

APPENDIX 1 - ANIMAL REMAINS

1.1 Assessment of the Animal Bones

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Introduction

- 1.1.1 Seventy-four fragments of bone (1103 g) were recovered from East of Station Road in an attempt to cast light on the pastoral economy of the site in the late Iron Age-early Roman period. Of this number 95% was identified to species. However, only one sheep tibia was from a feature that could be phased.

Methodology

- 1.1.2 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. All fragments of bone were counted including elements from the vertebral centrum, ribs and long bone shafts. Ageing through measuring the rate of epiphyseal fusion of the bones was done using Silver's (1969) tables.

Quantification and Provenance

- 1.1.3 Cattle bones were the most numerous fragments recovered from the site (Table 17). However, nearly all were from the partially articulated cattle skeleton found in context 1725, one of the fills of the palaeochannel. A single sheep tibia was found in a natural gully (6006).
- 1.1.4 All of the fragments recovered from the site excluding the burnt sheep tibia and the partially articulated cattle remains were teeth. It is possible that the cattle bones were carefully deposited and were not as badly affected by the erosive quality of the soil. However, the cattle bones did have some attritional damage and it is likely that any signs of butchery or gnaw marks have been obscured.

Potential for Further Work

- 1.1.5 The small number of bones from this site do not furnish much information regarding the economy of the site. It is possible that the partial cattle skeleton may be part of a special deposit although it may also be butchery waste. It is not recommended that further work be carried out on this assemblage.

Bibliography

Silver, I A, 1969, The ageing of domestic animals, in Brothwell, D and Higgs, E (eds) *Science in Archaeology*, London, 283 – 302.

Table 17: East of Station Road: Summary of identified animal bone

Context	Interpretation	Period	% of identified fragments		Count	Weight (g)
			Cattle	Sheep		
1358	Ditch	LIA-ER	100	-	3	5
1725	Deep trench	LIA-ER	100	-	30	1075
6004	Ditch	LIA-ER	-	100	1	6
6012	Ditch	LIA-ER	100	-	1	7