

LOOKING AT CROPS AND WEEDS FROM EARLY MEDIEVAL GALWAY, IRELAND

July 26, 2013 Penny Johnston Day of Archaeology 2013, Environmental Archaeology, Medieval archaeobotany, Galway, Ireland



Today I'm working on a research project looking at early medieval plant remains from Galway, in the west of Ireland. My focus is on material that dates from approximately 450 to 1100 AD. The objective is to pull together the results from a range of different sites, and to see whether it is possible to identify a distinctive regional pattern in the crops and weeds found. A map with all the sites included to date can be found [here](#). It's still very much a work in progress!

Archaeology is rarely glamorous (too much mud and dust) but somehow, today, I've assigned myself the most unglamorous task of all: I've spent my time trawling through a stratigraphic index (that's the list of different contexts that were excavated at a site), identifying the early medieval samples, and then adding them to my database. It's tedious and time-consuming, but absolutely necessary for multi-phase sites, to ensure that my dataset isn't biased by the inclusion of material from a different period, either earlier or later.

The good news is that, now that this is done, I'm ready to start real analysis of the results on Monday. Meanwhile, I'm off to enjoy a database-free weekend!