

2241

ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY

REPORT

4599

SERIES/No

CONTRACTOR

AUTHOR

Andrew K Jones

May 1985

TITLE

Parasitological investigations on the
"Anglian helmet pit", Coppergate
Development site (Yat site code 1982.22)

Parasitological investigations on the "Anglian Helmet pit",
Coppergate Development site (YAT Site Code 1982.22).

Ancient Monuments Laboratory Report

Two samples, 60 and 61, were examined for parasite ova to test the hypothesis that the pit containing the Coppergate Helmet was a latrine or cess pit. Two methods of examining soil samples for parasite ova were used. Initially, the 'Stoll' method (MAFF, 1977) was followed to examine sub-samples, thereafter they were subjected to a flotation techniques using saturated magnesium sulphate solution following the procedure given by Burden et al. (1976). Neither test revealed parasite ova. These investigations provide no support for the hypothesis that the pit was used to dispose of human excrement.

References

Burden, D. J., Whitehead, A., Green, E. A., McFadzean, J. A. and Beer, R. J. S. (1976) The treatment of soil infested with the human whipworm, Trichuris trichiura. Journal of Hygiene 77, 377-382.

Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food (1977) Manual of veterinary parasitological laboratory techniques. Technical Bulletin No. 18. Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London.

Andrew K. G. Jones,
Environmental Archaeology Unit,
University of York,
York, YO1 5DD.