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Report on 2 soil samples from Wenlock Priory, Salop  
(Guardianship, Roman - Medieval).

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Excavations were carried out at Wenlock Priory during the summer of 1982 by Mr. Humphrey Woods on behalf of DAMHB (DoE) - now HBMCE. Two soil samples have been examined by the author, i.e. ~~21~~62 (AML No. 822504) and ~~22~~62 (AML No. 822505), which were described by the excavator as farmyard soil which appeared to be animal cess.

The samples were analysed for phosphorus content, which was found to be extremely high (no value can be assigned as it went off the top of the scale). A few fragments of charcoal and bone were extracted from the samples.

Conclusion:

The high phosphorus content in the absence of large quantities of refuse, such as animal bone, shells or plant ash, indicates that the soil may contain material derived from animal cess. It is not possible to verify whether or not this was produced by farm animals, although this is quite likely.