
7 Charcoal identifications by Jennifer Miller

Seven small samples of charcoal from contexts 001 (shelter floor) and 004 (cremation deposit) were presented for identification of taxa and assessment of dating potential (Table 1). Four of the samples contained material of sufficient weight to permit AMS dating (Section 8). Taxa identified included *Betula* (birch), *Corylus* (hazel), Ericaceae undifferentiated (heather type), *Prunus spinosa* type (sloe type) and *Quercus* (oak). Charcoal was generally in good condition, although fragments were small and few in number. The remains are deemed to be of Bronze Age

origin by association to the funerary urn and indeed the assemblage found is typical of the mixed deciduous open woodland identified as native to the Kilmartin Valley area at that time from both pollen and macrofossil evidence (Miller, Ramsay and Housley forthcoming). The small number of fragments means that it is not possible to ascertain whether there was any particular selection of taxon for burning rather than just the utilisation of available resources.

Table 1 Charcoal identifications

Sample	<i>Betula</i>	<i>Corylus</i>	<i>Ericaceae</i>	<i>Prunus Spinosa</i> type	<i>Quercus</i>	Indet
004 BS1		0.1g (3)*				0.05g (2)
004 bone surface	0.05g (1)					
004 spit 1			0.1g (1)*		0.1g (1)	
001 bone surface	0.1g (1)					
004 spit 1C	< 0.05g (4)					
004 spit 3B	< 0.05g (3)			< 0.05g (1)		< 0.05g (1)
004 spit 4D	< 0.05g (1)	< 0.05g (1)	< 0.05g (2)			

Note: the figure in brackets beside the weight shows the number of fragments identified). Samples marked * were used for AMS dating.