

SHA08 Rupert's Valley Excavations

Treatment Record for SF67 (leather shoe)

Cardiff Conservation Services

Cardiff University

Treatment

Page No. 1

Lab No.
6094**Record**

Lab No.		Conser- vator	Date
6094 /01	<p>Two pieces of waterlogged leather were received. The leather was dirty, with soil and organic matter adhering to the surface. The thinner piece is torn and fragile.</p> <p>The leather was cleaned mechanically under a microscope using a soft brush and deionised water to remove surface dirt.</p> <p>The thinner piece has what appears to be a fibrous / organic material attached to it, with thread visible within this mass. Stitching holes run along one edge of this piece. It was decided to leave this material in-situ as it could not be determined whether the matter may have been part of the piece originally. The thicker piece is part of the sole of a shoe, with some stitching holes surviving on one surface of the sole, around the edge.</p>	P. Parkes	27/1/ 10
6094 /02	<p>After cleaning the pieces were soaked in a 20% solution of glycerol in water for 72 hours. They were then frozen for 24 hours and placed in a freeze dryer to remove water. Freeze drying continued to a point where weight change was minimal. The pieces were allowed to hydrate at room conditions and packaged for storage.</p> <p>The fragments of leather were in a dried and deteriorated condition. Drying had caused the fragments to buckle and shrink, causing lamination and flaking of fragments. A large number of tiny pieces were at the bottom of the container and the larger pieces were very fragile. An attempt was made to rehydrate some of the larger pieces by introducing a small amount of water to them. Unfortunately this did not really work due to the already fragmentary nature of the leather. It was noted that when water was added it quickly developed a very noticeable red / brown colour, which may be due to some dye or leather treatment.</p> <p>As the leather did not respond well to rehydration it was decided to simply consolidate the fragments to ensure that they did not deteriorate further. A solution of Paraloid B72 in acetone was applied by brush to the larger fragments in order to consolidate their surface. Smaller fragments and pieces were not consolidated so that they were available should any further analysis be required. Once dry the pieces were packaged for storage.</p>		