



TWO FRAGMENTS OF WOOD FROM BURIAL 27

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Two fragments of wood from burial 27, one from the haft of the dagger and one from near the left arm, were examined using reflected light optical microscopy. Both fragments were heavily mineralised, a state caused by the substitution of organic matter by various mineral phases during burial. In very limited parts of the surfaces of the fragments, it was possible to distinguish certain anatomical features of the wood that had been preserved.

The sample from the haft of the dagger (sample number S/3149) showed traces of tracheids, which are characteristic of conifers.

The sample from near the left arm (sample number S/ 3196) showed parts of vessel elements and rays that must indicate that the wood was from a hardwood (dicotyledonous) species.

The high concentration of minerals in both samples prohibited a more precise identification. Adequately preserved features that would be crucial to a more precise identification (such as cross-field pitting in the radial plane for conifers, or vessel arrangement in the transverse plane for hardwoods) were absent.