

Assessment of a Bone Artefact from Main Street, Aslockton, Nottinghamshire (ASLM-06)

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A possible bone artefact was submitted for identification and assessment. It is possible that the bone was used as a whistle but is in too poor a condition for this to be confirmed.

Description

Animal Bone

A single bone from context 009 was submitted for study. It appears to be an immature cannon-bone, lacking epiphyses, whose surviving length (100mm) suggests a sheep. At the wider end the epiphysis has decayed, as has part of the bone wall itself. At the end of this decayed area is a small circular hole 4mm in diameter. The wider end of the bone is missing and the narrow end has been cracked and one half is absent. There is no sign of a hole being drilled in the bone end, but insufficient of the bone survives to say for certain that no hole was ever present.

At x20 magnification there is no sign of human working around the hole or anywhere else on the bone but the condition of the bone is poor and it is possible that knife marks might have been lost. Nevertheless, it remains at best unproven that this bone was ever utilized.

Assessment

The bone was possibly used as a whistle but the only evidence for this is the single hole, which itself shows no indubitable signs of being man-made.

Retention

The bone should be retained so that it can be examined by an archaeomusicologist at some future date.