

APPENDIX 1 ANIMAL BONE

1.1 Assessment of Animal Bone

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Introduction

- 1.1.1 A small assemblage of animal bone was hand-recovered during excavation and strip, map and sample works at West of Blind Lane.
- 1.1.2 The material was recovered in accordance with the Landscape Zone Priorities and Fieldwork Event Aims for the site, which are set out in section 2 of the main report, above. The material was recovered in order to elucidate the function and economic basis of the site.

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. All fragments of bone were counted including elements from the vertebral centrum, ribs, teeth and long bone shafts.

Quantification and Provenance

- 1.1.4 A total of 104 fragments (397 g) of bone were retrieved by hand. Only 9 bones (8.5%) were identified to species and all but one of the identified fragments were teeth. The majority of the fragments identified from the assemblage were horse teeth found in late Iron Age-early Roman contexts 2105 and 2039, both fills of ditches (Table 6.1). Fragments of cattle teeth were also found in context 2172, the fill of another late Iron Age-early Roman ditch. A sheep tooth and part of a pig maxillae were also found in an irregular feature (2160) which contained both late Iron Age and middle-late Bronze Age pottery.
- 1.1.5 The bone from this site was in particularly poor condition with a large amount of chemical etching and flaking on the surface of the bones. It is likely that many bones have not survived the acidic nature of the soil, since teeth appear to be the elements that have survived best.

Potential for Further Work

- 1.1.6 The small number of bones identified within securely dated features do not provide any information about the function or economy of the site, other than indicating the presence of horse, cattle, sheep and pig.
- 1.1.7 It is not recommended that further work be done on this assemblage due to the small number of bones retrieved as well as the poor condition of the assemblage.

Table 6.1: Summary of identified animal bone

Context	Interpretation	Period	% of identified fragments				Count	Weight (g)
			Horse	Cattle	Sheep	Pig		
2105	Ditch	LIA; ER	100	-	-	-	2	102
2039	Ditch	LIA; ER	100	-	-	-	4	144
2172	Ditch	LIA; ER	-	100	-	-	1	15
2160	Irregular natural feature		-	-	50	50	2	8