



ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY
Department of the Environment
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Telephone 01-734 6010 ext 34 523

AML Report
2450

Mr G. Soffe,
Fortress House
Rm 120

Your reference

Our reference

Date 12/1/78

Dear Mr Soffe,

sent etc

Please find enclosed your
report(s) for the site(s) of *Peckedown*

I would be most grateful if you could send me a draft
copy of any proposed publication which includes the report(s)
or extracts from the report(s).

Please acknowledge receipt of this communication.

Yours sincerely,

Castle Keepers

Please forward to Mr. Nicholas.

Examination of samples from a Bronze Age urn at Portsdown, Hants.

A number of small samples from a pit containing an inverted urn were submitted for examination. No cremated bone was noted in any of the samples. One sample (767503) was charcoal* and two others (767500 and 767505) contained a few tiny charcoal flecks. Calcined flints were noted in three samples (767500-03) and chalk in all of them except 767503. Sample 767504 was mainly a black crumbly material with no apparent structure.

There may have been bone present in the pit but none was collected in the samples. If it was intended to study the presumed contents of the urn the complete contents of the pit should have been saved as part of a cremation or a series of samples from it is useless.

Justine Bayley

JUSTINE BAYLEY

* Charcoal weight 3 gm. Mainly ash (Fraxinus excelsior L.) from large timbers with a few possible fragments of oak (Quercus sp.) also from large timbers.

Carole A Keepax

CAROLE A KEEPAX

724179 1552 SS6 Bag 344

"Guardrobe samples - please test for parasites etc."

Charcoal

Animal bone (report attached)

724180 1553 SS7

From same deposits as above.

Animal bone (report attached)

Mollusca (" ")

Insect pupae

724181 1554 SS8 Bag 345

"Is this an iron pan?"

Dr. H. Keeley:-

No. This could be a fragipan, but it is impossible to tell without seeing this in situ.

724182 1556 SS10 Bag 347

"Where might the clay come from?"

F. W. Anderson:-

(This site is on the Trias). Fine grained micaceous red sandstone, probably local Bunter Sandstone.

724183 1839 SS11 Bag 401

"Is this iron pan?"

No. Comments as for SS8. (H. Keeley)

724186-9 2008 SS15 Bag 475
2009 SS16 Bag 476
2010 SS17 Bag 477
2011 SS18 Bag 478

"Four samples from layer sealed in building construction. To establish environmental conditions on the site when the castle was being constructed 1220-1232".

Charcoal

Animal bone (report attached). Separated with 1mm sieve.

Mollusca (report attached)

Seeds (report sent previously)

724193 2146 SS22 Bag 595 SEE ABOVE

"Abstracted from SS15-18"

Mollusca. (Not identified, as more detailed work already carried out on these samples).

Seeds (report sent previously)

Insects, M. Girling:-

Elytra and abdomen of Cercyon sp. (Coleoptera, Hydrophilidae)

Puparium (Diptera)

Elytron of Aphodius sp. (Col. Scarabaeidae)

Head of Aleocharinae indet. (Col. Staphylinidae)

724190-2 2086 SS19 Bag 536
2087 SS20 Bag 537
2095 SS21 Bag 545

"From C13th pit. Please extract animal bones etc, to give environmental picture".

Charcoal

Animal bone (report attached)

Mollusca (sent to J. Evans)

Eggshell (from SS21 only. Identification is not yet available).

724194 1842 SS14 Bag 404

Charcoal

NB. The animal bone identifications for these samples are attached for information, but these should be included in the main animal bone report.

4F

Carole A Keepax (collation)