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**Evaluation of biological remains from a
watching brief at Albert Terrace, Beverley,
East Riding of Yorkshire (site code: ATB03)**

PRS 2003/73

**Evaluation of biological remains from a watching brief at Albert Terrace,
Beverley, East Riding of Yorkshire (site code: ATB03)**

by

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Summary

A single sediment sample recovered from a watching brief at Albert Terrace, Beverley, East Riding of Yorkshire, was submitted to PRS for an evaluation of its bioarchaeological potential. Provisional dating of the encountered deposits (where possible) was as medieval to modern (19th/20th century).

Only very small quantities of biological remains, some of which are likely to be of modern origin, were recovered. The material offered no particular interpretative information about the nature of the deposit.

No further work on the sample considered here is warranted, but the potential for preservation in other contexts should not be overlooked in any further interventions at this site.

KEYWORDS: ALBERT TERRACE; BEVERLEY, EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE; WATCHING BRIEF; EVALUATION; MEDIEVAL; MODERN (19TH/20TH CENTURY); PLANT REMAINS; CHARRED PLANT REMAINS; INVERTEBRATE REMAINS

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Evaluation of biological remains from a watching brief at Albert Terrace, Beverley, East Riding of Yorkshire (site code: ATB03)

Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd, at Albert Terrace, Beverley, East Riding of Yorkshire (NGR TA 0305 3941), in the week beginning the 2nd of June 2003.

Most of the deposits encountered were of modern (19th/20th century) date. The earlier contexts were associated with the ditch and bank of the medieval town and, immediately above the natural clay, an old land surface beneath the bank.

A single sediment sample ('GBA'/'BS' *sensu* Dobney *et al.* 1992) was submitted to PRS for an evaluation of its bioarchaeological potential.

Methods

The sediment sample was inspected and its lithology recorded using a standard *pro forma* prior to processing. A subsample of 3 kg was taken for processing, following the procedures of Kenward *et al.* (1980; 1986), for the recovery of plant and invertebrate macrofossils.

The washover resulting from processing was examined for plant and invertebrate macrofossils. The residue was examined for larger plant macrofossils and other biological and artefactual remains.

Results

Archaeological information, provided by the excavator, is given in square brackets. 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 (which was derived from the context number by PRS for internal record keeping purposes).

Context 023 [old land surface under the medieval town bank and immediately overlying the 'natural' clay] Sample 2301/T (3 kg sieved to 300 microns with washover; approximately 2 litres of unprocessed sediment remain)

Moist, light to mid grey-brown, stiff to crumbly (working plastic), slightly sandy clay, with some rather fragile fragments of twig (including some with bark).

There was a very small washover of about 10 cm³ of woody root fragments, very decayed bark, and cinder-like material (all to 5 mm in maximum dimension), with a trace of wood charcoal (to 10 mm). There was a single, rather fresh-looking elder (*Sambucus nigra* L.) seed, and traces of the burrowing snail *Cecilioides acicula* (Müller), perhaps both of recent origin. There were also modest numbers of sclerotia (resting bodies) of the soil-dwelling fungus *Cenococcum*. No insect remains were recovered.

The residue was also very small (dry weight 228 g) and mostly of sand, with a few stones (to 20 mm), a little metal slag (to 8 mm, approximately 1 g), silted charcoal (to 10 mm, approximately 1 g), and a few tiny fragments of unidentified bone and shell (much less than 1 g).

Discussion and statement of potential

This material offers no particular interpretative information about the nature of this old land surface.

Recommendations

No further work on the sample considered here is warranted, but the potential for preservation in other contexts should not be overlooked in any further interventions at this site.

Retention and disposal

The current material 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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