

ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY

REPORT

3202

SERIES/No CONSULTANT

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TITLE Baconsthorpe Castle, Norfolk
Land & Freshwater Mollusca

Several samples from two locations were analysed:

Trench VII, Layer (13) - Lab. no 728201

Trench IV, Layer (3) - Lab. no. 728203

All the samples were very small. The shells were in various states of extraction when submitted. Some had been completely extracted from the matrix. Others only partly so.

In addition to the mollusc shells, the following biological remains were noted:

Fish scales

Ostracod valves (see Table 000) (Ostracods are small freshwater bivalve Crustacea)

Plant remains, undifferentiated

Seeds

"Chara" oospores (see Table 000) (These are calcareous spores of a freshwater Alga)

The "Chara" oospores were extremely brittle. Many of the Ostracoda were intact pairs of valves. Both these facts point to pretty gentle conditions of sedimentation.

Practically all the species are freshwater. And on the whole they are species that prefer fairly large bodies of well-oxygenated water with weeds. They would not survive in slum habitats given to periodic drying or stagnation.

The four land species are Carychium tridentatum, Vitrea crystallina, Zonitoides nitidus (a marsh species) and Helix aspersa. These constitute a total of five specimens out of over 300.

In a previous investigation of the Mollusca from this site

(report submitted some years ago) (lab. no. 728941) a similar list of species was identified.

It is possible that the Anodonta and Helix aspersa derive from human food debris. These were a lot more abundant in the earlier samples.

Lab. Number	728201	728203
<u>Valvata cristata</u> Müller	3	-
<u>Valvata piscinalis</u> (Müller)	30	-
<u>Bithynia tentaculata</u> (L.)	64 + 167 op.	47 + 34 op.
<u>Bithynia leachii</u> (Sheppard)	1	-
<u>Carychium tridentatum</u> (Risso)	-	1
<u>Lymnaea peregra</u> (Müller)	11	21
<u>Planorbis planorbis</u> (L.)/ <u>P. carinatus</u> Müller	+	26
<u>Gyraulus albus</u> (Müller)	4	55
<u>Armiger crista</u> (L.)	5	-
<u>Vitrea crystallina</u> (Müller)	-	1
<u>Zonitoides nitidus</u> (Müller)	2	-
<u>Helix aspersa</u> Müller	1	-
<u>Anodonta</u> sp.	+	-
<u>Sphaerium corneum</u> (L.)	12	14
<u>Pisidium casertanum</u> (Poli)	1	1
<u>Pisidium obtusale</u> (Lamarck)	cf. 2	-
<u>Pisidium nitidum</u> Jenyns	1 + cf. 2	-
<u>Pisidium</u> spp.	9	3
Ostracoda	29	4
"Chara" oospores	+	-

Table 000. Baconsthorpe Castle. Land and freshwater molluscs, Ostracoda and "Chara". + = present; cf. = tentative identification; op. = operculum; numbers for Sphaerium, Pisidium and Ostracoda are individual valves.