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**Evaluation of biological remains from excavations at  
Manor Lane, Rawcliffe, York (site code: 1997.43)**

by

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**Summary**

*Two sediment samples from deposits at Manor Lane, Rawcliffe were submitted for an evaluation of their bioarchaeological potential. No ancient plant or animal remains were recovered and further work on these deposits is not recommended. However, care should be taken not to overlook any deposits with preservation should they be revealed during development.*

**Keywords:** MANOR LANE; RAWCLIFFE; YORK; EVALUATION

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## **Evaluation of biological remains from excavations at Manor Lane, Rawcliffe, York (site code: 1997.43)**

### **Introduction**

Excavations were carried out by York Archaeological Trust at Manor Lane, Rawcliffe, York during 1997. One General Biological Analysis sample and one Bulk-Sieve sample ('GBA' and 'BS' respectively *sensu* Dobney *et al.* 1992), from a ditch fill of probable Roman date, were submitted for an evaluation of their biological potential.

### **Methods and Results**

The material was initially inspected in the laboratory and described using a *pro forma*. The BS sample was processed and the washover and residue resulting from processing was examined. The GBA sample (from the same context as the BS sample) was not considered worthy of further analysis.

#### **Context 4001, Sample 1/BS** 29 kg processed

*Moist, mid orange-ish/grey to mid brown, crumbly and stiff (working plastic), sandy clay. Some patches were more clayey and more sandy. Root channels were noted and modern rootlets were present.*

The small residue consisted almost entirely of sand and small stones (to 2 cm), with just a few tiny fragments of coal. The washover was composed of modern contaminants: rootlets, a single earthworm capsule, and a complete individual of the ground beetle *Amara* sp.

### **Recommendations**

Further work on this material is not considered worthwhile; the residue and any remaining sediment may be disposed of. It is possible that further excavation in this area could recover well-preserved material and any destruction of these deposits should certainly be accompanied by an adequate sampling strategy, with appropriate provision for a post-excavation programme.

### **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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### **References**

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