



Geochronology  
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Report No: 16/22

28 September 2022

## Archaeological assessment of ostracods from Ringwood A31

by

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for

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## Introduction

Six samples from a borehole at the A31 site at Ringwood, Hampshire were provided for an assessment of their ostracod faunas. A note was also made of any other relevant microscopic remains recovered.

## Sample preparation

Each sample was washed through a 125µm sieve and the residue dried at 100°C. The dried residues were then examined under a reflected light microscope.

## Sample descriptions

These were provided by AOC and appear in the accompanying table. From a visual inspection most of the residues were predominantly fine to coarse grained with occasional pebbles in some samples.

## Results

No ostracods were found and recovery of other microfauna/flora was poor. Molluscs from some samples and have been recorded in the table but unfortunately, the vast majority of their remains were fragmentary and unidentifiable. The recovery of operculi from *Bithynia* sp. in two samples is consistent with flowing water regime and the interpretation of alluvium at these depths.

Top depth (m bgl)	Base depth (m bgl)	Description (AOC)	Interpretation (AOC)	Microfauna/flora observed (BioChron)
1.23	1.25	Pale yellow-grey CLAY, soft. Occasional mollusc shell, rare small subrounded gravel, iron staining, rare CBM, Inspection pit to 1.20m bgl.	Foreshore River Margins	Gastropod fragments common, seed
1.40	1.42			Gastropod fragments abundant, seeds rare
1.50	1.52	Soft to firm, brown-grey, slightly organic SILT. Occasional large roots.	Alluvium	? <i>Bithynia operculum</i> fragment, seed, shell fragments rare
1.86	1.88	Soft grey SILT. Occasional rootlets.		<i>Bithynia operculi</i> common
2.60	2.62	Organic SAND and GRAVEL (small, subrounded). Brown-grey. Soft, humified.	River Gravel and Sand (with possible relic soil or slack water deposit to surface)	Black wood, flint and chalk pebbles
2.70	2.72	Dark grey, slightly sandy SILT and GRAVEL. Gravel is subangular, medium to small.		Plant material, flint and chalk pebbles

## References

**Kerney, M., 1999.** Land and Freshwater Molluscs of Britain and Ireland. Harley Books. ISBN 0 946589 48 8.

**Macan, T.T., 1994.** British Fresh- and Brackish-water Gastropods. Freshwater Biological Association Scientific Publication 13. ISSN 0367 1887.