

**Evaluation of biological remains from excavations at Church Street,
Burton Pidsea, East Riding of Yorkshire (site code: CSB2001)**

by

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Summary

Four sediment samples from deposits revealed by excavations at Church Street, Burton Pidsea, East Riding of Yorkshire, were submitted for an evaluation of their bioarchaeological potential.

Plant and invertebrate remains were extremely sparse in these deposits and there is no reason to undertake further analysis of the samples in hand. However, the potential for preservation of some material has been established and, should development at the site threaten archaeological deposits in which plant or animal remains are thought to be present, a campaign of sampling and post-excavation assessment and analysis should be carried out. Any remaining sediment samples may be discarded.

KEYWORDS: CHURCH STREET, BURTON PIDSEA; EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE; EVALUATION; MEDIEVAL; POST-MEDIEVAL; PLANT REMAINS; CHARRED PLANT REMAINS; INVERTEBRATE REMAINS

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Introduction

An archaeological evaluation excavation was carried out by Humber Field Archaeology at Church Street, Burton Pidsea, East Riding of Yorkshire, in February 2001.

Four sediment samples ('GBA'/'BS' *sensu* Dobney *et al.* 1992) were recovered from the deposits. Preliminary dating evidence gave medieval and post-medieval dates for the deposits.

All of the material was submitted to the EAU for an evaluation of its bioarchaeological potential.

Methods

The sediment samples were inspected in the laboratory. Two of the samples were selected for investigation and their lithologies were 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 invertebrates, and the residues were examined for other biological and artefactual remains.

Results

The results are presented in context number order. Archaeological information, provided by the excavator, is given in square brackets.

Context 4014 [upper fill of pit containing medieval tile]

Sample 4/BS (9.5 kg sieved to 300 microns with washover)

Moist, light to mid greyish brown, stiff and sticky (working plastic), slightly sandy clay with a trace of ?charred material.

The tiny washover contained traces of charcoal and coal (both up to 5 mm in maximum dimension), with a few uncharred seeds or seed fragment (mostly poorly preserved), and a single charred bread/club wheat (*Triticum 'aestivo-compactum'*) grain. The uncharred seeds were essentially weeds of disturbed soils, all typical of occupation sites. There were only traces of heavily decayed invertebrate remains—one or two earthworm egg capsules, a fragment of weevil elytron, and the apical half of an *Aphodius ?prodromus* (Brahm) elytron—all of which may have been intrusive. The moderately large residue of about 800 cm³ was of sand and ?iron pan (in fragments to 5 mm) and a little gravel (to 10 mm).

Context 4018 [fill of ditch recut. Medieval]

Sample 6/BS (8.5 kg sieved to 300 microns with washover)

Moist, light to mid yellow-brown, stiff and sticky (working plastic), slightly sandy clay.

There was a tiny washover of modern woody roots with a little charcoal and coal (both to 5 mm); traces of invertebrates were also present but there were no identifiable remains. The moderate-sized residue of about 650 cm³ comprised sand with some ?iron pan (to 5 mm) and rare gravel (to 25 mm, including flint).

Discussion and statement of potential

Plant and invertebrate remains were extremely sparse in these deposits and there is no reason to undertake further analysis of the samples in hand. However, the potential

for preservation of some material has been established and, should development at the site threaten archaeological deposits in which plant or animal remains are thought to be present, a campaign of sampling and post-excavation assessment and analysis should be carried out.

Recommendations

No further work is recommended on the current material.

Retention and disposal

Any remaining 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.

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