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ANIMAL BONES FROM BANWELL ROMAN VILLA, SOMERSET

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104 well-preserved fragments were examined from rooms (H-J, H, K3) and an adjoining courtyard (J5) of the Roman villa. The bones were associated with levels dated to c.300-350 (②), or with destruction levels probably of late fourth century date (③). A summary of the fragments identified are shown below:

Species	H-J③	J5③A	J5②	H②	K3②	Total
Horse	3	-	-	-	-	3
Cattle	17	5	6	2	1	31
Sheep/Goat	4	3	1	-	-	8
Sheep	1	1	1	-	-	3
Pig	1	1	-	-	-	2
Cat	-	-	1	-	-	1
Red Deer (<u>Cervus elaphus</u>)-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Domestic Fowl	1	-	-	-	-	1
Mallard(<u>Anas platyrhyn-</u> <u>chos</u>)/Domestic Duck	1	-	-	-	-	1
Unid. Large Mammal	37	9	1	-	3	50
Unid. Small Mammal	3	-	-	-	-	-
Total	68	20	10	2	4	104

This sample is much too small to say anything constructive about the meat diet or animal husbandry of the villa's inhabitants. The dominance of cattle and large mammal fragments unidentifiable to species may be a reflection of the sampling of the bones, during which smaller fragments may have been overlooked, rather than an accurate representation of the bones deposited.

Similarly, although ageing, butchery and metrical data were recorded where possible, too few observations were made to enable any conclusions to be drawn. Another note of caution must be raised by the large sheep humerus recovered from H-J③. The size of this fragment leads to a suspicion that it was a more recent intrusion into the Roman deposits.