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Ludgershall Castle (Latrine, 49 C.Y.)

One bulk sample of about 34,000 ml of soil was processed in the laboratory for the recovery of botanical evidence. The botanical finds have been listed in Table 1. The evidence was preserved nearly entirely by carbonisation except for a few seeds preserved by mineralisation (Calcium Phosphate replacement) / GREEN (1977, 277-284) .

The small quantities of carbonised cereals recovered from this sample included Bread/Club Wheat (Triticum aestivum/compactum) which exhibited a well rounded form more typical of club than bread wheat. No rachis or other identifiable fragments of this cereal were recovered and therefore identification relies on the morphology of the caryopses which is not always a good indicator of species. The general morphology and the lack of rachis fragments can be taken as indicating a free threshing wheat in the aestivum-compactum range.

Hordeum vulgare, a well developed six-row form of barley, was recovered in smaller quantities than wheat. Once again no rachis or other identifiable fragments were present. Cats (Avena cf. sativa) ^{WERE} ~~WAS~~ recovered. It was not possible to determine if this was a wild or cultivated form due to the lack of the basal parts of the florets and other morphological features.

The ratio of the various cereals is directly comparable to the ratio found on urban sites of the medieval period, in particular from Winchester and Southampton (Green, forthcoming).
In this respect the sample is more comparable to urban sites ^{EVIDENCE FROM}

Table 1

Ludgershall Castle (Latrine) 49 C.Y. FRUITS AND SEEDS, UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

<u>Taxa</u>	<u>Synonym</u>	<u>(Bulk Sample)</u>
<u>PAPILIONACEAE</u>		
<u>Vicia</u> sp.	Small Vetch	3
<u>Pisum sativum</u>	Pea	31c 1m
<u>ROSACEAE</u>		
<u>Rubus fruticosus</u> agg.	Blackberry	1
<u>POLYGONACEAE</u>		
<u>Rumex</u> sp.		1m
<u>CORYLACEAE</u>		
<u>Corylus avellana</u> L.	Hazel-nut (Frag)	12
<u>Corylus avellana</u> L.	Hazel-nut (Catkin)	1
<u>FAGACEAE</u>		
<u>Quercus</u> sp.	Oak (Cupule and nut)	1
<u>PLANTAGINACEAE</u>		
<u>Plantago lanceolata</u> L.	Plantain	1
<u>GRAMINEAE</u>		
<u>Lolium temulentum</u> L.	Darnel	1
<u>Triticum aestivo/compactum</u>	Bread/Club Wheat	18
<u>Hordeum vulgare</u> L.	Six-row Hulled Barley	6
<u>Avena cf. sativa</u> L.	Oat	2
	Cereal sp.	14
<u>Gramineae</u> sp.	Grass	1

of the period ^{rather} than rural ones. However, the presence of pea (Pisum sativum) preserved by mineralisation and carbonisation, especially in the quantity recovered, is more typical of rural than urban sites. The peas in this particular case may have been deliberately discarded since most of them appeared to contain evidence of insect infestation prior to carbonisation.

Small quantities of other seed materials ^{were} ~~was~~ recovered, including quantities of hazel-nut fragments (Corylus avellana). This species is commonly encountered on sites of this period and can be considered ubiquitous, probably being collected in a hedgerow harvest. The lack of gnawing by rodents suggests that these particular fragments were imported by human agency.

The rest of the ruderals and wild plants found in the sample could have entered the deposit as a result of a variety of anthropogenic or natural activities. The small quantities recovered makes interpretation impossible. The presence of a deformed oak cupule and nut, as well as hazel catkins, may have originated as a result of collecting fuel.

The interpretation of this individual sample is particularly difficult, since no other samples were forthcoming which could be used in a comparative fashion. The evidence recovered from this sample is virtually unusable and provides no specific information of great importance about this site.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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