

Reports from the Environmental Archaeology Unit, York 98/20, 4 pp.

**Evaluation of biological remains from Osgodby Lane, Scarborough,
North Yorkshire**

by

John Carrott

Summary

Two sediment samples (from two contexts) from ridge and furrow features were submitted for an evaluation of their bioarchaeological potential.

The samples were examined and described in the laboratory and deemed unlikely to contain interpretable quantities of ancient biological remains. No further investigation of the samples was undertaken.

KEYWORDS: OSGODBY LANE; SCARBOROUGH; NORTH YORKSHIRE; EVALUATION

Author's address:

Palaeoecology Research Services
Environmental Archaeology Unit
University of York
Heslington
York YO1 5DD

Prepared for:

On-Site Archaeology

Telephone: (01904) 433846/434475/434487

Fax: (01904) 433850

11 June 1998

Evaluation of biological remains from Osgodby Lane, Scarborough, North Yorkshire

Introduction

An archaeological excavation was carried out by On-Site Archaeology at Osgodby Lane, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, in May 1998. Two sediment samples ('GBA' *sensu* Dobney *et al.* 1992) were recovered from ridge and furrow features. This material was submitted to the EAU for evaluation of its bioarchaeological potential.

Methods

The sediment samples were inspected in the laboratory and a description of their lithologies was recorded using a standard *pro forma*. On the basis of this inspection, the samples were deemed unlikely to contain interpretable quantities of ancient biological remains. No further investigation of the samples was undertaken.

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

Results

The descriptions are presented in context number order. Archaeological information and/or archaeological questions to be addressed (provided by the excavator) are given in square brackets.

Context 2000 [Upcast in ridge and furrow feature]
Sample 1 (Description only)

Moist, light to mid brown, crumbly (working slightly soft and sticky when wet), slightly sandy slightly clay silt. Very small and small stones (2 to 20 mm),

modern rootlets and seedlings were present in the sample.

No further investigation of this sample was undertaken.

Context 2001 [Upcast in ridge and furrow feature]
Sample 2 (Description only)

Moist, light to mid reddish brown to light grey, crumbly (working soft), slightly sandy slightly clay silt with very small stones (2 to 6 mm) and modern rootlets present. Overall, the sample had a somewhat gleyed appearance.

No further investigation of this sample was undertaken.

Discussion and statement of potential

The samples were typical of ridge and furrow features, representing biologically active plough soil, and showed no evidence of ancient biological remains.

The samples have no potential for bioarchaeological interpretation.

Recommendations

No work is required on the present sediment samples.

If deposits with organic preservation by anoxic waterlogging or concentrations of charred plant material, bone or other biological remains are exposed by further excavation (e.g. from within cut features) every effort should be made to sample and investigate them.

Retention and disposal

The sediment samples 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.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to On-Site Archaeology for providing the material and the archaeological information.

References

Dobney, K., Hall, A. R., Kenward, H. K. and Milles, A. (1992). A working classification of sample types for environmental archaeology. *Circaea, the Journal of the Association for Environmental Archaeology* 9 (for 1991), 24-6.

Table 1. A list of the sediment samples from Osgodby Lane, Scarborough.

Context	Sample	Described?	Processed?	Notes
2000	1	Y	N	No action taken
2001	2	Y	N	No action taken