

Poxwell, Dorset Mollusca by J.G. Evans

The following species of Mollusca were identified from the Romano-British site at Poxwell (see Table 1 for detailed list):

<u>Ostrea edulis</u> Linné, Oyster	...	...	...	...	3 valves
<u>Cerastoderma (Cardium) edule</u> (Linné), Cockle	...	...	...	...	1 valve
<u>Patella vulgata</u> Linné, Limpet	...	...	...	...	18
<u>Littorina littorea</u> (Linné), Winkle	...	...	...	...	3
<u>Cepaea nemoralis</u> (Linné), Garden snail	...	...	...	...	5
<u>Helix aspersa</u> Müller, Common snail	...	...	...	...	5

The oyster, cockle, limpet and winkle are marine; the other two are terrestrial. All, with the possible exception of Cepaea, were probably used for food.

Table 1. Poxwell, Mollusca

	<u>Ostrea edulis</u>	<u>Cerastoderma edule</u>	<u>Patella vulgata</u>	<u>Littorina littorea</u>	<u>Cepaea nemoralis</u>	<u>Helix aspersa</u>
I (3)	1	-	-	-	-	2
VI (1)	-	-	1	-	-	-
VI (2)	-	-	2	-	-	-
VI (3)	-	-	7	3	-	-
I (7)	-	-	1	-	1	-
I (5)	-	-	-	-	-	1
VI (7)	-	-	1	-	-	-
I (9)	-	-	-	-	2	-
I (6)	-	-	2	-	1	-
XI (2)	-	-	1	-	1	2
VII (1)	-	1	-	-	-	-
XII (5)	-	-	1	-	-	-
XI (4)	2	-	1	-	-	-
I (10)	-	-	1	-	-	-

A small sample of earth from Pox 68 I (3) yielded the following, non-food, land snails: Puella muscorum (Linné) (1), Vallonia excentrica Sterki (3), Ceciloides acicula (Müller) (54) and Helicella itala (Linné) (1). All are characteristic of dry chalk downland, but many of the Ceciloides are modern, the species burrowing to depths of 1.5 m. There are too few shells to make any real conclusions as to the nature of the environment.