

Wood Identification Report for the Parys Mountain Copper Mines Project.

By Lisa Gray MSc Archaeobotanist

January 2004

Introduction

Six waterlogged wooden artefacts were selected for identification after examination by ancient timber specialist Damian Goodburn.

Methodology

Sections were made, where possible, of transverse, radial and tangential faces of the wood samples. Slides were made of these sections and they were examined under a transmitted light microscope. Diagnostic features were recorded and noted on paper record sheets (copies attached) and identifications were made using a microscopic wood atlas (Schweingruber 1982).

Identifications and Ring Counts

Vessels were clear on all of the samples. All of the wood samples are hardwoods. PMS4 003 was charred so was not identified. PM03 S5/54 "Grand Stope Wood 1" was too friable to make a slide from so was also not identified.

The remaining wood samples were less fragile so slides were made of as many diagnostic sections as possible. The record sheets for each sample are attached and the slides are currently kept in the authors archive. Where identification is given "cf" it means that all the diagnostic features needed to make a confident identification were not present but the general trend of features pointed towards a possible genus. The identifications are as follows:-

PM03 S4/54? 28.8.03 "MW Pre-historic Chamber" > cf *Fraxinus* sp.

PM03 27.8.3 KH DJ "Grand Stope" > cf *Quercus/Fraxinus* sp.

PMS4003 27.8.3. JPM > cf *Quercus* sp.

PMS4 KT002> definitely *Quercus* sp.

The following ring counts were made. These are based on the number of rings observed in the segment of wood recovered so should be regarded as approximate. :-

- 6 - PM03 S5/54? "Grand Stope Wood 1"
- 12- PM03 S4/54? 28.8.03 "MW Pre-historic Chamber"
- 7 - PM03 27.8.3 KH DJ "Grand Stope"
- 10- PMS4003 27.8.3. JPM
- 14- PMS4 KT002

The rings on PMS4 003 were not clear enough to count.

Bibliography

Schweingruber, F,H, (1982) 2nd Edition *Microscopic Wood Anatomy*