FAUNAL REMAINS

By Paul Cope-Faulkner

Introduction

A total of 15 (414g) fragments of animal bone were recovered from stratified contexts during investigations at Steep Hill, Lincoln. The faunal remains were laid out in context order and reference made to published catalogues (e.g. Schmid 1972; Hillson 2003).

Provenance

The animal bone was retrieved from the fill (103) of a pit (107), a stabilising deposit (105) and a deposit of greyish brown silt (106).

Condition

The overall condition of the remains was good to moderate, averaging at grades 2-3 on the Lyman Criteria (1996).

Results

Table 1, Fragments Identified to Taxa

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	W (g)	Comments
103	cattle	horn core	L	1	73	
	cattle	humerus	R	1	64	
	large mammal	vertebra	-	1	61	axis
	large mammal	rib	-	2	65	cut marks; 1 sawn and snapped
	sheep/goat	mandible	R	1	30	
	medium mammal	vertebra	-	1	17	
105	large mammal	?humerus	-	1	12	
	large mammal	long bone	-	1	14	slightly chalky
	sheep/goat	pelvis	L	1	12	butchery marks
106	cattle	horn core	-	1	19	
	deer	radius	R	1	8	distal end
	large mammal	long bone	-	1	11	
	medium mammal	?humerus	-	1	26	rodent gnawing
	medium mammal	long bone	-	1	2	

Summary

Large mammals (e.g. cattle and sheep) dominate the assemblage followed by sheep/goat. A single deer radius was also found in a post-medieval context. Some of the bones exhibit cut marks indicating they are butchery waste, although this is not present throughout the assemblage.

References

Hillson, S, 2003 Mammal Bones and Teeth. An introductory guide to methods of identification (London)

Lyman, RL, 1996 Vertebrate Taphonomy, Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology (Cambridge)

Schmid, E, 1972 Atlas of Animal Bones (Amsterdam, London, New York: Elsevier)