

APPENDIX 1 - ANIMAL BONE

1.1 Animal Bone

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Introduction

- 1.1.1 Nineteen fragments of bone (168 g) were retrieved by hand during the watching brief at West of Sittingbourne Road. Over 70% of these bones were identified (Table 4). It was hoped that these bones would provide evidence for the economy and function of the enclosure. The small size of the assemblage is due largely to the fact that most of the site has been preserved *in situ*, thus limiting the need for intrusive investigation.

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. Ages were estimated by measuring the rate of epiphyseal fusion of the bones using Silver's (1969) tables.

Quantification

- 1.1.3 The majority of the bones identified to species were cattle bones, the greater number of which were found in the upper fill of the enclosure ditch. At least one of the cattle was younger than 3 to 3.5 years of age (Silver 1969). Other bones included pig teeth and vertebrae from the enclosure ditch along with part of a sheep metatarsal and rib fragment also from the enclosure ditch. A single bird carpo-metacarpus was found in the upper fill of the enclosure ditch.

Provenance

- 1.1.4 The bones were in reasonable condition with a small amount of attritional damage. It is possible that the cattle bones may have been over represented due to their being larger and more robust, and more likely to survive than those of smaller species. There did not appear to be any significant dumps of bone at the site and none of the bones displayed obvious signs of butchery marks.

Conservation

- 1.1.5 The bone does not require any special conservation measures. As evidence for the economy and perhaps function of the enclosure it should be retained.

Comparative material

- 1.1.6 The quantities of bone recovered were too small to allow reliable comparisons with other assemblages to be made.

Potential for further work

- 1.1.7 The small numbers of bone retrieved from the site do not provide much information regarding the economy of the site other than the presence of particular species. It is unlikely that further analysis of the material will provide any further information. However, it may be of value to identify the single bird bone to species and to undertake a more detailed study of the material from the evaluation.

Bibliography

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

Table 4: Summary of animal bones

Context	Interpretation	Period	% of identified fragments				Count	Weight
			Cattle	Sheep	Pig	Bird		
8	Enclosure ditch	11-12th C	-	-	100	-	1	13
13	Enclosure ditch	11-12th C	33	-	66	-	3	13
14	Enclosure ditch	11-12th C	75	12.5	-	12.5	8	104
21	Pit	11-12th C	100	-	-	-	1	17
24	Enclosure ditch	11-12th C	-	100	-	-	1	1