

CARLETON 1973-75

Comments 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.

- 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*
- Cerastium glomeratum* (House-cured Chickweed)
- Chenopodium album* (Fat Hen) \*
- Corylus avellana* (Hazel) \*
- Eleocharis palustris* (Spike Rush) \*
- Galium palustre* (Marsh Bedstraw) \*
- Galium* sp. (Bedstraw) \*
- Heracleum sphondylium* (Cow Parsnip) \*
- Iris pseudoacoris* (Yellow Flag) \*
- Juglans regia* (Walnut)
- Juncus* sp. (Rushes) \*
- Leontodon hispidus* (Rough Hawkbit)
- Lolium perenne* (Ryegrass) (\*)
- 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) \*

*Rumex crispus* (Creeping Bittercup) (j)  
*R. acetosella* (Oxley-leaved Crowfoot)  
*R. sp.* (Bittercup) k  
*Raphanus raphanistrum* (Wild Radish) \*  
*Rumex acetosella* (Sheep's Sorrel) \*  
*R. crispus* (Dock) (k)  
*Sambucus nigra* (Elder) k  
*Sonchus asper* (Sow Thistle) \*  
*Spargula arvensis* (Corn Spurrey) \*  
*Stachys sp.* (Moundwort)  
*Stellaria media* (Chickweed) \*  
*Urtica dioica* (Nettle) \*

\* present in 1976-9 species lists

brackets indicate slightly different taxonomic grouping





Comments.

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

737242: The seeds represent<sup>ed</sup> 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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*Shed. inc.*