

AWA
[91/36]

Report on 'soil' samples from All Saints School, The Mount, York

(MAP/Yorkshire Museum site code 1991.42)

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Six samples of sediment from trial excavations in The Mount were submitted to assess their content of biological remains. Their lithology was recorded in the laboratory as follows:

Contexts 3 and 15: very homogeneous light-mid grey-brown, moist, crumbly clay sand with a few angular stones 6mm-2cm.

Context 29: mid orange-brown, moist, stiff, silty clay with some evidence of darker greyish material in small patches, perhaps partly gleying, partly weathering of inclusions.

Context 31: mid orange-brown, moist, stiff, silty clay with patches of rotted micaceous sandstone and limestone and inclusions of greenish sediment, perhaps also weathered inclusions.

Context 34: mid orange-brown, moist, stiff to slightly plastic and slightly crumbly silty clay with small patches of greenish/blackish almost completely weathered micaceous sandstone.

Context 47: mid orange-brown, moist, stiff to slightly crumbly silty clay with slight mottling of darker grey areas and some lighter patches including greenish sediment - perhaps all weathered inclusions. Occasional ?root channels/worm burrows filled with darker sediment.

It is likely that all of this sediment is essentially natural drift and the variations in lithology are consonant with the heterogeneity of the fluvio-glacial deposits underlying this part of York. Biological analyses are unlikely to provide any information about the mode of formation of the deposits—they appear to be entirely sterile in this respect.

13th June 1991