

Reports from the Environmental Archaeology Unit, York 95/9, 3 pp.

**An evaluation of biological remains from excavations at
Welton Road, Brough, Humberside (site code: BRO 94)**

by

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Summary

Four samples of sediment from trial trenches at a site near Welton Road, Brough, were submitted for bioarchaeological analysis. None of the samples yielded more than a very small amount of fossil material, which was of no interpretative value. Should further excavation take place, however, it is recommended that a close watch is kept for any sediments with potential for good preservation of biological remains.

Keywords: Welton Road; Humberside; Brough; molluscs; Roman

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30th January 1995

An evaluation of biological remains from excavations at Welton Road, Brough, Humberside (site code: BRO 94)

Introduction and methods

Four samples, from deposits of Roman date, from three trial trenches were inspected in the laboratory and a description of their lithology recorded using a standard *pro forma*. Subsamples of 1 kg were taken for extraction of macrofossil remains, following procedures of Kenward *et al.* (1980; 1986). Washovers were taken rather than flots, as the organic content of the samples was extremely low.

Results

The results of the investigations are presented in context number order, with context information from the excavator in square brackets.

Context 13 [Primary fill of cut 008. Trench 1]
Sample 1

Moist, light to mid grey brown, crumbly (working just plastic), silty sand with stones of flint and chalk present within the size range 2-60mm. Modern rootlets were also present.

The washover contained many modern rootlets, some sand and fine charcoal (<5mm) and a moderate quantity of other plant detritus. There were numerous mollusc shell fragments in addition to three identifiable shells: *Cochlicopa* sp., *Discus rotundatus* (Müller) and *Trichia hispida* (Linnaeus).

The residue consisted chiefly of sand with a few small stones of chalk and flint and some slag. Two very small, unidentifiable fragments of mammal bone were present. Mollusc fragments were common but only a few were complete enough to allow identification; these were *Cepaea* sp., *Discus rotundatus* (two specimens) and three individuals of *Trichia hispida*.

Context 24 [ditch fill. Trench 6]
Sample 2

Moist, mid orange/brown with an olive cast, crumbly sand.

Modern rootlets (some woody), sand, fine charcoal, three *Chenopodium album* L. seeds and some plant fragments were present in the washover. Sand was abundant in the residue; slag and charcoal were present.

Context 25 [primary fill of cut 121. Trench 6]
Sample 3

Moist, light-mid orange/brown, unconsolidated sand with some modern rootlets.

Some modern rootlets, sand, fine charcoal and some fragments of plant detritus were present in the washover. The residue was sand and a few fragments of fine charcoal.

Context 39 [primary fill of ditch. Trench 3]
Sample 4

Moist, mid orange/brown with an olive cast, crumbly sand.

The washover contained only a very small quantity of material: some sand grains; fine charcoal fragments; rootlets (probably modern); and a few earthworm egg capsules. The residue contained only sand and a few very small stones.

Discussion

The only ancient biological remains present in these samples were the charcoal and molluscs. The charcoal was of a size too small for identification and the molluscs were of no interpretative value. There were no remains preserved by anoxic waterlogging.

Statement of potential

It is possible that sufficient molluscs for a limited analysis would be recovered from large subsamples of some of the deposits. Otherwise, the material examined here offers no potential for further bioarchaeological analysis.

Recommendations

No further work on the present material is recommended. If deposits with organic preservation by anoxic waterlogging or higher concentrations of charred plant material are exposed during development, however, every effort should be made to sample and investigate them.

Retention/disposal

None of the material examined here need be retained.

Archive

The residues and flots are currently stored in the Environmental Archaeology Unit, University of York, along with paper and electronic records pertaining to the work described here.

Acknowledgements

The authors are grateful to Mike Jarvis (City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit) for provision of the material and archaeological information. HK and AM thank English Heritage for permission to undertake this work.

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