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ANIMAL REMAINS PROJECT
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ANIMAL BONES FROM THE LONDON LODGE COMPLEX

SITE R 3 , M3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESCUE COMMITTEE

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Here is the final version of our bone report ~~which has also been sent to the D.O.E. Ancient Monuments Laboratory at Fortress House, London, as a contract report~~ and can be ~~consulted there.~~ Please destroy or return any earlier draft reports to avoid confusion.

If you wish to use any of the information here in any publication we should be grateful if you would give us full details of what you intend to use and allow us to check it before it goes to press.

The R 3 collection of bones is small (1,320 grams) and is all poorly preserved, probably as a result of being in clay with flints, and subjected to root action. Consequently very little can be done other than to identify the anatomical elements present and say which species are represented where this is possible.

The animal bones were studied as two groups - late Iron Age bones from feature 2, and the remainder with Romano- British associations. Detailed bone-by-bone identifications are kept in notebooks at the Faunal Remains Project. A xerox copy of the relevant pages goes to MARC 3 where some data will be sent for computer storage alongside the other information from this site.

1. Late Iron Age Material

The identifications from Feature 2 are in Table 1.

TABLE 1 Distribution of Identified Fragments in Feature 2, R 3

	HEAD	OTHER AXIAL	LIMBS & GIRDLES	FEET	TOTAL FRAGS
horse	9			2	11
cattle	6	2	3	8	19
sheep	6		4		10
pig	5		4		9
dog	4				4
TOTALS	30	2	11	10	53

Some comments on the animals represented are given below.

Horse. The remains are, according to molar structure, definitely those of small horse, not donkey. At least two animals are represented - one a male of 3-4 years according to the diagrams of tooth wear in Duerst (1930).

Cattle. Small cattle with a withers height of less than 1 metre are represented. Using figures for nineteenth century stock published by Silver (1969) one individual works out at least 4 years of age at death (M_3 in wear).

Sheep. Although no diagnostic features distinguishing sheep

from goat were found, all the ovicaprid bones were comparable with other Iron Age material definitely identified as sheep. At least one ewe is represented and one animal is at least 3 years old using Silver's figures for eighteenth century hill sheep (M_3 in wear).

Pig. One pig had an erupted but unworn M_3 - this tooth comes into wear in the second year in wild pigs and Silver gives similar figures for eighteenth century pigs. It is not possible to say whether the pigs in R 3 were wild or domestic.

2. Romano- British Material from features 4,5,6,10,121,130 and 202 is grouped in Table 2.

Table 2 .Identified Fragments from R.B. features in R 3.

	HEAD	OTHER AXIAL	LIMBS & GIRDLES	FEET	TOTAL FRAGS
horse	1		1		2
cattle	8		6	1	15
sheep	8		1		9
lamb			1	3	4
dog			2		2
hare			2		2
TOTALS	21	0	11	4	36

Just under 1 kilo of bone came from these features. Again, definite horse is present. Cattle represented include one at least 4 years (M_3 in wear) and a calf. There is an ovicaprid (presumed sheep) of about 3 years (M_3 partially in wear) and bones from two young lambs are present - probably casualties.

A tibia shaft of ovicaprid had been worked to a point distally and a cattle femur had been sawn across the distal end of the shaft. The latter bone is much larger and heavier than those of the usual small cattle found in Iron Age levels in Britain and could be either from a bull or a heavier type of cattle.

Conclusions

The collection is small and conclusions on numbers of animals or specific

ratios would be meaningless. Its interest lies in showing what species were present - it is of note that no deer bones could be found. The absolute ages given in this report may be wholly unreliable as we do not know exactly how the rate of development of domestic animals has altered since prehistoric times - we only know that it has speeded up. For this reason the evidence on which the absolute age is based has been stated in each case.

The poor preservation means that no butchery marks are visible and some indications of bone working may have been eroded.