

Identification of the bone artefacts from Annetwell Street, Carlisle, 1981-83.

1st Report
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The following small finds were studied and where possible identified as to the bone used in their manufacture and the species from which they derive. Where this was not possible to ascertain a cruder non-specific identification was made, such as long bone shaft, large animal or even just bone. This latter category, bone, is used to distinguish non-antler from antler. Finds that could not be identified at all are catalogued as bone or antler.

Site Code CAR 81 ANN

Context & Small Find No.	Description	Identification
A 486 B 28 10<18>	Die	Bone- made from a long bone shaft of an ox-sized animal. Decoration blacked!
A 486 B 29 10<18>	Die	Bone- possibly made from a metacarpus shaft of an ox-sized animal. Decoration turned.
A 1034 B 44	Counter	Bone, made from a long bone shaft of an ox-sized animal-probably turned.
A 1133 B 48	Awl	Bone- slightly faceted- long bone shaft of an ox-sized animal.
A 878 B 52	Bone object!	Large ungulate rib fragment, with chop marks- probably butchery. Unworked.

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A 1282 B 53	Ring?	Manufactured from a transverse section of a long bone of a large ox-sized animal.
A 1195 B 54	Tool handle	Horse metatarsal. Proximal half with distal half sawn off. Shaft and proximal end slightly rounded to make a smooth cylinder. Slot on distal end made by drilling through shaft.
A 1283 B 55	Offcut	cf. Ox tibia. Shaft fragment, sawn off at both ends. No noticeable hollowing

			of shaft. Unused fragment?
A 1308	B 56 <55>	Square piece with perforation	Square bone 'washer' made from a shaft piece of a long bone from an ox-sized animal. Apparently worked with a file.
A 1232	B 57	Pin	Made from a long bone shaft-probably ox-sized.
A 1461	B 58	Counter	Made from a long bone (probably a metapodial) shaft of an ox-sized animal.
A 1507	B 59	Pin fragment	Made from the shaft of a long bone probably an ox-sized animal.
A 1771	B 60	Worked fragment	Red deer antler. Fragment of worked and hollowed antler beam.
A 1675	B 61	Part of worked Ox scapula	Ox Scapula, left. The spine and thoracic margin have been shaved down to make a flat object. The scapula blade has a hole cut in it.

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A 1706	B 62	Part of object	Ox scapula, right side. Spine shaved off and edges smoothed. Distal end sawn off.
A 2113	B 63	Fragment	Unworked fragment of bone. Possibly from a nasal bone.
A 2183.2	B 64	Decorated fragment	Fragment of antler cortex, split(chopped) longitudinally after the surface pattern and grooves had been worked.
A 2226.2	B 66	Part of Object	Small carved head piece with hole. Ivory- probably elephant.
A 2431	B 67	Pin	Made from the shaft of a long bone of an ox-sized animal.

Discussion

The pins, counters and awl in this collection are manufactured from the shafts of long bones. Unfortunately these objects rarely bear sufficient characters for more precise identification and this is true also of the dice. Possible bones used in the making of these of this type of item are illustrated in the report on the Blackfriars small finds (Rackham, n.d.). The shafts of what are probably cattle bones were used for a number of other finds; B 53 - a fragment of a ring of bone; B 55 - which may either be an offcut or the waste from butchery and has no evidence for use; B 56 - a small square piece of bone in

which the bone laminae are clearly visible in section.

Two fragments of red deer antler were identified, both objects being made from the hard outer cortex of the antler beam. Two objects are made from cattle scapulae from which the spine has been removed and shaved down to make a large flat plate or shovel like object - both are further worked.

One object is made from what is almost certainly elephant ivory. This is the only 'exotic' raw material, all the other finds are made from material readily available locally in Carlisle. It is just possible that ivory may have been available in this country, there are records of buried mammoth ivory in good enough condition to turn into chess pieces, but importation of the finished object or possibly the raw ivory from Mediterranean or African sources seems more likely.

Two items recorded as small finds are definitely unworked and almost certainly unused; one a butchered fragment of rib, B 52, and the second an unidentifiable fragment possibly from a nasal bone.

Rackham, D.J. n.d. The identification of the bone small finds from Blackfriars, Carlisle. Ancient Monuments Laboratory Report No. 4054.