

ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY

REPORT

2987

SERIES/No CONSULTANT

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TITLE Riggs Hall, Shrewsbury; Textiles

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Riggs Hall, Shrewsbury

Textile

Pit. SA 10134. ?11th century

F 71. 295. Two fragments, very brittle deteriorated fabric.
c. 9 X 4 and 6 X 3.5 mm; spinning Z in one system, fine, fairly even, ?warp; the other system is mostly Z spun, but has occasional S or Sply thread; tabby weave, count on 2.5 mm 6/3 , i.e.c.24/12 per cm.
H.M.Appleyard examined fibres, but found them very friable; they are of animal origin and densely pigmented.

As far as can be judged from such tiny scraps this has probably been a good quality weave, perhaps a worsted tabby of the same quality as an 11th century fragment from Winchester (1), but even nearer in count to two earlier fragments from Viking levels at York (2). These are all simple Z,Z, tabbies; the combination of occasional S or Sply threads in the Z weft suggests these were perhaps a different colour, single threads perhaps part of a wider stripe or check pattern such as a plaid. The use of different spinning for different colours in such patterns in Anglo-Saxon tabbies and twills is still found in some three-shed twills in 14th century finds from Baynard's Castle.

Elisabeth Crowfoot

- 1 E.Crowfoot "Textiles" in Winchester Studies (ed.Martin Biddle & Suzanne Keene, 7.ii. Textile no.1056.
- 2 John W.Hedges "Textiles" in P.V.Addyman The Archaeology of York 17, (197), 5176 (count 22/12) 5253 (count 19/12).