

## 1.1 Assessment of Animal Bone

### *Introduction*

- 1.1.1 A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from excavated features at Little Stock Farm. Although relatively few pieces of the assemblage (i.e. c. 34%) were identifiable to species, the assemblage nevertheless represents one of the larger collections of such material recovered from archaeological excavations in the general area.

### *Methodology*

- 1.1.2 For the purposes of this assessment the complete animal bone assemblage from Little Stock Farm was examined. For each context bones were identified to species where possible, the number of unidentifiable fragments counted, the number of bones complete enough to measure was calculated, as well as those bones capable of yielding age data (mandibular teeth and bones with fusion data were counted). Taphonomic patterns were also looked at with the number of bones bearing butchery marks, evidence of carnivore damage or burning recorded.

### *Quantifications*

- 1.1.3 A total of 421 animal bones (**Table 17**) was recovered from excavations at Little Stock farm, of which 143 (34%) were identified to species during assessment. Although more detailed analysis may slightly increase the number of bones identified to species, it is unlikely to make a significant impact on the overall percentage of identified species.
- 1.1.4 Sheep or goat, cattle, pig, horse, dog, small mammal, bird, red deer and roe deer have been identified. Of the identified fraction the most numerous species represented was sheep or goat (40%), followed by cattle (30%), pig (10%), dog (8%), horse and bird (5% each), deer (2%) and small mammal (1%). A total of 18 bones (12.5%) bore evidence of butchery; most of these had been chopped. As the bone surface of many fragments was eroded it may be that knife marks are no longer visible and that only those marks left from dismembering carcasses are visible.

### *Provenance*

- 1.1.5 Carnivore damage was visible on 47 bones (11% of the complete assemblage) and this, coupled with the general poor surface condition of the bone assemblage may indicate that the bones were not rapidly deposited but had been present on the ground surface for a time before burial.
- 1.1.6 Bones exhibiting carnivore damage were concentrated in and around the three phases of Mid/ Late Iron Age enclosure (groups **5024–6** inc.) adjacent to Station Road. Comparatively few examples were recorded in proximity to round-house **5007** to the west, although a small group was recovered towards the far western end of the site in post-pit **2441** (sub-group **5019**). The latter were recovered from the same context as a number of human skull fragments. The remaining bones demonstrating carnivore damage were recovered from the medieval enclosure and field system ditches throughout the site with no apparent focus.

### *Conservation*

- 1.1.7 There are no conflicts between further analysis and long term storage.

### *Comparative material*

- 1.1.8 Animal bone is generally rare or often absent from archaeological investigations in the immediate area, such as at Westenhanger Castle (URS 1999a), and two sites near Smeeth,

Church Lane and East of Station Road (URS 1999b). A larger assemblage was recovered from Mersham (URS 1999c), comprising c. 1800 pieces, including a horse burial, but the majority of this assemblage was recovered from early medieval features and may not, therefore be necessarily relevant to the prehistoric material recovered at Little Stock Farm.

*Potential for further work*

- 1.1.9 Only 9 bones (6.3% of all identified bones) were in a complete enough condition for measurements (following Dreisch 1976) to be taken and no metrical analysis of the animal population on such a small group will be possible. Similarly only 23 bones (16%) will yield any ageing data and this is insufficient for an analysis of the age at death of the population to be made.
- 1.1.10 As a small group of animal bones (with only 143 bones that can be identified to species), there is little evidence surviving of the age at death of the animals and few bones complete enough to measure. The assemblage therefore has little potential to address questions regarding economy or husbandry on site and it is recommended that no further work be done but that the results of the assessment be included in the final report.

*Bibliography*

Dreisch, A von den, 1976, A Guide to the Measurement of Animal Bones from Archaeological Sites, *Peabody Museum Bulletin 1*

Union Railways (South) Limited [URS], 1999a, *Detailed Archaeological Works at North of Westenhanger Castle (ARC WGC98), Kent*, unpublished interim client report, contract no. S/400/SP/0009/P484\*

-- , 1999b, *Detailed Archaeological Works at Church Lane, Smeeth (ARC CHL98), and East of Station Road, Smeeth (ARC STR98), Kent*, unpublished interim client report, contract no. S/400/SP/0009/P484B

-- , 1999c, *Detailed Archaeological Works at Mersham (ARC MSH98), Kent*, unpublished interim client report, contract no. S/400/SP/0009/P484A\*

**Table 17: Animal Bone quantification**

Context	Feature type	Sub-group	Sheep/goat	Cattle	Pig	Horse	Dog	Small mammal	Bird	Deer	Unid	Total	Measurable bone	Ageing data	Butchery	Carnivore damage	Burnt
<b>Little Stock Farm Excavation (ARC LSF99)</b>																	
2001	Ditch 2002	5001	1	1							6	8					1
2003	Hearth 2006		2								5	7		1	1		
2003	Hearth 2006				1							1					
2004	Hearth 2006		1	1							1	3					1
2011	Pit 2013										4	4					
2012	Pit 2013										1	1					
2015	Ditch 2016	5003	1		1	1					8	11		2			
2017	Ditch 2018	5004									1	1					
2019	Ditch 2020	5005	1		1						3	5					
2021	Ditch 2024	5001	1	1							4	6					1
2022	Ditch 2024	5001									1	1					
2023	Ditch 2024	5001	1	2							4	7		1			1
2025	Ditch 2026	5006									1	1					
2029	Grave-pit 2031										25	25					2
2032	Grave-pit 2037									1		1			1		
2032	Grave-pit 2037			1								1			1		
2101	Post-hole 2105										9	9					
2112	Layer										2	2					1
2114	Ditch 2113	5005	2	3	1			1				7			2		3
2115	Ditch 2113	5005	2		1							3					1
2119	Pit 2118			1								1	1				
2121	Ditch 2120	5008	1									1		1			
2125	Pit 2124										1	1					1
2202	Hearth 2201		1									1					
2203	Ditch 2209	5005	1								4	5					
2204	Ditch 2209	5005					1				2	3					
2205	Ditch 2208	5010		1	1						4	6		1			1

Contd.

Context	Feature type	Sub-group	Sheep/goat	Cattle	Pig	Horse	Dog	Small mammal	Bird	Deer	Unid	Total	Measurable bone	Ageing data	Butchery	Carnivore damage	Burnt
<b>Little Stock Farm Excavation (ARC LSF99) contd.</b>																	
2206	Ditch 2212	5005		2								2			1		
2207	Ditch 2209	5005									2	2					2
2210	Ditch 2211	5006	1	1								2			1		1
2214	Pit/ hollow										1	1					
2215	Post-hole 2216				1							1					
2220	Ditch 2221	5008		1							3	4					1
2222	Ditch 2223	5011									3	3					
2226	Gully 2227	5007	1									1					
2230	Gully 2232	5007		1								1					
2240	Ditch 2242	5008									4	4					
2241	Ditch 2242	5008									1	1					1
2301	Layer										1	1					
2303	Vessel-hole 2304		1								1	2		1			1
2319	Layer										1	1					
2320	Ditch 2323	5014		3	1		1				12	17	1	1	1		2
2321	Ditch 2324	5011									1	1					
2326	Ditch 2325	5005		1							2	3	1		1		
2328	Ditch 2327	5003	2									2					1
2332	Ditch 2331	5012									2	2					
2337	Ditch 2336	5006	1								1	2					
2339	Post-pit 2338	5015									1	1					
2341	Gully 2340	5007									2	2					
2343	Post-pit 2342	5015		1								1			1		
2402	Ditch 2401	5010	1						6		5	12					
2407	Layer										1	1					1
2409	Post-hole 2408										1	1					1
2411	Layer										5	5					
2412	Ditch 2410	5003	1									1					
2413	Ditch 2410	5003	1								1	2	1	1	1		
2417	Ditch 2414	5004	1								4	5					1
2418	Ditch 2415	5005	6	2		1					4	13	1	1	2		2
2419	Ditch 2416	5014									2	2					

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Context	Feature type	Sub-group	Sheep/goat	Cattle	Pig	Horse	Dog	Small mammal	Bird	Deer	Unid	Total	Measurable bone	Ageing data	Butchery	Carnivore damage	Burnt
<b>Little Stock Farm Excavation (ARC LSF99) contd.</b>																	
2422	Layer										1	1					
2423	Hearth 2421			1					1		10	12					1
2433	Ditch 2432	5005									4	4					3
2434	Ditch 2432	5005									3	3					
2438	Pit 2437			1								1					
2440	Ditch 2439										1	1					
2442	Post-pit 2441	5019	4	5		2					7	18	2	3		4	6
2444	Ditch 2443	5019	1		1						4	6					
2504	Post-hole 2505										1	1					
2506	Post-hole 2507										3	3					1
2508	Layer										1	1					
2509	Post-hole 2510										1	1					1
2511	Ditch 2513	5008	3	1								4	1	1			
2511	Ditch 2513	5008							1			1			1		
2512	Ditch 2513	5008	1								2	3					3
2514	Ditch 2515	5005	2	2							1	5		2			3
2520	Quarry 2522			1								1					
2532	Pit 2531										1	1					1
2533	Ditch 2534	5006			1		1					2					
2541	Post-hole 2542										1	1					1
2602	Artefact sample	5008									1	1					
2604	Artefact sample	2244									1	1					
2607	Artefact sample	5013									1	1					
2609	Artefact sample	5004	1									1					1
2612	Artefact sample	5008	2									2					1
2613	Artefact sample	5012	1									1					
2619	Artefact sample	5033	1									1					
2625	Artefact sample	5007		1								1					1
2651	Artefact sample	5008							1		3	4					
2659	Artefact sample	5007									1	1					
2663	Artefact sample	5010	1									1		1			
2665	Artefact sample	2439	1								1	2					

Contd.

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<b>Little Stock Farm Excavation (ARC LSF99) contd.</b>																	
2666	Artefact sample	5010									1	1					
2676	Artefact sample	5021									2	2					
2677	Artefact sample	5021			1						1	2	1				
<b>Little Stock Farm Evaluation (ARC LSF98)</b>																	
354602	Pit 354606				1							1					1
354603	Pit 354606 (sample)										1	1					
354603	Pit 354606										3	3					
355107	Nat. feature 355111		4									4		4			1
355117	Pit 355118					1						1					
362203	Colluvium			1	1							2					
362503	Pit 362504										1	1					1
362705	Ditch 362704 (sample)	5003									3	3					
362705	Ditch 362704	5003		1		1					15	17		1			
362709	Post-hole 362708		1								2	3					2
362716	Ditch 362715 (sample)	5005	1		1						6	8					3
362716	Ditch 362715	5005	1				8				3	12		1			4
362717	Quarry 362718										1	1					
362720	Ditch 362719	5014	1									1					
362722	Ditch 362721	5011		1		1					1	3					
362722	Ditch 362721 (sample)	5011									7	7					2
362724	Ditch 362723	5008		3							1	4			3		2
362726	Ditch 362725	5005									19	19					
362726	Ditch 362725 (sample)	5005		2							15	17			1		
	<b>Totals</b>		<b>57</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>24</b>