ANIMAL BONE REPORT   P J W LANGLEY

HAMPTON COURT

INTRODUCTION

Very little animal bone was excavated from the 19th century site of

Hampton Court (CEU site 12).   There are however a few points of interest

which are summarized in the following account.

METHODS

The bone was examined at the Department of Environment's Ancient Monuments

Laboratory in London according to the methods detailed by Jones (1974).

Sieving was used to extract the smaller bones and frequent use was made of

the reference bone collection in the Laboratory.   The data were fed as

punched paper tape into a computer (Honeywell Timesharing Service) and

displayed in archival catalogues.

RESULTS

Table 1 presents the raw data sorted, both to species and anatomy.   Of a

total of 182 bones recorded, 46.7% were measured at least once.   All but

2 bones were mammalian in origin and only 3 could not be identified either

by anatomy or species.   Dog bones (Canis sp) were clearly the most common.

Whole Skeletons

Dog bones were over-represented at Hampton Court because of the presence

of two almost complete dog skeletons.   Judging by the lack of baculum or

sagittal crest both dogs were female.   They were intermediate in size between

the modern breeds of toy and miniature poodle but neither could be assigned

to a particular breed.   Left and right humerus, femur, and tibia of a very

young, possibily foetal dog were found (Plate 1).   Some bones from a cat

skeleton (Felis sp) were also discovered.   All dog and cat bones came from

one context and it seems possible that this was a traditional burial

ground for pets.

Butchery

Butchery marks were common on those animals used for food such as ovicaprid (Ovis/Capra sp) and cattle (Bos sp) but absent on the species generally kept as pets. Butchery marks were found on a rabbit femur (Oryctolagus cuniculus) and certain bones labelled cattle-sized and sheep-sized. In total 17 bones had knife and 8 had chop marks. No burnt bone or sawing marks were found.

Pathology

The dog and cat bones provided all the pathology. Plate 2 demonstrates abscessing and ante mortum loss of several of the teeth in a cat mandible. Both of the dog skulls showed ante mortum tooth loss and in one of these were ante mortum breaks of the right second premolar and the left first and second incisor. Two dog humeri exhibited slight exostoses and there was eburnation on the ulna of a cat. The most dramatic pathology came from the left radius and ulna of a dog. Plate 3 shows how these two bones have fused together in several places possibly following a traumatic injury such as a fracture. These two bones are normally separate in the dog to allow a certain degree of rotation about the joint. The injury must have reduced the mobility of the individual quite considerably but was probably not fatal.

REFERENCES

Jones R T 1974. Osteometric methodology. Ancient Monuments Laboratory Report Number 2333.

LIST OF PLATES

PLATE 1: Left and right humerus, femur, and tibia of immature dog.

PLATE 2: Left mandible of cat viewed from above showing abscessing and ante mortum loss of certain teeth.

PLATE 3: Left radius and ulna of a dog viewed laterally showing points of fusion.

TABLE 1

MAXIMUM NUMBERS OF BONE FOR EACH ANIMAL SPECIES PRESENT ON THE SITE

	BOS sp	CATTLE SIZED	OVICAPRID	SHEEP SIZED	CANIS sp	FELIS sp	ORYCTOLAGUS CUNICULUS	GALLUS sp	STURNUS VULGARIS	UNKNOWN MAMMAL SPECIES	TOTAL
SKULL	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	2
MANDIBLE	–	–	–	–	4	1	–	–	–	–	5
SCAPULA	–	–	2	–	3	2	–	–	1	–	8
HUMERUS	–	–	3	–	5	1	–	–	–	–	9
RADIUS	–	–	1	–	3	2	–	–	–	–	6
ULNA	–	–	1	–	4	1	–	–	–	–	6
OS COXA	–	–	–	–	4	–	–	–	–	–	4
FEMUR	1	1	3	–	7	–	2	1	–	–	15
TIBIA	1	–	1	–	7	1	–	–	–	–	10
FIBULA	–	–	–	–	2	1	–	–	–	–	3
CALCANEUM	–	–	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	3
ASTRAGALUS	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	2
METATARSAL	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
ATLAS	–	–	1	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	3
CERVICAL VERTEBRA	–	1	3	–	8	–	–	–	–	–	12
THORACIC VERTEBRA	1	1	1	–	9	–	–	–	–	–	12
LUMBAR VERTEBRA	1	–	1	–	8	2	–	–	–	–	12
SACRAL VERTEBRA	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1
RIB	2	3	14	2	43	–	–	–	–	1	65
UNKNOWN BONE	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	3
TOTAL	6	6	32	2	117	11	2	1	1	4	182

Plate 1.

Plate 2

0   20 m.m.

0

20 m.m.