APPENDIX 4 Faunal Remains

By Jennifer Wood

Introduction

A total of 131 (694g) fragments of animal bone were recovered by hand during archaeological trial trenches undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Lincoln.

The remains were recovered from a deposit (458) within an undated ditch and a dog burial (502).

Methodology

The entire assemblage has been fully recorded into a database archive. Identification of the bone was undertaken with access to a reference collection and published guides. All animal remains were counted and weighed, and where possible, identified to species, element, side and zone (Serjeantson 1996). Ribs and vertebrae were only recorded to species when they were substantially complete and could accurately be identified. Undiagnostic bones were recorded as micro (rodent size), small (rabbit size), medium (sheep size) or large (cattle size). The separation of sheep and goat bones was done using the criteria of Boessneck (1969) and Prummel and Frisch (1986) in addition to the use of the reference material. Where distinctions could not be made the bone was recorded as sheep/goat (S/G).

The quantification of species was carried out using the total fragment count, in which the total number of fragments of bone and teeth was calculated for each taxon. Where fresh breaks were noted, fragments were refitted and counted as one. The data produced the basic NISP (Number of Identified Specimen) counts.

The condition of the bone was graded using the criteria stipulated by Lyman (1996). Grade 0 being the best preserved bone, and Grade 5 indicating that the bone had suffered such structural and attritional damage as to make it unrecognisable. Also fusion data, butchery marks (Binford 1981), gnawing, burning and pathological changes were noted when present.

Tooth eruption and wear stages were measured using a combination of Halstead (1985), Grant (1982), Levine (1982) and Payne (1973), and fusion data was analysed according to Silver (1969). Measurements of adult, that is, fully fused bones were taken according to the methods of von den Driesch (1976), with asterisked (*) measurements indicating bones that were reconstructed or had slight abrasion of the surface.

Results

The remains were generally of a moderate condition, averaging at Grade 3 on the Lyman criteria (1996).

No evidence of butchery, gnawing, burning, or pathology were noted on any of the remains.

As can be seen from the archive, the majority of the remains were identified as dog, with a single equid bone.

The assemblage consists of a fairly complete articulated dog skeleton and a single equid metacarpal.

The dog remains were from a medium sized animal, 0.51m high to the shoulder, roughly the size of a large terrier breed. The animal displayed slight pathological variation within the spinal column, possibly developmental in nature rather than the result of trauma.

The assemblage provides very limited information on the animal utilisation and husbandry practices undertaken on site save these presence and use of the identified species.

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