

A total of 176g of very poorly preserved animal bone was recovered from the rescue excavation at Cyderhall, by Dornoch.

All of the fragments which could be identified to species came from cattle. The most frequently encountered elements were teeth, which tend under poor soil conditions to be the longest lived body parts. Several bone fragments had been calcined or burnt. One bone, a cattle radius shaft (119) showed signs of having been chopped in the sagittal plane, possibly to extract the marrow.

Catalogue

Context	Weight(g)	Species	Description
101	14	Cattle	R.maxilla, and fragments of same. Teeth lost post-mortem. Condition - light and porous.
117	21	"Large mammal"	4 very porous fragments
118	36	Cattle	2 upper molar teeth; 1 maloccluded Condition : poor
119	79	Cattle	1 lower third molar with the pillar in wear. 1 lower molar. L. radius, shaft : chopped. L. radius, distal fragment, probably part of above.
		"Large mammal"	6 burnt fragments. All in poor or very poor condition.
310	3	Cattle	Tooth fragment : internal pillar from molar. Condition : poor.
326	1	Unidentified	1 small calcined fragment.
327	15	Cattle	Remains of two molar teeth. Condition : very poor.
331	2	Unidentified	3 small calcined fragments.
332	5	Unidentified	2 calcined fragments.

N.B. Bones described as coming from "large mammal" were impossible to identify as to bone, but are in all probability from cattle.

CYDERHALL; The Charcoal

All 6 samples submitted for analysis were fully carbonised fragments of oak (*Quercus* sp.) roundwood. Their diameters varied from 8cm to 12cm and none had been trimmed or modified in any manner. Sample 316 displayed many branch scars in its ring-pattern while Sample 327 was part of a forked branch.

It was only possible to count the growth rings on 4 of the samples. Fragmentation precluded the counting of the number of rings in Sample 329a but the surviving rings had width of c.1mm, indicating a slower growth rate than that of the other samples (see Table 1). Samples 329b and 343 had the wide outer rings indicative of winter felling.

In conclusion, the wood used in the roundhouse was all young, fast-grown roundwood, possibly branchwood, with the exception of Sample 329a which was older and relatively slow-grown.

CYDERHALL CHARCOAL: TABLE 1

SAMPLE NO.	SPECIES	CONV. CODE	NO. RINGS	RING WIDTH (mm)	DIAM. (cms)	LENGTH (cms)
316	Quercus sp.	A	c.29	2.5	c.12	62
327	Quercus sp.	A	-	-	c.9	
329a	Quercus sp.	A	-	1.0	c.8	86
329b	Quercus sp.	A	16	3.5	8	
329c	Quercus sp.	A	c.20	5.0	12	
343	Quercus sp.	A	18	4.5	12	