A further evaluation of biological remains from excavations at Clifton Moorgate, York (site code: CLM94)

by

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Summary

The potential for further analysis of biological remains from a sediment sample from a Roman deposit excavated at Clifton Moorgate, York is considered.

Further examination of charcoal recovered from the deposit may yield a little additional information on the use of wood for fuel. The sample was barren of other biological remains.

Keywords: Clifton Moorgate; York; North Yorkshire; charred plant remains

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Introduction and methods

One sample from excavations by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. at Clifton Moorgate, near York, was submitted for an evaluation of its potential for bioarchaeological analysis. This material is additional to that previously reported on by Carrott et al. (1994).

The sample was inspected in the laboratory and a description of its lithology recorded using a standard pro forma. A subsample of 1 kg was taken for extraction of macrofossil remains following procedures of Kenward et al. (1980; 1986).

Plant macrofossils were examined from the wet residue resulting from processing.

The sample was not deemed suitable for examination for the eggs of parasitic nematodes.

Discussion

The sample was similar in composition to those previously reported on.

Ancient plant remains from this sample were confined to charcoal fragments - almost certainly from wood used for fuel. There were no invertebrate remains, and no bone or shell was observed in the residue.

Statement of potential

This deposit offers no potential for bioarchaeological analysis other than through examination of the charcoal, which may yield a small amount of information about wood used for fuel, although the fragments were generally very small and identification would be difficult.

Recommendations

No further work on this 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 and disposal

This material need not be retained.

Archive

All extracted fossils from the test subsamples, and 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.
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References

