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**Evaluation of biological remains from proposed roundabout at
A1237/B1363 junction, Wigginton Road, Clifton Moor, York
(sitecode: YORYM 1999.955)**

by

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Summary

Eight sediment sample from deposits revealed by excavations at Clifton Moor, York were submitted for an evaluation of their bioarchaeological potential.

The very few ancient biological remains recovered were limited to very small fragments of rotted charcoal of no interpretative value.

No further work is recommended on the current material.

KEYWORDS: A1237/B1363 JUNCTION; WIGGINTON ROAD; CLIFTON MOOR; YORK; NORTH YORKSHIRE; EVALUATION; IRON AGE; CHARCOAL

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Introduction

An archaeological excavation was carried out on behalf of the Highways Agency by On-Site Archaeology at the site of a proposed roundabout at the A1237/B1363 junction, Wigginton Road, Clifton Moor, York (NGR SE 5965 5596), in September/October 1999. Eight sediment samples ('GBA' and 'BS' *sensu* Dobney *et al.* 1992) were recovered from the deposits. These samples were submitted to the EAU for evaluation of their bioarchaeological potential.

The samples were taken from deposits associated with a circular enclosure (possibly a hut) and a series of small pits of Iron Age date.

Methods

All of the sediment samples were inspected in the laboratory and three were selected for investigation. For these descriptions of their lithologies were recorded using a standard *pro forma* and subsamples of 3 kg from two of the samples were processed, following the procedures of Kenward *et al.* (1980; 1986) for recovery of plant and invertebrate macrofossils.

Plant macrofossils were examined from the residues and washovers resulting from processing, and the washovers were examined for invertebrate remains. The residues were also examined for other biological and artefactual remains.

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

Results

The results of the evaluation are presented in context number order. Archaeological information provided by the excavator is given in square brackets—deposits containing predominantly Roman pottery but which are suspected of being of post-Roman date are given as '?Roman'.

Context 3025 [Fill of linear cut - contains charcoal and burnt clay]

Sample 8 (3 kg bulk sieved to 300 µm and washover)

Just moist, mid brown (made darker and to black in places by charcoal content), crumbly (working plastic, and sticky when wet), clay. Very small and small stones (2 to 20 mm) and modern rootlets were present and rotted charcoal was common to abundant in the sample.

The washover (of approximately 25 ml) was mostly modern rootlets and fine charcoal (to 1 mm) with a little sand. No invertebrate remains were noted.

The small residue was mostly sand with some stones, gravel and rotted charcoal (to 6 mm)

Context 3082 [Pit fill - contains charcoal/organics]
Sample 5 (Description only)

Just moist, light yellowish brown and light grey (with occasional orange patches), firm (working soft, and sticky when wet) clay with rotted charcoal common and modern rootlets present.

No further investigation of this sample was undertaken.

Context 3094 [Fill of rectilinear cut 3095]

Sample 7 (3 kg bulk sieved to 300 µm and washover)

Just moist, mid brown (made darker and to black in places by charcoal content), crumbly (working plastic, and sticky when wet), clay. Very small to large stones (2 to 60+ mm) and modern rootlets were present and rotted charcoal was common to abundant in the sample.

The washover (of approximately 25 ml) was of fine charcoal (to 1 mm) and modern rootlets. No invertebrate remains were noted.

The modest residue mostly stones (to 90 mm) with sand, gravel and rotted charcoal (to 6 mm) in roughly equal measure.

Discussion and statement of potential

The very few ancient biological remains recovered were limited to very small fragments of rotted charcoal of no interpretative value.

Recommendations

No further work is recommended on the present material.

Retention and disposal

Any remaining sediment samples may be discarded unless they are to be sieved for artefact recovery.

Archive

All 'environmental' material is currently stored in the Environmental Archaeology Unit, University of York, along with paper

and electronic records pertaining to the work described here. Artefacts were removed from the sample residues to be returned to the excavator.

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References

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Table 1. List of the sediment samples evaluated from proposed roundabout, A1237/B1363 junction, Wigginton Road, Clifton Moor, York (with notes on their treatment).

| Context | Sample | Context description/reason for sampling | Notes |
|----------------|---------------|---|---|
| 3024 | 6 | Fill of curvilinear slot trench | Examination only |
| 3025 | 8 | Fill of linear cut - contains charcoal and burnt clay | 3 kg sieved to 300 μm and washover |
| 3029 | 1 | Contains charcoal and burnt stone | Examination only |
| 3032 | 4 | Pit fill - contains charcoal | Examination only |
| 3039 | 3 | Gulley terminus | Examination only |
| 3059 | 2 | Possible pit fill (?pit 3077) - contains charcoal | Examination only |
| 3082 | 5 | Pit fill - contains charcoal/organics | Description only |
| 3094 | 7 | Fill of rectilinear cut 3095 | 3 kg sieved to 300 μm and washover |