

[WRB91]

Report on animal and plant remains from excavations at Welton Road, Brough,
N. Humberside

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The washovers and residues from three bulk-sieved samples were submitted by Humberside Archaeological Unit for an evaluation of their content of animal and plant remains.

Observations on the samples were as follows:

Sample 100 (Context 99, fill of north/south drainage/boundary ditch to south of settlement):

The minute washover contained some modern roots and rootlets, together with single seeds of elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) and blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*); these two seeds may also have been modern (they are very durable and widely dispersed by birds and mammals).

In the very small residue of angular to rounded flint, ironstone and chalk gravel up to about 15mm maximum diameter there were a few small fragments of cinder/clinker and coal, perhaps evidence of occupation material and two small unidentifiable fragments of mammal bone that were much stained ?by minerals percolating through the deposit and which may actually pre-date the formation of the fill.

Sample 158 (Context 88, fill of boundary ditch, overlying primary fill of pure sand):

The tiny washover again contained some modern roots and rootlets with a few small fragments of coal and charcoal; there were several whole and fragmentary elderberry seeds and a single ?charred fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*) seed. The latter is a common weed of disturbed places and cultivated land and is no interpretative significance.

The small residue contained one fragment of bone from the shaft of a limb bone of a large mammal; it was rather worn and heavily stained with iron salts and may be pre-Roman. The remainder of the sample comprised ironstone and flint gravel to about 15mm maximum diameter.

Sample 213 (Context 177, fill of stone-built drain):

The tiny washover contained a few fragments of elderberry seed, a few small fragments of charcoal and other charred material of uncertain nature, and one achene of common sow-thistle (*Sonchus oleraceus*); the last of these was very fresh and almost certainly modern.

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The residue contained quite a lot of angular oolitic limestone to about 30mm. With it were a few worn fragments of oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) shell to 25mm, a little charcoal to 5mm and small clasts of chalk and flint (much of the remainder was undisaggregated sandy soil matrix). Together with a few very small fragments of unidentifiable wood which appeared to be partly or wholly mineralised, there were two fragments of bone: a shaft fragment from a sheep/goat femur and a sheep tooth (upper premolar).

The very sparse biological remains in these samples are of little use in shedding light on the nature of the occupation at this site or on the environment and mode of formation of the deposits; there does not seem to be any need for further analysis of the material collected or for further sampling to be undertaken.