

ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY

REPORT

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CONSULTANT

AUTHOR

J G Evans

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TITLE

Castle Rising; Molluscs

By J.G. van.

Eleven lots of snails were provided for identification. These had been extracted from soil samples by sieving through a 1.0-mm mesh sieve. This is not fine enough. A 0.5-mm mesh sieve should have been used as many species and apices readily pass through a 1.0-mm mesh. The faunas are therefore likely to be biased to a certain extent towards the larger species. For example one would have expected Carychium tridentatum and Punctum pygmaeum on ecological grounds in such an assemblage.

Details of the samples are as follows (DOE lab. no. 756031):

CR 12	CR 75 - 55 -	31	weight	6 lb 14 oz
CR 36	" "	32	"	1 lb 10 oz
CR 11	" "	33	"	7 lb 14 oz
CR 33	" "	34	"	6 lb
CR 31	" "	38	"	5 lb 10 oz
CR 34	" "	43	"	8 lb 6 oz
CR 37	" "	83	"	5 lb 6 oz
CR 39	" "	84	"	3 lb 6 oz
CR 35	" "	89	"	5 lb 15 oz
CR 3	" "	92	"	6 lb 10 oz
CR 32	" "	103	"	11 lb 10 oz

The samples varied enormously in the numbers of snails in each. (See Table 000 for details of the identifications and counts.) One sample contained over 200 shells, others practically none at all. However, the nature of the fauna from sample to sample otherwise varied little and it is possible to consider all eleven samples as one.

There is a mixture of ecological elements. Basically the faunas are terrestrial, with species preferring fairly shaded, undisturbed environments predominant. Such are Lauria cylindracea, Discus rotundatus and Balea parversa. These occur in woodlands under logs and amongst leaf litter, or amongst stone rubble from collapsed walls, or in fairly sheltered ditches and so forth. There are, however, a number of elements which suggest some influence of open ground. These are Pupilla muscorum, Vallonia species, and Helicella itala.

In addition to this terrestrial element, there are components from a variety of aquatic habitats. It is possible that some of these were brought onto the site by man, some of it as shellfish food, the

re t incidentally as part of the shellfish collecting process. The categories are as follows:

- (1) Freshwater, non-food, mollusca
 - Valvata cristata
 - Bithynia tentaculata
 - Anodonta leucostoma
- (2) Brackish-water, non-food, mollusca
 - Hydrobia species
- (3) Marine, food, mollusca
 - Littorina littorea (L.) Common winkle
 - Nucella lapillus (L.) Dog whelk
 - Mytilus edulis L. Edible mussel
 - Caracoderma edule (L.) Cockle
- (4) Fish bone and scale
- (5) Marine fossils.

The marine food species are represented by very few and small fragments of shell. They are all common edible species as found on pre-historic and historic archaeological sites. It is possible that the incorporation of the small marine fossils (gastropods), the fish debris and the Hydrobia shells into the the archaeological layers was an incidental feature of the collecting of the shellfish. It is impossible, without further information, to say anything about the origin of the few freshwater shells.

Sample Number	31	32	33	34	38	43	83	84	89	92	103
<u>Valvata cristata</u> Müller	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Hydrobia ventrosa</u> (Montagu)	10	3	3	2	-	3	1	-	-	1	-
<u>Hydrobia ulvae</u> (Pennant)	4	3	3	6	-	5	1	+	-	-	-
<u>Bithynia tentaculata</u> (L.)	-	1 op	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3 op
<u>Anisus leucostoma</u> (Millet)	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cochlicopa lubricella</u> (Porro)	3	-	5	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
<u>Pupilla muscorum</u> (L.)	6	7	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Lauria cylindracea</u> (da Costa)	19	2	17	4	2	14	15	4	8	-	-
<u>Vallonia costata</u> (Müller)	10	1	4	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
<u>Vallonia excentrica</u> Stérki	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
<u>Ena obscura</u> (Müller)	-	cf. 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Discus rotundatus</u> (Müller)	96	30	33	46	8	2	4	-	-	-	-
<u>Vitrea contracta</u> (Westerlund)	55	21	42	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Aegopinella nitidula</u> (Draparnaud)	6	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Oxychilus cellarius</u> (Müller)	63	15	21	12	-	18	7	2	2	-	-
Limacidae	3	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Ceciloides acicula</u> (Müller)	4	2	-	1	3	-	-	-	1	-	-
<u>Cochlodina laminata</u> (Montagu)	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Clausilia bidentata</u> (Ström)	4	-	-	3	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
<u>Balea perversa</u> (L.)	6	1	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Helicella itala</u> (L.)	2	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Trichia hispida</u> (L.)	53	7	22	4	2	12	5	2	6	-	1
<u>Cepaea</u> sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1
<u>Helix aspersa</u> Müller	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Marine fossils	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+
Marine shell fragments	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	-
Fish bone/scale	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 000.

Castle Rising. Land and freshwater molluscs. Nomenclature after Kerney (1976).

+ = presence noted, not counted; op = operculum; cf. = tentative identification.