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Launceston Castle. Mollusca by J.G. Evans

All the shells submitted for identification were probably human food débris. The species identified are as follows (see Table for detailed provenance):

<u>Ostrea edulis</u> Linné, Oyster	136 lower valves 73 upper valves
<u>Cerastoderma (Cardium) edule</u> (Linné), Cockle	11 valves
<u>Mytilus edulis</u> Linné, Mussel	10 valves
cf. <u>Margaritifera margaritifera</u> (Linné)	Frag.
<u>Patella vulgata</u> Linné, Limpet	2
<u>Euccinum undatum</u> Linné, Whelk	1
Crustacea, ? <u>Homarus vulgaris</u> , Lobster	Frag.

The majority of species are marine, with the exception of Margaritifera, a freshwater mussel.

The predominant species was the common oyster, Ostrea edulis Linné. This creature lives at low tide mark and below, often in estuaries, and the most probable locality for the specimens from Launceston would seem to be the Tamar Estuary. Certainly the Helford River, further west along the coast, is famed for its oysters today. The examples were of moderate size, the lower valve ranging from 5.5 to 11.0 cm in width with an average of 7.0 cm.

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Dr Evans wishes to see page proofs before publication

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Sample	<u>Ostrea edulis</u>		<u>Cerasto- derma edule</u>	<u>Mytilus edulis</u>	<u>Margarit- ifera</u>	<u>Patella vulgata</u>	<u>Buccinum undatum</u>	<u>?Homaru: vulgar:</u>
	Valves lower	upper						
68	56	51	-	-	-	-	-	-
162	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
268	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
217	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
270	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
273	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
303	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
53	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
56	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
167	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
168	Frag.		-	-	-	-	-	-
102	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
97	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
269	7	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
106	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
101	-	-	-	Frag.	-	-	-	-
100	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
401	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
403	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
398	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
418	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
487	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
467	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
395	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	Frag.
474	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
444	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
489	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
462	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
509	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
424	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
417	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
399	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
475	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
435	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
383	4	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
365	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
364	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

391	-	-	1	Frag.	-	-	-	-
390	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
389	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
353	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
351	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-
334	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
358	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
359	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
340	3	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
339	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
410	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	Frag.
347	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
335	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
342	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
344	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
428	-	-	-	-	Frag.	-	-	-

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