

## **ASSESSMENT OF PLANT REMAINS FROM CROSSRAIL, CHARTERHOUSE (XTE12)**

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ENV/BOT/ASS/05/13

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# ASSESSMENT OF PLANT REMAINS CROSSRAIL, CHARTERHOUSE (XTE12)

## 1 Quantification and assessment

### 1.1 Site archive and assessment : finds and environmental

Bulk Soil Samples	Dry flots from 4 samples.
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*Table 1 Finds & Environmental Archive General Summary*

#### 1.1.1 The botanical samples

##### 1.1.1.1 Introduction/methodology

Four 'gut' samples, each of 0.2 litres were taken from medieval grave fills for environmental analysis.

The samples were processed by flotation, using a modified Siraf flotation tank and meshes of 0.25mm and 1.00mm to catch the flots and residues respectively. The residues were sorted by eye for any finds or environmental material and the flots were briefly scanned using a low-powered binocular microscope. The abundance, diversity and general nature of plant macrofossils and any faunal remains were recorded on the MoLAS Oracle database. The botanical information is summarised in Table 1.

##### 1.1.1.2 Charred remains

All four samples were found to contain small quantities of fragmented wood charcoal, and very occasional charred cereal grains from free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum*) and oats (*Avena* sp.) were found in samples [185]{21}, [188]{22} and [191]{23}. These remains are unlikely to be related to the burials, and were probably random waste materials incorporated in the surrounding soil.

##### 1.1.1.3 Waterlogged and mineralised remains

Organic preservation was very poor in all four samples, but poorly-preserved fragments of wood in [185]{21} were identified as a softwood, probably pine (cf. *Pinus* sp.) and are very likely to have come from the coffin in which this individual was buried. Occasional wood fragments in [188]{22} were too small for identification. Other than wood, uncharred remains were limited to very occasional seeds of wild plants which are again unlikely to be related to the burials.

##### 1.1.1.4 Faunal remains

No faunal remains were seen in the samples, apart from a few very small fragments of human(?) bone.

##### 1.1.1.5 Artefactual remains

No artefacts were recovered from the samples.

## 2 Potential of the data

Apart from the species identification of wood fragments, probably from a coffin, in sample {21} the data has no potential for interpretation of the site.

## 3 Significance of the data

The botanical remains have only very minor local significance.

## 4 Publication project: aims and objectives

### 4.1 Revised research aims

None.

## 5 Botanical method statement

### 5.1.1 Task list

None.

**Table 1: Summary of botanical assessment data from environmental samples**

*A: abundance, D: diversity (1 = occasional, 2 = moderate, 3 = abundant)*

					chd grain	chd seed	chd misc	chd wood	wlg seed	wlg misc	
samp	con	proc vol(l)	flot vol(ml)	proc	A D	A D	A D	A D	A D	A D	Comments
20	182	0.2	5	F			1 1	2 1	1 1		DRY. SOME CHCL, LITTLE ELSE
21	185	0.2	5	F	1 1			1 1	1 1	2 1	DRY. POORLY PRES WOOD FRAGS
22	188	0.2	15	F	1 1	1 1		2 1	1 1	1 1	DRY. FEW CHD GRAINS & WLG REMS
23	191	0.2	10	F	1 1	1 1		2 1	1 1	1 1	DRY. V FEW CHD & WLG REMS