## ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY REPORT \* 2924



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## REPORT ON A SERIES OF SOIL SAMPLES FROM CALLIS WOLL HUMBERSIDE

By Helen C M Keeley

Excavation was carried out during the summer of 1975 of Mortimer's Barrow 275 at Callis Wold, Humberside (NGR SE(44) 832 559) by Dr D G Coombs of the Department of Archaeology, University of Manchester. The excavations were visited briefly by the author during this period. The building sequence had been established during previous excavations in 1974 and consisted of:-

1. Neolithic mortuary enclosure

2. Round/oval barrow

3. Beaker occupation on the south-east edge of the primary mound

4. Turf stack extension to the primary mound, digging of a surrounding ditch and building of the inner chalk bank.

5. Rubble extension of the barrow covering all earlier features; digging of a surrounding ditch.

The buried soil beneath the barrow was examined in 1974 by Dr R Hartmup of The Soil Survey of England and Wales, who concluded that the topsoil had been removed prior to building the mound. pH determination were carried out by the author in 1975 and results were as follows:

the top of the buried soil pH 5.0; overlying clay 4:7. Therefore, although the soil was developed on chalk, it appeared worth sampling for pollen analysis.

The following soil samples were collected by the excavator and submitted to the Ancient Monuments Laboratory:-

121 AM No 756535 was a soil column taken through the turf enlargement of the barrow.

122 AM No 756534 was a series of soil samples taken at 2 cm intervals through the whole section of the barrow.

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Initially it was decided to prepare samples from the column (AM No 756535) for pollen analysis and this was done by N Balaam (Institute of Archaeology) who was working temperarily for the Environmental Bludies Scetton of the AM Lab at the time.

The column was split into 38 samples, no 1 being from the top of the column, which were at 2 cm. intervals with the exception of no 11, which only represented 1cm. Samples 1 to 28 were prepared for analysis but on examination it was found that very little recognisable pollen appeared in them. It would have been possible to count with <u>difficulty</u> nos 12, 15, 19, 21 and 28 but it was considered that these samples alone would not be a significant indication of the environment at the time and therefore the analysis was abandoned.

Examination of the turves <u>in situ</u> and of the soil column gave no reason to believe that they had been brought from elsewhere. The truncation of the buried soil would tend to confirm a local origin for the turves of the mound.

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