

APPENDIX 9: ASSESSMENT OF CHARRED PLANT REMAINS & CHARCOAL

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This assessment reports on 21 environmental samples taken during the works in Area 3390 Zone 1 (ARC 330 98 and ARC WHR 99). These were processed by flotation in a Siraf type flotation tank. Seventeen samples produced botanical remains. These are recorded in the table below and are the samples.

2. Methodology

- 2.1 Each sample was processed using a Siraf type flotation tank. Residues were collected in a 1mm mesh and flots were collected in a 250-micron mesh. Flots and residues were dried prior to scanning. Residues were scanned by eye. Environmental remains and artefacts (such as burnt flint, brick or tile fragments) were collected and transferred to the relevant specialists. Flots and plant remains recovered from the residues were examined in more detail using a low powered stereo microscope.
- 2.2 The modes of preservation, species diversity and abundance of organic remains in each sample were recorded on sheets then entered into the Oracle MoLAS/MoLSS database. Full sample details are given in the table below.

3. Quantifications

- 3.1 Full details of these samples are given in the table below.
- 3.2 The quantities of remains were estimated and recorded in the following manner:

For charred remains

+= 1-10

++ = 11-50

+++ = 51-100

++++ = 101-1000

1000+ = >1000.

For waterlogged remains

+ = 0-5

++ = 6-10

+++ = 11+

4. Provenance

- 4.1 Most of these samples were provisionally dated as either Bronze Age or Roman. Three samples came from pits (<28>, <271>, and <272>). The remaining sample came from ditch features. All samples were botanically poor in terms of diversity and abundance of remains. The richest sample was from a pit provisionally dated as Late Iron Age – Roman at Fawkham Junction. This sample contained a

charred mallow (*Malva* sp.) seed and an uncharred elder (*Sambucus nigra* L) seed.

5. Conservation

5.1 None necessary. These samples can be discarded.

6. Comparative material

6.1 The contents of these samples were sparse and will not fulfil the research aims.

7. Potential for further work

7.1 Due to the paucity of the plant remains in the samples they are not recommended for further analysis.

8. Bibliography

None

Table 19: Assessment of Charred Plant Remains & Charcoal

Sample Details					Flot Details						Residue
Event Code	Context & type	Period	Sample no.	Sample size (1)	Flot size (ml)	Grain	Chaff	Weeds Seeds charred/ uncharred	Charcoal	Comments	Size (ml) proportion checked
ARC WHR 99	76/ pit	Bronze age/ Iron age	28	30	-	-	-	-	+		?
ARC WHR 99	52/ ditch	Bronze age/ Iron age	20	3	-	-	-	-	+		?
ARC WHR 99	69/ ditch	Bronze age/ Iron age	18	3	-	-	-	-	+		500ml
ARC WHR 99	23/ ditch	Bronze age/ Iron age	16	10	-	-	-	-	+		?
ARC 330 98	158/ ditch	Roman	27	25	-	-	-	-	+	-	1000ml
ARC 330 98	159 ditch	Roman	26	25	-	-	+	-	+	modern moss	800ml
ARC 330 98	316/ ditch	?	62	10	-	-	-	-	+	-	3000ml
ARC 330 98	318/ ditch	?	63	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	2000ml
ARC 330 98	512/ ditch	Late Iron Age or Roman	229	10	-	-	+	-	+	root/ rhizome frags	3000ml
ARC 330 98	782/ ditch	Late Iron Age or Roman	278	10	-	-	+	-	+	-	2000ml
ARC 330 98	800/ ditch	Roman	234	30	-	-	+	-	+	-	1600ml

Sample Details					Flot Details						Residue
Event Code	Context & type	Period	Sample no.	Sample size (1)	Flot size (ml)	Grain	Chaff	Weeds Seeds charred/ uncharred	Charcoal	Comments	Size (ml) proportion checked
ARC 330 98	868/ ditch	Roman	261	30	-		+		+		4000ml
ARC 330 98	876/ ditch	Late Iron Age or Roman	264	30	-	-	-	-	+	-	3000ml
ARC 330 98	877/ ditch	Roman	265	20	10	-	-	-	+++	flecks of charred wood, moss fragments	4000ml
ARC 330 98	882/ ditch	Roman	268	30	-	-	-	-	+	-	5000ml
ARC 330 98	886/ pit	Late Iron Age or Roman	271	15	70	-	-	+/+	+++++	flecks of charred wood, moss fragments	1750ml
ARC 330 98	896/ pit	?	272	30	-	-	-	-	+	-	1500ml