

Guide to Midden Census & Shell Genus Catalogue

The purpose of the Midden Census & Shell Genus Catalogue is to provide ACHRIS users with a form that can be used to record and analyse shell midden assemblages in a consistent manner and prepare the data in a manner suitable for upload into the ACHRIS Shell Midden Component form. The catalogue has been created with reference to commonly used shell midden catalogues by Heritage Advisors and to reflect ACHRIS requirements.

This guide has been prepared to assist ACHRIS users in populating the Midden Census & Shell Genus Catalogue. The table below details what should be recorded in each field of the catalogue, highlighting those fields that are mandatory for completing the Shell Midden Place Component form and providing brief guidance for each.

| Field | Requirement (*if mandatory for ACHRIS) | Guidance |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ID # | *Reference number for row entry | Identifying details Include registered name of Aboriginal Place (Record Edit) or proposed name for new places. ID # allows for comparison of rows in pivot tables. |
| Aboriginal Place Name | *Registered name for Aboriginal Place or proposed name for new record | |
| Pit # | *Reference number for subsurface excavation pit | Details of the recovery location and method of the midden material. These fields can record in-situ material (using X,Y and Z) or sieved material (Yes/No). Multiple bags can be entered from the same spit or feature and grouped together (1/2,2/2) |
| Spit # | *Reference number or depth for excavated spit | |
| Sieve Y/N | *Was the material recovered from sieved bulk sample? – Enter Yes or No | |
| X, Y (mm) | *Location of in-situ midden material within excavation pit in millimetres | |
| Z (mm) | *Depth of in-situ midden material within excavated pit in millimetres | |
| Bag # | Reference number for bags ie : bag 1/3 of Spit 1, bag 2/6 of Layer 4 | |
| Common Name | Common use name of the shell genus ie: <i>Pipi</i> | |
| Scientific Name | Scientific name of shell genus ie: <i>Plebidonax Deltoides</i> | Description of Recorded Shell Midden Material Recording the species and origin environment of molluscs allows an investigation of procurement strategies and seasonality in shell midden deposits over time. |

VAHR Recording Standards Revision Project

| Field | Requirement (*if mandatory for ACHRIS) | Guidance |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Genus (VAHR Name) | *Shell Genus or VAHR Name: <i>Donax</i> | The catalogue can record common and scientific names, along with genus, class and environment. |
| Class | Six classes of Phylum Mollusca ie: <i>Bivalvia</i> | |
| Environment | *Environment ie: <i>Lake</i> | |
| Complete (Y/N) | *Is the midden material complete or broken? <i>Yes or No</i> | Analytical Attributes of Recorded Shell Midden Material Recording these attributes allows analysis and interpretation of recorded shell-midden material. |
| Condition | Describe the perseveration condition of shell material | |
| NISP | *Number of Identified Specimens- count of "shell elements" | |
| Quantification Methodology | *Identify the methodology or shell element used to compile NISP and MNI | |
| MNI | *Minimum Number of Individuals, calculated from NISP | |
| Weight (g) | *Weight of row in grams | |
| Burnt (Y/N) | *Is the midden material burnt or unburnt? | |
| Modification | Describe any secondary modifications present | |
| Comment | Free text field to enter commentary or interpretation | |