

Ancient Monuments Laboratory
Report 59/90

GAMSTON IRON AGE SETTLEMENT,
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, 1989.
THE VERTEBRATE REMAINS.

Bruce Levitan

AML reports are interim reports which make available the results of specialist investigations in advance of full publication. They are not subject to external refereeing and their conclusions may sometimes have to be modified in the light of archaeological information that was not available at the time of the investigation. Readers are therefore asked to consult the author before citing the report in any publication and to consult the final excavation report when available.

Opinions expressed in AML reports are those of the author and are not necessarily those of the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England.

Ancient Monuments Laboratory Report 59/90

GAMSTON IRON AGE SETTLEMENT,
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, 1989.
THE VERTEBRATE REMAINS.

Bruce Levitan

Summary

Excavations at Gamston Iron Age settlement produced a small assemblage of bones. The small number of bones and their poor state of preservation was due to the acidic nature of the soil. Most of the 139 fragments were unidentified. Of the identified bones, cattle were in the majority, followed by sheep/goat. Pig and horse were also represented. Most of the identified bones were teeth.

Author's address :-

Bruce Levitan

University Museum
Parks Road
Oxford

OX1 3PW

GAMSTON IRON AGE SETTLEMENT, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, 1989
THE VERTEBRATE REMAINS

The bones from excavations at Gamston, Nottinghamshire were extremely poorly preserved due to the acidity of the soil. As a result, only 139 fragments from useful contexts were recovered, the majority of which were so fragmented they could not be identified.

There are 44 bones of cattle of which 30 are teeth fragments; 15 of sheep/goat (14 teeth fragments); 1 of pig (lumbar vertebra) and 1 of horse (tooth fragment). The remaining 82 fragments were not identified.

Needless to say there is little useful information that can be extracted from such evidence. None of the bones could be measured. Three cattle lower third molars were complete enough to record wear state: two at g and one at e (method of Grant, 1982). One cattle humerus has proximal end fused and one cattle scapula has glenoid tuberosity unfused.

Table 1 gives a summary of the assemblage. Not all the bones were phased, but all can be said confidently to be Iron Age.

Reference:

Grant, A. 1982. The use of tooth wear as a guide to the age of domestic ungulates. In (edited by B. Wilson, C. Grigson and S. Payne) *Ageing and sexing of animal bones from archaeological sites* Oxford: BAR (British Series 109) 91-108.

Table 1. Summary of the bones from Gamston Iron Age Settlement

Taxon	Elements	N
a) unphased		
Cattle	2 sk, 8 ut, 8 lt, 3 tf, 2 hum, 1 rad, 1 tib	25
Sheep/goat	4 ut, 4 lt, 3 tf, 1 tib	12
Pig	1 lv	1
Horse	1 ut	1
ULM	3 tf, 1 rib, 12 frg	16
UMM	8 tf, 1 rib, 4 lb, 32 frg	45
Total		100
b) Phase 1		
Cattle	1 tf	1
UMM	2 tf	2
Total		3
c) Phase 2		
Cattle	2 ut, 4 lt	6
Sheep/goat	2 lt	2
ULM	3 tf	3
UMM	5 tf, 5 frg	10
Total		21
d) Phase 3		
Cattle	1 ut, 3 lt, 1 tf, 1 man, 1 scp, 1 tib	8
Sheep/goat	1 ut	1
ULM	2 frg	2
Total		11
e) Phase 4		
Cattle	1 sk, 1 ut, 2 tf	4

Key:

ULM - unidentified large mammal; UMM - unidentified medium mammal.
 sk - skull; ut - upper tooth; lt - lower tooth; tf - tooth fragment;
 man - mandible; lv - lumbar vertebra; rib - rib; scp - scapula;
 hum - humerus; rad - radius; tib - tibia; lb - long bone; frg - fragment.