

Kennel Hall Knowe , 1976 Northumberland

All the bone recovered from this excavation had been burnt . Burial conditions were presumably such that unburnt bone failed to survive . The bone was very fragmented and although 437 pieces were looked at only 8.2% were identified and some of these are not categorically determined to species . The main problem in the identification of this material besides its extensive fragmentation is the very marked shrinkage in size of the bones and often a marked degree of distortion . This has meant that even the smaller complete bones are difficult to identify because often shrinkage has put the bone or fragment within the size range of a second and similar species , i.e. some of the identified cattle bones are in fact similar in size to unburnt pig bones . Differential shrinkage can therefore cause difficulties in the identification .

Table			total
Cattle	16	cf 14	30
Pig		cf 2	2
Sheep or goat	1	cf 2	3
Fowl		cf 1	1
Ox sized animal			136
Sheep sized animal			156
?			<u>109</u>
			437

The collection appears to be all animal bones , even those specimens not identified tending to be animal in character , but it is not impossible that some fragmented human material is present .

The bones appear to be the only surviving indication of the diet in the settlement ; and as far as the analysis will permit cattle sheep ( or goat ) , pig and fowl were present . No estimate of the importance of each can be presented despite the obvious dominance of cattle bones among the identified remains . This species is likely to survive better and in larger more recognisable pieces, and as the list of unidentified remains indicate ~~that~~ ox-sized animals by no means predominate the fragment numbers although in fact the sheep-sized fragments are considerably smaller fragments

owing to their greater fragility .

The identified bones are the denser bones such as teeth , carpals , tarsals , sesamoids and phalanges . Metatarsal bones have been identified also owing to the characteristic shape of their shaft . the remaining material although often identifiable as a long bone , vertebra or rib fragment could not be determined to species .

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