

CARLISLE 1973-75

Commentary on seed reports

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The soil samples were probably too small (between 15 and 900g) to merit detailed comparisons and, especially in the absence of much archaeological information, the results are probably best considered as a species list for the site as a whole.

The detailed interpretations given of a few of the samples also tends to be very narrow and neglect the possible importation of plant material onto the site.

The species list, at least without more archaeological information, does not add a lot to the interpretation of the site. The walnut is an interesting addition to our knowledge of diet. The walnut tree was probably introduced into this country by the Romans, though as a tree takes at least ten years to bear any fruit and about fifty to become prolific, it is likely that at this stage the nuts were imported. Otherwise the list contains plants of wasteland, arable land, woodland and wet places, much as material from the later years, probably with similar implications.

OCTOBER 12, 1941

The following plants were collected at Franklin, compiled by Donaldson.

- Alnus glutinosa* (Alder) *
- Atriplex patula* (Orache) (?)
- Bromus* sp. (Brome) (?)
- Carex* sp. (Sedges) *
- C. disticha*
- C. elongata*
- C. flacca*
- C. hirta*
- C. nigra*
- C. strigosa*
- C. sylvatica*
- Ceratium glomeratum* (Mouse-eared Chickweed)
- Chenopodium album* (Fat Hen) *
- Corylus avellana* (Hazel) *
- Eleocharis palustris* (Spike Rush) *
- Gallium palustre* (Marsh Bedstraw) *
- Gallium* sp. (Bedstraw) *
- Heracleum sphondylium* (Cow Parsnip) *
- Iris pseudacorus* (Yellow Flag) *
- Juglans regia* (Walnut)
- Juncus* sp. (Junces) *
- Leontodon hispidus* (Rough Hawkbit)
- Lolium perenne* (Kentucky Bluegrass) (?)
- Montia fontana* prob. ssp. *chondrosperma* (Blinks) *
- Papaver* sp. (Poppy) *
- Plantago lanceolata* (Plantain)
- Polygonum aviculare* (Knotgrass) *
- P. convolvulus* (Black Bindweed) *
- P. persicaria* (Persicaria) *
- Potentilla erecta* (Tormentil) *
- P. sterilis* (Barren Strawberry)
- Prunus spinosa* (Blackthorn, Sloe) *

cont.

- Ranunculus repens* (Creeping Buttercup) (✓)
R. acerifolius (Gullied-Leaved Crowfoot)
R. sp. (Buttercup) ✕
Raphanus raphanistrum (Wild Radish) ✕
Rubus acetosa (Sheep's Sorrel) ✕
R. crispus (Dock) (✗)
Sambucus nigra (Alder) ✕
Sonchus asper (Sow Thistle) ✕
Spergula arvensis (Corn Spurrey) ✕
Stachys sp. (Moundwort)
Stellaria media (Chickweed) ✕
Urtica dioica (Nettle) ✕

✗ present in 1976-9 species lists

brackets indicate slightly different taxonomic grouping

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		Disseminule	Dimensions	39	40	42	45	47	48	50	50B	52	53	54	57	58	59	60A	60B
<u>Betulaceae</u>																			
<u>Corylus avellana L.</u>	Hazel	Nut * whole fragments	17.0 x 10.0 mm.	1	1						1*				1	1	1	2	
<u>Caprifoliaceae</u>																			
<u>Sambucus nigra L.</u>	Elderberry	Fruit	3.0 x 2.5 mm.					15											
<u>Caryophyllaceae</u>																1			
<u>Stellaria media</u> (L) Vill.	Chickweed	Seed	1.5 x 1.5 mm.																
<u>Chenopodiaceae</u>																			
<u>Atriplex patula</u> L.	Orache	Seed	1.5 x 1.5 mm.				1				2								
<u>Chenopodium album</u> agg.	Fat hen	Seed	1.2 x 1.2 mm.								1				5				
<u>Compositae</u>																			
<u>Hypochoeris radicata</u> L.	Cats ear	Achene	6.0 x 1.0 mm.					1							4				
<u>Leontodon hispidus</u> L.	Rough hawksbit	Achene	5.0 x 1.0 mm.												1				
<u>Sonchus asper</u> (L) Hill.	Prickly sow thistle	Achene	2.0 x 1.0 mm.															1	
<u>Cruciferae</u>																			
<u>Raphanus raphanistrum</u> L.	Wild radish	Fruit	5.0 x 3.0 mm.												12				
		Seed	2.5 x 1.5 mm.												2				
<u>Juglandaceae</u>																			
<u>Juglans regia</u> L.	Walnut	Fruit - broken							1										
<u>Plantaginaceae</u>																			
<u>Plantago lanceolata</u> L.	Ribgrass	Seed	2.5 x 1.0 mm.													3			
<u>Polygonaceae</u>																			
<u>Polygonum aviculare</u> L.	Knotgrass	Nut	2.5 x 2.0 mm.								1								
<u>P. convolvulus</u> L.	Black bindweed	Nut	4.0 x 3.0 mm.	1	1						1					1			
<u>P. persicaria</u> L.	Redshank	Nut	3.0 x 2.0 mm.	1							2					4			
<u>Rumex acetosella</u> agg.		Nut	1.0 x 0.8 mm.											1					
<u>R. crispus</u> L.	Curled dock	Nut	2.5 x 1.9 mm.								2								

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Ranunculaceae

<i>Ranunculus repens</i> L.	Creeping buttercup	Achene	2.0(-3.0) x 1.9 mm.	39	40	42	45	47	48	50	50B	52	53	54	57	58	59	60A	60
<i>R.scleratus</i> L.	Celery-leaved buttercup	Achene	1.0 x 0.8 mm.	16	18	10			28	3		1		20				4	39
<i>R.sp.</i>		Achene	2.0 x 1.5 mm.	2	4	9			4					12					10

Rosaceae

<i>Potentilla erecta</i> (L)	Rausch.																			
		Common tormentil	Achene	1.0 x 0.9 mm.	39	40	42	45	47	48	50	50B	52	53	54	57	58	59	60A	60
<i>Prunus spinosa</i> L.	Sloe	Fruit			1					1										

Rubiaceae

<i>Galium palustre</i> L.	Marsh bedstraw	Fruit	1.5 x 1.2 mm.	39	40	42	45	47	48	50	50B	52	53	54	57	58	59	60A	60
<i>Galium</i> sp.		Fruit	1.5 x 1.2 mm.																

Umbelliferae

<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i> L.	Cow parsnip	Fruit	7.5 x 6.0 mm.	39	40	42	45	47	48	50	50B	52	53	54	57	58	59	60A	60
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Cyperaceae

<i>Carex strigosa</i> Huds.		Nut + perigynium	3.0 x 1.8 mm	39	40	42	45	47	48	50	50B	52	53	54	57	58	59	60A	60
<i>C.sylvatica</i> Huds.	Wood sedge	Nut + perigynium	4.0 x 2.3 mm.	39	40	42	45	47	48	50	50B	52	53	54	57	58	59	60A	60
		Nut	1.5 x 1.3 mm.																
		Nut	1.5 x 1.3 mm.	39	40	42	45	47	48	50	50B	52	53	54	57	58	59	60A	60
<i>C.elongata</i> L.	Elongated sedge	Nut + perigynium	5.0 x 2.0 mm.	39	40	42	45	47	48	50	50B	52	53	54	57	58	59	60A	60
		Nut + perigynium																	
		Nut		39	40	42	45	47	48	50	50B	52	53	54	57	58	59	60A	60

Gramineae

<i>Lolium perenne</i> L.	Ryegrass	Caryopsis	4.0 x 0.9 mm.	39	40	42	45	47	48	50	50B	52	53	54	57	58	59	60A	60
<i>Bromus</i> sp.	Brome	Caryopsis	4.5 x 2.0 mm.																

Iridaceae

<i>Iris pseudacorus</i> L.	Yellow flag	Seeds	5.0 x 5.0 mm.	39	40	42	45	47	48	50	50B	52	53	54	57	58	59	60A	60
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Comments.

The analysis of the flora shows very definite evidence and clear indications of the ecology of the area.

737242: The seeds represent^{ed} and show conclusive evidence that they came from open woodland country and include elderberry and such vigorous growing plants of the undergrowth as wood sedges and common tormentil.

737253: Two interpretations could be taken from these plants

- (a) plants often associated with virgin wasteland.
- (b) extant cultivation, which seems the most likely case, where this could at sometime be taken over by indigenous weeds such as fat hen; cleavers and sedges.

737254: These seeds indicate plants normally associated with pasture land. Ryegrass and brome accompanied with the occasional plant such as plantain, together with pasture weeds like chickweed, buttercup and sedges.

737247: Seeds of yellow flag can only show that these plants came from wet ground or stream edges. The Roman site of Brough-on-Humber, Yorkshire, provided numerous seeds of this plant. Soc. of Ant. 1969 page 222.

It should be mentioned that several samples included beetle specimens.

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Shardine.