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**Assessment of insect and parasite egg remains from two additional samples from a site on the M57 Merseyside linkroad - Brook House Farm (BHF34 and BHF36)**

by

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**Summary**

*Two additional samples of sediment from a site associated with the M57 Merseyside Link Road, Brook House Farm (BHF34 and BHF36), have been assessed for their content of macro-invertebrate remains and eggs of parasitic nematodes. No parasite eggs were found and neither of the samples gave useful assemblages of insects.*

*Further study of the biological remains in these samples is unlikely to yield any substantial information concerning the site.*

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## **Assessment of insect and parasite egg remains from two additional samples from a site on the M57 Merseyside linkroad - Brook House Farm (BHF34 and BHF36)**

### **Introduction**

Two additional samples of sediment ('GBAs' *sensu* Dobney *et al.* 1992) from a site on the M57 Merseyside linkroad - Brook House Farm - were supplied by Liverpool Museum for assessment of their content of arthropod (especially insect) and parasite egg remains. Following sediment descriptions both of the samples were processed accordingly. This report represents a supplement to that of Carrott *et al.* (1994).

### **Methods**

#### *Eggs of parasitic nematodes*

Analysis for eggs of parasitic nematodes was carried out using the 'squash' method of Dainton (1992). Other microfossils (e.g. phytoliths, diatoms, pollen and fungal spores) were also noted.

#### *Insects and other arthropods*

Test subsamples of 1 kg were employed in each case, following methods of Kenward *et al.* (1980) as modified by Kenward *et al.* (1986).

The flots were quickly examined for their content of arthropod remains, especially insects, a note being made of the principal species or communities present and of their preservational condition ('assessment recording' *sensu* Kenward 1992). An estimate of the time required for full recording was made, and the assemblage prioritised for further work.

### **Results**

Results from the parasite squashes are summarised in Table 1, and those from assessment of insects and other arthropods in Table 2.

*Table 1. Records from assessment of parasite eggs and other microfossils from two additional samples from Brook House Farm. (PS) following sample number indicates sample marked as priority sample by excavator.*

Site/area/ context	Sample	Nature of Context	Notes	Priority	Time to record (minutes)
<b>Brook House Farm (BHF34)</b>					
<b>Samples taken from the internal enclosure ditch</b>					
Section One - the shallow southern section					
53	2 (PS)	FILL of internal enclosure ditch (37)	Mostly inorganic material with some pollen (<10 grains). No parasite eggs were seen.	P3	0
<b>Brook House Farm (BHF36)</b>					
48	20	FILL of internal ditch (watching brief)	Mostly plant detritus (including leaf epidermis) and other organic material with pollen (>10 grains, at least 3 taxa) and a single fungal spore. No parasite eggs were seen.	P3	0

*Table 2. Assessment of subsamples for insect and other invertebrate macrofossil remains from two additional samples from Brook House Farm. Priority: P3 - little or no archaeological value, although records may be of use at a more general level; P0 - barren or effectively so. Time to record: estimated time for a scan record (sensu Kenward 1992) of the insects; this does **not** include time for data entry, processing, analysis and writing. (PS) following sample number indicates sample marked as priority sample by excavator.*

Site/area/ context	Sample	Nature of Context	Notes	Priority	Time to record (minutes)
<b>Brook House Farm (BHF34)</b>					
<b>Samples taken from the internal enclosure ditch</b>					
Section One - the shallow southern section					
53	2 (PS)	FILL of internal enclosure ditch (37)	Only a trace of insect cuticle.	P0	0
<b>Brook House Farm (BHF36)</b>					
48	20	FILL of internal ditch (watching brief)	Large flot. Preservation poor. Few insects, unlikely to give more than vague recon-struction of surroundings.	P3	40 (4 hours to sort)

## Discussion and Recommendations

Neither of these additional samples contained enough insect remains to make them significant in relation to the project proposed by Carrott *et al.* (1994). If they were added to the program of work the implication would be four hours of additional technician time and (rounded) one hour additional RF time. No parasite eggs or other significant microfossils other than pollen were recorded.

## Retention/disposal

See Carrott *et al.* (1994).

## Archive

Sample material and paper and electronic archives from this study are currently retained at the EAU.

## References

Carrott, J. B., Issitt, M., Kenward, H. K. and Large, F. L. (1994). Assessment of insect and parasite egg remains from two sites on the M57 Merseyside Link Road - Brook House Farm (BHF34) and Ochre Brook (OB35). *Reports from the Environmental Archaeology Unit, York* **94/17**.

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