. (2 bags)

Quercus (Oak)

The charcoal was all fragmented, the biggest pieces showing about 1 cm² of T.S. , but in no case could any curvature of the annual rings be seen, so that the wood may even have come from a mature tree.

This identification suggests the presence of oak trees in the area, but there is always the possibility of importation. Unfortunately there is not a pollen diagram including the Bronze Age from this area.

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