

Eastfield Farm, Winteringham (WGMCV08)

Introduction

Two environmental sample flots were assessed for the presence of carbonised plant material including charcoal.

Methodology

Bulk environmental samples were processed by Archaeological Services WYAS using an Ankara-style water flotation system (French 1971). Flots were collected in a 300 μ m sieve and the heavy fraction (the retent) was collected in a 1mm mesh. The retents were sorted by eye for artefacts and ecofacts and were also scanned using a magnet. The flot, once dry, was scanned using a low powered binocular microscope.

Plant nomenclature utilised in the text follows Stace (1997) for all vascular plants apart from cereals, which follow Zohary and Hopf (2000). All identified plant material was removed and bagged separately by type.

Results

Upon scanning, the flots appeared unpromising, containing <2.5ml of degraded tea-leaf sized charred fragments. Modern root fragments were also present but scarce at <2.5ml to 2.5ml. No wood charcoal was recovered from the samples.

Results are provided in table 1 and discussed below.

Discussion

The two sample flots were almost entirely barren of any carbonised plant remains, with only a single cereal grain recorded. Unfortunately it was not sufficiently well preserved to identify and was probably an accidental occurrence in the deposit, especially given its extremely poor preservation. One example of a modern (non-carbonised) seed was noted, but otherwise no weeds of agriculture or other environments were found. No wood charcoal was present.

Conclusions

The environmental samples produced trace amounts of tea-leaf sized charred detritus and a single very poor cereal grain. No occupation events, which would produce waste carbonised material, such as agricultural or domestic activities, appear to have been occurring in the area of the excavated samples.

No further work is required on the two flots and future sampling at the site may have limited potential to produce carbonised plant material.

Table 1. Samples assessed

	Sample	1	2
	Context	305	309
	Total Cv	<2.5ml	<2.5ml
	Modern	<2.5ml	2.5ml
Carbonised Cereal Grain	Common Name		
Indeterminate cereal grain (+embryo)		1	
Other Remains			
Modern (non-carbonised) seeds			1

Bibliography

French, D. H., 1971, 'An Experiment in Water Sieving', *Anatolian Studies* 21, 59-64

Stace, C., 1997, *New Flora of the British Isles*. 2nd Edition Cambridge University Press

Zohary, D. and Hopf, M., 2000, *Domestication of Plants in the Old World*. 3rd Edition Oxford University Press

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Client

Pre-Construct Archaeology

Project management

Jane Richardson PhD

Report

Diane Alldritt PhD