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**Evaluation of biological remains from land
north of Hedon cemetery, Hedon, East Riding
of Yorkshire (site code: HEC2003)**

PRS 2003/59

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East Riding of Yorkshire (site code: HEC2003)**

by

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Summary

Material from one sieved sediment sample, recovered from a gully fill at land north of Hedon cemetery, Hedon, East Riding of Yorkshire, was submitted for an evaluation of its bioarchaeological potential. Pottery recovered from the fill suggested a 13th century date for the deposit.

Ancient biological remains recovered from the samples were restricted to small amounts of charred plant material. This included a small assemblage of charred grains typical of those recovered from medieval deposits. No further work on this very small assemblage of plant remains is warranted.

KEYWORDS: HEDON CEMETERY; HEDON; EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE; EVALUATION; 13TH CENTURY; MEDIEVAL; CHARRED PLANT REMAINS; CHARRED GRAIN

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Introduction

An archaeological evaluation on land to the north of Hedon cemetery, Hedon, East Riding of Yorkshire (NGR TA 1845 2882), was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology during June 2003.

These works were undertaken in advance of a proposed extension to the existing cemetery into an area which is currently a grassed paddock.

The washover and residue from one sieved sediment sample, were submitted for an evaluation of their bioarchaeological potential.

Methods

The sediment sample was described and sieved (to 1 mm, with 300 and 500 micron washover fractions) by Humber Field Archaeology. Both the washover ('flot') and the residue resulting from processing were dried and submitted to PRS for examination.

Results

Archaeological information (given in square brackets), and the sediment description for the sample, were provided by the excavator. A brief summary of the processing method, and an estimate of the remaining volume of unprocessed sediment follows (in round brackets) after the sample number.

Context 116 [gully fill – 13th century]

Sample 14 (9 kg sieved to 1 mm, with 300 and 500 micron washover fractions; approximately 2 kg of unprocessed sediment remains)

Wet, dark grey, silty clay, with frequent charcoal.

The very small washover comprised a few charred cereal grains (no more than about 30) and a little

modern root and other material. The grains were mostly short, squarish bread/club wheat (*Triticum 'aestivo-compactum'*) but there were also one or two specimens each of barley (*Hordeum*) and oats (*Avena*). The only other charred material was a single ?pea (cf. *Pisum*) cotyledon and a single grass (Gramineae) caryopsis. The residue comprised about 350 cm³ of rounded gravel.

Discussion and statement of potential

The charred grains were typical of those recovered from medieval deposits. These, and the few other charred plant remains, were of no interpretative value.

Recommendations

No further work on this very small assemblage of plant remains is warranted.

Retention and disposal

The remaining sediment may be discarded.

Archive

All material is currently stored by Palaeoecology Research Services (Unit 8, Dabble Duck Industrial Estate, Shildon, County Durham), along with paper and electronic records pertaining to the work described here.

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