

Reports from the Environmental Archaeology Unit, York

**Identifications of a group of wooden pegs and some other timbers
from excavations at Hall Garth, Beverley (site code BHG80)**

by

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Report **94/4**

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Summary

A series of wooden pegs and other small timbers associated with a wooden bridge at Hall Garth, Beverley, have been identified. Almost all the pegs were of oak, as were a very large proportion of the other specimens. Two finds of softwood might represent imported timbers.

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Identifications of a group of wooden pegs and some other timbers from excavations at Hall Garth, Beverley (site code BHG80)

A series of timbers, mostly pegs, associated with a late medieval wooden bridge, from excavations at Hall Garth, Beverley, were submitted for identification. Table 1 lists the results and includes a few comments pertinent to particular specimens.

The following observations may be made.

- (i) Of the 36 specimens labelled by the excavator as 'pegs', 33 were of oak, two probably of oak (they were too well preserved to be sectioned) and one was willow (it was not shaped like the pegs of oak and may not be part of the main sequence of bridge construction timbers).
- (ii) Although some of the smaller rods were of the right size and configuration to have been used in the construction of wattle, the samples noted by the excavator as possibly representing wattle were certainly *not* so used, being short lengths of straight elder twig in one case, and hazel rods too fine for wattle and bearing no signs of having been 'woven'.
- (iii) The two specimens of 'conifer' wood are of some interest. They were almost certainly *not* pine and certainly not yew, the only identification possible being '?spruce/larch', given the very soft nature of the material. Both the latter types of timber would be imported at this date.

Table 1. Identifications of timbers from Hall Garth, Beverley (BHG80).

Key to taxa: *Alnus*—alder; *Corylus*—hazel; *Quercus*—oak; *Salix*—willow; *Sambucus*—elder.

Notes include a comment on the kind of artefact based on information on the sample bag or an interpretation by the author.

Context	Find no.	Identification	Notes
	191	Quercus	peg/stake fragment; unstratified
9	192	Alnus	6 rod fgts; some bark present
9	193	Corylus	about 11 fragments; probably NOT wattle as per bag
9	194	Alnus	ca. 15 rod fgts, some longitudinally split
9	194	Corylus	ca. 15 rod fgts, some longitudinally split
9	194	Salix	ca. 15 rod fgts, some longitudinally split
9	195	Corylus	ca. 20 short fragments of rods, some with bark
9	196	Quercus	squared 'lath'
9	197	Quercus	
9	198	Quercus	very narrow rings
9	199	Quercus	plank fragment
9	200	Quercus	wide rings
6	201	Quercus	thin plank with holes
	202	Quercus	block with hole; unstratified
9	203	Corylus	rod with bark
6	204	Quercus	stake
9	205	Quercus	stake fragments
9	206	Quercus	
9	207	Quercus	
9	208	Quercus	stake fragment
9	209	bark	
9	211	Quercus	stake fragments
9	212	Quercus	
9	213	Quercus	'worm' holes present
9	214	Salix	peg
13	215	Quercus	board fragment
14	216	Quercus	block and associated peg
14	217	Quercus	
14	218	Quercus	
19	219	Quercus	peg fragments
9	220	Quercus	
19	220	Quercus	peg
19	221	Quercus	peg
19	222	Quercus	peg
15	262	conifer	?spruce/larch; too soft to section easily
15	263	Quercus	?stake
15	264	Quercus	very narrow rings throughout
18	265	Quercus	peg
18	266	Quercus	peg
15	270	?Corylus	rod; very soft
15	271	Salix	rod; very soft
15	272	Corylus	rod; very soft
15	273	Salix	soft
15	274	Quercus	small scrap
15	275	-	rod; too soft to identify
15	276	Corylus	very decayed rod fragments
15	277	Corylus	very soft
18	278	?Quercus	tenon peg; not identifiable without

			damage
15	279	?Quercus	
15	280	Salix	rod fragment; very soft
15	281	-	too soft to identify
15	282	conifer	?spruce/larch; too soft to identify more closely
19	283	Quercus	plank fragments
18	285	?Quercus	peg
18	286	Quercus	rod
18	287	Quercus	
18	288	bark fragments	
14	289	knot/root wood	not identifiable
14	290	Corylus	rod
14	291	bark	
14	292	Sambucus	twig fragment
20	293	Quercus	peg tip
20	294	Quercus	peg
20	295	Quercus	peg
21	296	Quercus	peg
21	297	Quercus	peg fragments
21	298	Quercus	
21	299	bark (3), Quercus (1)	
21	300	Quercus	peg
22	301	Quercus	part of same peg as 302
22	302	Quercus	part of same peg as 301
23	303	Quercus	squared peg
23	304	Alnus	stake with bark
23	305	Sambucus	4 fragments of twig; clearly <i>not</i> wattle
24	306	Quercus	peg
24	307	Quercus	?peg
24	308	Quercus	plank fragments
25	309	Quercus	peg
26	310	Quercus	peg
27	311	Quercus	part of same stake as 312
27	312	Quercus	part of same stake as 311
29	313	Quercus	peg fragments
30	315	Quercus	peg fragments
31	316	Quercus	peg
33	317	Quercus	peg from S sole plate
33	318	Quercus	peg from S side of sole plate
33	319	Quercus	peg
35	320	Quercus	peg
35	321	Quercus	peg
35	322	Quercus	peg/stake
36	323	Quercus	peg
43	325	Quercus	peg
26	352	Quercus	peg; ?correct find no.