

A REPORT ON SOME SOIL SAMPLES FROM EARITH, CAMBS
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In 1974 part of the surviving portion of a Romano-British settlement, which originally extended over at least 35 acres, was excavated by Mr R L Smith. The area was situated on the fen-edge, overlying gravel, at 3 to 4 m. above O. D. Occupation ceased during the mid-fourth century, the site being overlaid by alluvial clay (Smith, 1975).

A number of soil samples were examined for macroscopic organic remains and the results are described below:-

105 contained much finely divided charcoal, which was too small to identify, ~~and~~ and a few larger fragments which appeared to be mainly Oak.

9 also contained a lot of small, unidentifiable, charcoal fragments and a few larger pieces, which appeared to be mainly Oak. A modern uncarbonised seed was found and one snail - Ceciliodes acicula - which could very well be modern, as it is a burrowing species (B Collinson 1979, pers. comm).

29 contained a few charcoal fragments, which appeared to be mainly Oak, and a small bone - the toe of a small mammal (A. Locker 1979, pers comm). Masses of medium to fine, fibrous modern roots were present.

44 contained a few charcoal fragments, which appeared to be mainly Oak, and a modern seed.

18 contained a few unidentified charcoal fragments.

23 contained a few unidentified charcoal fragments and several modern seeds.

Comments

Apart from the finely divided charcoal in 105 and 9, these samples contained

little in the way of macroscopic organic remains and showed considerable evidence of modern contamination. It was therefore impossible to draw any conclusions relating to the environment of the site at the time of the Romano-British occupation.

References

Collinson, B (1979). Personal communication.

Locker, A (1979). Personal communication.

Smith, R L (1979). In "Archaeological Excavations.1974". HMSO pp 35.