

APPENDIX 5 Environmental Sample Report

1. **Introduction**

- 1.1 A total of three flots from excavations at 2 Church Lane, Bonby were examined for environmental remains including carbonised plant material and charcoal.

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. All identified plant material was bagged separately by type.

3. **Results**

- 3.1 Flot sizes were very small and carbonised plant remains were scarce with <2.5ml of tea-leaf sized charred detritus present. Small amounts of modern root fragments were also present, together with occasional non-marine mollusc shell.
- 3.2 All results are presented in Table 1 and discussed below.

4. **Discussion**

- 4.1 The three assessment samples produced very little carbonised plant material with a trace amount of carbonised cereal grain present in one sample only. All three samples contained small amounts of non-marine mollusc shell, which could be identified by a suitable specialist, and may provide greater environmental information than that obtained from the sparse plant material.
- 4.2 Carbonised cereal grain was confined to sample 501 (506) only, and was identified as a single specimen of *Hordeum/Triticum* sp. (barley/wheat). It was not possible to accurately distinguish between barley or wheat type due to the poor level of preservation displayed by the grain. No weeds of cultivation were recovered. The overall scarcity of plant material and lack of weeds associated with cultivation suggested the cereal grain was a trace or casual inclusion, perhaps wind-blown material from elsewhere.
- 4.3 No identifiable wood charcoal fragments were recovered.

Table 1. Samples assessed

	Sample	301	501	502
	Context	309	506	503
	Total CV	<2.5ml	<2.5ml	<2.5ml
	Modern	<2.5ml	<2.5ml	<2.5ml
Carbonised Cereal Grain	Common Name			
<i>Hordeum/Triticum</i> sp.	barley/wheat		1	
Other Remains				
Non-marine mollusc shell		1	10+	10+

Bibliography

French, D. H., 1971, 'An Experiment in Water Sieving', *Anatolian Studies* 21, 59-64

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Report

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