

1.1 Assessment of the Oysters

by Jessica M. Winder

- 1.1.1 Shells of the common flat oyster *Ostrea edulis* L. were recovered from the watching brief by hand retrieval and sieving of bulk samples. The shells from each context were identified, where possible, and counted. Oyster valves were separated into left and right valves, and further divided into shells suitable or unsuitable for measuring and detailed recording of features.
- 1.1.2 The recovery and study of the material was undertaken in accordance with the Fieldwork Event Aims (see section 2, main report), in particular 3.
- 1.1.3 From Nashenden Valley six valves and a few fragments of oyster were recovered from a single context (44), the fill of a later Roman pit (42). The state of preservation of the shells is fair to good but the provenance of the marine mollusc material cannot be determined because there are not enough shells.
- 1.1.4 Regarding retention/discard policy, it is suggested that there is little merit in retaining this assemblage of material.
- 1.1.5 There is no potential for assemblage to address the Landscape Zone Priorities or the Fieldwork Event Aims.

Bibliography

Winder, J M, 1993 A study of the variation in oyster shells from archaeological sites and a discussion of oyster exploitation. PhD Thesis, University of Southampton, Department of Archaeology.