

Chapter 21. The Environmental Evidence – Charcoal And Shell

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The environmental evidence is negligible, comprising only a very small amount of shell and charcoal that is all likely to have been hand-collected. The result is a random sample based on what was visually obvious on site.

I. Charcoal

Charcoal was recorded from fourteen phased contexts. There was no further identification, nor was any quantity recorded.

II. Shell

Eighty-one contexts are listed as containing shell. Of these, 74 contain oyster, seven contain snail shells and one contains mussel shell. No context comprises more than seventeen fragments and most produced single examples. Numbers of oyster valves present, and whether upper or lower, as well as numbers of snail and mussel shell fragments were recorded.

The particularly small number of land snails suggests the assemblage was hand collected only. The large number of single fragments from most contexts also suggests much of the material was discarded on site, with only an unrepresentative sample kept but with no record of the nature or quantity of what was discarded.

| Phase | G no | Context | Oyster frag | Oyster lower valve | Oyster upper valve | Snail | Mussel |
|-------|------|----------|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------|--------|
| 1 | 4 | 5c-20 | | 1 | | | |
| | 4 | 5c-20.03 | | 1 | 1 | | |
| | 46 | 1-99 | | 2 | | | |
| 2 | 2 | 5c-1.02 | 1 | | | | |
| | 10 | 5c-40.01 | | 1 | | | |
| | 20 | 5a-12 | 1 | | | | |
| | 21 | 5a-9 | | | | 1 | |
| | 59 | 2-192 | | 1 | | | |
| | 62 | 5a-36 | 4 | 1 | | | |
| | 62 | 5b-93 | | | 1 | | |
| | 63 | 4a-29 | | 1 | | | |
| | 90 | 5c-61.01 | | | 1 | | |
| | 3 | 3 | 5c-27.14 | 1 | | | |
| 38 | | 1-103 | | | 1 | 1 | |
| 38 | | 2-55 | 1 | | 1 | | |
| 45 | | 5a-18 | | 1 | | | |
| 64 | | 1-104 | | | 1 | | |
| 64 | | 2-103 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | |
| 64 | | 2-106 | 1 | 2 | | | |
| 64 | | 2-158 | | | 1 | | |
| 64 | | 2-170 | 1 | | | | |
| 64 | | 2-172 | 1 | 5 | 10 | | |
| 65 | | 2b-14 | | | 1 | | |
| 66 | | 2-173 | | 3 | 3 | | |
| 68 | | 2-33 | | | 1 | | |
| 78 | | 2e-13 | | 1 | | | |
| 81 | | 2b-22 | | | | | 1 |
| 4 | 8 | 1-77 | | 1 | | | |
| | 15 | 5c-69.13 | | 1 | | | |
| | 15 | 5c-69.15 | | 1 | | | |
| | 34 | 2d-42 | | 1 | | | |
| | 44 | 5b-8 | 1 | 13 | 3 | | |
| | 44 | 5b-15 | 1 | 2 | | | |
| | 44 | 5b-27 | 1 | | | | |
| | 44 | 5b-47 | 1 | | | | |

| Phase | G no | Context | Oyster frag | Oyster lower valve | Oyster upper valve | Snail | Mussel | |
|--------------|------|----------|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------|----------|--|
| 4 | 52 | 2-178 | | 1 | 2 | | | |
| | 57 | 4a-28 | | | | 1 | | |
| | 57 | 4f-1 | | | 1 | | | |
| | 57 | 4f-23 | | | 1 | 1 | | |
| | 57 | 4f-24 | | 1 | | | | |
| | 69 | 2-168 | | 1 | | | | |
| | 70 | 2-52 | | 1 | 1 | | | |
| | 72 | 5b-11 | | 1 | 2 | | | |
| | 5 | 73 | 1-18 | | 1 | | | |
| | | 73 | 2-14 | 1 | 9 | 2 | | |
| 73 | | 2a-4 | | 2 | | | | |
| 73 | | 2b-6 | | | 1 | | | |
| 74 | | 2-8 | | 1 | | | | |
| 75 | | 2-35 | | 1 | | | | |
| 75 | | 2-40 | | 1 | 1 | | | |
| 75 | | 2-100 | | | 1 | | | |
| 76 | | 4d-3 | 1 | | | | | |
| 76 | | 4d-5 | 1 | | 1 | | | |
| 76 | | 4e-6 | | | | 1 | | |
| 76 | | 4f-10 | | | | 1 | | |
| 77 | | 5b-5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | |
| 77 | | 5b-6 | | | 1 | | | |
| 77 | | 5b-12 | 1 | | | | | |
| 79 | | 2-17 | | | 1 | | | |
| 79 | | 2-130 | 1 | | | | | |
| 80 | | 4a-25 | | 1 | | | | |
| 80 | | 4a-45 | 1 | | | | | |
| 80 | | 4f-16 | | | | 1 | | |
| 6 | 92 | 2-183 | | 1 | | | | |
| Unphased | 16 | 5c-63.01 | | 1 | | | | |
| | 53 | 2e-43 | | | 2 | | | |
| | 84 | 2c-3 | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| | 84 | 2c-4 | | | | | | |
| | 84 | 2c-5 | 1 | | 1 | | | |
| | 84 | 2c-6 | | 1 | | | | |
| Total | | | 25 | 66 | 46 | 7 | 1 | |

Table 21.1 The shell assemblage by phase and group (unstratified shell - six oyster fragments and one snail shell - is omitted)