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**Medieval Charred Plant Remains and Charcoal  
from Sherborne Old Castle, Dorset**

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## **Medieval Charred Plant Remains and Charcoal from Sherborne Old Castle, Dorset**

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### **Summary**

This report presents the results of the archaeobotanical analysis of charred plant remains from the 1998 – 1999 excavations by Stewart Brown Associates at Sherborne Old Castle, Dorset. The assemblage, which dates to the late 12th/ early 13th-century, is believed to be kitchen waste and is dominated by cereal grain and weed seeds. A charcoal assemblage from one context was also studied.

### **Keywords**

Medieval  
Carbonised grain  
Plant remains  
Charcoal  
Environmental

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## **Introduction**

A midden and pit deposit, believed to primarily contain kitchen waste, were discovered during the 1998 and 1999 excavation for the insertion of a new French drain behind the curtain wall at the north gate of Sherborne Old Castle, Dorset by Stewart Brown Associates. This report will appear as an appendix to the Stewart Brown Associates internal report, which will be submitted to English Heritage and the local Sites and Monuments Record. A total of 23 samples were collected from the deposits, which all have been dated on the ceramic assemblage to the late 12th through early 13th centuries AD.

In most cases (the exception being context 112, the upper and lower layers of the pit), several samples from individual contexts were collected. Assessment of this assemblage established that all samples contained small quantities (*ca.* 100 – 200 items) of charred plant remains and it was recommended that the results of samples from the same context should be combined in order to generate assemblages of interpretable value. In addition, the lower layer of the pit (context 112 – lower) clearly contained large quantities of charcoal in the flots and it was recommended that the charcoal assemblage was fully analysed.

## **Method**

Vanessa Straker (Bristol) and Dale Serjeantson (Southampton) designed and implemented the sampling programme, which aimed to collect a sample at one-metre intervals. An assistant at the Department of Geography, University of Bristol, processed the bulk soil samples using water flotation. The flots (the material which floats) were sieved to 0.25 mm and the heavy residues (the material which does not float) were washed over a 1 mm mesh sieve. Both the flots and heavy residues were air-dried.

Sample volumes ranged from 16 L to 25 L, but typically sample sizes were around 20 L in volume. Only the combined volume for the two samples from context 112 exists. Separate volumes from the two layers of context 112 were not recorded during sample processing.

The assistant at Bristol sorted all heavy residues for ecofacts and artefacts, but did not recover any charred plant remains. A quick scan of a few ‘sorted’ heavy residues during the assessment established that hazel nutshell fragments had been missed during the sorting of heavy residues. Since hazel nutshell fragments were not observed in the flots during the assessment, it was recommended that all heavy residues were re-sorted for charred plant remains during full analysis. However, once the flots were fully sorted, it became clear that hazel nutshell fragments were also present in most of the flots, but simply had not been observed during the rapid scanning of the flots for the assessment. As a result, the heavy residues were not re-sorted for this analysis, since they were unlikely to contribute any new data. Since no other plant remains were recovered from the heavy residues, the following report is based entirely on the flots.

The flots were sorted under a low-power binocular microscope at x12. Identifications of plant remains (i.e. seeds) were made using a low-power binocular microscope at magnifications between x12 and x50 and in comparison with modern reference material housed in the Centre for Archaeology. Identification of charcoal >2mm from the lower sample of context 112 was made under a high-power, incident light microscope at magnifications between x50 and x500. Charcoal identifications were made in comparison with modern wood comparative material housed at the Centre for Archaeology and with

reference to identification criteria outlined in Schweingruber (1978) and Gale and Cutler (2000). Nomenclature for cereals follows the traditional binomial system as outlined in Zohary and Hopf (1994, Table 3 p.24 and Table 5 p.58) and nomenclature for indigenous taxa follows Stace (1997).

## Results

Tables 1-4 list the taxa identified in each of the four contexts sampled. Figure 1 provides a breakdown of the types of plants recovered in each sample. Cereal grain, which accounts for 50% or more of the identifications made in individual and/or combined samples, dominates. Free-threshing type wheat grain was the most common cereal grain identified. There is a certain amount of overlap in the gross morphology of free-threshing wheat and glume wheat grains which means precise identification is often not possible, and identifications can only be made to type (Jones 1998). On the basis of observed morphology of the cereal grain and the period of the site, it is most likely that free-threshing wheat was in use. Wheat rachis nodes, which clearly are from an indeterminate species of free-threshing wheat, were also recovered from several samples, further supporting the interpretation that the wheat grain recovered is free-threshing type.

In addition to free-threshing type wheat grain, small quantities of barley grain were also identified in some samples. The overall dominance of cereal crops is unlikely to be due to any particular scarcity of non-cereal crops on site but, instead, reflects the pattern of charring events at Sherborne Old Castle, which appear to frequently involve cereal grain. Notably, only small quantities of cereal chaff were recovered in this assemblage.

All of the Sherborne samples contained seeds of weed/wild plants. Two taxa are particularly worth further discussion. Hazel (*Corylus* sp.) nutshell fragments were recovered from most samples. These could be the remains of a foodstuff; however, the recovery of hazel charcoal in the assemblage does mean that hazel nutshells could have entered the deposits through the use of hazel wood for fuel. Seeds of common vetch (*Vicia sativa*) were found in one sample (sample 17, context 104 – see Table 1). There is a great deal of overlap in the size of various sub-species of *Vicia sativa* (Zohary and Hopf 1994: 114), and it also is not certain whether species we now consider to be weeds were cultivated in the past. Stace (1997: 412) reports the size of seed for the various sub-species of common vetch as *Vicia sativa* ssp. *nigra* (L.) Ehrh. 23-38 mm, *Vicia sativa* ssp. *segetalis* (Thuill.) Gaudin 28 – 70 mm and *Vicia sativa* ssp. *sativa* 36 – 70 mm, unusually to 80mm. He also reports that both *segetalis* and *sativa* sub-species can be cultivated for fodder. The charred *Vicia sativa* seeds from sample 17 ranged in size from 35 to 40 mm, and therefore could not be securely claimed to be a cultivated sub-species, even allowing for shrinkage due to charring.

A few mineralised seeds were present in the flot from context 112 (Lower). Although the corresponding heavy residue was fully sorted for charred and mineralised plant remains, it appears that mineralised seeds only occurred in the flot.

The results of the charcoal analysis are presented in Table 7. Charcoal from the lower layer of context 112 was dominated by oak (*Quercus* sp.), but also included smaller quantities of hawthorn group (Pomoideae), hazel (*Corylus* sp.), alder (*Alnus* sp.), ash (*Fraxinus* sp.), cherry/ blackthorn/ bullace (*Prunus* sp.) and possibly maple (cf. *Acer* sp.) charcoal. This demonstrates that although oak was the most common wood fuel used on site, a range of other wood taxa supplemented the fuel supply.

## Discussion

The plant remains from Sherborne Old Castle could derive from several sources and also provide information on cultivation conditions. In addition, the dominance of free-threshing type wheat grain in these samples is different from other sites in the region, and may suggest that food supply at the castle varied from other sites in Dorset. The recovery of an elder (*Sambucus nigra*) seed and hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell fragments does provide limited evidence for hedges or scrub in the area. Finally, the recovery of a number of wood taxa used on site as fuel may have implications for fuel supply at the castle.

### *Possible sources for the midden and pit deposits*

The excavators have loosely described the midden and pit deposits as 'kitchen waste'. The assemblages are dominated by cereal grain, but always include seeds of wild plants and, sometimes, small quantities of cereal chaff (see Figure 1).

Several sources of domestic rubbish are possible for this assemblage:

- kitchen waste, dominated by semi-clean grain and contaminants of cereal crops.
- floor litter or packing materials (comprised of straw and other collected plants).
- thatch (although larger quantities of culm nodes would be expected if this was a major source for the assemblage – e.g. results from Stone in Moffett and Smith 1996).

Because the samples are consistently producing similar results throughout the midden and pit deposits, it does suggest that repeated charring events concerning cereal grain occurred on site. The limited numbers of cereal chaff recovered, however, may be deceptive. Boardman and Jones (1990) have suggested that cereal chaff is less likely to survive charring events than cereal grain. Therefore, these results might be biased to cereal grain and weed seeds which are more likely to survive charring events. Certainly, burning of domestic litter or old thatch also cannot be entirely ruled out as an activity occurring at the castle, where domestic staff and the potential for an orderly living environment might encourage such fastidious disposal of waste materials.

### *Evidence for cultivation conditions*

The weed/wild plants recovered in the Sherborne Old Castle assemblage do provide some information on the range of soils under cultivation. Table 5 summarises the various habitat types possible for those weed/wild plants identified to species level, as well as including some taxa identified to genus level where only a limited range of habitats are possible.

Many of the taxa recovered are typical weeds of arable crops, such as prickly poppy (*Papaver cf. argemone*), common chickweed (*Stellaria media* s.l.), corn cockle (*Agrostemma githago*), common vetch (*Vicia sativa*), field gromwell (*Lithospermum arvense*), stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*), corn marigold (*Chrysanthemum segetum*), wild oat (*Avena* sp.), and brome (*Bromus* spp.). In addition, many of the weed/wild taxa are

typical of open or waste ground. These include common chickweed (*Stellaria media* s.l.), knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*), common vetch (*Vicia sativa*), black nightshade (*Solanum nigrum*), field gromwell (*Lithospermum arvense*), stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*), corn marigold (*Chrysanthemum segetum*), wild oat (*Avena* sp.), cat's tail (*Phleum* sp.), and brome (*Bromus* sp.). It is likely that such taxa could occur in the margins of arable fields, and certainly many of these taxa are frequently recovered with cereal grain or chaff at archaeological sites (see Table 6).

There also is some indication for cultivation of heavier soils or cultivation of crops in damp, possibly wet, conditions. Stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*) can occur on heavy soils. The recovery of sea club-rush/ spike-rush (*Bolboschoenus* sp./ *Schoenoplectus* sp.), wood club-rush (*Scirpus* spp.), sedge (*Carex* sp.) and bur-reed (*Sparganium* sp.) all suggest damp to wet conditions. Sherborne Castle is located on Fullers' Earth and clay soils in the flood plain of the river Yeo. Areas of Oxford Clay are also located to the south and east of the castle. In addition, areas of Inferior Oolite soils, which also can be heavier soils, are located to the north-west of the castle. As a result, cultivation of heavy, or damp to wet, soils could have occurred in the immediate vicinity (i.e. within less than 5 km) of the castle. Although it is possible that these taxa arrived on site as weeds of crops, it is also possible that some of these plants were also collected for floor litter, bedding, packing or rush lighting materials.

None of the plants recovered are suggestive of heathland. However, the recovery of prickly poppy (*Papaver* cf. *argemone*) and possible corn marigold (cf. *Chrysanthemum segetum*) may indicate that lighter soils were also cultivated (Clapham *et al.* 1962: 849, 856; Stace 1997: 103).

### ***Comparison of the Sherborne results with other sites***

Table 6 presents a comparison of the Sherborne Old Castle results with nine other sites in southern England. With the exception of Lydford, where samples were collected from primary grain storage deposits, all of the material from other sites is from secondary contexts (middens, pits, cess pits and ditches). In most cases only small assemblage (typically less than 1000 identifications in total) have been studied from these sites and the majority are dominated by cereal crops.

Only two other site in the region (cess pit deposit from Middleton Stoney in Oxfordshire and unspecified deposits from Eckweek in North Somerset, formerly Avon) have assemblages dominated by free-threshing wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grain (Carruthers 1995; Robinson 1984). There is no 'typical' cereal crop(s) for this period in southern England; instead, it seems likely that a wide range of cereal crops were cultivated. Samples of granary deposits at Lydford, Devon were dominated by rye and cultivated oat (Green 1980). Midden deposit samples from Ower Farm, Dorset (Carruthers 1991b) were also dominated by rye. The small size of assemblages at East Street, Wareham (Green 1978), Wareham 1974-5 (Monk 1980), and Howard's Lane (Carruthers 1991) in Dorset, as well as Okehampton Castle, Devon (Colledge 1982), meant that the archaeobotanists were not able to securely identify a dominant cereal crop at these sites.

The absence of rye (*Secale cereale*) in the Sherborne Old Castle assemblage is notable for Dorset, where rye has been recovered at all three Wareham sites (East Street, Howard's Lane, and 1974-5 excavations) and dominated at Ower Farm (see Table 6). Three explanations for this result are possible:

- This pattern may reflect the geological differences between these areas. Wareham and Ower Farm are both located near heathland (poor, acid soils); whereas, Sherborne is surrounded by more productive soils. As a result, the agricultural land supplying crops to Sherborne may have been of better quality and, therefore, cultivation of rye (a crop typically cultivated in poorer soils) may have been uncommon in the Sherborne area.
- There was a preference for free-threshing wheat grain at Sherborne Old Castle, which possibly could be linked to the high status of this site.
- The small number of deposits examined at Sherborne may not be fully representative of all cereal crops consumed at the castle.

Comparison with results from Eckweek, North Somerset (Carruthers 1995) are most interesting. With the exception of certain wild taxa recovered at Eckweek which are typical of meadows (e.g. yellow rattle, *Rhinanthus minor*, and field scabious, *Knautia arvensis*) and trees/shrubs typical of hedges or scrub (e.g. blackthorn/ sloe, *Prunus spinosa*, and hawthorn, *Crataegus monogyna*), both assemblages are quite similar. Indeed, there is little to distinguish the results from the phase 5 and 6 deposits at the rural settlement of Eckweek from the assemblage recovered from Sherborne Old Castle. However, without information on what type of context(s) was sampled at Eckweek, it is difficult to determine if the comparison is appropriate.

Finally, it is notable that many of the weed/wild plants recovered at Sherborne do compare extremely closely with the weed/wild floras from Howard's Lane, Wareham (Carruthers 1991a) and Ower Farm (Carruthers 1991b) in Dorset (see Table 6). It is unlikely that this suggests similar cultivation conditions around the three sites; however, it is possible that many of these common weeds of crop simply occurred in most cultivated fields across Dorset. Certainly many of the typical weeds of arable crops are also recovered from Eckweek in North Somerset (formerly Avon) (see Table 6).

#### ***Limited evidence for hedges or scrub***

Fragments of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell in samples 1-3, 5-9, 14, 17-19, 112 (Upper) and 112 (Lower) and an elder (*Sambucus nigra*) seed in sample 5 may suggest the presence of hedges or scrub in the area. However, these taxa could have entered the deposit in other ways. For example, as collected wild foodstuffs or fuel waste. Hazelnuts, with their robust outer shells, are particularly well suited to transport and storage, so although hazelnuts may have been available locally, they may also have been bought in or exchanged for some other product.

#### ***Fuel supply***

The material recovered from the pit (context 112) did not contain any building debris (i.e. roof tiles, nails, etc...), only 'abundant charcoal, bone and pottery' (pers. comm. `Stewart Brown). As a result, this context has also been interpreted as domestic waste and the charcoal recovered from this context is most likely spent fuel.

Although oak (*Quercus* sp.) accounted for the majority of charcoal identifications made from the lower layer of context 112 (the pit), a number of other wood taxa (e.g. alder, ash, hawthorn group, hazel, cherry/ blackthorn/ bullace and possibly maple – see Table 7) have been recovered at Sherborne. Three explanations for this pattern in the data are possible:

- Oak was the main wood fuel and the other wood taxa recovered were kindling.
- Oak was the main wood fuel, but other wood taxa were used on occasion.
- Prunings from hedges or landscaping around the castle were occasionally used for fuel.

Notably these results include similar taxa to those recovered from Rowden, Dorset (Carruthers and Thomas 1991). However, with only one context studied at Sherborne and three at Rowden, neither assemblage may be fully representative of the range of wood fuels used at either site.

## **Conclusion**

An assemblage dominated by cereal grain is typical of many charred plant assemblages from this period in southern England (see Table 6). The dominance of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grain is somewhat unusual for a Dorset site. This may reflect the high status of the site, possible better quality agricultural land supplying the castle, or the limited area of excavation, which may not be fully representative of the crops used at the castle. The absence of non-cereal crops most likely reflects the repeated pattern in charring events at Sherborne, which clearly frequently involve cereal grain. In addition, the absence of waterlogged material, and limited numbers of mineralised seeds, are also likely to limit the range of cultivated crops identified.

The weed/wild flora identified is dominated by weeds of arable crops or open ground, and also includes taxa which are indicative of heavier soils or damp to wet conditions. A few plants can occur in heathland, but plants typical of such habitats (especially heather) are absent from this assemblage. It is possible that hazel and elder were present in hedges or scrub in the vicinity of the castle, however, since both can be foodstuffs, it is also possible that hazelnuts and elder berries were simply traded/ bought in to the site.

The charcoal assemblage was clearly dominated by oak. The other taxa recovered with the oak charcoal could have been used as additional wood fuel, kindling or may represent prunings used as fuel.

There is no obvious difference between the assemblage from Sherborne (a high status site) and those from other settlements or rural sites (lower status sites) in southern England (see Table 6). The limited number of contexts excavated may not be fully representative of the range of taxa used at Sherborne, but this result does have implications for the identification of high status sites on the basis of charred plant remains alone.



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Figure 1: Proportion of main plant categories in the Sherborne Old Castle samples

Upper label on x-axis is context number and the lower is sample number.

Comb = combined results for all samples from that context.

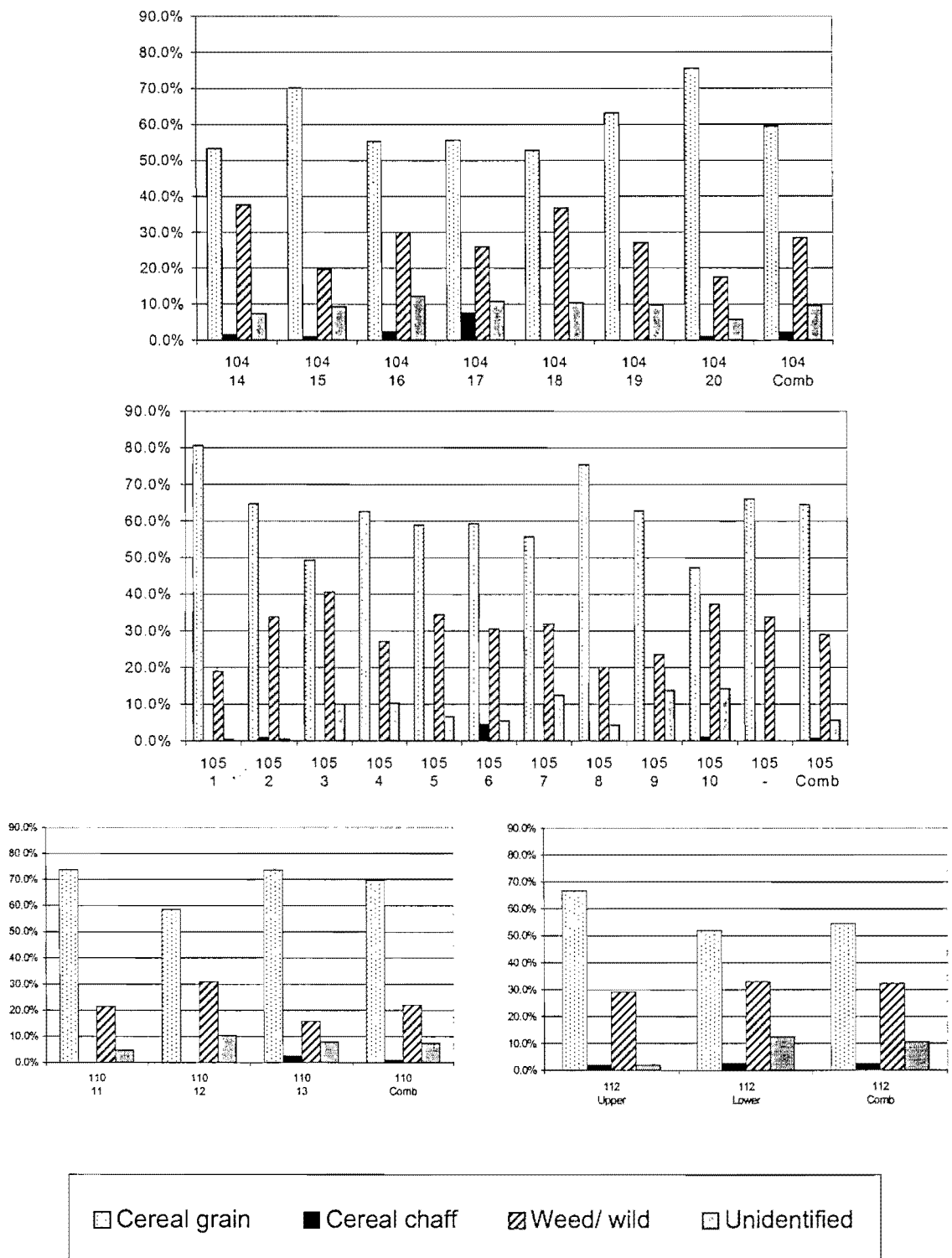


Table 1: Plant remains from context 104 at Sherborne Old Castle, Dorset

Sample Number	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Combined	
Context Number	104	104	104	104	104	104	104	104	104
Sample Volume (L)	21	25	23	23	22	23	19	156	
Sample Weight (Kg)	21.2	23.6	28.2	20.4	25.7	24.9	22.5	166.5	
Flot volume (ml)	60	60	100	100	40	75	50	485	
Seeds/ Litre	5.8	3.9	5.3	8.0	6.5	5.8	4.5	5.7	
<b>LATIN BINOMIAL</b>									<b>COMMON NAME</b>
<b>Cultivars</b>									
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. – grain	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	4	barley grain
cf. <i>Hordeum</i> sp. – grain	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	possible barley grain
<i>Hordeum</i> sp./ <i>Triticum</i> sp. – indeterminate grain	12	19	14	32	17	11	13	118	indeterminate wheat or barley grain
<i>Triticum</i> sp. – free-threshing type grain	24	19	22	30	24	25	16	160	wheat grain
<i>Triticum</i> sp. – possible tail grain	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	possible wheat tail grain
<i>Triticum</i> sp. – free-threshing rachis internode	2	-	2	9	-	-	1	14	free-threshing wheat rachis internode
cf. <i>Triticum</i> sp. – grain	3	-	-	-	2	7	11	23	possible wheat grain
Cereals/ POACEAE – culm node	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	cereal/ wild grass culm node
Cereals/ POACEAE – detached embryo	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	cereal/ wild grass detached embryo
Cereals/ POACEAE – indeterminate rachis	-	1*	-	5	-	-	-	6	cereal/ wild grass rachis
Cereals/ POACEAE – indeterminate caryopsis	25	27	32	40	30	40	24	218	cereal/ large wild grass caryopsis
<b>Wild plants</b>									
<i>Ranunculus acris</i> L./ <i>reprens</i> L./ <i>bulbosus</i> L. type	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	meadow/ creeping/ bulbous buttercup
cf. <i>Ranunculus</i> sp. – internal structure	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	possible internal structure of buttercup
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L. – shell fragments	6	-	-	1	1	1/ cf. 1	-	9	hazelnut
<i>Chenopodium</i> sp.	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	goosefoot
cf. <i>Polygonum</i> sp.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	possible knotgrass
<i>Polygonum</i> sp./ <i>Rumex</i> sp./ <i>Carex</i> sp.	2	-	-	3	-	-	-	5	knotgrass/ dock/ sedge
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	dock
BRASSICACEAE – unidentified	-	-	-	cf. 1	-	-	-	0	cabbage family - unidentified
<i>Vicia sativa</i> L.	-	-	-	2†	-	-	-	2	common vetch
<i>Vicia</i> sp./ <i>Pisum</i> sp.	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	4	vetch/ pea
<i>Vicia</i> sp./ <i>Lathyrus</i> sp.	5	-	5	13	1	3	6	33	vetch/ vetchling
<i>Melilotus</i> sp./ <i>Medicago</i> sp./ <i>Trifolium</i> sp.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	melilot/ medick/ clover
cf. FABACEAE - unidentified	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	possible pea family - unidentified
<i>Plantago</i> cf. <i>lanceolata</i> L.	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	possible greater plantain
<i>Euphrasia</i> sp./ <i>Odontites</i> sp.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	eyebright/ bartsia
<i>Galium</i> sp.	-	-	-	-	cf. 1	-	-	0	bedstraw
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.	2	1	1	4	-	-	-	8	stinking chamomile
cf. <i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i> L. – marginal achene	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	possible corn marigold
ASTERACEAE - unidentified	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	thistle family - unidentified
<i>Boiboschoenus</i> sp./ <i>Schoenoplectus</i> sp.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	sea club-rush/ spike-rush
<i>Carex</i> spp. – 2-sided	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	sedge – 2-sided
<i>Carex</i> spp. – 3-sided	1	-	1	1	3	2	1	9	sedge – 3-sided
CYPERACEAE – indet.	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	Sedge family
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> L.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	crested dog's tail
<i>Poa</i> sp. - type	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	meadow-grass type
<i>Avena</i> spp. – caryopsis	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	3	wild or cultivated oat
<i>Avena</i> sp./ <i>Bromus</i> sp. – type caryopsis	4	-	1	4	-	8	5	22	oat/ brome
POACEAE – unidentified small grass	-	1	-	2	cf. 2	-	-	3	grass family – small grass
POACEAE – unidentified large grass	18	12	23	10	45	16	-	124	grass family – large grass
POACEAE – rachis/ rachilla	-	-	-	cf. 1	-	1	-	1	wild grass – rachis/ rachilla
Unidentified – bud-scar on twig	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	unidentified bud-scar on twig
Unidentified – capsule fragment	-	-	cf. 1	1	-	-	1	2	unidentified capsule fragment
Unidentified – fruit/ capsule	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	unidentified fruit/capsule
Unidentified – plant stalk	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	unidentified plant stalk
Unidentified sprout	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	unidentified sprout
Unidentified	-	6	2	-	1	-	-	9	unidentified
Indeterminate	9	3	13	20	14	13	5	77	indeterminate
Fungal body	1	-	-	1	1	3	-	-	fungal body
<b>TOTAL IDENTIFICATIONS</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>890</b>	

\*Sample 15 [104]– The unidentified cereal rachis internode recovered was basal.

†The width of the *Vicia sativa* seeds was measured at 2.5mm and 3.5 mm respectively. Both seeds were not well preserved and were highly warped. As a result, it was not possible to securely identify these as the cultivated sub-species of common vetch, although the second seed is possibly large enough to be the cultivated sub-species.

Table 2: Plant remains from context 105 at Sherborne Old Castle, Dorset

Sample Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	-	Combined			
Context Number	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105		
Sample Volume (L)	24	20	20	23	20	22	21	20	17	19	16		222		
Sample Weight (Kg)	26	22.7	22.8	25	22.9	24.5	24.1	22.2	19.2	21.2	20.7		251.35		
Flot volume (ml)	80	35	70	50	50	75	60	60	20	25	50		575		
Seeds/ Litre	9.0	10.2	3.5	4.7	4.5	4.9	4.6	5.7	3.0	4.8	3.9		5.5		
<b>LATIN BINOMIAL</b>													<b>COMMON NAME</b>		
<b>Cultivars</b>															
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. – hulled grain	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	hulled barley grain	
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. – grain	-	2	1	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	7	barley grain	
cf. <i>Hordeum</i> sp. – grain	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	possible barley grain	
<i>Hordeum</i> sp./ <i>Triticum</i> sp. – indeterminate grain	13	29	6	22	8	17	12	19	11	18	5	160	indeterminate wheat or barley grain		
<i>Triticum</i> sp. – free-threshing type grain	78	40	15	30	23	29	25	36	11	12	12	311	wheat grain		
<i>Triticum</i> sp. – possible tail grain	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	possible wheat tail grain	
<i>Triticum</i> sp. – free-threshing rachis node	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	free-threshing wheat rachis internode	
cf. <i>Triticum</i> sp. – grain	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	5	possible wheat grain	
cf. <i>Triticum</i> sp. – rachis	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	possible wheat rachis	
Cereal/ POACEAE – culm node	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	cereal/ wild grass culm node	
Cereal/ POACEAE – indeterminate rachis	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	cereal/ wild grass rachis	
Cereal/ POACEAE – indeterminate caryopsis	76	61	12	11	21	17	17	30	10	12	20	287	cereal/ large wild grass caryopsis		
<b>Wild plants</b>															
<i>Ranunculus flammula</i> L. type	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	lesser spearwort	
cf. <i>Ranunculus</i> sp. – internal structure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	possible internal structure of buttercup	
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L. – shell fragments	1	7	2	-	4	2	2	1	1	-	-	-	20	hazelnut	
<i>Chenopodium</i> sp.	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	goosefoot	
<i>Chenopodium</i> sp./ <i>Atriplex</i> sp. – internal	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	goosefoot/ orache	
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> L.	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	knotgrass	
<i>Polygonum</i> sp./ <i>Rumex</i> sp./ <i>Carex</i> sp.	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	4	knotgrass/ dock/ sedge	
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	-	3	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	7	dock	
<i>Vicia</i> sp./ <i>Pisum</i> sp.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	3	vetch/ pea	
<i>Vicia</i> sp./ <i>Lathyrus</i> sp.	6	6	2	1	3	6	1	-	-	7	2	34	vetch/ vetchling		
cf. <i>Lathyrus aphaca</i> L.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	3	yellow vetchling	
<i>Melilotus</i> sp./ <i>Medicago</i> sp./ <i>Trifolium</i> sp.	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	4	4	11	4	melilot/ medick/ clover	
cf. <i>Melilotus</i> sp./ <i>Medicago</i> sp./ <i>Trifolium</i> sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	possible melilot/ medick/ clover	
FABACEAE – unidentified	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	pea family – unidentified	
cf. FABACEAE – unidentified	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	possible pea family – unidentified	
<i>Solanum nigrum</i> L.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	black nightshade	
cf. <i>Stachys</i> sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	possible woundwort	
LAMIACEAE – unidentified	-	1	1*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	mint family	
<i>Plantago</i> cf. <i>lanceolata</i> L.	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	possible greater plantain	
<i>Euphrasia</i> sp./ <i>Odontites</i> sp.	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	3	-	8	eyebright/ bartsia	
<i>Galium</i> sp.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	bedstraw	
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> L.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	elder	
<i>Centaurea</i> sp.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	thistle	
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.	-	-	3	7	2	-	5	3	-	4	3	27	4	stinking chamomile	
cf. <i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	possible stinking chamomile	
cf. <i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i> L. – marginal	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	3	possible corn margold	
<i>Boiboschoenus</i> sp./ <i>Schoenoplectus</i> sp.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	sea club-rush/ spike-rush	
<i>Scirpus</i> spp.	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	wood club-rush	
<i>Carex</i> spp. – 2-sided	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	sedge – 2-sided	
<i>Carex</i> spp. – 3-sided	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	4	sedge – 3-sided	
<i>Poa</i> sp. – type	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	meadow-grass type	
<i>Avena</i> spp. – caryopsis	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	5	wild or cultivated oat	
cf. <i>Avena</i> spp. – rachilla	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	possible wild/ cultivated oat rachis part	
<i>Avena</i> sp./ <i>Bromus</i> sp. – type caryopsis	25	-	4	1	-	5	3	-	-	6	2	46	2	oat/ brome	
<i>Phleum</i> sp. type	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	cat's tail type	
cf. <i>Phleum</i> sp. type	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	possible cat's tail type	
<i>Bromus</i> spp.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	brome	
POACEAE – unidentified small grass	-	1	1	5	3	7	-	2	2	2	1	24	24	grass family – small grass	
POACEAE – unidentified large grass	-	44	5	3	9	7	11	8	3	-	2	92	92	grass family – large grass	
POACEAE – culm node	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	wild grass – culm node	
<i>Sparganium</i> sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	bur-reed	
Unidentified – capsule fragment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	unidentified capsule fragment	
Unidentified – nut shell	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	unidentified nut shell	
Unidentified – plant stalk	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	unidentified plant stalk	
Unidentified – possible tuber	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	possible tuber	
Unidentified – rootlets	-	-	-	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	unidentified rootlets	
Unidentified	1	-	2	2	5	-	2	-	1	2	-	15	15	unidentified	
Indeterminate	-	1	5	9	1	6	10	5	6	11	-	54	54	indeterminate	
Fungal body	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	fungal body
Small mammal excrement	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	small mammal excrement
<b>TOTAL IDENTIFICATIONS</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>1210</b>			

\*Sample 3 [105]. The unidentified LAMIACEAE seed was partially mineralised.

Table 3: Plant remains from context 110 at Sherborne Old Castle, Dorset

Sample Number	11	12	13	Combined	
Context Number	110	110	110	110	
Sample Volume (L)	22	18	22	62	
Sample Weight (Kg)	24.3	22.2	25.2	71.7	
Flot volume (ml)	20	50	25	95	
Seeds/ Litre	1.9	1.6	1.7	1.8	
<b>LATIN BINOMIAL</b>					<b>COMMON NAME</b>
<b>Cultivars</b>					
<i>Hordeum</i> sp./ <i>Triticum</i> sp. – indeterminate grain	11	2	7	20	indeterminate wheat or barley grain
<i>Triticum</i> sp. – free-threshing type grain	10	11	10	31	wheat grain
cf. <i>Triticum</i> sp. – grain	-	-	1	1	possible wheat grain
Cereal/ POACEAE – culm node	-	-	1	1	cereal/ wild grass culm node
Cereal/ POACEAE – caryopsis	10	4	10	24	cereal/ large wild grass caryopsis
<b>Wild plants</b>					
<i>Vicia</i> sp./ <i>Lathyrus</i> sp.	4/ cf. 1	4	1	9	vetch/ vetchling
<i>Carex</i> spp. – 2-sided	-	cf. 1	-	0	sedge – 2-sided
<i>Avena</i> sp./ <i>Bromus</i> sp. – type caryopsis	3	-	4	7	oat/ brome
POACEAE – unidentified large grass	2	5	1	8	grass family – large grass
Unidentified	2	-	-	2	unidentified
Indeterminate	-	3	3	6	indeterminate
<b>TOTAL IDENTIFICATIONS</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>109</b>	

Table 4: Plant remains from context 112 at Sherborne Old Castle, Dorset

Sample Number	Upper	Lower	Combined	
Context Number	112	112	112	
Sample Volume (L)	n/a†	n/a	24	
Sample Weight (Kg)	n/a	n/a	27.1	
Flot volume (ml)	n/a	n/a	110	
Seeds/ Litre	n/a	n/a	33.5	
<b>LATIN BINOMIAL</b>				<b>COMMON NAME</b>
<b>Cultivars</b>				
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. – grain	-	1	1	barley grain
cf. <i>Hordeum</i> sp. – grain	-	1	1	possible barley grain
<i>Hordeum</i> sp./ <i>Triticum</i> sp. - indeterminate grain	21	143	164	indeterminate wheat or barley grain
<i>Triticum</i> sp. – free-threshing type grain	41	92	133	wheat grain
<i>Triticum</i> sp. – free-threshing rachis node	3	13	16	free-threshing wheat rachis internode
cf. <i>Triticum</i> sp. – grain	1	15	16	possible wheat grain
cf. <i>Triticum</i> sp. – rachis	-	1	1	possible wheat rachis
Cereal/ POACEAE – culm node	-	1	1	cereal/ wild grass culm node
Cereal/ POACEAE – indeterminate rachis	-	3	3	cereal/ wild grass rachis
Cereal/ POACEAE – indeterminate caryopsis	33	90	123	cereal/ large wild grass caryopsis
<b>Wild plants</b>				
<i>Ranunculus acris</i> L./ <i>reprens</i> L./ <i>bulbosus</i> L. type	1	-	1	meadow/ creeping/ bulbous buttercup
cf. <i>Ranunculus</i> sp. – internal structure	-	1	1	possible internal structure of buttercup
<i>Papaver</i> cf. <i>argemone</i> L.	-	1M	1	possible prickly poppy
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L. – shell fragments	3	87	90	hazelnut
<i>Stellaria media</i> s.l.	-	1	1	common chickweed
<i>Agrostemma githago</i> L.	-	2C/ 1M	3	corn cockle
<i>Agrostemma githago</i> L. – calyx fragment	-	1	1	corn cockle calyx fragment
<i>Silene</i> sp.	-	1C/1M	2	campion
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	1	1	2	dock
<i>Vicia</i> sp./ <i>Pisum</i> sp.	-	2	2	vetch/ pea
<i>Vicia</i> sp./ <i>Lathyrus</i> sp.	4	16	20	vetch/ vetchling
<i>Melilotus</i> sp./ <i>Medicago</i> sp./ <i>Trifolium</i> sp.	-	1	1	melilot/ medick/ clover
<i>Lithospermum</i> sp.	-	1	1	gromwell
LAMIACEAE – unidentified	-	1	1	mint family
<i>Plantago</i> cf. <i>lanceolata</i> L.	-	1	1	possible greater plantain
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.	3	6	9	stinking chamomile
cf. <i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i> L. – marginal achene	-	cf. 1	0	possible corn marigold
ASTERACEAE - unidentified	-	4	4	thistle family - unidentified
<i>Bolboschoenus</i> sp./ <i>Schoenoplectus</i> sp.	-	2	2	sea club-rush/ spike-rush
<i>Carex</i> spp. – 3-sided	-	3	3	sedge – 3-sided
<i>Poa</i> sp. – type	-	3	3	meadow-grass type
<i>Avena</i> sp./ <i>Bromus</i> sp. – type caryopsis	3	11	14	oat/ brome
POACEAE – unidentified small grass	-	4	4	grass family – small grass
POACEAE – unidentified large grass	17	38C/3M/ cf. 1M	58	grass family – large grass
POACEAE – culm node	cf. 1	1	1	wild grass – culm node
Unidentified - bark	-	4	4	unidentified bark
Unidentified – bud	-	4	4	unidentified bud
Unidentified – capsule fragment	10/ cf. 1	-	10	unidentified capsule fragment
Unidentified – plant stalk	-	13	13	unidentified plant stalk
Unidentified sprout	-	1	1	unidentified sprout
Unidentified	2	4	6	unidentified
Indeterminate	1	78	79	indeterminate
Fungal body	-	1	-	fungal body
<b>TOTAL IDENTIFICATIONS</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>803</b>	

Key to symbols in table: C = charred and M = mineralised

†The separate volumes of the upper and lower samples of context 112 were not recorded during processing. Only the combined volume was available.

Table 5: Habitats of wild plants recovered at Sherborne Old Castle, Dorset

HABITAT	ARABLE FIELDS	CULTIVATED GROUND	DAMP SOIL	DRY BANKS	DUNE SLACKS	GRASSLAND	HEATHLAND	HEAVY SOILS	ROUGH GROUND	STREAMSIDES/ MARSHES/ WET SOIL	WASTE / OPEN GROUND	WOODS/ SCRUB	
Latin Binomials												Common Name	
<i>Ranunculus flammula</i> L.										✓			lesser spearwort
<i>Papaver</i> cf. <i>argemone</i> L.	✓												possible prickly poppy
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.												✓	hazelnut
cf. <i>Beta vulgaris</i> L.												✓	possible beet
<i>Stellaria media</i> s.l.	✓										✓		common chickweed
<i>Agrostemma githago</i> L.	✓												corn cockle
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> L.											✓		knotgrass
<i>Vicia sativa</i> L.	✓				✓	✓					✓		common vetch
cf. <i>Lathyrus aphaca</i> L.				✓	✓	✓		✓					yellow vetchling
<i>Solanum nigrum</i> L.		✓									✓		black nightshade
<i>Lithospermum arvense</i> L.	✓					✓		✓					field gromwell
<i>Plantago</i> cf. <i>lanceolata</i> L.						✓							possible greater plantain
<i>Euphrasia</i> sp./ <i>Odonites</i> sp.					✓	?							eyebright/ bartsia
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> L.											✓	✓	elder
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.	✓							✓			✓		stinking chamomile
cf. <i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i> L.	✓										✓		possible corn marigold
<i>Bolboschoenus</i> sp./ <i>Schoenoplectus</i> sp.										✓			sea club-rush/ spike-rush
<i>Scirpus</i> spp.										✓			wood club-rush
<i>Carex</i> spp.										✓			sedge
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> L.					✓								crested dog's tail
<i>Poa</i> sp. - type	?					?					?		meadow-grass type
<i>Avena</i> spp.	✓										✓		wild or cultivated oat
<i>Phleum</i> sp. - type					✓	?					✓		cat's tail type
<i>Bromus</i> spp.	✓		?		✓						✓		brome
<i>Sparganium</i> sp.										✓			bur-reed

Key: ✓ = present and ? = possibly present

Habitat information based on Stace (1997)



Table 6: Comparison of charred plants recovered from Sherborne Old Castle with other charred plant remains from Medieval sites in the region

	East Street, Wareham, Dorset	Eckweek, North Somerset (Avon)	Howard's Lane, Wareham, Dorset	Lydford, Devon	Middleton Stoney, Oxfordshire†	Okehampton Castle, Devon	Ower Farm, Dorset	Priory Barn, Taunton, Somerset†	Sherborne Old Castle, Dorset	Wareham 1974-5, Dorset	
Number of samples studied	5	16	7	75	1	1	17	5	23	n/a	
<b>LATIN BINOMIAL</b>											<b>COMMON NAME</b>
<b>Cultivars</b>											
<i>Secale cereale</i> L. - grain	✓		✓	✓!			✓!	✓		✓	rye
<i>Secale cereale</i> L. - rachis							✓	✓			rye rachis internode
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. - six-row hulled grain		✓									six-row hulled barley
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. - hulled grain		✓	✓								hulled barley
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. - grain	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	barley
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. - rachis			✓								barley rachis internode
<i>Triticum dicoccum</i> Schübl./ <i>T. spelta</i> L. - glume base			✓								emmer/ spelt glume
cf. <i>Triticum dicoccum</i> Schübl./ <i>T. spelta</i> L. - grain			✓								possible emmer / spelt
<i>Triticum spelta</i> L.			✓								spelt
<i>Triticum</i> cf. <i>turgidum</i> L./ <i>Triticum</i> cf. <i>durum</i> Desf.		✓									
<i>Triticum</i> cf. <i>turgidum</i> L./ <i>T.</i> cf. <i>durum</i> Desf. - rachis		✓									
<i>Triticum aestuvinum</i> L./ <i>Triticum compactum</i> Host.		✓									
<i>Triticum aestuvinum</i> L./ <i>T. compactum</i> Host. - rachis		✓									
<i>Triticum</i> sp. - free-threshing type grain	✓	✓!		✓	✓!		✓	✓	✓!	✓	free-threshing wheat
<i>Triticum</i> sp. - free-threshing rachis internode								✓	✓		free-threshing wheat rachis internode
<i>Triticum</i> sp. - indeterminate grain						✓					indeterminate wheat
<i>Avena sativa</i> L. - grain				✓!							oat
Cereal/ POACEAE - culm node		✓							✓		cereal/ wild grass culm node
cf. <i>Lens culinaris</i> Medik.			✓								possible lentil
<i>Vicia faba</i> L.				✓							Celtic/ broad bean
<i>Vitis vinifera</i> L.						✓					grape
<i>Pisum sativum</i> L.	✓										pea
<i>Linum usitatissimum</i> L. - capsule fragment	✓										linseed/ flax
cf. <i>Linum usitatissimum</i> L.			✓								possible linseed/ flax
<b>Wild plants</b>											
<i>Pteridium</i> sp.							✓				bracken
<i>Ranunculus acris</i> L./ <i>reprens</i> L./ <i>bulbosus</i> L. type		✓						✓			meadow/ creeping/ bulbous buttercup
<i>Ranunculus flammula</i> L. type			✓				✓	✓			lesser spearwort
cf. <i>Ranunculus</i> sp. - internal structure								✓			possible internal structure of buttercup
<i>Papaver</i> cf. <i>dubium</i> L./ <i>Papaver</i> cf. <i>hybridum</i> L.			✓								long-headed poppy/ rough poppy
<i>Papaver</i> cf. <i>argemone</i> L.								✓			possible prickly poppy
<i>Chelidonium majus</i> L.											greater celandine
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L. - shell fragments		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓			hazelnut
<i>Chenopodium album</i> L.	✓		✓				✓				fat hen
<i>Chenopodium</i> sp.								✓			goosefoot
<i>Chenopodium</i> sp./ <i>Atriplex</i> sp. - internal structure			✓					✓			goosefoot/ orache
<i>Atriplex prostrata</i> Boucher ex DC./ <i>A. patula</i> L.		✓	✓								spear-leaved orache/ common orache
cf. <i>Beta vulgaris</i> L.								✓			possible beet
<i>Montia fontana</i> L.							✓				blink
<i>Stellaria media</i> (L.) Vill. s.l.								✓			common chickweed
<i>Stellaria graminea</i> L.			✓								lesser stichwort
<i>Agrostemma githago</i> L.	✓			✓			✓	✓			corn cockle
<i>Agrostemma githago</i> L. - calyx fragment								✓			corn cockle calyx fragment
<i>Spergula arvensis</i> L.			✓								corn spurrey
<i>Silene</i> cf. <i>vulgaris</i> Garcke		✓	✓								bladder campion
<i>Silene</i> cf. <i>latifolia</i> Poir.			✓								white campion
<i>Silene</i> cf. <i>dioica</i> (L.) Clairv.			✓								red campion
<i>Silene</i> sp.			✓						✓		campion
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> L.		✓					✓	✓			knotgrass
cf. <i>Polygonum</i> sp.									✓		possible knotgrass

Table 6: Comparison of charred plants recovered from Sherborne Old Castle with other charred plant remains from Medieval sites in the region continued...

	East Street, Wareham, Dorset	Eckweek, North Somerset (Avon)	Howard's Lane, Wareham, Dorset	Lydford, Devon	Middleton Stoney, Oxfordshire†	Okehampton Castle, Devon	Ower Farm, Dorset	Priority Barn, Taunton, Somerset†	Sherborne Old Castle, Dorset	Wareham 1974-5, Dorset	
<b>Wild plants continued...</b>											
<i>Polygonum</i> sp./ <i>Rumex</i> sp./ <i>Carex</i> sp.									✓		knotgrass/ dock/ sedge
<i>Rumex acetosella</i> agg.			✓				✓				sheep's sorrel
<i>Rumex</i> sp.		✓	✓		✓		✓		✓		dock
<i>Viola</i> sp.		✓					✓				violet
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i> L.				✓			✓				wild radish
<i>Brassica</i> sp./ <i>Sinapis</i> sp.		✓	✓							✓	cabbage/ mustard
BRASSICACEAE – unidentified									✓		cabbage family – unidentified
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i> (L.) Huil			✓				✓				heather
<i>Calluna</i> sp.	✓										heather
<i>Erica tetralix</i> L.			✓								cross-leaved heather
<i>Erica</i> cf. <i>tetralix</i> L.							✓				cross-leaved heather
<i>Erica</i> cf. <i>cinerea</i> L.			✓								bell heather
<i>Erica</i> cf. <i>cinerea</i> L.							✓				bell heather
<i>Erica</i> sp.	✓		✓				✓				heather
<i>Vaccinium</i> sp.	✓										bilberry
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i> L.		✓									scarlet pimpernel/ blue pimpernel
<i>Anagallis minima</i> (L.) E.H.L. Krause							✓				chaffweed
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.		✓									blackberry/ bramble
<i>Potentilla</i> sp.		✓									cinquefoil
cf. <i>Agrimonia</i> sp.			✓								agrimony
<i>Alchemilla</i> sp.			✓								lady's mantle
<i>Aphanes arvensis</i> s.l.			✓								parsley-piert
<i>Prunus spinosa</i> L.		✓					✓				sloe/ blackthorn
<i>Prunus</i> sp.		✓									cherry/ bullace/ sloe/ plumb
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i> Jacq.		✓									hawthorn
cf. <i>Pimpinella</i> sp.			✓								possible burnt-saxifrage
<i>Bupleurum rotundifolium</i> L.		✓	✓								thorow-wax
<i>Vicia sativa</i> L.									✓		common vetch
<i>Vicia</i> sp./ <i>Pisum</i> sp.	✓	✓	✓						✓		vetch/ pea
<i>Vicia</i> sp./ <i>Lathyrus</i> sp.		✓	✓		✓				✓	✓	vetch/ vetchling
cf. <i>Lathyrus aphaca</i> L.									✓		yellow vetchling
<i>Melilotus</i> sp./ <i>Medicago</i> sp./ <i>Trifolium</i> sp.		✓	✓						✓		melilot/ medick/ clover
cf. <i>Melilotus</i> sp./ <i>Medicago</i> sp./ <i>Trifolium</i> sp.									✓		possible melilot/ medick/ clover
<i>Medicago lupulina</i> L.		✓	✓								black medick
<i>Trifolium</i> sp.							✓				clover
cf. <i>Trifolium</i> sp.		✓									possible clover
FABACEAE – unidentified <i>Genista</i> type									✓		pea family – gorse type
FABACEAE – unidentified									✓		pea family – unidentified
cf. FABACEAE – unidentified									✓		possible pea family – unidentified
<i>Solanum nigrum</i> L.									✓		black nightshade
<i>Lithospermum arvense</i> L.			✓						✓		field gromwell
<i>Verbena</i> sp.			✓								vervain
cf. <i>Stachys</i> sp.									✓		possible woundwort
LAMIACEAE – unidentified									✓		mint family
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> L.		✓									greater plantain
<i>Plantago</i> cf. <i>lanceolata</i> L.									✓		possible greater plantain
<i>Euphrasia</i> sp./ <i>Odonites</i> sp.		✓	✓						✓		eyebright/ bartisia
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i> L.		✓									yellow rattle
<i>Galium palustre</i> L.			✓								common marsh-bedstraw
<i>Galium aparine</i> L.		✓	✓								cleaver
<i>Galium</i> sp.		✓							✓	✓	bedstraw
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> L.			✓				✓		✓	✓	elder
<i>Knautia arvensis</i> (L.) Coult.		✓									field scabious
<i>Carduus</i> sp./ <i>Cirsium</i> sp.		✓									thistle

Table 6: Comparison of charred plants recovered from Sherborne Old Castle with other charred plant remains from Medieval sites in the region continued...

	East Street, Wareham, Dorset	Eckweek, North Somerset (Avon)	Howard's Lane, Wareham, Dorset	Lydford, Devon	Middleton Stoney, Oxfordshire†	Okehampton Castle, Devon	Ower Farm, Dorset	Priory Barn, Taunton, Somerset†	Sherborne Old Castle, Dorset	Wareham 1974-5, Dorset	
<b>Wild plants continued...</b>											
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i> L.						✓					cornflower
<i>Centaurea nigra</i> L.		✓									common knapweed
<i>Centaurea</i> sp.									✓		thistle
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.		✓	✓				✓	✓			stinking chamomile
cf. <i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.									✓		possible stinking chamomile
<i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i> L.			✓	✓		✓					com marigold
cf. <i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i> L.									✓		possible com marigold
<i>Tripleurospermum maritimum</i> (L.) W.D.J. Koch			✓								sea mayweed
ASTERACEAE - unidentified									✓		Thistle family - unidentified
<i>Eleocharis palustris</i> (L.) Roem. & Schult. s.l.			✓								spike-rush
<i>Bolboschoenus</i> sp./ <i>Schoenoplectus</i> sp.									✓		Sea club-rush/ spike-rush
<i>Scirpus</i> spp.									✓		wood club-rush
<i>Isolepis</i> sp.				✓							club-rush
<i>Cladium mariscus</i> (L.) Pohl		✓									great fen-sedge
<i>Carex</i> cf. <i>flava</i> gp.						✓					large yellow-sedge
<i>Carex</i> spp. - 2-sided									✓		sedge - 2-sided
<i>Carex</i> spp. - 3-sided							✓	✓			sedge - 3-sided
CYPERACEAE - unidentified									✓		sedge family - unidentified
<i>Lolium temulentum</i> L.		✓									damel
<i>Lolium</i> sp. - type		✓									rye-grass
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> L.									✓		crested dog's tail
<i>Poa</i> sp. - type									✓		meadow-grass type
<i>Avena</i> spp. - caryopsis		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	wild or cultivated oat
<i>Avena</i> spp. - rachilla					✓						wild or cultivated oat
<i>Avena</i> spp. - lemma					✓						wild or cultivated oat
<i>Avena</i> spp. - awn			✓								wild or cultivated oat
cf. <i>Avena</i> spp. - caryopsis					✓						possible wild/ cultivated oat caryopsis
cf. <i>Avena</i> spp. - rachilla								✓			possible wild/ cultivated oat rachilla
<i>Avena</i> sp./ <i>Bromus</i> sp. - type caryopsis								✓			oat/ brome
<i>Phleum</i> sp. - type								✓			cat's tail type
cf. <i>Phleum</i> sp. - type								✓			possible cat's tail type
<i>Bromus</i> spp.			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	brome
<i>Elytrigia repens</i> s.l. - rhizome		✓									common couch-grass
<i>Danthonia decumbens</i> (L.) DC				✓							heath-grass
POACEAE - unidentified small grass									✓		Grass family - small grass
POACEAE - unidentified large grass									✓		Grass family - large grass
POACEAE - indeterminate (size not specified)		✓	✓		✓	✓					
POACEAE - culm node									✓		wild grass - culm node
POACEAE - rachis/ rachilla									✓		Wild grass - rachis/ rachilla
cf. POACEAE - caryopsis									✓		possible grass caryopsis
<i>Sparganium</i> sp.									✓		bur-reed

Key: ✓ = present and ✓! = dominant cereal † = Only the charred plant remains are listed

**Sources of data: context(s) (total number of seeds identified)**

- East Street, Wareham - (Green 1978): various contexts, not specified (number of seeds identified not provided)
- Eckweek, North Somerset (Avon) - (Carruthers 1995): various contexts, not specified/ phases 5 & 6 (N = 2491)
- Howard's Lane, Wareham - (Carruthers 1991a): 4 pits and 1 ditch (N = 610)
- Lydford - (Green 1980): granary deposits (not completely quantified, N > 5000).
- Middleton Stoney - (Robinson 1984): cess pit (N = 155)
- Okehampton Castle - (Collidge 1982): pit (N = 27)
- Ower Farm - (Carruthers 1991b): midden (N = 807)
- Priory Barn, Taunton - (Greig and Osborne 1984): 4 pits and 1 ditch (N = 133)
- Sherborne Old Castle - midden and 1 pit (N = 3012)
- Wareham 1974-5 - (Monk 1980): various contexts, not specified (number of seeds identified not provided)

Table 7: Charcoal results from the pit sample – context 112 (Lower).

REPRESENTATIVE SUB-SAMPLE FROM > 4mm FRACTION – 191 FRAGMENTS STUDIED					
LATIN BINOMIAL	QUANTITY	PROPORTION	WEIGHT	PROPORTION	COMMON NAME
<i>Quercus</i> sp.†	136	71.2 %	19.56 g	75.3 %	oak
<i>Alnus</i> sp.	1	0.5 %	0.05 g	0.2 %	alder
<i>Corylus</i> sp.	6	3.1 %	0.55 g	2.1 %	hazel
<i>Prunus</i> sp.	1	0.5 %	0.15 g	0.6 %	blackthorn/ cherry/ bullace
Pomoideae	29	15.2 %	4.09 g	15.7 %	hawthorn group
<i>Acer</i> sp.	3	1.6 %	0.34 g	1.3 %	maple
<i>Fraxinus</i> sp.	1	0.5 %	0.06 g	0.2 %	ash
Indeterminate	14	7.3 %	1.19 g	4.6 %	indeterminate
REPRESENTATIVE SUB-SAMPLE FROM 2–4mm FRACTION – 50 FRAGMENTS STUDIED					
LATIN BINOMIAL	QUANTITY	PROPORTION	WEIGHT	PROPORTION	COMMON NAME
<i>Quercus</i> sp.	29	58.0 %	0.34	55.7 %	oak
cf. <i>Quercus</i> sp.	9	18.0 %	0.13	21.3 %	possible oak
<i>Corylus</i> sp.	2	4.0 %	0.01	1.6 %	hazel
Pomoideae	10	20.0 %	0.13	21.3 %	hawthorn group

†In the >2mm fraction 6 fragments (totalling 0.38g) and in the 2-4mm fraction 5 fragments (totalling 0.09g) were identified by Rowena Gale as slow-growing, slightly atypical oak heartwood from trunk or branch wood. Gale suggests that that this may be oak growing in stressed or diseased conditions.