

Evaluation of the organic remains in samples from Crossrail, Charterhouse (XTE12)

Karen Stewart

This evaluation report presents the details of the organic remains from samples {24} to {45}. Earlier samples in the sequence were discussed by Anne Davis in a previous evaluation report (REF). The samples were processed by flotation, and the flots assessed to determine the presence and nature of any plant remains and other biological material present. The remains are summarised below in Table 1.

There was very good waterlogged preservation in a number of these samples, preserving a rich and diverse range of organic remains.

Samples {24}, {29} and {34} are all taken from [231], a dump deposit provisionally dated to the late 16th century. These sample contained moderate amounts of diverse food remains, including fig (*Ficus carica*) and plum (*Prunus domestica*) seeds, oyster shell fragments and eggshell fragments. They also contained wild species typical of nitrogenous urban waste and disturbed ground environments, such as black nightshade (*Solanum nigrum*), and white horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*). Samples {44} [293] and {45} [298] were also taken from extensive dumps, and date to the late 15th/early 16th centuries. {44} and {45} also contain a mix of domestic waste and locally growing weeds.

Samples {30} and {31} were taken from [240], also a dump deposit, dated slightly earlier than [231]. These likewise contained a mix of food and waste ground taxa.

Samples {35} [274] and {36} [275] were taken from ditch fills. Both contained very rich waterlogged deposits dominated by reeds, but also containing domestic waste material including foods and fragments of textiles and leather. Sample {38} [278] was also taken from a ditch deposit and likewise contained rich waterlogged material dominated by reeds, but also containing a variety of food and other domestic waste material.

Sample {37} [276] contained a seeds assemblage which may indicate a local garden, with hemp (*Cannabis sativa*), flax (*Linum usitatissimum*) and pot marigold (*Calendula officinalis*) all present in the assemblage.

Insects were noted in many of the samples in moderate amounts, as were fish and bird bones.

Many of the samples contain rich and diverse organic remains that can potentially add considerably to the discussion of the activities at the site.

Table 1: Summary plant remains from samples

				Charred grain		Charred chaff		Charred seeds		Charred wood		W'logged seeds		W'logged misc	
Sample	Context	Flot. Volume	Process	Abu	Div	Abu	Div	Abu	Div	Abu	Div	Abu	Div	Abu	Div
24	231	20	F					1	1	1	1	1	2		
29	231	40	F	1	1			1	1	3	1	2	1		
30	240	40	F			2	1			2	1	2	2		
30	240	40	W							1	1				
31	240	20	F							1	1	2	2		
33	243	5	F							1	1	1	1		
34	231	100	F	1	1					2	1	2	2		
35	274	1500	F							1	1	3	1	3	1
35	274	1500	W					1	1						
36	275	400	F							1	1	3	3	3	2
36	275	400	W							1	1				
37	276	1200	F							1	1	3	3	3	1
38	278	500	F							1	1	2	2	3	1
39	283	800	F							1	1	3	3	3	1
39	283	800	W							1	1				
44	293	50	F	1	1					1	1	2	1		
45	298	300	F							1	1	2	2	3	1
45	298	300	W									1	1		

