

Botanical Report on Late Mediaeval Well Deposit, 12th-13th Yarm, Co. York.Excavator

A sample of waterlogged material from a well was collected by the excavator. The deposit was very heterogeneous, a mixture of silty material, sand and small stones with charcoal fragments.

The following plant remains were identified:

<u>Juncus effusus/ conglomeratus</u> , rush	abundant seeds
<u>Corylus avellana</u> , hazel	fragments of nut shells
<u>Avena</u> sp., oats	61 carbonised grains
<u>Hordeum</u> sp., barley	2 carbonised grains
<u>Triticum aestivum</u> s.l., wheat	84 carbonised grains
<u>Quercus</u> sp., oak	charcoal fragments
<u>Betula</u> sp.	charcoal fragments

The grain was presumably discarded after accidental burning. The wheat is of "modern", hexaploid type, but in common with material from several other Mediaeval sites, tends to be rounder and shorter than the present day varieties.

The hazel nut shells were probably discarded after eating while the Juncus was probably growing near the well or in a nearby damp area.

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