

ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY

REPORT

3517

SERIES/No CONTRACTOR

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TITLE Identification of 11th and 12th cent.
carbonised crop remains from
Gatehouse Nurseries, West Drayton
Middlesex

IDENTIFICATION OF 11th and 12th CENTURY CARBONISED CROP REMAINS
FROM GATEHOUSE NURSERIES, WEST DRAYTON MANOR HOUSE, MIDDLESEX.

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DATE. October 1981

Carbonised plant remains comprising mainly cereal grain was analysed from three contexts.

- 1) Context GNWD80 Area II WEST 27(1). Drying Kiln.

Triticum aestivum L.	440 caryopses.
Avena sativa L.	27 caryopses.
Pisum sativum var. arvense(L) Poir	8 seeds.

- 2) Context GNWD 80 Area II WEST 27(2) Drying kiln.

Triticum aestivum L.	1028 caryopses.
Triticum aestivum L.	2 internodes.
Avena sativa L.	29 caryopses.
Pisum sativum var. arvense (L) Poir.	9 seeds.

- 3) Context GNWD 80 Area II East 108 (417) Cess Pit bottom fill.

Triticum aestivum type.	43 caryopses.
Avena sativa L.	8 caryopses.
Pisum sativum var. arvense (L)	2 seeds.

All contexts contained Triticum aestivum type which was identified specifically to T. aestivum L. (bread wheat) in contexts 27 (1) and 27(2) by the small number of internode fragments included in the population. Triticum aestivum type in 108 (417) is likely to be referable to this species also. All contexts contained Avena sativa L. (Common or cultivated oat). and the Field cultivated pea, Pisum sativum var. arvense (L) Poir. although in lower frequencies.

In addition to the above crop types, a number of seed types were recorded. Predominant amongst these was Anthemis cotula L. in the main chamber (68 achenes in 27(1) and 518 in 27(2)). These may also be associated with carbonised florets of cf. Anthemis cotula L. (numerous fragments). This taxon (Stinking Mayweed) is typical of arable land and waste places and as such might be expected in such close association with cereal remains. Polygonum aviculare L. (Knotgrass) is similarly typical of arable habitats and seeds were also recorded (13) in 27(2).