APPENDIX 1 - ANIMAL BONE

1.1 Animal Bone

by Bethan Charles

Introduction

1.1.1 Animal bone was collected during excavation and watching brief works at South of Snarkhurst Wood.

1.1.2 The material was hand retrieved, and recovered during sieving of soil samples.

1.1.3 The bone was collected in accordance with the Landscape Zone Priorities and Fieldwork Event Aims of the projects, which are set out in section 2 of the main report, above. The animal bone was recovered in order to aid understanding of agricultural regimes and natural resource exploitation, and to assist in determining the function of the late Iron Age/Romano-British settlement.

Quantification

1.1.4 A total of 609 fragments of bone (431g) were retrieved by hand (Table 7.1) and 506 fragments (87g) were retrieved from environmental samples, sieved through meshes of 10mm and 10-4mm where necessary (Table 7.2). Cattle and sheep bones were the only elements identified from the assemblage apart from one pig metatarsal taken from the surface of an unexcavated feature (context 201). The majority of the fragments recovered were teeth, and the only identifiable untreated bone fragment recovered was one cattle humerus from context 312. All other bone fragments, primarily sheep bone, had been burnt.

1.1.5 A further 5 fragments (4g) of hand collected bone and 4 fragments (1.5g) of sieved bone were added from the South of Snarkhurst Wood watching brief site, none of which was identifiable.

Provenance

1.1.6 The bone from the site was in very poor condition and the majority of surviving elements were the teeth and burnt bones. Burnt bones constitute 40% of the hand-collected bone and 91% of the sieved bone. Almost all of the burnt bone was from contexts 173 and 153. None of the bone from context 153 was identified to species.

Conservation

1.1.7 Further analysis will not affect the condition of the bone. The containment of the animal bone material in find boxes is satisfactory for long term storage. The material has been fully recorded, and has no potential for further analysis. It need not be retained.

Potential for further work

1.1.8 The small number of bones from the site does not give very much information regarding the economy of the site. Cattle and sheep may have provided the majority of the meat during the late Iron Age and early Roman period, although it is possible that pig bones may have been under represented from this assemblage. The majority of the sheep bones identified were feet bones, indicative of butchery waste.

1.1.9 The assemblage as a whole does not provide any clear information regarding the status or economy of the site. It is not recommended that further work be done on this assemblage.

Table 7.1: Percentage of identified fragments by context, feature interpretation and period

Context	Interpretation	Period	% of identified fragments			Count	Weight (g)
			Cattle	Sheep	Pig		
312	Ditch	LIA-ER	100	0	0	1	146
118	Ditch	LIA-ER	100	0	0	2	7
233	Pit	LIA-ER	100	0	0	1	5
173	Pit	ER	0	100	0	4	1
234	Ditch	ER	50	50	0	4	34
201	Possible pit		0	0	100	1	5

LIA-ER = Late Iron Age to Early Roman ER = Early Roman

Table 7.2: Percentage of identified fragments of sieved bone by context, feature interpretation and period

Context	Interpretation	Period	% of identified fragments	Count	Weight
			Sheep		
173	Pit	LIA-ER	100	17	10

LIA-ER = Late Iron Age to Early Roman