

ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY

REPORT

1533

SERIES/No	CONSULTANT
AUTHOR	D Seddon, D Calvocoressi, C Copper with E S Higgs
TITLE	FAUNAL REPORT : MAXEY 1960

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FAUNAL REPORT : MAXEY 1960 .

CATTLE

The following animals have been identified: ~~bovid~~: Sheep ~~or~~ Goat; Goat; Horse; Pig; Dog; Cat; Bird (incl. domestic fowl); Canid (cf. Fox). Recognisable bones and teeth constitute 32.2% of the collection. 1023 fragments were unrecognisable (67.8%).

Frequencies of the various animals are as follows:

36.5%	bovid	194 specimens.
36.0%	sheep/goat	191 " . (2 horn cores identified as goat)
11.1%	pig	59 specimens.
7.9%	horse	42 " .
8.5%	bird	45 " .

In addition

Besides these were the remains of a foetal lamb, a young dog (? new born) and a young cat.

Of the domestic food animals the following percentages were ~~definitely~~ immature: bovid 10% , sheep/goat 27% , pig 25% and horse 2.3%.

Teeth were also of value in estimating age at death (see ^{Table} Fig. I).

It will be seen that of cattle (~~98 used~~) only 10.2% were definitely younger than two years whereas 35.4% were over two years. Of sheep (~~33 used~~) 12.2% were younger than one year; 12.3% between one and two years and 33% over two years. Of pig (~~18 used~~) over a third were younger than one year while two thirds were under eighteen months. Horse (~~9 used~~) showed only

one ~~beast~~ under two and a half years and there was no sign of old age among these specimens. It is therefore suggested that the horse may have been used for transport until about five years old when it was slaughtered for food (~~as a source of~~
~~meat for the army and navy~~).

All animals are not, of course, of equal size ~~as~~ Taking the following figures as a basis for calculation - 1120lb for both horse and cattle, 200lb for pig and 140lb for sheep (cf. modern domestic animals) - we have estimated the relative proportions of these animals in meat poundage. (see Fig.6). Bird remains, though noticeably frequent, would have constituted only .05% of the total meat supply.

It is of interest that a preference for sheep limb bones is shown, especially for the tibia. (It is probable that the femur would have been better represented but for the fact that it is usually less well preserved). There is not a single example of a sheep astragalus, which may be fortuitous, but may also be due to the use of this bone for some purpose. Long bones are also predominant among the horse remains. One of the two sheep axes showed that the head was cut off at this point. Both sheep and cattle show a high frequency of mandible fragments, while the pig has a large proportion of scapula fragments. (For this and the relative numbers of various parts of the body, See Figs.2-5).

It has been noted that 5.4% of the cattle did not live through one winter; 6.8% passed only one winter; 54.4% passed at least one; and 35.4% lived through two winters. Of the sheep 12.2% did not live through one winter; 12.2% passed one winter only; 36.6% passed one at least; and 39.0% passed through at least two.

David Seddon.

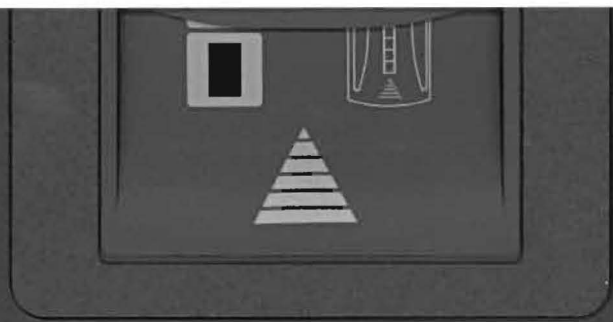
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ANIMALS RESEARCH LAB.
MINISTRY OF WORKS.



AGE	CATTLE	SHEEP/GOAT	PIG	HORSE
LESS THAN 12 MONTHS:	3.4	12.2	39.1	
MORE THAN 12 MONTHS:	54.4	36.6		
12 TO 24 MONTHS:	6.8	12.2		
12 TO 18 MONTHS:			33.3	
MORE THAN 18 MONTHS:			27.6	
MORE THAN 24 MONTHS:		39.0		
24 TO 36 MONTHS:	13.6			
LESS THAN 30 MONTHS:				11.15
MORE THAN 30 MONTHS:				33.3
MORE THAN 36 MONTHS:	21.8			
40 TO 50 MONTHS:				11.15
50 MONTHS TO 5 YEARS: (APPROX.)				44.4

MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE

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The presence of the following items was noted :

G 5.F I8. I : 2 burnt fragments.
" . 2 : 9 burnt frags.
I frag. bovid pelvis: cut.
" . 3 : 12 burnt frags.
" . 5 : 2 " "
F I8. 2 : 4 " "
" 3 : 40 " "
" 8 : 1 burnt frag. scapula ? pig.
Pit I5 : 1 " " cancellous bone.
I frag. bovid cervical vertebra,
associated with knife.
Pit I4 : 3 burnt frags.
Pit I2 : 1 lump of charcoal.
F 26. 3 : 1 chewed long bone frag.