

# ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY

## REPORT 1828

**SERIES/No** CONSULTANT  
**AUTHOR** J. Evans 14/10/75  
**TITLE** LINCOLN, Saltergate Mollusca

Lincoln, Saltersgate. Edible molluscs

The following species were identified:

#### Marine

Puccinum undatum L., whelk or buckie. At low water and below, to deep water. On rocky and sandy shores.

Neptunea antiqua (L.), red whelk or buckie. At low water (Spring Tide), or more commonly below.

Mytilus edulis L., edible mussel. Intertidal; on rocks and piers.

Ostrea edulis L., oyster. Low water to 45 fms; on firm immobile bottoms.

Cerastoderma edule (L.), cockle. Intertidal; various sandy and muddy bottoms into which it can burrow.

#### Terrestrial

Helix aspersa Müll., common snail. Various habitats; often closely associated with human occupation.

All the species are edible, and commonly found on archaeological sites of Roman and later date. It is not certain, however, whether Helix aspersa was eaten or simply living on the site.

The height measurements for Puccinum undatum range from 5.0 to 8.0 cm with the majority around 5.5 to 6.7. This is slightly on the small side, modern specimens reaching 8.0 cm or over. The same applies to the few measurements on the length of Mytilus valves which range from 2.8 to 4.6 cm. The species becomes marketable today at 5.0 cm. The presence of an intact periostracum in the shells from PI (118) suggests their preservation in anaerobic conditions.

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John G. Evans

Lincoln: Saltcrack.

Edible molluscs

2050 DI (1)

Ostrea edulis uv 1

2051 DI (14)

Ostrea edulis lv 1

2139 EI (46)

Ostrea edulis lv 1

2204 EI (46)

Ostrea edulis lv 1

2205 EI (66) Pit 3

Buccinum undatum 3

Helix aspersa 1

2278 DI (43)

Ostrea edulis lv 2

2339 EI (40)

Buccinum undatum 2

2340 EI (58)

Mytilus edulis lv 3

2341 EI (58)

Ostrea edulis lv 1, uv 1

2342 EI (63) Pit 3

Buccinum undatum 2

Neptunea antiqua 1

2343 EI (65) Pit 3

Buccinum undatum 4

2344 EI (69) Pit 7

Ostrea edulis uv 2

2345 EI (69) Pit 3

Buccinum undatum 3

Neptunea antiqua 1

2561 EI (74) Pit 4

Buccinum undatum 1

2562 EI (74) Pit 4

Mytilus edulis rv 1

2563 EI (77)

Ostrea edulis lv 1

2638 FI (58)

Ostrea edulis lv 2

2740 EI (85) Trench I

Neptunea antiqua 1

Ostrea edulis uv 1

2773 DI (80)

Ostrea edulis lv 1

2848 DI (90)

Buccinum undatum 1 (incomplete)

3638 EI (166)

Helix aspersa 3

3843 EI (12)

Helix aspersa 1

4318 FI (118)

Mytilus edulis rv 5, lv 5 (periostracum intact)

Ostrea edulis lv 1

Cerastoderma edule 1

4834 FI (256)

Ostrea edulis lv 1

5013 FI (227)

Buccinum undatum 1

Helix aspersa 1

5248 FI (97)

Ostrea edulis uv 1

5249 FI (358)

Ostrea edulis lv 1

5250 FI (375)

Helix aspersa 1

Ostrea valves have been listed separately as lower, lv, and upper, uv, valves. Mytilus valves have been listed as right, rv, and left, lv, valves. Cerastoderma numbers are for individual valves.