

3_5_1_1_Plant_usage_(2009)

A wet-sieving operation led by Mr. Ronan O'Donnell was able to process key deposits from House A9. The method used has been developed as a standard for the water-sieving of Ukrainian samples for archaeo-botanical research by Dr. Galina Pashkevitch: a sample of one bucket of standard size was divided into six parts, with each part washed in another bucket five or six times and the light fraction collected before the heavy fraction was retained. For time reasons, some of the samples were washed only three or four times. A total of 11 samples was processed from sealed contexts inside the daub layers and the remains were air-dried in the field base. With the exception of one small grain of *Triticum* sp., no plant remains were identified. This indicates that at least House A9 was kept extremely clean during their occupation. There are two principal candidates for the disposal of the plant remains: (a) the pits which were often dug within 5m of the house; and (b) the incorporation of plant remains into the house daub during its manufacture.