

## Technical report

# Analysis of plant remains from Kilshanny 3, Co. Cork (E2432)

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### **Further information:**

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## Appendix 5 Plant remains

### Analysis of the plant remains from Kilshanny 3, Co. Cork (E2432)

By Penny Johnston

#### Introduction

This short report details the results of plant remains analysis from Kilshanny 3, Co. Cork (E2432). The site comprised a trough, two pits and a post-hole, covered by a large area of burnt mound material.

#### Methodology

The samples were collected on site as bulk soil and were processed using machine-assisted floatation (following guidelines in Pearsall 2000). The floating material (or 'flot') from each sample was collected in a stack of geological sieves (the smallest mesh size was 250µm). When all the carbonised material was collected the flot was then air-dried in paper-lined drying trays prior to storage in airtight plastic bags. The samples were scanned under low-powered magnification (x 10 to x 40) using a binocular microscope. Nomenclature and taxonomic order follows Stace (1997).

#### Results

The results of preliminary scanning are presented in Table 1. A total of 15 samples were scanned. Of these, only 4 contained plant remains: C.3 (S.4), C.5 (S.5), C.5 (S.8) and C.6 (S.10).

Sample	Context	Charcoal	Seeds	% scanned
4	3	High	Low	100
5	5	High	Low	100
8	5	Medium	Low	100
9	6	High	Absent	100
10	6	High	Low	100
11	6	Low	Absent	100
13	21	Medium	Absent	100
14	52	Low	Absent	100
15	29	Low	Absent	100
16	18	Low	Absent	100
17	56	High	Absent	100
18	39	High	Absent	100
19	6	High	Absent	100
20	25	Low	Absent	100
25	28	Medium	Absent	100

**Table 1: Scanned samples from Kilshanny 3, Co. Cork (E2432)**

Where plant material was found, it was retrieved only in small quantities. The identified material is presented in Table 2.

<b>Context</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Sample</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>
Cleavers ( <i>Galium aparine</i> L.)				1
Wheat grains ( <i>Triticum</i> L. species)	2	1		
Indeterminate cereal grains			1	

**Table 2: Plant material in samples from Kilshanny 3, Co. Cork (E2432)**

The cereals included small amounts of wheat, indeterminate cereal grains and weed seeds. The plant remains were found in samples from the burnt mound (C.5) and within the fill of a trough (C.6) and in a disturbed deposit (C.3). Most of the archaeological features from this site were associated with a burnt mound/*fulacht fiadh* site and the recovery of cereals and seeds from the deposits are relatively unusual, although not unknown. Plant remains from *fulachta fiadh* are generally poor and studies of plant remains from 132 burnt mound sites indicate that cereal remains were recorded at less than 8% of examined sites. The remains were always preserved by charring and were recorded in very small quantities (IADG 2007).

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## References

IADG (Irish Archaeobotanists Discussion Group) 2007. Brewing and *fulachta fiadh*, *Archaeology Ireland* 21 (7).

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Stace, C.A. 1997 *New Flora of the British Isles*. (2nd edition) Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.