

Cecelia. Street 1974 (IAS 5001): WOOD

Short sections of timber, branches and twigs from this site were received for identification. The taxa identified are listed in Table 1; approximate cross-sectional dimensions are also given.

Discussion

Most of the wood from the site consists of oak planks and beams. The planks were produced by radically splitting substantial oak timbers, a process which naturally produced planks with wedge-shaped cross-sections. Some (e.g. 0084) were left in this state, but most have been trimmed, probably with adzes, to give them more rectangular cross-sections. This plank-making method, which need not involve sawing, is quite different from the technique used, for example, in the production of the oak planks from the Roman wall at Scole, which were flat-sawn (Morgan 1977, 214). The widths of the annual rings in the planks from IAS 5001 are variable; there is no evidence for deliberate selection of timber containing a high proportion of denser late-wood. The oak beams were simply produced by trimming cloven whole branches or small trunks to give approximately rectangular cross-sections.

Planks made of ash; elm and poplar are also present. Unlike the oak planks these were not produced by radial splitting; the annual rings meet the broad edges of the planks at acute angles, or run roughly parallel to the broad edges.

Twigs, untrimmed branches, squared and partly trimmed beams of alder have also been identified. On this low-lying site alder trees would have been locally available, supplying wood for wattles and hurdles, and timber for more substantial constructions.

The sections of timber have been retained for dendrochronological study at some future date. Morgan, R. (1977) Tree ring analysis of the timbers from wells land II in Rogerson, A. 'Excavations at Scole 1973' East Anglian Archaeology Report No. 5, 213-218.

Context no.	Description	Taxon	Crosssectional dimensions (to nearest 0.5 cm)
0054	Untrimmed branch	Alder (<u>Alnus</u> sp.)	9.5cm. diameter
0055	Square-cut beam	Alder (<u>Alnus</u> sp.)	7.5 x 8.0 cm.
0058	Plank	Ash (<u>Fraxinus</u> sp.)	17.0 x 3.5 cm.
0059	Plank	Elm (<u>Ulmus</u> sp.)	14.5 x 2.0 cm.
0060	Plank	Oak (<u>Quercus</u> sp.)	12.5 x 2.0 cm.
0062	Plank	Poplar (<u>Populus</u> sp.)	15.0 x 3.0 cm.
0063	Untrimmed branch	Alder (<u>Alnus</u> sp.)	13.0x15.0cm(irregular)
0081	Plank	Oak (<u>Quercus</u> sp.)	13.5 x 2.5 cm.
0082	Plank	Oak (<u>Quercus</u> sp.)	22.0 x 3.0 cm.
0083	Small plank	Oak (<u>Quercus</u> sp.)	7.0 x 3.0 cm.
0084	Plank	Oak (<u>Quercus</u> sp.)	13.5 x 3.0 cm.
0085	Partly-trimmed beam	Oak (<u>Quercus</u> sp.)	11.0 x 9.5 cm.
0086	Partly-trimmed beam	Alder (<u>Alnus</u> sp.)	22.0 x 14.0 cm.
0087	Twigs	Alder (<u>Alnus</u> sp.)	1.5 cm. diameter
0091	Plank	Poplar(?)(<u>Populus</u> sp?)	17.0 x 3.0 cm.
0092	Small timber	Oak (<u>Quercus</u> sp.)	6.0 x 3.0 cm.
0093	Plank	Oak (<u>Quercus</u> sp.)	15.0 x 3.0 cm.
0094	Plank	Oak (<u>Quercus</u> sp.)	17.5 x 3.5 cm.
0095	Timber	Oak (<u>Quercus</u> sp.)	13.0 x 5.0 cm.
0096	Beam	Oak (<u>Quercus</u> sp.)	6.0 x 7.5 cm.
0097	Partly-trimmed beam	Oak (<u>Quercus</u> sp.)	11.0 x 7.0 cm.
0098	Partly-trimmed beam	Oak (<u>Quercus</u> sp.)	7.0 x 7.0 cm.
0109	Untrimmed branch	Elm (<u>Ulmus</u> sp.)	4 cm. diameter
0111	Plank	Oak (<u>Quercus</u> sp.)	18.0 x 4.0 cm.
0113	Untrimmed branch	Oak (<u>Quercus</u> sp.)	13.0x8.5cm(flattened)
0114	Beam	Oak (<u>Quercus</u> sp.)	7.0 x 8.0 cm.
0115	Small plank	Oak (<u>Quercus</u> sp.)	6.0 x 3.0 cm.
0116	Plank	Oak (<u>Quercus</u> sp.)	18.5 x 3.0 cm.
0117	Plank	Oak (<u>Quercus</u> sp.)	19.0 x 2.5 cm.
0130	Untrimmed branch	Alder (<u>Alnus</u> sp.)	5 cm. diameter
0157	Untrimmed branch	Oak (<u>Quercus</u> sp.)	11 cm. diameter

Table 1: Wood from IAS 5001