

**Title:**

Reflections on selected themes of the study of plant and insect remains from the Troitsky excavations in Novgorod, Russia

**By:**

Mick Monk and Penny Johnston and drawing on the work of Eileen Reilly.

**Abstract**

Troitsky is a small area of the medieval town of Novgorod in Russia, a place where deep layers of anoxic deposits survive. This paper will address some of the key themes that emerged during the analysis of plant and insect remains from samples taken during excavations at Troitsky, including evidence for food and fodder, the exploitation of water meadows and waste disposal. The analysis was based on a systematic but selective sampling strategy for plant remains, undertaken over several series of excavation between 1994 and 2002, with a complementary pilot study for the insect remains undertaken in 2001 and 2002. Drawing on this work, we explore points of converge from both strands of evidence and argue for the widespread use of multi-proxy studies when examining anoxic deposits from medieval urban centres in the future.