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BORED BIVALVES, BORING GASTROPODS AND WAY-UP STRUCTURES, NORTH SEA COAST, THE NETHERLANDS

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ABSTRACT

A slab of sandstone, probably a Holocene beachrock, was collected from the North Sea coast of the Netherlands near Zandvoort aan Zee, province of Noord Holland. There are numerous embedded benthic molluscs in this specimen, but of limited specific diversity, namely the bivalves Spisula elliptica (Brown) and a rarer cardiacean sp. indet. and the gastropod Euspira pulchella (Risso). This association of mainly disarticulated valves of infaunal bivalves is a death assemblage, albeit most probably parautochthonous. The common valves of S. elliptica preserve evidence of the 'way-up' of the slab at the time of deposition, being interpreted as preserved concave surface downward. Some valves of S. elliptica are perforated by bevelled borings, Sedilichnus paraboloides (Bromley), and were probably the prey of predatory E. pulchella. Euspira pulchella was also a cannibal.

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THE BONE BED AT SHOPHAM PIT, NORFOLK – THE RESULTS OF RESCUE INVESTIGATION, 1994

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ABSTRACT

Quarrying in a succession of pits at Shropham, Norfolk, from the 1950s to 1990s revealed sediments containing rich assemblages of vertebrate and other fossils dated to the Ipswichian and Devensian stages of the late Pleistocene. Work conducted in 1994 by the Database Group of the Geological Society of Norfolk enabled the rescue recording of numerous temporary exposures of sedimentary sequences at Manor Farm Pit. Among them was a bone bed containing Ipswichian fossils, and the results of its partial excavation are presented here. The bone bed is interpreted as having been emplaced by a sediment gravity flow in a lacustrine context. The chronostratigraphy, based on results from Royal Holloway College, University of London, show this occurred during the early Devensian. The role of dynamic factors in the depositional environment, including Chalk bedrock dissolution and periglacial diapirism, are explored. Suggestions for future work are proposed.

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