

APPENDIX 13: CHARCOAL

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A.13.1 The assemblage

A small assemblage of charcoal fragments was recovered from soil samples from Parliament House. Samples were retrieved from 14 contexts associated with human burials and from seven non-burial contexts. The assemblage mainly consisted of small, heavily mineralised, charcoal fragments. As the fragments were all very small in size, the largest having a 9mm radius, there was little clear evidence of age of species due to the few rings available for analysis – mostly the number observed was under five rings. None of the charcoal fragments showed any sign of working.

The material from non-burial contexts was dominated by oak (*Quercus* sp – 14 identifications).

Hazel (*Corylus avellana* – five identifications) and alder (*Alnus glutinosa* – four identifications) were also present, as were single fragments of chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and pine (*Pinus* sp).

The burial contexts contained a similar assemblage, with oak again dominating (20 identifications) and hazel and alder as the next most abundant species (five and six identifications respectively). Small quantities of birch (*Betula* sp), elm (*Ulmus* sp) and heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) were also present.

A.13.2 Conclusion

The material recovered from both burial and non-burial contexts was dominated by small fragments of oak, with small numbers of other species present. The charcoal assemblage differed from the uncharred wood material, where pine was more frequent.