Table 1: Criteria, methods of analysis and interpretation (after Colledge 2000): all aspects analysed by deposit class and level

Variable	Unit	Analysis	Interpretation
Taxonomic frequencies	Relative frequency (%) based on bone counts	Comparison of animal groups and/or unidentified fraction	Distribution of animal classes as indicator of differential consumption/disposal/preservation
Bone density	Fragment counts (n/l)/weight (g)	Comparison of mean density of total bone and individual groups	Disposal of bone waste; house cleaning; preservation; presence of intrusive animals
Preservation	Qualitative assessment of appearance of bone/tooth fragments as excellent, good, fair, poor, based on cortex surface and fragment edges	Comparison of mean relative proportion of categories, for total bone, MM1, Unidentified mammal/Indeterminate fragments	Post-depositional attrition: anthropogenic and/natural activity (trampling, weathering, etc.). The poorer the preservation, the greater/more intense the post-depositional attrition, including reworking of deposits.
Angularity	Qualitative assessment of straightness and sharpness of fragment edges: battered, rounded, spiky; semi-digested; eroded	Comparison of mean relative proportion of categories, for total bone, MM1, Unidentified mammal, Indeterminate fragments	as above
Colour	Qualitative assessment of colour groups	Comparison of mean relative proportion of categories, for total bone, MM1, Unidentified mammal, Indeterminate fragments	Indication of burial medium, unmixed deposits, mixed/residual materials; modifications such as burning, modern breakage, burial with metals
Fragmentation	Weight (g)/fragment	Comparison of mean weight (g)/fragment; for total bone, MM1, Unidentified mammal, Indeterminate fragments	Pre- and post-depositional attrition of fragments; selection/removal of fragments of different size
Fragmentation	Fragment length (cm)	Comparison of mean relative proportion of fragment length groups, in particular the <2cm group; for total bone and MM1	Pre- and post-depositional attrition of fragments; election/removal of fragments of different size
Fragmentation	Fragment length of MM1 elements	Comparison of mean relative proportions of fragment length for MM1 elements	Control of fragment distributions within a single animal group and between element types
Other alterations	Burning, butchery, carnivore and rodent gnawing; modern breaks	Comparison of mean relative frequency of modifications for total bone, MM1, Unidentified mammal	Evidence for pre- and post-depositional modification; carcass processing and food preparation; deliberate/accidental burning; exposure to scavengers; damage during and after excavation
Taxonomic distributions	Number of fragments and relative proportion of specimens identified to taxon (mammals only)	Comparison of relative proportion of species by deposit class/level	Assessment of spatial and chronological distributions; palaeoeconomy; discard practices