

APPENDIX 1 - WOOD

1.1 Assessment of the Wood

by Nick Mitchell

Introduction

- 1.1.1 A single piece of wood was recovered from palaeochannel deposits sampled in trench 17 of the East of Station Road site. The circumstances of its deposition are considered below since it has bearing upon the interpretation of the sample submitted for radiocarbon dating. The purpose of recovering the piece of wood was to provide dating evidence for the sequence of palaeochannel deposits from which environmental samples had been taken.

Methodology

- 1.1.2 The wood was unwrapped and cleaned and a full record was made since there is nothing to be gained by revisiting the material at the full analysis stage.

Quantification

- 1.1.3 A single piece of oak, 0.78 m long with a diameter of 0.37 m, was recovered from palaeochannel deposits 1730/1731 (
- 1.1.4 Table 21). It is broken at one end at a branch-point and is itself most likely to be a branch. It is possible that the branch has a small part of a worked surface at the branch-point, where it may have been lopped. However, with the wood in such poor condition it is not possible to tell if this is a genuine worked surface and it is most likely that it is not worked.

Provenance

- 1.1.5 Considering its position, upright within natural silt 1731, it is probable that this branch is the remnant of a tree growing on the adjacent river bank which fell, submerging a limb into the preserving waterlogged silts. In these circumstances the majority of the tree/branch remains exposed and rots away leaving a large stub such as this example. A sample of sapwood has been submitted for radiocarbon dating but the circumstances of its deposition mean that the context being dated must be carefully considered. It is most likely to have been deposited during the build up of layer 1727 (see Figure 5).

Comparative Material

- 1.1.6 There is no other instance of such a tree-fall find from CTRL but the author has excavated similar examples from Eton rowing lake, Buckinghamshire, (unpublished).

Potential for Further Work

- 1.1.7 Although the branch is slow-grown it is unlikely to produce a dendrochronology date since the centre of the tree has rotted away leaving only approximately 50 rings. Radiocarbon is therefore suggested as the only viable method of dating and a sample of sapwood has been submitted. No further analysis is required.

Table 21: East of Station Road: summary of wood

Context	Material	Count	Comments
1730	oak	1	stump of branch

