



Plate 1.  
General view of site. Facing west.

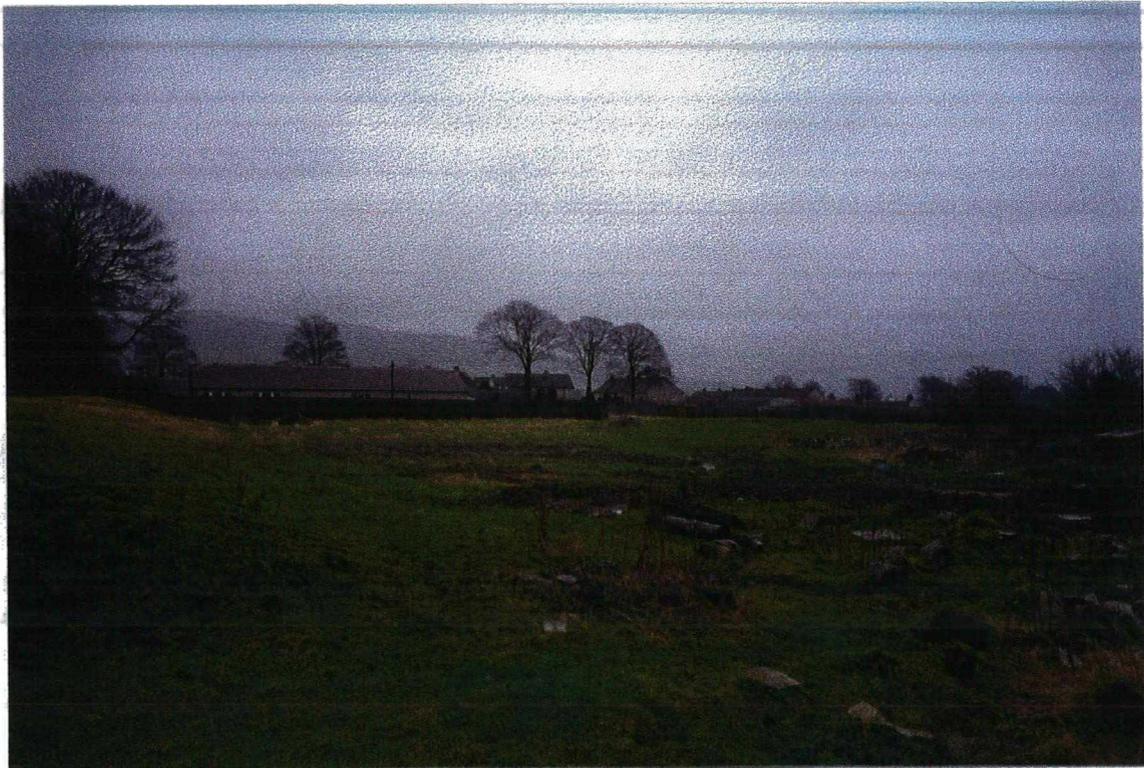


Plate 2.  
General view of site. Facing east.



Plate 3.  
Kiln 1030. Facing north.



Plate 4.  
Trench 2. View of platform and moat. Facing south.



Plate 5.  
Trench 2. Feature 2010. Facing south.



Plate 6.  
Trench 2. Pit 2030. Facing south.



Plate 7.  
Trench 2. Wall 2003/4. Facing south.



Plate 8.  
Trench 3. General view. Facing west.



Plate 9.  
Trench 3. General view. Facing south.



Plate 10.  
Trench 3. Section through platform. Facing west.



Plate 11.  
Trench 3. Section through moat. Facing north-west.

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# *Reports from the Environmental Archaeology Unit, York*

**Assessment of medieval plant and invertebrate remains  
from excavations at West Street, Gargrave, N.  
Yorkshire (site code WS97)**

by John Carrott, Allan Hall and Frances Large

**Report 97/36**

*Environmental Archaeology Unit  
University of York  
Heslington  
York YO1 5DD*

*(01904) 433846/51  
Fax: 433850*

## This report is part of the series *Reports from the Environmental Archaeology Unit, York*

To avoid confusion as to the nature of the various kinds of reports produced by the EAU, their typical level and content is outlined here.

An *evaluation report* presents the results of examination of hand-collected and sieved material, and of examination and processing of sediment samples, from an evaluation excavation. (An evaluation excavation is defined as one carried out to determine the archaeological importance and potential of deposits in advance of development but not intended to produce a definitive account of the deposits.) The environmental archaeology component of evaluations is carried out to standardised and very limited specifications and budgets and the data obtained are generally at least somewhat subjective. However, since it is the experience of EAU staff that few evaluations are followed by any more systematic excavation and research, an attempt is made to produce a report which contains sufficient information to be of at least some value in synthesis. Where possible, material of particular importance is examined and reported more fully than covered by the costing, using overhead funding. Recommendations are made as to the desirability of retaining material for possible future research. No attempt can be made in an evaluation report to do more than give the most general information relating the site to others; the archaeological information available when the evaluation report is written by EAU is usually very limited.

An *assessment report* presents the results of the first stage of post-excavation work, often carried out under English Heritage's 'MAP2' scheme. Archaeological information is generally available at a basic descriptive level (perhaps only context type), with preliminary phasing and dating. Practical work is carried out on material selected in conjunction with the post-excavation team, and material is examined (a) to determine its potential for interpretation, and thus (by extrapolation) that of the environmental samples as a whole; and (b) to permit the scale and cost of the main phase of post-excavation work to be estimated. Practical work is carried out as rapidly as is compatible with realising these aims whilst maintaining an acceptable level of accuracy. It is assumed that there is a reasonable likelihood of any significant material being examined in the main phase of post-excavation work, so the assessment report cannot be seen as being at all

a definitive account of the environmental archaeology of the site.

A *technical report* represents the basic reporting of the environmental archaeology evidence, with a greater or lesser amount of analytical, comparative and synthetic material. Many technical reports are written so as to allow extraction of sections of text for a publication report, but this should not be done without reference to the EAU. Some technical reports do no more than place evidence on record, and they may concern deposits with very limited potential.

*Data archives* put datasets on record, with, in most cases, minimal accompanying text. *Notes* report methodological and other occasional observations and may have almost any format.

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*Reports from the Environmental Archaeology Unit, York 97/36, 9 pp.*

**Assessment of medieval plant and invertebrate remains from excavations at  
West Street, Gargrave, N. Yorkshire (site code WS97)**

by

John Carrott, Allan Hall and Frances Large

**Summary**

The bioarchaeological potential of some samples of sediment from medieval deposits from excavations in West Street, Gargrave, has been assessed. Two of the samples yielded small numbers of charred cereals, but plant remains were otherwise limited to a small amount of charcoal. One sample yielded a small assemblage of molluscs of limited interpretative value. It is not recommended that any further analysis of the material is undertaken.

**Keywords:** WEST STREET; GARGRAVE; NORTH YORKSHIRE; MEDIEVAL; MOATED SITE; PLANT REMAINS; CHARCOAL; CHARRED CEREALS ; MOLLUSCS

Author's address

Environmental Archaeology Unit  
University of York  
York YO1 5DD

Telephone: 01904 433848/51  
Fax: 433850  
e-mail [ARH]: [biol8@york.ac.uk](mailto:biol8@york.ac.uk)

Prepared for

Malton Archaeological Projects  
39 Greengate  
Malton  
N. Yorks. YO17 0EL

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## Assessment of plant and animal remains from excavations at West Street, Gargrave, N. Yorkshire (site code WS97)

### Introduction

Fifteen samples of sediment were collected during excavation of a medieval moat and associated features at a site in West Street, Gargrave, N. Yorkshire (NGR SD9454) by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. in May 1997. They were submitted to the Environmental Archaeology Unit (EAU), University of York, for assessment of their bioarchaeological potential.

### Methods

All the sediment samples were inspected in the laboratory and notes made concerning their likely potential to yield useful assemblages of biological remains. On this basis, eight were selected for analysis using 'test' subsamples (Kenward *et al.* 1986) of between 1.4 and 3 kg. Washovers were taken from all the samples and these and the dried residues examined for their content of plant and animal remains.

In two cases, 'squashes' (Dainton 1992) were performed to check for the presence of microfossils of various kinds.

### Results

The results of the assessment of the sediment samples are presented in Table 1.

### Recommendations for further work

Given the very limited amount of preserved material and the limitations on dating of the contexts which *were* productive, the results obtained through this assessment do not, in the authors' opinion justify any further analysis of the material already examined or of any other samples from these excavations. However, the present

report should be lodged with the site archive as a record of the work on plant and invertebrate remains undertaken.

### Retention and disposal

All paper and electronic archives pertaining to the work reported here, together with processed and unprocessed samples and fossils obtained from the former, are currently stored at the EAU. It is not recommended that any unprocessed material be retained on bioarchaeological grounds.

### Acknowledgements

We are grateful to English Heritage for making available funds for technical assistance to undertake this assessment.

### References

- Dainton, M. (1992). A quick, semi-quantitative method for recording nematode gut parasite eggs from archaeological deposits. *Circaea, the Journal of the Association for Environmental Archaeology* 9, 58-63.
- Kenward, H. K., Engleman, C., Robertson, A., and Large, F. (1986). Rapid scanning of urban archaeological deposits for insect remains. *Circaea* 3, 163-72.

Table 1. Results of assessment of sediment samples from West Street, Gargrave. Samples are listed in context order. NFA—no further action recommended.

Context and archaeological information	Sample	Wt. (kg)	Nature of sediment	Evidence of plant remains	Evidence of invertebrate remains	Other material	Comments
1030 (charred fill from around kiln, Tr. 1; no dating )	3	1.4	dark greyish-brown, ?slightly humic, sandy silty clay; very small residue of sand with a little gravel (to 10 mm), traces of brick/tile (to 5 mm)	a single stinging nettle achene and traces of charcoal (< 2 mm max. dimension)	traces of land snails; many unidentified invertebrate eggs	a trace of organic detritus noted from a 'squash'	NFA
2031 (charred residues from side of pit; no dating)	17	3	angular stones (to 100 mm+) in a charcoal-rich, dark reddish-brown to black ?ash matrix; large residue of sand and gravel (to 45 mm) with some bone and mortar, and traces of brick/tile, coal and land snail shell fragments	the washover was large (about 200 cm <sup>3</sup> ) and consisted mainly of soft, somewhat 'spiky' fragments of charcoal, perhaps including some herbaceous material (e.g. from straw); some may be from coniferous wood; a few charred grains, including barley spikelets and hexaploid wheat grains(all rather blistered and poorly preserved)	a moderately large assemblage of land snails , mainly <i>Carychium</i> ? <i>bidentatum</i> and <i>Discus rotundatus</i> ; together they indicate damp, shaded conditions, perhaps under rubbish, or damp grassland with some cover (e.g. woodland), but not interpretatively very useful		the cereals could perhaps be investigated further to make a proper record; there is probably little more useful analysis to be made of the snails; but N.B. only about 0.25 kg of matrix remains and dating is currently not available

Context and archaeological information	Sample	Wt. (kg)	Nature of sediment	Evidence of plant remains	Evidence of invertebrate remains	Other material	Comments
2036 (sand and gravel at edge of moat; dating: medieval)	10		light-mid yellowish-grey-brown unconsolidated sand and gravel				not selected for analysis
2037 (deposit in mound passing laterally into fills of moat; dating: C13th)	4 (upper part of mound sequence)		dark grey, crumbly (working plastic and sticky when wet), moderately stony sandy silty clay				not selected for analysis
	5 (middle part of mound sequence)		dark grey, crumbly (working plastic and sticky when wet), moderately stony sandy silty clay				not selected for analysis
	7 (deposit from top of moat, perhaps old land surface)		dark grey-brown, crumbly (working plastic and sticky when wet), very stony sandy silty clay				not selected for analysis

Context and archaeological information	Sample	Wt. (kg)	Nature of sediment	Evidence of plant remains	Evidence of invertebrate remains	Other material	Comments
	12 (continuation of 2037 into moat fills)	3	dark brownish-grey, crumbly to slightly plastic (sticky when wetted), very stony silty clay sand; moderately large residue of sand and gravel (including stones to 50 mm)	traces of charcoal to 2 mm and ?root bark fragments	a little invertebrate cuticle	one large mammal tooth fragment	NFA
2038 (lower part of mound sequence; no dating)	6	3	mid-dark greyish-brown, crumbly to brittle (working plastic and slightly sticky when wet) very stony silty clay sand; small residue of sand and gravel (including stones to 70 mm); some evidence of scorching of stone fragments	traces of charcoal to 2 mm and some ?modern root/rootlet fragments	a few ?earthworm egg capsules	one large mammal tooth	NFA

Context and archaeological information	Sample	Wt. (kg)	Nature of sediment	Evidence of plant remains	Evidence of invertebrate remains	Other material	Comments
2039 (rectangular organic deposit; dating: medieval)	8	2	black to yellowish-brown to grey-brown crumbly, moderately stony sandy silt, rich in charcoal and ?ash; large residue of sand and gravel (to 30 mm)	moderate amounts of charred cereal grains in the washover of about 30 cm <sup>3</sup> (mainly ?bread wheat, but also some oats; grains mostly rather distorted); also a little charcoal to 5 mm	traces of land snails	some organic detritus was noted from the squash, along with a few fungal hyphae, and many diatoms and phytoliths	the cereals might repay closer examination but the material lacks chaff, is not very well preserved, and is from a context for which dating is currently too broad; further examination of the diatoms might yield information on water quality at the time of deposition but this seems unlikely to be of great interpretative value
2040 (moat fill; dating: C12-13th)	13		dark grey-brown, more or less plastic and sticky, very stony sandy silty clay				not selected for analysis

Context and archaeological information	Sample	Wt. (kg)	Nature of sediment	Evidence of plant remains	Evidence of invertebrate remains	Other material	Comments
	14	3	dark brownish-grey, crumbly (working plastic and slightly sticky when wet), very stony silty clay sand; small residue of sand with a little gravel to 25 mm; some scorching evident on stones	traces of charcoal to 5 mm with one charred half-grain of a cereal and traces of elderberry ( <i>Sambucus nigra</i> ) seed fragments; perhaps some other (extremely poorly preserved) seeds	a few ?earthworm egg capsules	trace of burnt bone to 5 mm	NFA
	15		dark grey-brown, crumbly (working plastic and sticky when wet) sandy silty clay with traces of stones 2-6 mm				not selected for analysis
2041 (moat fill; dating: medieval)	11	3	rounded stones (cobbles, to 100 mm) in a matrix of dark grey-brown plastic sandy clay; large residue of gravel (including stones to 70 mm) and a little sand	traces of charcoal to 5 mm	traces of invertebrate cuticle		NFA

Context and archaeological information	Sample	Wt. (kg)	Nature of sediment	Evidence of plant remains	Evidence of invertebrate remains	Other material	Comments
2047 (lowest moat fill; dating: medieval)	16		mid yellowish-grey-brown, crumbly, unconsolidated, very stony slightly clay sand				not selected for analysis
2049 (deposit from within circular stone structure; dating medieval) [sample bears context 2051!]	18	3	dark grey-brown, brittle to crumbly (working plastic and sticky when wet), moderately stony silty sandy clay; small residue of sand with a little gravel (to 40 mm)	traces of charcoal to 2 mm and of elder seed fragments	traces of land snails and ?earthworm egg capsules		