

*Reports from the Environmental Archaeology Unit, York 95/19, 3 pp.*

**A further evaluation of biological remains from excavations at Clifton Moorgate, York (site code: CLM94)**

by

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**Summary**

*The potential for further analysis of biological remains from a sediment sample from a ?Roman deposit excavated at Clifton Moorgate, York is considered.*

*Further examination of charcoal recovered from the deposit may yield a little additional information on the use of wood for fuel. The sample was barren of other biological remains.*

**Keywords:** Clifton Moorgate; York; North Yorkshire; charred plant remains

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27 February 1995

## **A further evaluation of biological remains from excavations at Clifton Moorgate (site code: CLM94)**

### **Introduction and methods**

One sample from excavations by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. at Clifton Moorgate, near York, was submitted for an evaluation of its potential for bioarchaeological analysis. This material is additional to that previously reported on by Carrott *et al.* (1994).

The sample was inspected in the laboratory and a description of its lithology recorded using a standard *pro forma*. A subsample of 1 kg was taken for extraction of macrofossil remains following procedures of Kenward *et al.* (1980; 1986).

Plant macrofossils were examined from the wet residue resulting from processing.

The sample was not deemed suitable for examination for the eggs of parasitic nematodes.

### **Results**

Archaeological information provided by the excavator is presented in brackets.

**Context 509** [A spread of charcoal/burnt material beneath a subsoil layer occupying a very shallow 'hollow' (5 to 10 mm) in a surface of natural clay. The context was located c. 10 metres East of the Roman practice camp ditch and within the area enclosed by the ditch. The context is undated but assumed to relate to Roman usage of the area. *Reason for sampling: are there any identifiable fuel remains?*]

Sample 8: Mostly charcoal with some stiff to plastic, light grey clay and modern rootlets.

The medium-sized residue was mostly charcoal (to 30 mm) with some rootlets and fragments of bark (greater than 4 mm).

### **Discussion**

The sample was similar in composition to those previously reported on.

Ancient plant remains from this sample were confined to charcoal fragments - almost certainly from wood used for fuel. There were no invertebrate remains, and no bone or shell was observed in the residue.

### **Statement of potential**

This deposit offers no potential for bioarchaeological analysis other than through examination of the charcoal, which may yield a small amount of information about wood used for fuel, although the fragments were generally very small and identification would be difficult.

### **Recommendations**

No further work on this material is recommended. If deposits with organic preservation by anoxic waterlogging or higher concentrations of charred plant material are exposed during development, however, every effort should be made to sample and investigate them.

### **Retention and disposal**

This material need not be retained.

### **Archive**

All extracted fossils from the test subsamples, and the residues and flots, are currently stored in the Environmental Archaeology Unit, University of York, along with paper and electronic records pertaining to the work described here.

## Acknowledgements

The authors are grateful to MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. for providing the sample and archaeological information and to English Heritage for allowing AH to work on this material.

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