

unpublished HBMC report

198

A Note on some Plant Remains from Graves at Anglo-Saxon Portway, Andover

Samples from three Anglo-Saxon graves at Portway, Andover were examined for plant remains. The sample from Grave 9 (796226) was taken immediately below the pelvis region on the grave floor and consisted of eight grains of bread wheat (Triticum aestivum). A sample from Grave 48 (796227), also on the grave floor, consisted of a single grain of bread wheat. The remaining sample from Grave 42 (796228) contained no carbonised plant remains. Finds of bread wheat in southern England are more common in the Anglo-Saxon period than at any previous time (Green 1981) and indeed bread wheat is the most frequently occurring wheat in this period (Jones 1981). It's occurrence at Anglo-Saxon Portway, therefore, occasions no surprise, though the reason for its presence in graves cannot be established from the botanical remains alone.

References

- Green, F.J. 1981. Iron Age, Roman and Saxon crops: the archaeological evidence from Wessex, in M. Jones and G. Dimbleby (eds.) The Environment of Man: the Iron Age to the Anglo-Saxon Period (BAR British Series 87).
- Jones, M. 1981. The development of crop husbandry, in M. Jones and G. Dimbleby (eds.) The Environment of Man: the Iron Age to the Anglo-Saxon Period (BAR British Series 87).

Glynis Jones

(submitted 1983)