

samples. Bone from an unidentified bird, a fragment from a medium sized mammal, a fragment of sea mammal bone, an elk carpal, and several Gaper clam (*Tresus nuttallii*) shell were also identified. Heat-affected rock was also observed in several areas. One piece of Chinese porcelain was collected by NPS archaeologist Paul Engel. This fragment is thought to be the same type as the Ming dynasty pieces found by Beardsley in 1940-41.

Clams and cockles made up the majority of shellfish identified in the SUs (see Table 3). An average of 76% of the individuals in the SUs were clam, which made up 75% of the total assemblage. On an individual level, Washington Clam constituted 54.6% with Pacific Littleneck clams and Olympia oysters the next major contributors at 8.7%. No Pacific oysters, Mya clam, or other invasive species were positively identified but some oyster and clam specimens could not be speciated.

The largest samples of Olympia oyster shells collected at CA-MRN-242, from SU 1 and Collection Point A, were sent to Beta Analytic, Inc. for conventional radiometric analysis. Conventional radiometric analysis was performed. A Delta R value of 290 +/- 35 representing the mean average of Northern California Coast as defined by Ingram and Southon (1996) was used to assist in calibrating the samples. Sample SU 1 had a date range of 2170 to 1810 BP (220 BC to AD 140) while Collection Point A had a date range of 1530 to 1310 BP (AD 420 to 640) (Appendix C).

Summary description

The wide range of shell identified on this site, as well as the presence of several types of faunal remains, indicate a substantial prehistoric deposit. This was not unexpected, as CA-MRN-242 is known to be one of the larger sites on Drakes Estero and excavations have shown it to contain a variety of resources available in the Estero as well as materials from outside the immediate area (Beardsley 1954).

Beardsley's excavation of CA-MRN-242 identified two layers on the site and a depth of cultural materials that exceeded 6 feet (1.9 meters) (1954:21). As we were not able to examine the stratigraphy of the site first hand, Beardsley's data assisted us by providing insights into the structure of the site.

The great quantity of Washington clam was not unexpected given the favorable habitat of Drakes Estero for clams (Grosholz and Zabin 2010) and that Washington clams were used by the Coast Miwok as food and as raw material for shell beads/money (Collier and Thalman 1996; Kawahara 1970). The site's inhabitants clearly made intensive use of locally available shellfish resources.

Non-local material is exemplified by abalone and mussel. These shellfish would not have grown in Drakes Estero but may have been available from other portions of the Point Reyes coast (Grosholz and Zabin 2010). Obsidian found in previous studies (Beardsley 1954, Riley 1976) is also a good indicator of traded goods, as the likely obsidian sources range from Clearlake to Annadel to Napa. This range of non-localized goods illustrate that this site was a nexus on a larger trade network during prehistory.