
3 0 POST EXCAVATION RESEARCH DESIGN

3 1 Introduction

The post excavation programme will have three separate agendas, as determined by the Statement of Potential laid out for each location in Section 2 above. At the lower level this will comprise an entry in the appropriate Sites and Monuments Register for each location. At an intermediary level the programme will involve the preparation of an archive and publication text for the single location where the data recovered has been deemed worthy of publication. There are a number of research proposals which are specific to that site and which have been discussed above in the relevant section.

3 2 Overall Research Themes

This one piece of fieldwork has made it possible to address a number of issues relating to land use in the Vale of York in the Iron Age and its transition with the Roman Period. The following questions arise -

- 1) How suitable was the Vale of York for settlement in later prehistory?
 - How do the types of sites that are present in the Vale relate to the underlying geology and the river systems?
 - Can it be seen that settlement of a permanent nature would be more likely at particular locations and those of a temporary nature are to be seen elsewhere?
- 2) Is it possible, on the basis of the available evidence from the Mill House Farm, Kexby site, to come to an understanding of the nature of the change in settlement that took place in the Vale of York after the arrival of the Romans?
 - What does the presence of pottery from both the Iron age and the Romano British traditions tell us about the interrelationship between the two communities?
 - Is the presence of a major Roman road adjacent to the site important to this consideration?

3 3 Publication and Presentation

3 3 1 Introduction

It is proposed that the results of the analysis of this pipeline project should be published initially in the appropriate academic journal. For the Roman material this is likely to be *Britannia* or the *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal*.

In addition, however, it has been suggested that an overall publication covering the results of other archaeological work sponsored by Yorkshire Water should be produced (see section 2.1.4 above). Preparation of a text for this publication will proceed in tandem with the work for the academic journals.

It is also proposed that a review of the work will be offered to the editor of *Current Archaeology*. This would introduce to a wider archaeological community the working procedures employed on the project, which enabled the engineers to carry out their work without undue disruption, and the archaeologists to excavate in a relatively unhurried manner after the insertion of the pipe.

3.3.2 Report Format

There follows a provisional report format for the publication of the results of this work. At this stage it comprises a breakdown of the one major report that will form the bulk of the research, namely the site at Mill House Farm, Kexby.

Mill House Farm, Kexby YORYM 1997 61

Format An article in *Britannia* or the *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal*

Structure and Content

- i) Introduction and Background to the project
- ii) **Description of the stratigraphic sequence and the format and layout of the site**
- iii) Specialist reports on the pottery, environmental evidence and other finds
- iv) A concluding discussion assessing the form of settlement at the site and relating it to its role within the landscape, in particular its position in relation to the Roman City of *Eboracum*

Layout of the Report

i) Introduction and Background

Text	1000 words
Illustrations	1 location plan
half tone photographic plate	x 1

ii) **Description of the stratigraphic sequence and layout of the site**

Text	2500 words
Illustrations	4 x site plans
half tone photographic plates	x 2

iii) Specialist reports**a Biological Remains**

Text	500 words
Illustrations	1 site plan

b Roman Pottery

Text	1000 words
line drawings	x 5

c Iron Age Pottery

Text	4000 words
Line Drawings	x 10

d Other artefacts

Text	1000 words
illustrations	zero

iv) Concluding Discussion

Text	5000 words
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4 0 RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING

4 1 Staffing

Members of the project team who will be allocated to specific tasks in Section 4 2 -

- 1) Overall responsibility for project
Nick Pearson, *On-Site Archaeology*
- 2) The Biological Remains
Members of the Environmental Archaeology Unit, University of York
- 3) The Pottery
Alan Vince, 25 West parade, Lincoln
- 4) Thermo Luminescence Dating
Sarah Barnett, University of Durham
- 5) Petrological Analysis of the pottery
Alan Vince, 25 West Parade, Lincoln
- 6) Carbon 14 dating
Beta-Analytic Laboratory, Miami, USA
- 7) Brick and Tile
Sandra Garside-Neville
- 8) Slag
Specialist to be appointed
- 9) Illustrations
Guy Hopkinson, On-Site Archaeology
- 10) Photographic Plates
Jane Ireland
- 14) Text Editing
Val Kinsler, 100% Proof, York
- 15) Stone Artifacts and Consulting Geologist
Dr G D Gaunt
- 16) Conservator
Soma O'Connor
- 17) Finds Curation
Gill Craddock
- 18) Overall Project Supervision
Nick Pearson, On-Site Archaeology

4 2 Tasks

Task	Responsible Person	Time
Task 1-3	GH	1 day
Task 4-6	GH	1 day
Task 7-9	GH	1 day
Task 10-12	GH	1 day
Task 13-15	GH	1 day
Task 16-18	GH	1 day
Task 19-21	GH	1 day
Task 22-24	GH	1 day
Task 25-27	GH	1 day
Task 28-30	GH	1 day
Task 31-33	GH	1 day
Task 34-36	GH	1 day
Task 37-39	GH	1 day
Task 40-42	GH	1 day
Task 43-45	GH	1 day
Task 46-48	GH	1 day
Task 49-51	GH	1 day
Task 52-54	GH	1 day
Task 55-57	GH	1 day
Task 58	AV	5 days
Task 59	DU	see costs
Task 60	AV	see costs
Task 61	BA	see costs
Task 62	EAU	see costs
Task 63	AV et al	see costs
Task 64	GH	20 days
Task 65	NFP	20 days
Task 66	NFP	2 days
Task 67	NFP	20 days
Task 68	UY	see costs
Task 69	VK	see costs
Task 70	GH	2 days
Task 71	NFP	7 5 days
Task 72-74	GH	1 day

Task 75-77	GH	1 day
Task 78-80	GH	1 day
Task 81-83	GH	1 day

Abbreviations used in the above table

GH	Guy Hopkinson
NFP	Nick Pearson
AV	Alan Vmce et al
EAU	Environmental Archaeology Umt Umversity of York
BA	Beta Analytic laboratory Miami, USA
DU	Umversity of Durham
VK	Val Kinsler
UY	University of York

APPENDIX I ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

Reports from the Environmental Archaeology Unit, York 97/31, 4 pp + Appendix

Assessment of biological remains from excavations at Mill House Farm Kexby near York (site code 1997 61)

by

John Carrott Allan Hall and Frances Large

Summary

Six samples of sediment from deposits revealed by excavations at Mill House Farm Kexby near York were submitted for an assessment of their bioarchaeological remains. Plant remains consisted mostly of charcoal and root fragments with a few seeds and fruits preserved in Context 1132. A few very poorly preserved invertebrates were also present in Context 1132. Further work on this material is not recommended.

Keywords

Mill House Farm Kexby York roman assessment plant remains invertebrates charcoal

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8 August 1997

Assessment of biological remains from excavations at Mill House Farm Kexby near York (site code 1997 61)

Introduction

Excavations were carried out by On Site Archaeology at Mill House Farm Kexby during 1997. Six General Biological Analysis samples (GBAs' sensu Dobney et al 1992) were submitted for an assessment of their bioarchaeological potential.

Methods

The samples were initially inspected in the laboratory and described using a pro forma. Three samples were selected for processing. A 2 kg subsample was taken from each sample for extraction of macrofossil remains following procedures of Kenward et al (1980 1986). A 'squash' (after Damton 1992) was prepared from a further

sample to check for the presence of nematode eggs. The sediment remaining after being processed was retained as voucher samples.

Flots and residues resulting from processing were examined for their content of plant and invertebrate macrofossils and animal bone. Notes were made on the quantity of fossils and principal taxa.

Results and discussion

The results are presented in context number order.

Context 1100 Sample 5

Vanicoloured (from light grey/brown to light brown to mud orange/brown) sand with a stone in the size range 20-60 mm.

No further analysis undertaken, probably no potential for bioarchaeological analysis on the basis of visual inspection.

Context 1106 Sample 6/T

Just moist, mid-dark grey, crumbly (working plastic when wet), slightly clay sand. Millimetre-scale orange mottles were present, and the whole sediment had a yellowish cast caused by the abundant sand grains. Lumps of charcoal (to 25 mm) were common, as were very small fragments of burnt mammal bone.

The small washover consisted of plant debris, probably mainly very decayed root and root bark fragments, to 5 mm in maximum dimension, with some fine charcoal (< 2 mm) and a very little very decayed wood to 10 mm. A few sclerotia (resting bodies) of the soil-dwelling fungus *Cenococcium* were noted and there were one or two tiny (< 1 mm) ash beads (whitish bead-like structures probably formed during burning of organic matter). No invertebrates were present. The small residue was of quartz sand with some charcoal to 25 mm and burnt bone to 10 mm.

Context 1132 Sample 7/T

Moist, light grey/brown to dark brown to black, crumbly (working slightly plastic locally), fine silt. Also present was some herbaceous detritus and some slightly silty sand. Some rotted wood was present. It is possible that some of the organic matter consisted of roots intruded at a later stage of the formation of the deposit.

A tiny flint was produced and consisted of plant debris and a small assemblage of rather poorly preserved invertebrates. There was evidence of aquatic deposition from several *Daphnia pulex* and *Helophorus* sp. A larva of a click beetle, probably *Athous hirtus* (Herbst), may have burrowed into the deposit post-depositionally, or have been ancient. There was a weak hint of an artificial accumulation of decaying matter from a *Gyrohypnus* (?fracticornis) and of dung (somewhere) from *Aphodius* sp.

The small residue consisted of approximately equal volumes of quartz sand and organic matter, the latter mainly very decayed wood (to a maximum size of 30 mm, mostly rather smaller). Amongst the wood fragments were a few with rather sharp oblique edges which may have been wood chips produced by woodworking. There were modest numbers of rather poorly preserved fruits and seeds, the more abundant being stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica* L.) and spike-moss (*Eleocharis palustris* sensu lato). The small assemblage gave no clear indications either of local environment or of material which may have been discarded in the cut, though there were some hints that disturbed wet grassland was present in the vicinity. The presence of at least two *Sphagnum* leaves is difficult to account for unless there were areas of mire nearby or that peat or the moss itself was brought to the site for some purpose.

Context 1140 Sample 8

Just moist dark brown with light brown patches crumbly slightly silty sand with iron-rich concretions (?pan) to 10 mm

The squash was mostly inorganic with a trace of organic detritus a few fungal hyphae and a single ?spore Also present were some silica fragments which might possibly have derived from an organic source such as (very poorly preserved) phytoliths

Context 1146 Sample 10

Moist light yellowish brown to mid-dark grey/brown crumbly (working slightly plastic locally) slightly silty sand with charcoal (to 30 mm) present

No further analysis undertaken probably no potential for bioarchaeological analysis on the basis of visual inspection

Context 1164 Sample 9/T

Just moist dark greyish brown (locally light grey/brown) crumbly sand with a lump of fused and slightly concreted charcoal/ash

The small washover produced only some plant debris and fine (<2 mm) charcoal The former were as in the subsample from Sample 6 root and root bark fragments The small residue consisted of quartz sand with moderate amounts of charcoal to 15 mm and with some small (<5 mm) concretions consisting of sand grains apparently held together with a dark brown varnish Some of the charcoal fragments bore patches of sand grains similarly varnished It was not clear from casual inspection whether the matrix was of mineral salts or some kind of amorphous organic material this would require further analysis to elucidate

Recommendations

Further work on the bioarchaeological material from these contexts is not considered to be a high priority although some further useful information might conceivably be obtained from Context 1132 by processing a much larger subsample in particular there appears to be rather limited potential for ecological or land-use reconstruction

Retention and disposal

The sediment remaining from the selected samples need not be retained unless further analysis of the material from Contexts 1132 and 1164 is required

Archive

All extracted fossils and the residues are currently stored in the Environmental Archaeology Unit University of York, along with paper and electronic records pertaining to the work described here

Acknowledgements

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References

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Appendix

1997 61 Mill House Farm Kexby List of invertebrate taxa recorded

1997 62

Context 1132 Sample 7/T ReM RS

Weight 2.00 E 0.00 F 0.00

Helophorus sp 2 oa-w

Olophnum sp 1 oa

Gyrophypnus sp 1 rt

Aleocharinae sp 1 u

Aphodius sp 1 ob-rf

Emecrus sp 1 rt-sf

Coleoptera sp 1 u

*Daphnia sp (ephippium) 6 s oa-w

*Athous ?hirtus (larva) 2 oa-p

*Coleoptera sp (larva) 1 u

*Acarina sp 1 u

s - semiquantitative record Codes 'oa-w' etc refer to ecological categories

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I would like to thank the excavation team who performed the duty of machine watching with their usual care and attention and then proceeded to excavate the site at Kexby during the wettest June and July for many a year. Particular thanks is due to Guy Hopkmson who was the site supervisor on the project and who also assisted in the preparation of this report. The illustrations are largely his work.

I am also indebted to Alan Vince, Gill Craddock, Alison Oliver, Barbara Precious and Sandra Garside-Neville who analysed the pottery and other artifacts. The staff of the Environmental Archaeology Unit at the University of York are also to be thanked for the efficient way in which they undertook the assessment of the samples from the site. Last but not least thanks are due to John Oxley and to Rob Wroe, who in their very different ways, oversaw the work.

50 REFERENCES

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