

Stansted Animal Bone Analysis

Database Description

The specialist provided data as an Microsoft Access 97 .mdb. The format has been converted to Access 2000 .mdb as it is probably the most widely accessible of the Jet engine formats. The Data descriptions below were constructed on receipt of the data from the specialist and contain questions on the meaning of the data with the specialists explanation of the purpose of the fields.

An Entity-Relationship diagram consisting of the main table relationship tables has been provided: *ERDiagramABSspecialist.jpg*

Data Tables

TableName	Table Description	Has Field Descriptions	Questions	Explanations
Main Record Sheet	Principal identifications and quantifications of animal bone within a context	Partial	Does the Butchery field refer to assessment data since there is a separate more detailed Butchery Table? Or is it a conclusion concerning ancient butchery practice derived from the data in Butchery Table? <i>Andy - The later with interpretations based on Binford 1981 Bones: Ancient Man and Modern Myth.</i>	Sample and Object numbers of value 0 are defaults indicating that these numbering methods are not applicable.

Butchery Table	Description and quantification of the observed butchery marks on individual animal bones	Yes	Null values in fields Type, Area and Direction mean Indeterminate or not applicable? <i>Andy - not applicable</i>	<i>refer to a paper archive).</i>
Congenital Traits	Description of observed congenital traits apparent on individual animal bones (mandibles only?)	Yes but two fields could be improved since they have the same description	<i>Andy - Which two fields? I added this with the idea of recording digitally rather than on paper, but the mandibular congenital traits I'm probably going to move into the digital toothwear records</i>	
D/R Zones	Results of an analysis following the methods and diagnostic zones proposed by Dobney and Rielley	Yes but currently assumed that field names can be directly mapped to the methods of Dobney and Rielley	<i>Andy - I now record this data another way, as I found this awkward in analysis</i>	
Metric Data Table	Records the type of measurement taken and the value of the measurement in millimetres	Occasional	0 is a default value where a measurement has not been taken because it is not applicable or because it could not be measured? <i>Andy - Both</i>	'Measurements recorded' and 'Measurement Table' indicates the measurements that should be taken for each element type
Measurements Recorded Measurement Table	Records the measurements that should be taken for each element type	No	The difference between these two tables is not understood <i>Andy - Delete as they are redundant from an earlier database</i>	Spreadsheet data layout format
Toothwear: Cattle	Records the observed wear on cattle teeth derived from mandibles with in-fixed teeth or from loose teeth separated from the mandibles	Yes		It is assumed that field names are meaningful to those who may have an interest in this level of detail (animal bone specialists)
Toothwear: Pig	Records the observed wear on pig teeth derived from mandibles with in-fixed teeth or from loose teeth separated from the mandibles	Yes		It is assumed that field names are meaningful to those who may have an interest in this level of detail (animal bone specialists)
Toothwear: Sheep/Goat	Records the observed wear on sheep and/or goat teeth	Yes		It is assumed that field names are meaningful to those who may

	derived from mandibles with in-fixed teeth or from loose teeth separated from the mandibles		have an interest in this level of detail (animal bone specialists)
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Lookup Tables

Table Name	Applies to table	Defines values for the field	Description
% Original Length	Main Record Sheet	% of Original Length	Permitted terms for describing the surviving percentage of the original animal bone length
Absolute length	Main Record Sheet	Absolute length	Permitted terms described in textual format range measurements with a numeric categorisation from smallest to largest
Angularity	Main Record Sheet	Angularity	Permitted terms describing the angularity of an archaeological break
Butchery	Main Record Sheet	Butchery	Permitted terms describing the interpretation of the butchery practice described in the Butchery Table table
Butchery Area	Butchery Table	Area	Permitted terms for describing the area of bone affected by butchering practice
Butchery Type	Butchery Table	Type	Permitted terms for describing the type of butchery mark observed
Cattle/Pig TW Codes	Tooth Wear: Cattle Tooth Wear: Pig	Dp1, P1,M1,M2,M3 Dp1, P1,M1,M2,M3	Permitted terms for describing the observed tooth wear. It is assumed that the codes are readily identifiable to animal bone specialists
Colour of Encrustation	Main Record Sheet	Colour of Encrustation	Permitted terms for describing the colour of visible encrustations on animal bones
Element	Main Record Sheet	Element	Permitted terms for describing the body part represented by the animal bone. Additionally contains structural data for producing modified fragment counts and classification into long bones and vertebrae for the individual body part descriptors
Encrustations	Main Record Sheet	Encrustations	Permitted terms for describing extent of the visible encrustations on an animal bone
Fragmentation 1	Main Record Sheet	Frag 1	Permitted terms for describing the post-

			depositional fragmentation applicable to an animal bone or set of animal bones
Fusion	Main Record Sheet	Proximal Fusion Distal Fusion	Permitted terms for describing the fusion evident on an animal bone
Preservation	Main Record Sheet	Preservation	Permitted terms for describing a perception of the robustness of an animal bone
Sex	Main Record Sheet	Sex	Permitted terms for describing the sex certainty of gender identification of an animal from an animal bone
Sheep/Goat dp4 codes	Toothwear: Sheep/goat	Dp1	Permitted terms for describing the observed tooth wear. It is assumed that the codes are readily identifiable to animal bone specialists
Sheep/Goat M1/2 codes	Toothwear: Sheep/goat	M1, M2	Permitted terms for describing the observed tooth wear. It is assumed that the codes are readily identifiable to animal bone specialists
Sheep/Goat M3 codes	Toothwear: sheep/goat	M3	Permitted terms for describing the observed tooth wear. It is assumed that the codes are readily identifiable to animal bone specialists
Sheep/Goat P4 codes	Toothwear: sheep/goat	P1	Permitted terms for describing the observed tooth wear. It is assumed that the codes are readily identifiable to animal bone specialists
Side	Main Record Sheet	Side	Permitted terms for describing the side of the animal on which the bone was originally positioned
Species	Main Record Sheet	Species	Permitted terms for describing the species of animal from which the animal bone came
Surface Erosion	Main Record Sheet	Surface Erosion	Permitted terms for describing the observed erosion of the surfaces of an animal bone