A Note on the Animal Bones from Beedon Manor Farm, Berkshire.

66 animal bone fragments werd recovered from the excavations of the late Bronze Age settlement and its associated linear ditbh. The material was in a poor state of preservation. 52 of the fragments bore evidence of erosion and some were severely affected. Eight fragments were charred, including all seven fragments found in one of the postholes(F.264).

The species identified were cattle(17 fragments), sheep/goat(14), pig(6) and red deer(<u>Cervus elaphus</u>)(one fragment of antler). None of the sheep/goat fragments could be assigned specifically to sheep or goat and both species could have been present. The remaining material consisted of thirteen fragments of unidentified large mammals(horse, cattle or red deer), thirteen small artiodactyl fragments(sheep,goat, pig or roe deer) and two fragments from unknown mammals.

The most productive feature(pit F.300) contained only 29 fragments of bone. These included two mandibles of sheep/goat. One of these had died at an age when its third permanent molar was coming into wear; the other belonged to a younger animal, which still possessed its deciduous premolars and a virtually unworn second molar. These jaws therefore belonged to animals that died at different ages but when neither was fully mature. Other ageing evidence was limited to the occurrence of loose teeth of cattle and sheep/goat. Two partial sets of sheep/goat upper deciduous premolars were discovered in pits F.302 and F.300, again indicating the presence of adolescent animals on the site. A set of cattle upper deciduous premolars was also found in F.300 but mature cattle were also present, as shown by a heavily worn upper third molar recovered in F.8.

The material was in too fragmentary a condition for measurements to be taken. Nor was there any evidence of butchery or pathology on any of the fragments. Consequently the small and poorly preserved sample did not provide sufficient data for any detailed analysis to be undertaken and conclusions about this sample are therefore extremely limited.

N.B. The basic data from which this summary was derived are available from the Faunal Remains Project, Archaeology Dept., Southampton University.

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