AML Report 1073

TITLE Identification of waterlogged wood from Shackerley, Shropshire. CEU site 50: AML site No 1537.

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DATE 30.8.93

ABSTRACTS Wood identification report.

KEYWORDS

Wood, waterlogged, bowl, core, handle, pegs, Medieval

THIS REPORT IS

Level III

ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY

MATERIAL [illegible]

SITE: [illegible] (DATE:

SHEET: 1

AM No	X-Ray No	Photo No	Description and Report	Ref No
[illegible]112501			Staves of bucket or barrel: Quercus.sp (Oak).	50-115
[illegible]112502			Fragment of turned handle: Corylus.sp (Hazel).	50-115
[illegible]12503			Fragments of large bowl: Alnus.sp (Alder).	50-115
[illegible]			Bung or bowl core: Alnus.sp.	50-119
[illegible]			Bung or bowl core: Alnus.sp.	50-162
[illegible]507			Bowl core: Alnus.sp.	50-181
			Pegs associated with bridge: long peg - Quercus.sp small peg - Alnus.sp	50-[illegible]
			Pegs associated with bridge: all 13 were Quercus.sp	50-[illegible]

SHACKERLEY: THE ANIMAL BONES.

by Alison Locker.

A small quantity of animal bones (337) was recovered by hand and machine during the excavation. The following species were identified: ox (*Bos* sp., including ox-sized fragments 37.4%), ovicaprid (*Ovis* sp./*Capra* sp., including sheep-sized fragments 17.8%), pig (*Sus* sp.), horse (*Equus* sp.), roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*), red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), fallow deer (*Dama dama*), dog (*Canis* sp.), domestic fowl (*Gallus* sp.), goose (*Anser* sp.), and domestic duck/mallard (*Anas* sp.).

The bones identified are itemised in the table.

All the bone was recorded and measured using the method of Jones et al (1978). The bone has been treated as a single group since comparison of those from contexts of different periods did not reveal any significant differences. This may in part be due to the small size of the sample. Contexts 301 and 304 (a refuse dump), produced 29% of the bone including the birds and a few vertebrae of eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) and herring (*Clupea harengus*). The latter two species were found in a column sample through the refuse dump and so were not included in the table.

All the mammal bones showed evidence of butchery except for dog and horse, and evidently represent food debris. Sheep was positively identified in the ovicaprids by a single horn core. Ox and pig bones include a high proportion of mandible fragments, representing primary butchery debris, however none of the deer bones were from the head area except for fallow deer which was solely represented by two loose teeth.

A large number of pig bones were from immature animals, 30% of them showing some sign of immaturity. All the mature pig bones lay within the size of domestic pigs as stated by Clason (1967), and there was no evidence from the site for the hunting of wild boar.

Measurements on two horse bones (radius and metacarpal) from two different contexts gave similar withers heights of 148cm and 146cm (Kieswalter 1974). Allowing for slight discrepancies in the method these two animals were the size of a large pony/small horse.

It is quite unusual to find find all three species of native British deer in such a small collection of animal bones. Many of the bones showed signs of butchery and imply that hunting was important in the economy of this site. Both dogs and horses would have been used in this pursuit. Up until the thirteenth century hunting would have taken place in the Royal forest of Brewood, but this was then disafforested. However the Eastern part of Shropshire was 'covered with an almost unbroken forest and the rivers ran through extensive tracts of marshy ground', an ideal habitat for deer until the greater part of the forest was cut in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, (Whitehead 1964). The marginal areas of the forest would also have provided ideal pannage for pigs.

The herring vertebrae are probably the remains of salted or pickled fish that would have been stored in barrels. Eels could have been caught locally in streams, or may have been part of a

live fish store in ponds.

Since this sample only represents a very small proportion of the bone that would have been recovered had the whole site been excavated it is not possible to suggest the relative importance of different species to the economy.

REFERENCES.

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Whitehead CK, 1964. The Deer of Great Britain and Ireland. Routledge and Kegan Paul.

TABLE 6

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	TOTAL
SKULL	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
JAW	7	-	9	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
SCAPULA	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
HUMERUS	1	-	6	-	-	-	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
RADIUS	2	2	2	1	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	12
ULNA	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4
METACARP.	2	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
1ST PHAL.	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
OS COXA	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
FEMUR	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	10
TIBIA	3	3	1	2	1	-	-	2	7	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
FIBULA	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
CALCANEUM	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
ASTRAGAL.	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
METATAR.	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
MAXILLA	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
HORN CORE	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
RIB	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	20	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40
VERTEBRAE	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	20
TOOTH FR.	-	-	4	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
FRAGMENT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	-	63	-	-	-	-	-	77
L BONE FR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37	20	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	58
SKULL FR	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
TOTAL	3	0	6	46	15	4	2	6	96	53	3	64	2	1	1	4	2	337

KEY:
1 = OX
2 = OVICAPRID
4 = HORSE
5 = RED DEER
6 = FALLOW DEER
7 = ROE DEER
8 = OX-SIZED FRAGMENT
9 = SHEEP-SIZED FRAGMENT
10 = DOG
11 = UNIDENTIFIABLE FRAGMENT
12 = DOMESTIC FOWL
13 = GOOSE
14 = DOMESTIC DUCK/MALLARD
15 = EEL
16 = HERRING