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**A further assessment of intestinal parasitic nematode egg remains from excavations at Common Parts Basement, Spital Square, London E1 (site code: SRP98)**

by

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**Summary**

*Twenty-three small samples of sediment (of which twelve were 'control' samples) from deposits excavated at Common Parts Basement, Spital Square, London, were submitted for an assessment of their potential for analysis of intestinal parasitic nematode eggs.*

*All of the samples were examined. No eggs of intestinal parasitic nematodes were seen.*

**Keywords:** COMMON PARTS BASEMENT; SPITAL SQUARE; LONDON; FURTHER ASSESSMENT; ROMAN SARCOPHAGUS; MICROFOSSILS; INTESTINAL PARASITIC NEMATODE EGGS

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## **A further assessment of intestinal parasitic nematode egg remains from excavations at Common Parts Basement, Spital Square, London E1 (site code: SRP98)**

### **Introduction**

Excavations at Common Parts Basement, Spital Square, London E1, undertaken by Museum of London Archaeology Service yielded eleven samples of sediment from deposits around the pelvic areas of human burials and an additional twelve 'control' samples. These samples are additional to those reported on in Carrott (1999). Three of the samples (one from the area of the sacrum, Sample 295, and two controls, Samples 296 and 297) were associated with remains found within a Roman sarcophagus. These have been examined for the eggs of intestinal parasitic nematodes.

### **Methods**

Twenty-three samples of sediment ('SPOTs' *sensu* Dobney *et al.* 1992) were submitted. All of the samples were examined for the eggs of intestinal parasitic nematodes using the 'squash' technique of Dainton (1992).

### **Results**

The results of the investigations are presented in Context number order in Table 1.

Although primarily for the detection of intestinal parasitic nematode eggs the 'squash' technique routinely reveals other microfossil remains, where present these have also been noted.

### **Discussion and statement of potential**

The examined samples were effectively barren of interpretable microfossil remains—no eggs of parasitic nematodes were seen in

any of the samples.

### **Recommendations**

No further work is recommended on these samples.

### **Retention and disposal**

Any remaining sediment samples may be discarded.

### **Archive**

Paper and electronic records pertaining to the work described here are currently stored in the Environmental Archaeology Unit, University of York,

### **Acknowledgements**

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### **References**

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Table 1. Notes on further samples examined for intestinal parasitic nematode eggs from Common Parts Basement, Spital Square, London.

**Key:** c - control sample; f - few; g - 'gut' sample; i - inorganic; l - a little; t - trace; s - some

Context	Sample(s)	Type of sample	Main component	Organic content	<i>Trichuris</i>	<i>Ascaris</i>	Fungal spores and/or hyphae	Non-fungal spores/pollen	Notes
6812	403	g	i	t	-	-	-	-	
6812	?	c	i	t	-	-	-	-	
6891	405	g	i	t	-	-	-	-	
6891	406	c	i	t	-	-	f	-	
6909	407	g	i	l	-	-	s	-	1 live soil nematode
6909	408	c	i	t	-	-	-	-	
6953	420	g	i	t	-	-	f	f	
6953	421	c	i	t	-	-	f	-	
7000	422	g	i	t	-	-	f	-	
7000	423	c	i	t	-	-	-	-	
7013	?	g	i	t	-	-	-	-	
7013	?	c	i	t	-	-	-	-	
7036	425	g	i	t	-	-	f	-	
7036	426	c	i	t	-	-	f	-	
7043	429	g	i	t	-	-	-	-	mould growing on sample
7043	430	c	i	t	-	-	f	-	
7056	427	g	i	t	-	-	-	-	
7056	428	c	i	t	-	-	-	-	mould growing on sample
7074	432	g	i	t	-	-	-	-	
7074	433	c	i	t	-	-	-	-	mould growing on sample
15900	295	g	i	s	-	-	f	f	
15904	296	c	i	s	-	-	f	-	internal control sample
15904	297	c	i	l	-	-	f	-	external control sample 1 live soil nematode

