Interim palaeoenvironmental summary

6.1.1 Palaeoenvironmental assessment was undertaken on flots which were recovered from samples taken from thirty-nine archaeological contexts during evaluation trenching.

6.1.2 Charred archaeobotanical remains were recovered from nineteen of the thirty-nine sampled contexts. These remains were primarily represented by charred cereal grains, alongside a smaller number of associated agricultural weed seeds and occasional domestic horticultural products.

6.1.3 Free-threshing wheat (*Triticum nudum*) was visibly the most frequent component of all archaeobotanical assemblages, with a minor proportion being composed of oats (*Avena* sp.) frequently present.

6.1.4 Modern contamination was represented by limited quantities of rootlets which were recovered from all samples. Modern goosefoot (*Chenopodium album*) seeds were a frequent occurrence within samples and represents modern goosefoot plants which were present throughout the site.

6.1.5 Of particular note were the archaeobotanical assemblages recovered from Trench 34 contexts. The two posthole fills (3406) and (3412) both contained large charred cereal assemblages of over fifty individuals, despite relatively small sample sizes. However, the upper (3408) fill of ditch [3407] contained by far the most significant archaeobotanical assemblage recovered. The assemblage weighed 83.95g, of which roughly 85% was charred cereal remains alongside a small (~5%) quantity of large (>10mm) fragments of charcoal and around 10-20 non-cereal archaeobotanical remains. These non-cereal remains were primarily peas (*Pisum sativum*) and broad beans (*Vicia faba*) alongside a small number of agricultural weed seeds. A small quantity (1-5 individuals) of charred cereal straw was also observable within the assemblage.

6.1.6 It is recommended that further analysis be devoted towards quantification of the charred remains recovered from archaeological contexts; specifically, those containing charred cereal remains.

6.1.7 Further excavation should employ a comprehensive programme of bulk sampling of archaeological contexts. Assessment has proven that archaeobotanical remains are present within archaeological contexts and (as with those recovered from Trench 34) in potentially large quantities with the potential for granting insights into the diet and economy of past inhabitants.

Bulk Samples	Trench No.	No. taken	Vol. taken	Vol. processed	No. Assessed
	12	3	30L	30L	3
	14	1	40L	40L	1

	15	1	10L	10L	1
	16	1	40L	40L	1
	20	1	20L	20L	1
	30	4	160L	160L	4
	34	5	95L	95L	5
	37	1	40L	40L	1
	38	1	40L	40L	1
	39	3	120L	120L	1
	41	3	120L	120L	3
	42	1	40L	40L	1
	45	1	40L	40L	1
	48	1	40L	40L	1
	49	1	40L	40L	1
	51	2	30L	30L	2
	56	1	40L	40L	1
	60	1	40L	40L	1
	63	1	40L	40L	1
	66	1	10L	10L	1
	72	1	40L	40L	1
	77	1	40L	40L	1
		Range of materials	**Range of species**	**Preservation and Taphonomy**	
		Strongly cereal-dominated charred archaeobotanical macrofossil assemblages. Occasional additions of charred non-cereal macrofossils, such as peas and beans.	Moderate	Good preservation quality and confidence in taphonomic security.	

Summary of potential to contribute to HERDS objectives

6.1.10 Potential to contribute towards HERDS objective KC40 by identifying potential change within agricultural activity and land-use of rural settlements from the 11th to mid-14th century. This would be undertaken by analysing archaeobotanical residues resulting from such agricultural activity and plant communities which could reflect changing patterns of land-use.