

APPENDIX 1 - MOLLUSCS

by Mark Robinson

1.1 Assessment of the Molluscs

- 1.1.1 Samples taken from the Roman well 11010 at Thurnham Roman Villa for waterlogged plant remains were simultaneously scanned for the presence of molluscs.
- 1.1.2 Molluscs and insects were present in four of the seven samples assessed (see Table 10.4).
- 1.1.3 During the assessment of these samples for insect remains (see Appendix 13), the presence of molluscs was noted.
- 1.1.4 Shells of land snails were present in all four samples (10347, 10351, 10352 and 10293). Their concentration is of the order of 60 shells per kg. The majority are species of woodland or shaded habitats such as *Discus rotundatus*, *Aegopinella nitidula* and *Marpessa laminata*. There are very few shells of open-country species.
- 1.1.5 Some molluscs are highly habitat-sensitive, and can provide additional evidence for subtle variations, both temporal and spatial, in the surrounding environment. The molluscs from the well support the other evidence for local scrub regeneration around the well, and will thus contribute to study of the decline of the villa, and its contemporaneous local environment. Only a small number of samples contained suitable remains, and the study of molluscs should be undertaken in conjunction with other sources of environmental data.
- 1.1.6 It is recommended that molluscs are extracted from the samples to be analysed for waterlogged macroscopic remains, and identified by species, and reported upon.