

Lincoln, Saltorgate

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Molluscs

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Sample details (Lab. nos. 742307 and 742308):

Sample No. (= Layer no.)	Weight	Bags
L 112 (youngest)	2 lb	1*
L 130	4 lb 10 oz	1
L 145	2 lb 7 oz	1*
L 152	5 lb 8 oz	1*
L 274	3 lb 1 oz	1*
L 225 (oldest)	6 lb 4 oz	1

* = plus an additional small bag of dried residue from sieving for sorting for non-floating snails. These details were supplied by the A.M. lab. In fact no material was provided for L 112.

Most of the samples were organic. Seeds, moss, uncarbonized wood, fish scales and beetle remains were present; and the periostracum of the Mytilus valves was preserved as a partial covering of black horny material. These deposits were obviously laid down in pretty damp, anaerobic conditions, conditions that were maintained up to the time of excavation.

The results of analysis are presented in Table 000.

The molluscs can be put conveniently into two groups. The land and freshwater species on the one hand and the marine species on the other. The first group was probably present on the site incidental to the presence of man. Shells are very sparse indeed, and practically no definite inferences about the environment of deposition can be made. However, two of the species are freshwater types, suggesting flooding.

The marine shells are probably present as the debris of human meals for all except Tellina tenuis are food species. However, the very fragmentary nature of the remains indicates that the layers were not the main location of midden accumulation, and that the material is probably residual.

The fragmentary nature of both groups of molluscan remains and the quantity of charcoal, small pieces of burnt bone, and occasional pot sherds suggests some degree of disturbance of the deposits. Perhaps they are occupation horizons, subjected to intermittent flooding, as is indeed suggested by the fish remains and water snails. But if

flooding took place it cannot have been of more than a few days duration at any one time. Otherwise there would have been more water molluscs present, or at least other indications of standing water such as Chara oospores or ostracod valves.

It is worth mentioning that previous work on Lincoln Mollusca - from Saltergate and Silver Street - was more rewarding.

Sample / Layer no.	225	274	152	145	130
<u>Land and freshwater molluscs</u>							
<u>Bithynia tentaculata</u> (L.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 op + 1
<u>Carychium tridentatum</u> (Risso)	-	1	1	1	-	-	-
<u>Bathyomphalus contortus</u> (L.)	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Vallonia costata</u> (Müller)	-	1	1	1	-	-	-
Arionid granules	+	+	+	+	-	-	+
<u>Vitrea contracta</u> (Westerlund)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Trichia striolata</u> (Pfeiffer)	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Trichia hispida</u> (L.)	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
<u>Marine molluscs</u>							
<u>Littorina littorea</u> (L.)	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
<u>Mytilus edulis</u> (L.)	fgt	3 vv	5 vv	5 vv	fgts	fgts	9 vv
<u>Ostrea edulis</u> L.	-	fgt	-	-	1 v	-	-
<u>Cerastoderma edule</u> (L.)	-	fgts	-	-	-	-	fgt
<u>Tellina tenuis</u> da Costa	-	-	-	1 v	-	-	-
<u>Insect remains</u> (Coleoptera)	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
<u>Fish</u>							
Scales	+	-	-	+	-	-	+
Vertebrae	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
Other bone	-	+	+	+	-	-	-
<u>Small mammals</u>							
Incisors	-	-	-	+	+	+	-
Other bone	-	-	-	+	+	+	-
<u>Plant remains</u>							
Seeds	+	-	-	+	-	-	+
Moss	-	-	-	+	-	-	+
Wood	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charcoal	+	-	-	+	-	-	+

Table 000. Lincoln, Saltergate, 1981. Biological remains extracted from samples submitted for molluscan analysis. + = presence noted, not counted; fgt = fragmen
vv = valves; op = operculum.