

ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY

REPORT

3076

SERIES/No

ENVIRONMENTAL 3/80

AUTHOR

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TITLE

Dorchester (CEU Site 16)
Fish bone

DORCHESTER (CEU SITE 16) FISH BONE

Nine of the 11 fish bones recovered from the site could be identified. All of the fish bone came from contexts relating to the post-medieval period. These are listed below.

My thanks to Mr A Wheeler, British Museum (Natural History) for the use of his comparative reference collection.

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|-------------|--|--|
| Context 49 | Gurnard (Triglidae): | 1 vertebra. |
| Context 68 | Gadoid (Gadidae): | 2 vertebrae. |
| Context 135 | Hake (<u>Merluccius merluccius</u>): | 1 vertebra. |
| Context 155 | Hake (<u>Merluccius merluccius</u>): | 1 vertebra. This specimen is
apparently pathological. One articular facet of the centrum is
flattened (see Plate 1).
Indeterminate species: 1 vertebra. |
| Context 315 | Indeterminate species: | 1 vertebra. |
| Context 492 | Thick-lipped grey mullet (<u>Chelon labrosus</u>): | 3 vertebrae.
1 opercular. |

The opercular was very much larger than a reference specimen that came from a fish of total length 43 cms and weight 1 lb 13 ozs. This species attains a length of 75 cms and a weight of 4.5 kgs. (Wheeler, 1978: 271), and the specimen from Dorchester was probably near this upper size limit.

Reference

Wheeler, A. (1978) Key to the fishes of Northern Europe. Frederick Warne/London.

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