

Denney Abbey West End Area VIIIAnimal Bone Report January 1975

The animal bone material from this site were both small in number and extremely fragmentary. It has thus been necessary to identify species from bone fragments which in many cases were totally unmeasurable. All measurements that were possible are Tabulated.

The species present were as follows:- Cattle (3 individuals), Sheep (1 individual), Pig (2 individuals), Frog (12 individuals), Rabbit (1 individual) and Microtus Agrestin (1 individual). Here the minimum number of animals present is recorded, but due to the small sample size of the bone material these numbers are in no way reliable. Similarly any seeming preference of age of slaughter or death is meaningless.

I have assumed all the finds of animal bone from this area are of the same period since I have not received instructions to the contrary.

Cattle (Bos sp)

Cattle were poorly represented by measurable bone remains, quite a good proportion of the material being butchered ribs and vertebra. Ribs tended to have been butchered across their axis while vertebra were butchered along their axis.

The right ramus of an adult animal with well worn teeth was present. This specimen was butchered medio laterally across its angles and up to its condyle. Also present was the entire left ramus of an animal aged approximately one year at the time of death. Further butchery occurred on an astragalus which was cut medio disto laterally. A further adult animal was confirmed by one right metatarsal which showed some signs of Vitamin 'D' deficiency. Thus two adult animals and one juvenile were present.

Sheep (Ovies sp)

Again a very fragmentary collection of bones. Only a minimum number of one being indicated by some eleven fragments (a hardly realistic figure!) The single tooth that was present, a lower second pre molar was of the permanent dentition and worn; indicating an animal aged anything over $1\frac{1}{2}$ years. All epiphyses had fused indicating an animal of at least 3 years (as judged by present day standards). The only evidence of butchery was found on the skull, which had been cleaved axially into two halves (only one of which was present). Therefore this individual was adult and aged at least three years at the time of death and there after was butchered and used as food. The cleavage of the skull possibly indicated that the brain was of some use perhaps as food.

Pig (Sus sp)

There were at least three individuals present ~~at least~~; all were of differing ages. ($1\frac{1}{2}$ years, $2\frac{1}{2}$ years and an adult animal). There was also evidence to suggest that at least one of these animals was a male.

Rabbit (Oryetalarus cuniculus)

A single bone fragment from a right tibia was present

Frog (Rana sp)

At least 12 individuals were present, all of which were found in the finds marked "Grave". A situation such as a grave would provide frogs with a very suitable hibernaculum.

Microtus ^{agrestis} ~~agrestis~~

A single lower right first molar and a pallet. Other than the species presence it is difficult to say more

R T JONES BSc

DAWE VIII

Measurements of domestic animal bone

		L	PB	DB	MB
<u>Ox</u>	1st Phalanx	53.3	29.4	27.6	---
	3rd Phalanx	69.4	---	---	---
	Tibia	---	98.5	---	---
	2nd Phalanx	37.2	34.6	---	---
	Metatarsal	216	45.3	51.7	27.0
	Metatarsal	216	48.0	57.1	31.2
	Metacarpal	---	56	---	---
<u>Sheep</u>	Astragalus	30	---	---	---
	Humerus	---	---	33.8	---
	Metacarpal	117	24.3	---	---
	Metacarpal	---	23	---	---
<u>Pig</u>	Tibia	---	---	30	---
	Tibia	---	---	27.3	---
	Humerus	---	---	36.6	---

Measurements are in mm

L = maximum length

PB = maximum breadth

DB = maximum distal breadth

MB = maximum mid breadth

12 APR 1973

3/72

LIST OF EXCAVATION FINDS SENT TO ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY

EXCAVATOR'S NAME: DENNY ABBEY

DATE SENT: 6.6.72

EXCAVATOR'S NAME: WBS P.W. CHURCH

INSTRUCTIONS: Please complete a separate sheet for each category ringing the appropriate material from those shown below, and in the case of "Other metals" and of "Other botanical" please amplify.

- Stones/Coal/Soil/Burnt Clay/Fired Clay/Pottery/Mortar/Glass/Iron/Bronze/Other metals
 Coins/Slag/Wood/Charcoal/Other botanical/Fibres/~~Other objects~~
Animal Bones and Mollusca/Leather/Human Bones

Please send these lists to Mr. E. G. Wilson, Room 546 Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street London, S.W.1., under separate cover from the finds, which should be sent direct to the laboratory, Sanctuary Buildings, London, S.W.1. Parcels should be labelled on the outside with site name and contents and contain identification label.

Excavator's Number (Separate entry for each item)	Lab. Number	Photo. Number	X-Ray Number	For Drawing?	Description and Instructions
A.C. 71	721577				} Animal bones - for identification
A. 458	721578				
A. 452	721579				