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**A review of, and statement of potential for,  
sediment samples and hand-collected shell  
and bone recovered from ongoing  
archaeological works at Spurriergate, York  
(site code: 2000.584)**

*PRS* **2005/20**

**A review of, and statement of potential for, sediment samples and hand-collected shell and bone recovered from ongoing archaeological works at Spurriergate, York (site code: 2000.584)**

by

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**Summary**

*Ongoing works at Spurriergate, York have revealed deposits of early Roman to medieval date showing generally good, often excellent and in some cases exceptional organic preservation. Further works are to be undertaken at the site but a preliminary review of the extant biological samples and hand-collected shell and bone has been undertaken to assess their potential for archaeological interpretation.*

*The sediment samples and hand-collected remains recovered from the deposits at this site are extremely important. Almost all of the samples seen to date show good to excellent organic preservation and the likelihood of recovering many well-preserved and interpretatively valuable assemblages of plant, invertebrate and additional vertebrate remains extremely high. Similarly, the hand-collected assemblages of shell and bone, though not particularly large, show generally good preservation and the potential to investigate the economy and living conditions of the site through time.*

*Overall, the deposits here represent (on the whole) an opportunity to study environmental evidence from three important periods of the city's history. The earliest, 1<sup>st</sup> century AD Roman, deposits present an effectively unique opportunity for environmental study – deposits this early have rarely been encountered in York (other than by borehole survey), despite the large number of archaeological works in the city over the years, as they are simply too deep. The Anglian/Anglo-Scandinavian deposits would provide extremely valuable comparanda for the other sites of this period in York. Many of the medieval deposits so far encountered have been dated (at least provisionally) as 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> century AD. This period, immediately following the Norman Conquest, is one of considerable social and economic change and poorly represented in York's archaeological record, making the Spurriergate deposits both locally and nationally important.*

*A further line of investigation presents itself in the ability to study the impact of previous piling at the site on the organic preservation within the deposits. It has been assumed that piling has little or no detrimental effect on the preservation of remains within adjacent archaeological deposits but here the opportunity exists to test the theory. Potentially, the results could alter and inform the policy for 'in-ground' preservation of archaeological deposits at a national level.*

*The importance of the assessment and subsequent analysis and publication of this material cannot be over emphasised.*

**KEYWORDS:** SPURRIERGATE; YORK; STATEMENT OF BIOARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL; ROMAN; ANGLIAN; ANGLO-SCANDINAVIAN; MEDIEVAL; ORGANIC PRESERVATION

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## **A review of, and statement of potential for, sediment samples and hand-collected shell and bone recovered from ongoing archaeological works at Spurriergate, York (site code: 2000.584)**

### **Introduction**

Ongoing works by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd at Spurriergate, York have revealed deposits of early Roman (1<sup>st</sup> century AD) to medieval date showing generally good, often excellent and in some cases exceptional (e.g. from Pile Cap 5) organic preservation.

Further works are to be undertaken at the site early in 2005 but a preliminary review of the extant (as of February 2005) biological samples and hand-collected shell and bone has been undertaken to assess their potential for archaeological interpretation.

Additional sediment samples have been collected which can be spatially related to previous piling at the site. These samples are to be used to assess the effect (if any) of the piling on the 'in-ground' organic preservation. The potential of these samples is discussed in brief below.

### **Methods**

The currently available samples and hand-collected material were visually examined to assess their bioarchaeological potential. Outline notes were made on the preservational condition of any remains seen.

The hand-collected remains have been scanned and preliminary notes made on their preservation and interpretative potential.

### **Results**

#### *Sediment samples*

Table 1 presents summary notes on the samples reviewed as of February 2005 (note that works at this site are ongoing and that, consequently, the site and context information is, at present, incomplete). The organic preservation seen in the samples was, almost without exception, good and in many cases excellent.

#### *Hand-collected shell*

The current hand-collected shell assemblage amounts to approximately 20 litres of material representing 124 contexts from a range of deposit types. Most of the remains are of oyster (*Ostrea edulis* L.), with traces of other marine shellfish (including mussel – *Mytilus edulis* L.). Initial inspection suggests that much of the material is of fair to good preservation, with some at least of the oyster shells being measurable.

#### *Hand-collected vertebrate remains*

Vertebrate remains submitted to PRS (so far) amount to almost 6000 fragments representing 322 deposits. These deposits represent a range of features including fills of pits, postholes, gullies, occupation and floor layers and dumps. Dating information available at the moment is limited; those assemblages with information are of 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century date.

A preliminary examination of the material suggests that, generally, the preservation of the remains is good, with little evidence for re-worked or residual material. Dog gnawing was evident but not extensive, whilst burnt bones

were scarce. Evidence for butchery was commonly observed, and included cattle long bones (most obviously metapodials and radii) that had been split longitudinally, probably for the extraction of marrow. Numerous large mammal shaft fragments also showed evidence of butchery. Horncores of goats, sheep and cattle mostly showed evidence for their deliberate removal from the skull, being chopped around their base.

Remains of the major domesticates (cattle, sheep/goat and pig) appear to form the bulk of the assemblage, with several of the caprovid remains being more closely identified as goat or possible goat. A small number of fragments representing wild species, were seen e.g. red deer (*Cervus elaphus* L.) antler fragments, a roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus* (L.)) mandible and several hare (*Lepus* sp.) bones. Bones of the minor domesticates, cat and dog, were also present, whilst birds remains included those of goose (*Anser* sp.), chicken and duck. Most of the fish bones seen were those of Gadidae, including cod (*Gadus morhua* L.) and haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus* (L.)), and flatfish (Pleuronectidae). These were mostly apparent in the deposits of 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> century date.

There were some indications that craft working activities were the source of one component of the assemblage. Many pieces of bone and antler wasters from the manufacturing of artefacts point to the activities of bone workers in the vicinity, whilst the possible presence of skinners and furriers was indicated by two cat skulls with skinning marks. Cattle, goat and sheep horncores were also commonly encountered with evidence that they had been removed from the skull suggesting that they were possible waste from horn working.

## Statement of potential

The sediment samples and hand-collected remains recovered from the deposits at this site are extremely important. Almost all of the samples seen to date show good to excellent organic preservation and the likelihood of recovering many well-preserved and interpretatively valuable assemblages of plant, invertebrate and further vertebrate remains extremely high. In some cases the preservation is exceptional, even for York where good organic preservation is not uncommon, the whole egg from Pile Cap 5, Context 20, Sample 3, for example, is, to the authors' knowledge, unprecedented.

The hand-collected shell assemblage is only small (at present) and many of the individual deposits have given only small quantities of remains (often only one or a few oyster valves or valve fragments). The interpretative potential of the assemblage is rather limited by its size, but it should be recorded as evidence of the supply of non-local food stuffs to the site and in an attempt to detect any variations in this through time (see also for fish, next paragraph).

The vertebrate assemblage from Spurriergate, is tightly dated, from well stratified deposits and, for the most part, extremely well-preserved, with many measurable fragments and mandibles with teeth *in situ* of use for providing age-at-death and biometrical information. Another aspect of the vertebrate assemblage, which is worthy of further consideration, is the potentially important data which could be provided by the fish remains. Fish remains from other sites (O'Connor 1991) in York have shown shifts in the exploitation of different species through time, however, supply networks and trade in fish between coastal fisheries and urban settlements during the medieval period are still poorly understood.

From the pottery spot dates available so far, the bone assemblage covers the transition from the Anglo/Scandinavian period through to the early medieval period. The arrival of the Normans in England and the North was a

period of major social, political and probably economic upheaval, although there is little direct evidence for this. Analysis of the vertebrate remains may provide information regarding possible changes or continuity through time.

In York, although some well-dated vertebrate assemblages of 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century date have been excavated, only a small number have been analysed in detail and few have been published. This period of transition is clearly of some importance and an examination of the vertebrate remains from Spurriergate will provide an opportunity to add to our knowledge.

In summary, the samples and hand-collected remains recovered from the deposits here represent an opportunity to study environmental evidence from three important periods of the city's history:

### 1. Roman

Deposits of the early Roman period in York are, in general, several metres below the present ground level. The earliest, 1<sup>st</sup> century AD Roman, deposits present an effectively unique opportunity for environmental study – deposits this early have rarely been encountered in York (other than by borehole survey), despite the large number of archaeological works in the city over the years, as they are simply too deep.

### 2. Anglian and Anglo-Scandinavian

The Anglian/Anglo-Scandinavian deposits would provide extremely valuable comparanda for the other sites of this period in York, Coppergate in particular, which remains the only comprehensively investigated and published site of this period from the city.

### 3. Early medieval (post Norman Conquest)

Many of the medieval deposits so far encountered have been dated (at least

provisionally) as 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> century AD. This period, immediately following the Norman Conquest, is one of considerable social and economic change and poorly represented in York's archaeological record, making the Spurriergate deposits both locally and nationally important.

A further opportunity presents itself here in the ability to study the impact of previous piling at the site on the organic preservation within the deposits. It has been assumed that piling has little or no detrimental effect on the preservation of remains within adjacent archaeological deposits but here we have a chance to test the theory. Potentially, the results could alter and inform the policy for 'in-ground' preservation of archaeological deposits at a national level.

## Recommendations

The importance of the assessment and subsequent analysis and publication of this material cannot be over emphasised. It is recommended that an extensive assessment of the sediment samples be undertaken via the processing of subsamples ('GBA'/'BS' samples *sensu* Dobney *et al.* 1992) for the recovery of biological remains following the techniques of Kenward *et al.* (1980; 1986). Some deposits (e.g. Context 4060 and 4061, of wattle) will be more appropriately considered as 'SPOT' (*sensu* Dobney *et al. op. cit.*) samples of organic remains and others, particularly those where a faecal component is suspected, should be examined for the eggs of parasitic nematodes and other microfossils (e.g. pollen, diatoms) using the 'squash' technique of Dainton (1992).

The hand-collected shell and bone should be assessed to determine those elements of the assemblages capable of providing interpretatively valuable information (such as biometrical and age-at-death data).

The effects of previous piling at this site can be assessed by study of the additional sediment samples that have been collected which are spacially related to previous piles. Records of the preservational state of the various classes of biological remains (e.g. following Kenward and Large 1998, for invertebrates) should be made and the data analysed to determine any pattern that may exist relative to the deposit and pile positions.

Following the assessment a targeted full analysis (and subsequent publication of the results) of selected deposits and the hand-collected remains should be undertaken. These studies should be directed to maximise the interpretative data gathered as constraints of timescale and available budget are likely to be the limiting factors.

## Archive

All of the extant material is currently stored by Palaeoecology Research Services (Unit 8, Dabble Duck Industrial Estate, Shildon, County Durham), along with paper and electronic records pertaining to the work described here.

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Table 1. Brief review notes on the sediment samples from Spurriergate, York (as of February 2005). Key: An – Anglian; A/S – Anglo-Scandinavian; Med – medieval; R – Roman. Duplicated sample numbers are flagged with a '\*’.

Context	Sample	No. of tubs	Description	Date	Notes
3006	3	2	Fill of pit 3168		Highly organic, fibrous and layered in places
3011	1*	3	Fill of pit 3020	Med	Very rich organic deposit with ?faecal content and wood 'chips', perhaps some recent arthropod turbation
3012	2	1	Fill of posthole 3013		Mix of very organic sediment and sand, includes fragments of rotted wood
3017	56	2	Deposit		Very organic silt with rotted wood and 'straw'
3023	4	2	Fill of pit 3065	Med	Rather well-humified organic deposit with wood, fruits and seeds very likely to survive too
3025	5	3	Fill of pit 3061	Med	High fine humic content apparent, live earthworms present in one of the tubs but others undisturbed
3026	6	2	Deposit		Compressed, layered highly organic deposit
3027	15	3	Fill of pit 3049	Med	Very richly organic sediment showing excellent preservation of biological remains
3029	23	2	Fill of pit 3164		Very organic fill
3030	8	1	-		Highly organic fill including part of a ~50 mm diameter wooden ?stake
3033	10	2	Fill of pit 3039		Very organic fill including wood 'chips'
3035	13	1	Fill of posthole 3046		Organic silt including rotted wood and oyster shell
3037	12	2	Fill of pit 3024		Organic fill including wood
3038	30	3	Deposit	A/S	Tub 3 of 3 showing rather better preservation than the other two as they have been subject to bioturbation by earthworms (live earthworms being present), the deposit has perhaps dried out in the past as there are some rather indurated lumps of sediment
3041	16	3	Fill of pit 3126	A/S	Very good organic preservation including worked wood and wicker, the latter perhaps part of the pit lining
3043	14	1	Fill of pit 3048	A/S	High organic content but much disturbed by earthworms and consequently perhaps not worth pursuing
3050	17	2	Fill of pit 3060		Organic fill
3053	20	1	Fill of pit 3054		Less organic content than many other deposits from this site but still worth pursuing
3054	18	2	-		Organic fill
3055	19	3	Fill of posthole 3056		Fill with high fine organic content
3062	21	3	Fill of pit 3074		Organic fill
3070	25	2	Fill of pit 3108		Very rich organic deposit including twigs and leather, sediment strongly layered in places, trace of white mould on exposed surfaces
3073	24	2	Fill of posthole 3079		Very organic silt including wood ?'chips', shell, bone and leather
3075	23	3	Fill of pit		Very organic and somewhat compressed deposit

Context	Sample	No. of tubs	Description	Date	Notes
			3085		including twigs
3077	22	2	Fill of pit 3065		Very organic silt including wood and bone
3080	48	3	Deposit	A/S	Very richly organic deposit with oyster shell
3087	26	2	Fill of pit 3065		Very organic fill including large amounts of wood
3089	28	3	Fill of pit 3108		Organic fill, some mould
3103	27	2	Deposit		Less organic content than many other deposits from this site but still worth pursuing, includes rotted wood
3108	31	3	Fill of pit 3126	A/S	Very high organic content with excellent preservation by anoxic waterlogging, some bone present and apple endocarp – could well be faecal
3130	32	1	Fill of posthole 3136		Relatively unpromising but probably with some fine charred organic content
3131	34	1	-		Humic clay silt with waterlogged wood
3133	38	3	Fill of posthole 3159		Relatively low organic content but includes shell
3134	33	2	Deposit		Relatively low organic content
3138	38	3	Deposit		Organic (humic) clay silt including twigs and other waterlogged wood
3140	35	2	Fill of pit 3168		Very soft organic deposit including wood fragments, bioturbation apparent perhaps from worm action
3154	37	1	Fill of pit 3168		Relatively low organic content but nevertheless with wood fragments and shell
3162	40	1	Deposit		Rather desiccated sample with high wood content
3163	39	2	Fill of pit 3168		Slightly organic silt, less promising than many of the other samples
3194	41	2	Fill of pit 3196		Matrix with relatively low organic content but contains wood fragments and oyster shell
3195	44	3	Fill of posthole 3199		Matrix with relatively low organic content but contains wood fragments and oyster shell
3198	42	1	Fill of pit 3204		Relatively inorganic matrix but with bone present
3203	43	2	Deposit		Organic deposit
3210	45	1	Fill of pit 3213		Very organic deposit
3214	46	1	Deposit		Very organic deposit
3217	47	1	Fill of linear feature 3225		Very organic deposit
3232	63	2	Fill of pit 3233		Organic deposit
3238	49	2	Fill of pit 3241		Rather inorganic ashy fill but nevertheless worthy of assessment
3251	52	2	Fill of pit 3258	A/S	Very good organic preservation
3261	54	3	Deposit		Organic silt, rather disturbed by earthworms but with good organic preservation, includes nit shell, wood fragments, well-preserved fish bone and decorated pot fragments
3264	55	2	Deposit		Organic deposit including oyster shell
3274	64	2	Deposit		Fairly good organic preservation, very 'loamy' but not necessarily from recent disturbance, includes fragments



Context	Sample	No. of tubs	Description	Date	Notes
					of bone
3301	57	1	-		Very organic deposit including twigs and other wood fragments
3311	59	1	-		Very organic silt
3315	61	2	-		Very organic silt including nut shell
3316	62	2	-	A/S	Rather decayed/humified organic content but including well-preserved mosses – possibly faecal
3347	65	1	-		Very organic sediment including nut shell
3349	66	1	-		Very organic deposit including wood fragments
3350	67	1	-		Humic silt – rather less organic than many of the other sediments from this site
3352	68	3	-		Organic silt including bone
3353	73	1	-		Very organic sediment, layered in places
3360	70	1	-		Rather unpromising deposit perhaps not worth pursuing
3364	72	1	-		Rather unpromising for biological remains, includes much ?demolition rubble
3366	71	1	-		Humic silt including rotted wood
3380	73	1	-		Very organic lumps of sediment
3381	74	1	-		Very organic sediment including twigs
3385	75	1	-		Very organic sediment including lumps of layered organics
3386	76	1	-		Organic silt including bone
3397	79	1	-		Very organic with soft fibrous lumps
3399	78	1	-		Very organic including lumps of layered and ?compressed organic material
3404	80	1	Fill of pit 3410		Very organic, including some compressed areas with 'straw'/reed
3413	82	1	Deposit		Very organic silt with visible plant macrofossil remains
3414	81	1	Deposit		Very organic silt with some wood present
3417	83	1	Deposit		Very organic silt with some wood present
3419	85	1	Deposit		Organic rich silt with bone and oyster shell present
3420	87	1	-		Organic silt with twigs visible
3425	88	1	Fill of pit 3428		Organic silt with some wood fragments visible
3430	89	1	Deposit		Wood rich organic silt
3449	91	1	Deposit	A/S	Rather friable with a very high organic content including 'strawy' fragments
3451	90	missing	Deposit		Sample not at PRS December 2004
3469	95	1	Deposit		Organic rich silt with some compressed 'straw'/reed areas, many modern contaminant invertebrates - springtails
3485	92	1	Fill of pit 3490		Organic rich silt with wood and ?moss fragments present
3486	94	1	Deposit		Richly organic silt with twigs present. Also some modern contaminant moss/algal growth on outer surfaces of lumps – easily removed
3487	93	1	Fill of pit 3490	A/S	Good organic preservation, some parts with ?cess content and other biological remains too
3491	96	1	Deposit		Organic rich silt with some areas of compressed plant material and twigs
3494	97	1	Deposit		Very small ashy sample with some wood fragments present
3495	98	1	Deposit		Organic deposit with 'strawy' areas – different to Sample 99 (same context), see below
3495	99	1	Deposit		Rather ashy with large pieces of charcoal present – different to Sample 98 (same context), see above

Context	Sample	No. of tubs	Description	Date	Notes
3496	100	1	Deposit		Organic silt with wood fragments and oyster shell present
3498	101	1	Deposit		Ashy silt with some uncharred organic content
3499	102	1	Deposit		Organic rich silt with wood/twig fragments present
3500	94	1	Deposit		Organic rich silt with wood fragments and compressed 'straw'/reed in patches
3501	105	1	Deposit		Organic rich silt with wood fragments and compressed 'straw'/reed in patches
3502	103	1	Deposit		Sandy organic layer with much modern moss (which could be removed quite easily) – different to most of other samples deposits and worth assessment for that reason
3503	106	1	Fill of gully feature 3504		Organic silt with wood and bone fragments present
3505	107*	1	Floor deposit		Sandy and layered – rather different to the more organic fills and so worthy of assessment
3509	108	1	Deposit		Rather ?ashy organic silt with uncharred wood present
3510	107*	1	Dump deposit		Very organic deposit which also has some charred content
3511	109	1	Fill of pit 3512		Rather crumbly and well-troweled, with wood fragments but rather less organic than many of the other sampled deposits
3513	112	1	Dump deposit		Richly organic deposit including bone, 'peaty' material, wood and nut shell
3514	110	2	Deposit	A/S	Seems very ashy most likely with some other charred content
3517	113	1	Deposit	A/S	Small (~2 litre) sample of unconsolidated/friable organic material
3521	114	1	Dump deposit		Some modern algal growth and live invertebrates on exposed surfaces but with excellent organic preservation
3522	115	1	Dump deposit		Richly organic, layered deposit including hazel nut, live springtails present
3525	118	1	Deposit		Rather stony and ashy silt, rather less organic than most samples from this site, with some fragments of pot noted
3526	116	1	Deposit		Very organic with some areas of compressed 'straw'/reed and wood fragments present
3550	119	1	Fill of linear feature 3555		Highly organic 'peaty deposit with much well-preserved wood
3552	120	1	Foundation trench fill		Rather ashy and sandy but also with areas of reasonable organic preservation
3556	121	1	-		Very organic silt with compressed layered plant remains in patches and twigs present
3586	123	1	Deposit		Very organic silt with compressed layered plant remains in patches and twigs present – some modern contaminant moss on outer surfaces of lumps (easily removed). Tub labelled Context 3386 on outside, 3586 on inside – outside labelling corrected
3587	125	1	Deposit		Very organic silt with quite large amounts of wood/twigs some with bark
3605	124	2	Deposit		Very organic silt with quite large amounts of wood/twigs some with bark
3611	126	1	Deposit		Very organic silt, layered in places with some twigs and wood/woody root
3622	127	1	Deposit		Organic silt with hints of layering, wood traces of vivianite and some modern contaminant moss (removable)

Context	Sample	No. of tubs	Description	Date	Notes
3654	128	1	Deposit		Quite stony, very organic silt, with much wood and some stones
3657	129	1	Deposit		Fairly organic silt with much rotted mortar and some oyster shell present
3667	130	1	Deposit		Mostly stiff clay, with some humic and ashy areas
3668	131*	1	Deposit		Layers of stiff grey clay and highly organic sediment
3669	131*	1	Deposit		Very organic silt including wood 'chips', twigs and mortar
3674	133	1	Deposit		Organic silt, with bone, leather, wood and hazelnut shell all present
3682	134	1	Fill of pit 3696		Organic silt, layered in places, with wood including 'chips' or wattle strips present
3683	135	1	Fill of pit 3687		Organic silt with wood and twigs, also some hazelnut shell and patches of sand
3684	136	1	Fill of pit 3688		Very organic silt, with wood, 'straw'/reed, hazelnut shell and mortar present
3693	137	1	Deposit		Matrix of slightly sandy silt, with much charcoal and also some uncharred wood
3698	140	1	Deposit		Very organic silt, with wood - compressed and layered (sometimes strongly so) in places
3703	138	2	Fill of pit 3713		Very organic sediment, with much wood and 'straw'/reed
3707	143	2	Deposit		Very organic silt, with much wood, somewhat layered in places and with some marine shellfish fragments present
3709	139	2	Fill of pit 3713		Very organic silt - cassy - with much fine plant material including moss
3710	141	1	Deposit		Slightly organic silt, with ash and small twigs
3712	142	1	Fill of pit 3713		Very organic silt/amorphous organic sediment, with twigs (including bark) and other wood fragments present
3716	144	1	Fill of pit 3720		Very organic silt, with wood/twigs present
3721	145	1	Deposit		Rather less organic than many, silt, with moss present
3723	146	1	Deposit		Very organic sediment with much wood/twig and 'straw'/reed present
3726	147	2	Fill of pit 3777		Very organic silt with much wood
3736	148	2	Fill of pit 3777		Very organic, with a lot of small, rather rotted wood fragments and 'straw'/reed present
3738	149	1	Deposit		Very organic silt, with patches of compressed plant remains and others of rotted mortar
3742	150	3	Deposit		Very organic with abundant wood and fibrous plant remains
3744	151	1	Deposit		Very organic in compressed, layered lumps, with much 'straw'/reed
3745	152	1	Deposit		Very organic silt, with twigs, bone and pot present
3748	155	1	Fill of pit 3777		Very organic with much wood (some as large fragments to 100 mm) and twigs
3749	153	2	Deposit		Layered organic sediment, with wood/bark fragments
3752	157	1	Fill of pit 3758		Very organic sediment with rotted wood - perhaps layered in places though this may simply be an impression given by very rotten wood
3753	154	1	Deposit		Ashy sandy silt with charcoal
3756	156	1	-		Very organic silt with twigs and mortar present
3757	158	4	Fill of pit 3777		Very organic silt with wood/twig and shell fragments
3759	159	2	Fill of pit		Crumbly organic silt

Context	Sample	No. of tubs	Description	Date	Notes
			3767		
3767	143	Missing	Deposit		Missing
3768	160	2	Fill of pit 3777		Very organic silt with much wood, including roundwood with bark
3771	162	1	-		Ashy with fine charred material and mortar
3776	161	1	Deposit		Very organic silt with wood/twigs and stones
3780	163	1	Deposit		Very organic silt with wood, bone and oyster fragments
3781	164*	2 – see notes	Deposit		One tub labelled Context 3783 Sample 164 externally and Context 3781 Sample 164 internally – relabelled outside to be second tub of C3781 S164. Very organic silt with twigs and some sandy patches and some areas of layered organics
3783	171	1 – see notes	Fill of pit 3767		One tub labelled Context 3783 Sample 164 externally and Context 3781 Sample 164 internally – relabelled outside to be second tub of C3781 S164. Layers of grey clay and compressed organics
3787	166	1	Fill of pit 3767		Compressed, layered organic material, with much wood and probably a little silt and/or sand
3844	167	1	Fill of pit 3862		Compressed, layered organics including ‘straw’/reed and much rotted wood
3851	168	1	Deposit		Friable/unconsolidated ashy sandy silt, with fine charred material
3852	169	1	Fill of 3862		Very organic silt, strongly layered in places including twigs and ‘straw’/reeds
3870	170	1	Fill of pit 3888	A/S	Richly organic in parts including wood ‘chips’ and bone
3875	173	1	Fill of gully feature 3878		Very organic, somewhat layered, silt, with twigs and bone fragments – also live insects
3877	174	1	Deposit		Very organic silt with twigs and bone – layered in places
3934	175	1	-		Abundant (if not exclusively of) charcoal, perhaps a little silt
4003	176	1	Fill of pit 4004	A/S	Very good organic preservation including half hazel nut shells and wood fragments
4008	177	1	Fill of pit 4009	A/S or Med	Rather crumbly deposit but with some good organic preservation apparent including of wood
4022	178	1	Fill of pit 4025	A/S or Med	Appears to be mostly ash and fine charred material
4023	179	1	Deposit	A/S or Med	Layers of black charred material including (but not exclusively) charcoal and light to mid grey ash
4024	180	1	Deposit	A/S or Med	Rather heavily troweled but with good organic preservation including much wood
4060	181	1	Wattle fence	A/S or Med	Wattle in humic matrix – treat as ‘spot’ sample
4061	182	1	Wattle fence	A/S or Med	Wattle in humic matrix – treat as ‘spot’ sample
5003	1	1	-	A/S	Excellent organic preservation including fronds of moss
5011	2	1 (?2)	-		?Mislabelling on sample(s) – confusion with Context 5003 (immediately above)?
5017	3	1	-		Very organic silt with some layering evident, oyster

Context	Sample	No. of tubs	Description	Date	Notes
					shell and bone present
5020	4	1	-		Compressed, layered organic material, white mould on the outer surfaces but easily removed
5021	5	1	-		Very organic with wood and ?moss – some white mould perhaps rather difficult to avoid getting some in a subsample
5022	7	1	-		Wooden 'stakes' with bark – only a little sediment matrix
5029	6	1	-	A/S	Compressed organics and silt – much mould but mostly on outer surfaces
6004	8	1	-	R	Blackened ?destruction deposit with ?ash and other burnt remains and a considerable amount of artefactual material, less interesting for biological remains but still worth assessment
6005	9	1	-	R	Rather rotted and crumbly charcoal present, worth investigating more for charred content than waterlogged organic remains
6009	11*	Missing	-	R	Missing
6012	11*	1	-	R	Rather less organic deposit but with vivianite indicating recent organic decay and possibly some charred content, definitely still worth investigating
6047	12	6	-	R	Deposit with good organic preservation
6063	13	4	-	R	Highly organic deposit showing excellent preservation including bracken fronds
6068*	17	3	-	R	Highly organic deposit showing excellent preservation
6068*	19	4	-	R	Highly organic deposit showing excellent preservation
6075	18	1	-	R	Highly organic – compressed layers of plant macrofossil remains in a matrix of slightly sandy silt
7042	22	1	Fill of pit 7068	A/S	Rich in well-preserved organic remains
7044	23	2	Fill of pit 7068	A/S	Rich in well-preserved organic remains, including fly puparia and whole hazelnut
7045	24	2	Fill of pit 7068	A/S	Very organic with excellent preservation
7062	25	1	-	A/S	Some humic content and some grey ash, wood and bone also present – very small sample (~2 litres)
7112	26	1	Deposit	A/S	Very organic silt, with a little sand, twigs (some with bark) were present
7120	27	3	Fill of pit 7124	A/S	Very organic silt, with a little sand – perhaps some fruit stones present and ?hints of layering - ?cess content
7153	28	2	Fill of pit 7155	A/S	Mostly ash and fine charred material
7157	29	3	Fill of pit 7159	A/S	Very organic silt with wooden 'stakes' and ?'hair' but mostly rather fine plsnt materisl
7158	30	1	Fill of pit 7159	A/S	Mostly wood – wattle – in a silty matrix
<i>Pile caps</i>					
1	14	3	-		Uncharred organic remains present and also some ?burnt or part burnt peat
2	15	3	-		Includes cut ?gritstone tile fragments, also many areas with very good organic preservation
3	16	3	-		Very heterogeneous deposit, strongly stratified in places, includes some highly organic parts and others of pebbles in a clay matrix, also includes tile

Context	Sample	No. of tubs	Description	Date	Notes
5	20 (S3)	2	Fill of pit 5	An or A/S	Exceptional organic preservation including of a whole egg!
5	21 (S4)	2	-	An or A/S	Very good organic preservation including wood fragments
7	-	1	-		Charcoal deposit – much fine carbonised material possibly including remains other than just wood charcoal, will need very gentle processing