

APPENDIX 10: ASSESSMENT OF WORKED BONE

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Two accessioned antler finds were recovered from the excavation ARC 330 98 in Zone 4.
- 1.2 All of the accessions were recovered by hand excavation.
- 1.3 The accessioned antler finds can assist the following fieldwork event aims:
 - To determine the form, function and chronology of occupation.

2. Methodology

- 2.1 The two antler finds were accessioned in accordance with the Museum of London system.
- 2.2 The records have been entered onto the Oracle relational database and transferred to RLE Datasets.
- 2.3 No sampling of the antler accessions was undertaken.

3. Quantifications

Table 1: Assessment of Antler Artefacts from Area 330 Zone 4

Context	Special Number	Material	Count	Period	Comments (Description)
566	110	Antler	1	LPR?	Handle; a fragment of antler with some trimming along its length; one end is slightly rounded and the other has a small central hole.
741	109	Antler	1	EIA?	Waste; a small off-cut from antler working with one cut edge.

4. Provenance

- 4.1 The antler waste fragment <109> came from [741] sub-group 4085, fill of prehistoric pit 740 (Figure 6), which also produced prehistoric pottery dating to the Early Iron Age (c 500-300BC). The handle <110> is from [566] sub-group 4083, fill of pit [435], which contained later prehistoric pottery (Figure 7).
- 4.2 The material is in a stable condition.

5. Conservation

- 5.1 The artefacts are stable and packed appropriately for long term storage.
- 5.2 None of the antler accessions should be discarded.

6. Comparative material

- 6.1 This is a small but interesting assemblage. Both artefacts indicate antler-working, probably on a small, localised scale. The handle is of particular interest and will require further work to find parallels for it. Similar objects have been found at other Iron Age sites (for example, Meare Village East (Coles 1987, 88)). Relatively few bone or antler artefacts were recovered during the CTRL work. Area 330 Zone 3 produced a fragment of bone-working waste and two artefacts, all dating to the Iron Age.

7. Potential for further work

- 7.1 The accessioned antler finds have potential to assist with the following landscape zone aim:
- *The socio-economic landscape of the later agriculturalists (2,000-100BC)*
- 7.2 The accessions indicate antler working in the vicinity of the site and are further evidence of the types of activity undertaken by the local community in the later prehistoric period.
- 7.3 The accessioned antler finds can assist the following fieldwork event aims:
- *To determine the form, function and chronology of occupation.*
- 7.4 The antler finds can add to the understanding of the function of occupation as they are indicative of a probably small, localised activity. Parallels will be sought for the form of the partly made handle and this may be able to indicate what type of implement it was intended for. Both the objects add to the general understanding of the types of activities that were undertaken by the populace at this time and may also contribute to analysing the types of implements being used by them.
- 7.5 The following further work is required:
- Catalogue for publication

- Comparison with similar assemblages
- Text
- It is recommended that both the antler accessions are illustrated.

8. Bibliography

Coles, J, M, 1987, *Meare Village East; the excavations of A. Bulleid and H. St. George Gray 1932-1956* Somerset Levels Papers no. 13