

APPENDIX 7 WOOD

*Robin Inglis***A.7.1 The wood assemblage**

A small assemblage of wood fragments was recovered and analysed (Schweingruber 1982) from soil samples retrieved both from contexts associated with human burials and from non-burial contexts. The assemblage consisted of small incomplete fragments of wood and root or twigs. The majority of the fragments were very small, with a length of between 10 and 20mm. There were, however, rare examples of larger wood fragments, between 50 and 100mm, which were solely found in the non-burial contexts.

A large proportion of the wood fragments, both from burial and non-burial contexts, showed signs of charring throughout their centres. There was also evidence of mineralisation around the fringes of a large proportion of the fragments. No wooden

artefacts were uncovered – none of the wood fragments showed any sign of working.

Within the non-burial contexts, fragments of *Quercus* sp dominated the assemblage, with 13 examples identified. Within these contexts *Corylus* sp (seven fragments) and *Betula* sp (three fragments) were also observed, alongside single fragments of *Pinus* sp and *Salix* sp. Only four burial contexts produced wood, with only single fragments found in each. Three contained *Pinus* sp while the other context revealed a *Quercus* sp fragment.

A.7.2 Discussion

The limited quantity of material comprising the wood assemblage restricts meaningful interpretation. However, one interesting pattern was apparent: the burial contexts were dominated by pine, indicating that burials were potentially placed within pine coffins.