

A POLLEN SPECTRUM FROM MUCKING

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One pollen sample (45) t.l. was prepared to assess the potential of the series of samples collected from a ditch by Dr H.C.M. Keeley. The pollen was not very well preserved, so no further samples were prepared, and the results, such as they are, refer to this one sample.

<u>Corylus</u> (hazel)	2	2
Gramineae (grasses)	63	58
Compositae (L) (e.g. dandelions)	18	17
Compositae (T) (e.g. daisies)	2	2
<u>Plantago lanceolata</u> (ribwort plantain)	18	17
<u>Ranunculus</u> (buttercup)	3	3
Rubiaceae (bedstraw)	1	1
<u>Rumex</u> (sorrel)	1	1
total:	108	100 %

This pollen spectrum shows strong signs of grassland, but this may be of very local significance and not really representative of the state of the landscape around the site. There are no other pollen results from this region apart from the work of Devoy on the Thames estuary deposits (Devoy 1979). The top part of the pollen diagram from Tilbury (not exactly dated) shows a landscape with mostly open land such as grassland, some woodland and a little sign of arable farming (pp. 373 - 374.).

references:

- Devoy, R.J.N., 1979 Flandrian sea level changes and vegetational history of the lower Thames estuary. Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London B 285: 355 - 407