

# Selection of samples for geoarchaeological and microfossil analysis.

Site code: ONE94

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## **ONE94 :**

### **Selection of samples for geoarchaeological and microfossil analysis.**

This list will discuss which sub-samples will be selected for further pollen, diatom, ostracod and sedimentological analysis.

#### **1.0 Available samples**

Further analysis can only cover periods and landuses for which samples exist. These samples consist of blocks of undisturbed soil [monoliths – and the micromorphological blocks, being dealt with by Richard Macphail, which will not be discussed here]; and buckets of unprocessed soil kept back in case they were needed for insect analysis but which may also [in some cases] be suitable for diatom and ostracod work.

I have gone through the contexts we have both in mono.tins and as kept back buckets of soil in order to determine [via oracle] what types of contexts and dates/periods they represent and how they fit in to what is already known about the site – so that I can decide what samples are best to focus on for further analysis and what research questions [re: UPD] they might address.

#### **1.1 Sample list**

The list below is of the bucket and mono contexts which have been retained and could potentially be sampled for diatoms, ostracods, pollen and various sedimentological techniques. I am not including bulk samples from pits + cess-pits but I am including general external deposits for now besides [especially] wells, ditches + drains and all the contexts the monoliths cut through.

The aim is to determine the types of contexts that the samples we have relate to, and their spatial and temporal distribution across the site; in order to work out which research questions they are capable of addressing.

##### **1.1.1 BULK SAMPLES:**

[mini-grip bags for ostracod, diatom (and possibly pollen) analysis might be taken from –

<>	context	interp.	L/use	period	other-notes	
737	9422	W	OA11	3	well deposit 50-100	*
595	8875	W	B22RmB	6	well deposit 50-160AD	*
596	8963	W	B22RmB	6	well deposit 50-120AD	*
676	9252	W	B22RmB	6	well deposit 60-100AD	*
878	17937	W	OA29	6	well deposit 50-160AD	
985	18089	ED	OA45	7	?around water tank	
986	18089	ED	OA45	7	?around water tank	
1005	18089	ED	OA45	7	?around water tank	
1007	18089	ED	OA45	7	?around water tank	
1012	18089	ED	OA45	7	?around water tank	
987	18094	ED	OA45	7	?around water tank, 100-120AD	
980	18066	ED	OA75	10	?external activities	

981	18071 ED	OA75	10	?external activities
1003	18143 ED	OA75	10	?external activities
1019	18200 ED	OA75	10	?external activities
*718	12052 D	R1	18	road drainage gully fill? [g.927; sg.10118]
*757	12327 D	R2	18	recut of roadside drain fill [g.946; sg.10104]
*810	12633 Ds	R2	18	recut of roadside drain fill [g.946; sg.10100]

[Samples denoted \* are thought likely to be especially worthwhile, in terms of the type of deposit they appear to represent].

**Background information to the bulk sample contexts** [Taken from the *Precis* document]:

**Period 3:** marks the arrival of clearly delineated rectilinear housing plots and the laying out of R2. Its end is the Boudican fire. OA11 is an external area c.7.7mOD, characterised by dark, silty midden-like deposits; [9422] is the fill of a silver-fir barrel well within OA11 - it is uncertain if the fill is waterlain accumulation or backfill [soft brown organic clay-silt]

**Period 6:** defines the re-establishment of rectilinear structures across the site and continues until their apparent destruction, at least locally in a ?Flavian fire.

Samples <595>, <596>, and <676> are from sg.80433, a cut within which 2 barrels had been placed one above the other forming a wood-lined well or water-store, >2.2m deep. The samples are from *in situ* silts at the base of the barrel. This sg lies within g.371, a room with b/e floors c.8.06mOD. Sample <878> is not so useful as it belongs to g.645, the disuse phase of a barrel well associated with OA29, adjacent to building s18 on terrace 1.

**Period 7:** relates to activity across the site prior to a ?Hadrianic fire [= terminates 123-135AD]. OA45 relates to deposits accumulated to the north and west of the water tank towards the apex of the site [period 6 - see mono <1036> 4.2; + notes 5.2]. The samples are from g.463 sg. 120212 and relate to peaty silts accumulated on external areas around the water tank, probably when it had already become redundant.

**Period 10:** is confined to terrace 4 [apex] with uncertain relationship to Hadrianic fire – OA75 was formed by dumping and was capped by an external clay surface at 5.60mOD. A wooden [no samples] drain flowed from the OA75 ?external surface to the Walbrook. I am not certain if I have understood, but it seems OA75 overlies OA45 and relates to the further dumping [g.482] which built up the area around the water tank [OA45] to c.5.9mOD?

**Period 18:** Relating to the 4<sup>th</sup> phase of road use. <718> belongs to g.927 : a sequence of intercutting drains along the north side of R1 in the extreme east of the site; perhaps evidence of an attempt to establish and maintain a gully for road drainage in the late Roman period [c.?]. <757> + <810> are fills of timber drains [at c. 8.22mOD], inserted in recuts of the roadside drain of R2 belong to g.946; sg.10104 + 10100 respectively.

### 1.1.2 MONOLITH SAMPLES

In this section, the contexts through which each monolith sequence is cut, is listed. To this is added the data from oracle relating to which group, subgroup etc the sediments belong to. This will enable information from the *Precis*

*document* text [p/city/093/one94/field/4allshors/precis.doc] to be related to the monolith units.

[The *precis* text overviews everything which has been put together and interpreted from the site so far, arranged according to period].

Relevant extracts from the *precis* document are copied below each monolith sequence list. This guide decisions to be made now, concerning which sediment / units are worth sub-sampling; and it will allow the specialists who work on the sub-samples to interpret their results and integrate them into the archaeological framework.

The following monolith samples are not included for the reasons stated : <429>[?not datable]; <742>. <939>, <941> [?late glacial]; <1045> [London clay]

### Key to abbreviations used:

*Samp:* **p** samples for pollen were analysed from these contexts at the assessment stage.

*Phase of use:* C or c – construction; U or u – use; D or d – disuse

*Context interpretation :* MU – make-up / levelling; D – ditch, drain, gully sewer etc.; ED – external dump; EM – external metalling; EU – external unspecified; W - well; N – natural unspecified; NC – natural alluvial deposit; NS – natural soil; PC – cess pit; S – structural cut

### Section through *Via Decumana* [area 10]

<>	context	group	subgrp.	interp.	L/use	period	other-notes	mono.units	samp.
<b>741</b>	12372	878	10075	MU	R1	12	CU	k	
	11921	878	10074	EU	R1	12	CUD	j	
	12376	878	10074	EU	R1	12	CUD	i	
	11919	878	10074	EU	R1	12	CUD	h(i-iv)	<b>p</b>
	11922	878	10073	EM	R1	12	CU	g	
	11923	877	10060	MU	R1	12	CU	f	<b>p</b>
	11964	877	10060	MU	R1	12	CU	e	
	11965	877	10060	MU	R1	12	CU	d	
	11967	877	10059	D	R1	12	UD	c	
	11971	877	10059	D	R1	12	UD	c	
	11973	877	10057	D	R1	12	UD	b	
	11993	877	10057	D	R1	12	UD	a	

	40	From bucket
<411>	41	From bucket
<812>	42-44	Mono
<895>	45-49	Mono
<898>	50-58	Mono
<900>	59-60	Mono
<906>	61-63	Mono
<1036>	64-70	Mono

### ***Ostracod analysis***

For depths and corresponding stratigraphic info. see *one-mono-subsamples.xls*

For contexts of bucket samples see table in section 1.1.1

*Ostracod*

<i>Sample</i>	<i>sample</i>	<i>context</i>	<i>type</i>	
1	980	18066	bucket ?	wet ground
2	1019	18200	bucket ?	wet ground
3	987	18094	bucket ?	wet ground
4	1012	18089	bucket ?	wet ground
5	1027	18381	mono	poss waterlain
6	1027	18384	mono	poss.waterlain
7	1027	18384	mono	poss.waterlain
8	1027	18380	mono	poss. waterlain
9	718	12052	bucket *	roadside drain
10	810	12633	bucket *	roadside drain
11	737	9422	bucket *	well
12	595	8875	bucket *	well
13	596	8963	bucket *	well
14	676	9252	bucket *	well
17	908	13007	bucket ?	marshy ground
18	912	13007	bucket ?	marshy ground
19	913	13017	bucket ?	marshy ground
20	914	13017	bucket ?	marshy ground
21	916	13027	bucket ?	marshy ground
22	918	12085	bucket ?	marshy ground
23	919	12085	bucket ?	marshy ground
24	906	13013	mono	wet+peaty
25	1036	18304	mono	wet ground
26	1036	18304	mono *	poss. waterlain
27	1036	18304	mono *	poss.waterlain
28	1036	18309	mono ?	wet ground
29	1036	18309	mono ?	wet ground

15+16 deleted

nb: In the ostracod table above, the probable potential for analysis for the selected samples are marked by a ? = unlikely; blank = possible; and \* = good

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