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**Evaluation of biological remains from excavations at Brown's Yard,
Beverley (site code: 2001.259)**

by

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Summary

Three sediment samples and a single hand-collected bone from deposits revealed by excavations at Brown's Yard, Beverley, were submitted for an evaluation of their bioarchaeological potential.

The very few biological remains recovered were of no interpretative value beyond that given in the text.

No further work is recommended on the current material. The remaining sediment samples and the hand-collected bone may be discarded.

KEYWORDS: BROWN'S YARD; BEVERLEY; EVALUATION; ?PREHISTORIC; CHARRED PLANT REMAINS; SNAILS; VERTEBRATE REMAINS (?HUMAN)

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Introduction

An archaeological evaluation excavation was carried out by York Archaeological Trust at Brown's Yard, Beverley (NGR: TA 0360 3770), late in 2000.

Three sediment samples ('GBA'/'BS' *sensu* Dobney *et al.* 1992) from separate contexts (all from Trench 1—of 4 excavated, each 15m long by 3m wide), and a single hand-collected bone, were recovered from the deposits. Provisional dating of recovered artefacts gave a ?prehistoric date for Context 1012 (two pot sherds), all other finds being modern.

All of the samples were submitted to the EAU for evaluation of their bioarchaeological potential.

Methods

The sediment samples were inspected in the laboratory and their lithologies recorded using a standard *pro forma* prior to processing, following the procedures of Kenward *et al.* (1980; 1986), for recovery of plant and invertebrate macrofossils. The washovers and residues were examined for plant remains. The washovers were also examined for invertebrate remains and the residues examined for other biological and artefactual remains.

Table 1 shows a list of the submitted samples and notes on their treatment.

Results

The sample results are presented in context number order. Archaeological information,

provided by the excavator, is presented in square brackets.

Sediment samples

Context 1006 [Ditch fill]

Sample 2/BS (10.5 kg sieved to 300 microns with washover)

Just moist, mid brown, crumbly (working slightly plastic), slightly sandy (to gritty) clay silt. Small stones (2 to 6 mm) and snails were present in the sample.

There was a moderate-sized residue of about a litre of sand and chalk gravel with a little ?iron pan, with traces of snail shell fragments. The small washover contained some entire land snails—mostly *Trichia ?hispidia* (Linnaeus), represented by more than forty individuals, and single individuals of *Pupilla muscorum* (Linnaeus) and *Vertigo ?pygmaea* (Draparnaud). Together, the snails indicate that this was a dry feature and suggest that the surrounding landscape was probably open but are of no further interpretative value.

Context 1010 [Fill of sub-ovate feature 1011]

Sample 3/BS (3 kg sieved to 300 microns with washover)

Just moist, mid brown (locally grey), crumbly (working plastic), sandy clay silt. Charcoal was common and modern woody roots were present in the sample.

The small washover of about 150 cm³ consisted almost entirely of charcoal (to 20 mm), much of it oak (*Quercus*), perhaps remains of structural timber or fuel. There were a few modern woody roots. There was a small residue of about 400 cm³ of sand and concreted sediment with some gravel, including flint.

Context 1012 [Fill of sub-ovate feature 1013. ?Prehistoric]

Sample 1/BS (3 kg sieved to 300 microns with washover)

Moist, light to mid brown (locally lighter brown and mid to dark grey), crumbly (working just plastic), sandy clay silt (with some ?ash content). Stones (6 to 60 mm) and charcoal were present in the sample.

The small washover of about 150 cm³ consisted almost entirely of charcoal (to 15 mm), much of it oak (*Quercus*), perhaps remains of structural timber or fuel, with a few modern rootlet fragments. There was a modest-sized residue of about 300 cm³ of sand, gravel and concreted sediment.

Hand-collected vertebrate remains

A single bone (weight 1.8 g) was recovered from Context 1000. This may have been a human metacarpal but both articular ends were damaged and the shaft was broken and eroded so that a definitive identification was not possible.

Discussion and statement of potential

The very few biological remains recovered were of no real interpretative value.

Recommendations

No further investigation of the biological remains from these deposits is warranted.

Retention and disposal

All of the current material may be discarded.

Archive

All material is currently stored in the Environmental Archaeology Unit, University of York, along with paper and electronic records pertaining to the work described here.

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References

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Table 1. List of sediment samples from excavations at Brown's Yard, Beverley, with notes on their treatment.

Context	Sample	Notes
1006	2	10.5 kg sieved to 300 microns with washover
1010	3	3 kg sieved to 300 microns with washover
1012	1	3 kg sieved to 300 microns with washover