

APPENDIX 1 - ASSESSMENT OF ANIMAL REMAINS

1.1 Animal Remains

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Introduction

- 1.1.1 A total of 372 fragments of bone (579 g) were recovered by hand from the site at Eyhorne Street. A further 138 fragments of bone (80 g) were retrieved from environmental samples, sieved through meshes of 10 mm to 10-4 mm where necessary.
- 1.1.2 The recovery and study of the animal bone was undertaken in accordance with the Fieldwork Event Aims (see Section 2.2), in particular aim 1.

Methodology

- 1.1.3 The assemblage was recorded through the use of a simple recording sheet. This enabled a quick calculation of totals to be made along with a rough estimation of the number of individuals in each context and in total. All fragments of bone were counted including elements from the vertebral centrum, ribs and long bone shafts.
- 1.1.4 Ageing through measuring the rate of epiphyseal fusion of the bones was done using Silver's (1969) tables.

Quantification and Provenance

- 1.1.5 Table 5.1.1-2 present a summary of the identified animal bone from hand collected and sieved samples. In total only 5% of the hand collected bone and 2% of the sieved bone could be identified to species. However, 81% of the assemblage of hand-collected bone was from fill 174 of pit 170, which produced part of a horse skeleton. It is almost certain that these tiny fragments derive from the identified elements and other parts of the horse skeleton.

Table 5.1.1: Summary of identified, hand collected animal bone

Context	Interpretation	Period	% of identified fragments		Count	Weight (g)
			Horse	Cattle		
173	Pit	EIA	100	0	1	57
174	Pit	EIA	100	0	14	278
220	Pit	EIA	0	100	2	7
223	Pit	LIA	0	100	2	15

Table 5.1.2: Summary of identified sieved bone >10 mm (none was identified from the smaller sieves)

Context	Interpretation	Period	% of identified fragments	Count	Weight (g)
			Sheep		
173	Pit	EIA	100	3	11
180	Pit	EIA	100	1	1

- 1.1.6 Cattle and horse bones were the most numerous fragments from the hand collected bone. However, all the horse bones were found within pit 170 and consisted of part of a right radius and astragalus, ribs, vertebral fragments and one tooth. The radius

belonged to an individual of no less than 3.5 years of age (Silver 1969). Fragments of cattle teeth were found in contexts 220 and 223.

- 1.1.7 A small number of sheep bones were identified from the sieved assemblage. They consisted of one tooth and two burnt elements from context 173. It is likely that the horse and cattle have been over represented in the assemblage. The smaller bones of the sheep do not appear to have survived unless altered by burning. A single unidentified tooth was found in context 278.
- 1.1.8 Many of the bones from the sieved material had been burnt. The majority of this (62 fragments) was from context 178. The few other burnt bones were from context 24 and 173.
- 1.1.9 All of the bone from the site was in poor condition. The majority of the fragments identified were teeth, which again indicates that much of the bone material would not have survived. None of the bone had signs of butchery or gnaw marks. However, the condition of the surface of the bone would have obscured any marks.

Conservation

- 1.1.10 The material is adequately boxed for long-term storage and should be stored in a dry environment. It requires no further conservation. At this stage, all the material should be retained.

Potential for further work

- 1.1.11 The small number of bones recovered from the site do not provide much information regarding the economy of the site during the early and late Iron Age other than the presence of the animals. It is not recommended that further work be done on this assemblage as a whole. However, the partial horse skeleton from late Iron Age pit 175 warrants radiocarbon dating to aid interpretation of this possible structured deposit. It is recommended that the bone from this feature is analysed in full alongside associated stratigraphic, artefactual and palaeoenvironmental evidence in order to contribute to Landscape Zone Priorities connected with definition of ritual and economic landscapes and their relationships. In addition, a single small mammal tooth from context 178 should be identified to species.

Bibliography

Silver, I A, 1969 The Ageing of Domestic Animals, in *Science in Archaeology*. (eds D Bothwell & E Higgs), Thames and Hudson, 283-302