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THE PLIOCENE AND PLEISTOCENE MOLLUSC ARCHIVE AT NORWICH CASTLE MUSEUM

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ABSTRACT

*This paper is one in a series of recent projects researching and documenting the geology collections of Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service. It describes three years of work databasing the P. E. P. Norton Collection, formed between 1961 and 1978, whilst researching the East Anglian early Pleistocene Mollusca and those of associated sites, with comparative and reference specimens from the Pliocene, Pleistocene and Holocene of NW Europe and Iceland. Several of the collection sites no longer exist. The resulting database, of 1925 records and 4500 images, the collection itself and associated documents, together with unresearched material donated to the British Geological Survey, form an accessible resource for future documentation of other specimens or collections. The database records 'monstrosities', 'attacked' and parasitized shells, new findings on *Macoma balthica*, and taxa which require further examination. The database forms a 'Digital Monograph' including illustrations of not only the best but also the least identifiable shells. A preliminary survey of other mollusc collections in Norwich Castle Museum, mainly from the 19th Century, is also summarised together with a brief guide to other institutions possessing cognate material. The limitations of the collection are discussed. Suggestions for new approaches in future work are included, with particular emphasis on the need to build-up new collections with modern tools and methods and at finer resolution of stratigraphic detail and site description. New directions may include biomass estimation and other palaeoecological studies. An Appendix lists many of the earlier mollusc collectors and the location of their stored material.*

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ASPECTS OF ICHNOLOGY OF CHALK AND SANDSTONE CLASTS FROM THE BEACH AT OVERSTRAND, NORTH NORFOLK

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ABSTRACT

Clasts of Chalk from the beach between Overstrand and Cromer, north Norfolk, include a limited diversity of modern borings. Caulostrepsis isp. cf. C. taeniola Clarke appears to avoid boring in belemnite guards, unlike Entobia isp. This may be, in part, due to the differing life habits of the producing organisms; annelids (producing Caulostrepsis) can choose their substrate with greater care than laterally propagating colonial organisms like clionoid sponges (producing Entobia). The bivalve Zirfaea crispata (Linné) is recognised as a modern producer of Gastrochaenolites isp. cf. G. ornatus (Kelly & Bromley). A partial Gastrochaenolites isp. of unusually large size (29-33 mm in diameter) demonstrates that large modern borings are present in Norfolk Chalk, but are rarely perceived in clasts.

An erratic of finely-laminated sandstone preserves at least five escape shafts, Monocraterion isp. These were possibly produced by bivalves in the Pennsylvanian (Upper Carboniferous). This is a rare example of an erratic preserving an ancient trace.