

Appendix 4: Environmental

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Grange Allotments (GAMW07)

1. Introduction

- 1.1 A total of five flots were assessed for carbonised plant material including charcoal. Two small bags of charred material recovered from the retents were also examined for identifiable charcoal pieces.

2. Methodology

- 2.1 Bulk environmental samples were processed by Archaeological Services WYAS using an Ankara style water flotation system (French 1971). Flots were collected in a 300 μ m sieve and the heavy fraction (the retent) was collected in a 1mm mesh. The retents were sorted by eye for artefacts and ecofacts and were also scanned using a magnet. The flot, once dry, was scanned using a low powered binocular microscope at magnifications of x4-45.
- 2.2 The reference photographs of Schweingruber (1990) were consulted for charcoal identification. All charcoal was bagged separately by type. No other identifiable plant material was recovered.

3. Results

- 3.1 All results are presented in Table 1 and discussed below.

4. Discussion

- 4.1 Carbonised plant remains were generally scarce with <2.5ml to 7.5ml of charred detritus present. No carbonised cereal grain or weed seeds were noted, but the samples did include a quantity of well preserved charcoal. Each sample also contained a small amount of non-marine mollusc shells. Modern (non-carbonised) weed seeds were present in one sample only, 11 (906), suggesting a low degree of modern intrusion. Charcoal was identified exclusively as *Quercus* (oak) and was recovered from both samples 1 (900) and 2 (901), with the latter producing the majority of fragments. The amounts of charcoal present could relate to a single hearth place, or burning event. No evidence for agriculture was obtained from this set of samples.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The assessment samples produced well-preserved examples of oak wood charcoal indicating the potential for other types of charred material to be preserved at this site. No cereals or other agricultural indicators were present from these five samples, however, but further sampling at the site may prove more fruitful.

Table 1. Samples assessed

	Sample	1	2	3	4	11
	Context	900	901	1001	1003	906
	Total CV	7.5ml	20ml	0	<2.5ml	<2.5ml
	Modern	10ml	15ml	10ml	5ml	15ml
Charcoal	Common Name					
<i>Quercus</i>	oak	3 (0.24g)	10 (2.95g)			
Other Remains						
Modern (non-carbonised) seeds						1
Non-marine mollusc shells		10+	20+	20+	10+	10+

