Appendix 5:

Land off Caistor Road/Thornton Road, South Kelsey (CTSK07)

Introduction

A total of two sample flots were examined for the presence of carbonised plant macrofossils including charcoal. Charred material sorted from a single retent was also examined.

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 μm 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. Non-marine mollusc shells were present in both samples where they have been retained for appropriate future analysis.

Plant nomenclature utilised in the text follows Stace (1997) for all vascular plants apart from cereals, which follow Zohary and Hopf (2000).

Results

The flots contained small amounts of charred detritus, from <2.5ml to 12.5ml, which was mostly found to be cereal grain, weed seeds and tea-leaf sized indeterminate fragments. Modern root contamination was fairly low at 10ml per sample, so is not considered problematic.

Results are provided in table 1 and discussed below.

Discussion

The two environmental samples produced small quantities of mostly nicely preserved carbonised cereal grain, occasional weed seeds and a single fragment of wood charcoal. Occasional heather stems were also recorded. Non-marine mollusc shell was noted in both samples.

Carbonised cereal grain was present in sample 1 (110) only, which produced a small amount of nicely preserved *Triticum aestivum* (bread wheat) and a single *Triticum* sp. (wheat). The grain was identified specifically as the bread type (rather than spelt) due to its very short squat and 'compact' nature. Indeterminate cereal grains were also present, but again only in sample 1 (110). In fact sample 2 (102) was barren of any remains apart from non-marine mollusc shell. No weeds of agricultural or disturbed ground were recorded, apart from perhaps *Vicia* sp. (vetches) which may have been growing as a weed of arable fields but could equally have been a market-garden type crop in its own right.

Exploitation of heath and peat land environments was indicated by the presence of *Carex* sp. (sedges) and *Calluna* (heather) stems in sample 1 (110). This most likely reflects the cutting of peat or heathy turves for fuel. Only a single fragment of identifiable wood charcoal was recovered, and this was found to be *Quercus* (oak),

which along with peat was most likely a valuable fuel resource.

Conclusions

The two environmental samples contained small amounts of mostly nicely preserved cereal grain, together with occasional weed seeds, wood charcoal and heath land indicator plants. Bread wheat appeared to have been the main cereal type under cultivation and this was probably grown for human consumption. The samples indicated that oak woodland was present in the area and that heath or peat lands were probably being cut for fuel.

All plant macrofossils from this sample set have been fully identified so no further work is required. Future work at the site has a fairly good potential to produce well preserved carbonised material based upon the results from this assessment, albeit perhaps in small quantities.

Table 1. Samples assessed

	Sample	1	2
	Context	110	102
	Total CV	12.5ml	<2.5ml
	Modern	10ml	10ml
Carbonised Cereal Grain	**Common Name**		
Triticum aestivum	bread wheat	4	
Triticum sp.	wheat	1	
Indeterminate cereal grain (+embryo)		6	
Charcoal			
Quercus	oak	1 (0.11g)	
Carbonised Weeds			
Vicia sp.	vetches	1	
Carex sp.	sedges	1	
Carbonised Wild Resources			
Calluna stems (roots + twigs)	heather	2 (0.08g)	
Other Remains			
Non-marine mollusc shells		10+	5+

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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Jane Richardson PhD

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Diane Alldritt PhD