Ludgershall Castle-Environmental Report on Soil Samples.

757604 (Similar sample analysed on site) No 1 E Sector (10) Sample 1

This small sample was sorted by the paraffin flotation method*, using 300µm sieves. The non-floating residues were also sorted.

It was found to contain the following materials:-

Charcoal -

A small amount of oak (Quercus sp.) charcoal from fairly large timbers.

Animal bone -

1 fish vertebra

2 fragments of mammal bone

Charred seeds -

Wheat (Triticum aestivum L.) 1 grain

Rye (Secale cereale L.) 1 grain

757605 Trench 13 F192 (16) Sample 2

This small sample was treated as described above. It was found to contain the following materials:-

Charcoal -

A small amount of charcoal was present, but the fragments were too small for reliable identification.

One fragment was tentatively identified as hazel (Corylus avellana L.) or alder (Alnus glutinosa (L.)).

Charred seeds -

Wheat (Triticum aestivum L.) 9 grains

Barley (Hordeum vulgare L.) 1 grain

Rye (Secale cereale L.) 2 grains

* Coope, G R, and Osborne, P J, (1967), Report on the Coleopterous Fauna of the Roman Well at Barnsley Park, Gloucestershire (Trans Brist. and Gloucs Arch. Soc. 86, 84-87

757606 E Sector trench A26 F1057 Sample 3

This sample was treated as described above. It was found to contain the following materials:-

Charcoal -

A few fragments, too small for reliable identification.

Animal bone -

2 large mammal bone fragments

Oryctolagus cuniculus right femur
left scapula

Rana sp. femur

Rodentia tibiae 3 left, 4 right
humeri 2 left, 2 right
femora 2 left, 2 right

Microtus agrestis 2 palates and maxillaries

Apodemus sp. 1 palate and maxilla
1 right mandible

Mus musculus 1 mandible right
2 os coxae right
1 os coxae left

Soricidae femur 3 right
os coxae 1 left, 1 right

Sorex araneus 1 mandible right

757607 NE Sector F1004 ④ Sample 9

This sample was treated as described above. It was found to contain the following materials:-

Charcoal -

A small amount of oak from fairly large timbers.

Animal bone -

Oryctolagus cuniculus? 1 thoracic vertebra

1 fish bone

Microtus agrestis right os coxa female

Rana sp. femur

Mollusca -

757608 F1004 (6) Sample 10

This sample was treated as described above and was found to contain the following materials:-

Charcoal -

Oak

Hazel (twiggy)

cf maple (Acer sp.)

Hawthorn-type (Crataegus/Pyrus/Malus/Sorbus sp.)

Charred seeds -

Wheat (Triticum aestivum L.) 4 grains

Mollusca -

757609 F1004 (12) E Sector Sample 11

This sample was treated as described above and was found to contain the following materials:-

Charcoal -

Oak

Hazel

Hawthorn-type

cf maple (Acer sp.)? 1 fragment

All from fairly large timbers or branches.

Animal bone -

1 fragment fish bone

? Oryctolagus cuniculus lumbar vertebra

1 unidentified bird radius

Seeds -

Probably Barren strawberry (Potentilla sterilis (L) Gaercke. 1 achene.

Possible modern contaminant.

757610 NE Sector F1004 (10) Sample 12

This sample was treated as described above and was found to contain the following materials:-

Charcoal -

Oak

Hazel

Hawthorn-type

cf blackthorn (Prunus sp)

Rockrose (Helianthemum sp) 1 fragment

Animal bone -

A few unidentifiable fragments

Mollusca -

Charcoal identifications C A Keepax
Animal bone identifications R T Jones
Seed identifications J R B Arthur and P J Paradine

SG

LUDGERSHALL CASTLE-Comments

7 soil samples from Ludgershall Castle were examined for the presence of plant and animal remains. Soil conditions on this site were obviously not suitable for the preservation of uncharred organic materials. The samples yielded only charcoal, charred seeds, animal bones, and snail shells.

The wood species identified were oak, hazel, hawthorn-type, cf maple, cf blackthorn and rockrose. With the exception of the last, all of these species were also present in the major charcoal samples identified previously.

It is difficult to make any environmental conclusions as these are common species of mixed oak woodland, hedges, shrub, etc, and in any case may not represent a random or representative selection of species from the area of the site. However, all of these species could well be of local origin; for example, maple grows well on basic soil. The presence of one fragment of rockrose is interesting because it is seldom found in charcoal samples. This is probably because during normal excavation only fairly obvious fragments of charcoal are picked out and the odd fragment of a less common species might frequently be missed. This species generally grows in basic grassland and scrub and therefore may well have grown in the vicinity of the site.

A small amount of charred grain was present. This was mainly wheat , with rye and barley also present. Unfortunately, the number of grains present is too small to provide any good agricultural evidence.

A small amount of animal bone was also present. There was a single fragment of bird and a few fragments each of fish, frog, rabbit, short-tailed vole, mouse (including house mouse), and common shrew. Unfortunately there are too few fragments to draw any conclusions from this.

Castle Keepax