Water Newton, Hunts: Mollusca

1 Com 6 3

Shells from this Roman site were identified as follows:

1. Amalgamated from p. 2 of "Report on shells from Water Newton"

Buccinum undatum Linné, Whelk	3
Helix aspersa Muller, Common snail	2
Mytilus edulis Linné, Mussel	6
Ostrea edulis Linné, Oyster	ll valves
Cardium edule Linné, Cockle	l valve

2. Shells from well

These are listed as 'freshwater' snails, but all in fact are terrestrial. The vast majority are Helix aspersa Müller and Cepaea nemoralis (Linné); also present are Arianta arbustorum (Linné) and Cepaea hortensis (Müller). H. aspersa may be human food debris - the species is still eaten today in some parts of Britain - but the status of the other species in this respect is unclear. A few marine shells - Ostrea edulis Linné, Mytilus edulis Linné and Buccinum undatum - were also recorded, and these are almost certainly food debris.

3. Kate's Cabin Farm, Site No. 3

Buccinum undatum Linne	9
Helix aspersa Müller	Numerous
Mytilus edulis Linne	47 valves
Ostrea edulis Linné	39 valve s
Cardium edule Linné	3

All these represent human food debris. The large numbers of well preserved mussel shells is an unusual feature.

4. Kate's Cabin Farm, Site No. 4

Mytilus edulis Linne	10	valves
Ostrea edulis Linné	19	valves

Tobe of more value, these lists should be related to horizons of known age, particularly in view of the presence here of Helix aspersa.

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