

ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY

REPORT

1537

SERIES/No

CONSULTANT

AUTHOR

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TITLE

Identification of Animal Bones
from the 1969 NOR NOUR Excavations

Serial No.
of Bag.

Animal Species and Bones Present.

ANL 697368 A SAB

B. P45

- 1 B Sheep molar Seal Inter-vertebral disc ? Right and left tympanic bullae of young. Fish Right vertebrae and bone fragments of large fish. C PTH
- 2 B Sheep Metacarpal (f) metatarsal (f) 1st phalange adult. Seal Radius (f) os innominatum (f) vert. Whale? spongy bone fragment Mollusc Littorina littoralis. Bird bones fragments unidentified.
- 11 B OX cervical and lumbar vert. Sheep lower pre-m. and molar. Bird bones.
- 12 B Sheep metacarpal and metatarsal. Seal Phalange and tooth. Bird bones.
- 13 B Sheep mandible (6 months old) Ulna
- 14 B (A number of these bones show slight traces of burning) OX Tibiae, Femur, Humerus, cervical vertebra, metatarsal (f) metacarpal (f) lumbar vertebra (fr) Premolar. Sheep Femora, astragalus, metacarpals and metatarsals of lambs and young adults, humeri of lambs, various vertebrae, calcaneus, phalange. (at least four animals are represented here but very probably more since they seem of different ages) Seal femur, fibula, tibia, ulna, bulla (all fragments) teeth, radius of pup. Birds various bone fragments. Deer ?? a metatarsal without epiphyses kept for further study.
- 15 B OX fragment of shaft of long bone Sheep metacarpals of lamb. ulna, phalanx, calcaneum, pre-molar. Seal vertebra, femur, phalanx, occipital (fragment) tooth. Birds Domestic fowl !!! Goose, Guillemot, small wader and large number of fragmented bird bones. Fish Vertebrae of large fish.
- 16 B OX vertebrae (various, 3 burnt) upper molars, metapodial (frag.) radius astragalus, Sheep fragments of metapodials of lamb Seal Occipital condyle occipital, bullae, vertebrae, radius, tibia, tooth, and fragments. Some of these show traces of burning and certainly at least two animals are represented, one of them a very large (bull) seal the other probably a young adult. Fish tooth of large species. Birds Partridge, Goose ?, Domestic fowl !!! Gannet, Guillemot and small passerine sps.
- 17 B Vole (? Microtus oeconomus)
- 18 B Ox humerus (fragment) Seal Phalange Fish Conger eel ? vertebra Birds Lark ?, humerus, Knot ? part of tibio-tarsus and unidentifiable frags.
- 19 B Sheep Phalange Seal Ribs, Maxilla (fragment) teeth. Fish vertebrae Birds bones unidentified
- 20 B OX astragalus, ribs, humerus of calf, Sheep Vertebrae, ulna, scapula various molars, humeri, metacarpals various fragments. (these represent at least three lambs and one adult sheep). Goat Ulna, mandible. Seal maxilla, teeth, many phalanges, humerus, fibula. Fish vertebrae

- 20 B contd. Bird various sps. fragmented bones. VOLE (Microtus oeconomus ?) Molluscs Pecten maximus and Cardium edule.
- 21 B. Sheep Phalange (lamb) Vole (Microtus oeconomus ?) Birds head of a femur and ribs.
- 22 B Sheep fragments of vertebral centra Bird distal fragment of humerus of large bird. Other smaller fragments of smaller birds.
- 23 B Vole (Microtus oeconomus ?) fragment of mandibles and long bones.
- 24 B OX Metatarsal Sheep Humerus of lamb Birds fragments of shafts of bones.
- 25 B Vole (Microtus oeconomus ?) fragments of skull and mandible.
- 31 B Seal 7 various vertebrae and phalanges of adult.
- 32 B Sheep astragalus Seal rib, scapho-lunar, metatarsal Vole mandible only Whale part of right occipital and condyle, most probably of Risso's dolphin (Grampus griseus) Birds Puffin, metacarpus, Gannet, head of femur and other bones Duck perhaps Long-tailed Duck ? Godwit ? Knot ?
- 33 B OX Upper molar Vole (Microtus oeconomus ?)
- 34 B Seal vertebra
- 35 B OX 2nd. and 3rd. upper molars only Sheep posterior portion of cranium of lamb, burnt, mandible, maxilla, ribs, various vertebrae, phalanges metapodial and metatarsal of lamb Seal mandible frag., femur of young, humerus of young, bulla (burnt), mandible of larger animal, rib, vertebrae, squamosal and surrounding bone frags. os incisivum frag. teeth, teeth. Birds very large scapula and pelvis retained for further study Fish vertebrae. (probably Puffin is represented among the bird bones)
- 36 B. Seal Phalange Deer a puzzling metatarsal perhaps of Roe retained for further study.
- 37 B OX cuneiform Sheep premolars, maxilla (frag.) mandible (frag.) radius (frag.) metatarsal of lamb. Seal bullae, vertebrae and femur (frag.) Bird one large fragment Fish Wrasse Mollusca Venus verrucosa - a species known to have been used as food, in historic times, in the island of Herm and in County Clare. Not very common in Scilly today although apparently periodically more abundant.
- 38 B. Sheep astragalus, frontal (frag.) distal epiphysis of tibia, head of femur, part of ~~scapula~~ sacrum - all of lamb. Seal bulla of pup (burnt) Bird. various fragments, femur retained for further study.
- 39 B. Sheep fragment of femur Seal tooth, femur, humerus (frag.) vertebral centrum, os cento-tarsale, scapho-lunare, tooth, Birds sundry fragments.
- 40 B OX Premolar and molar Seal Tooth and condyle of mandible. Birds Two frags.

- 41 B. OX rib fragments Sheep astragalus adult, metatarsal lamb, Birds 2 fragments.
- 42 B Seal bulla. Vole (Microtus oeconomus) mandible, humerus and fragment of long bone. Birds fragments only Fish Wrasse teeth and probably vertebrae, Flatfish ? vertebrae.
- 43 B Sheep dorsal vertebra Seal bullae and surrounding bones of a large bull seal, left bulla of a smaller animal right ditto. cervical and dorsal vertebrae, rib. Birds. ? Razorbill and another sp. unidentified frags.
- 44 B Sheep cervical and dorsal vertebrae, part of small horn core. Seal pre-maxilla and maxilla with teeth, canine - head of rib. Whale part of basioccipital almost certainly of Porpoise. Birds sundry bones of small unidentified species.
- 45 B ~~OX parts of vertebrae, astragalus, pre-molar.~~ Sheep right and left horn cores. Seal bulla frag. axis vertebra, frag. distal end of radius. Birds a few medium sized fragments.
- 46 B OX Parts of vertebrae, astragalus, pre-molar. Sheep lower pre-molar distal epiphysis of tibia, right and left calcaneum. Seal tooth. BIRDS Guillemot fragment of humerus ? Godwit, Razorbill tarso-metatarsus Domestic fowl !!! tarso-metatarsus. This last bone is extremely interesting because it is almost identical with one published by N. Drager from Magdalensberg near Klagenfurt in Karnten found in a context dated 100 B.C. to 100 A.D.
- 47 B Sheep. Premolars Seal fragments of vertebrae. Bird. furcula of large species. (not domestic)
- 48 B OX Part of occipital and shaft of long bone. Sheep Very large horn core almost certainly ram, mandible, phalange of lamb. Bird Head of large species perhaps Cormorant but fragmented Fish vertebra of an extremely large species not eel and probably larger than largest cod.
- 49 B Sheep mandible (might be goat ?? but only a fragment) lower molar, ribs Seal Phalange Birds sundry fragments.
- 50 B Sheep calcaneum and phalange Vole (Microtus oeconomus ?) part of skull Birds parts attributed to long-legged wader, sundry fragments of a small species perhaps a passerine.
- 51 B Sheep Head of femur Birds ? Cormorant humerus and bones of much smaller bird.
- 52 B. Sheep distal fragment of tibia burnt. Birds very fragmented pieces. Crustacea Fragments of medium sized crab.
- 53 B Sheep distal scapula (frag.) Seal frag. occipital young seal, 2 frags. of scapula of young, 2 frags of scapula of adult. Fragments of various long bones spilt open (this is much more unusual for seal bones than for ox bones at any site in Scilly known to me.)

- 54 B. Sheep Distal humerus frag., large horn core (ram ?).
- 61 B. OX upper molar, part rib, vertebrae & thoracic and cervical); 2 fragments of a very large horn-core, distal epiphysis of metapodial. Sheep distal part scapula, thoracic vertebra, upper molars (very worn) Seal head of rib, distal fibula, scapula frag., head of tibia and fibula fused, part of fibula, rib fragments. Fish Wrasse teeth, ?? Pollack, vertebrae (these vertebrae match exactly with undoubted pollack that I have but I do not think they are necessarily diagnostic in distinguishing them from similar sized Cod and Haddock). Mollusca Limpets (both Patella vulgata and Patella aspera present.)
- 62 B. OX metatarsal, incisor. Sheep bulla, astragalus, distal part metatarsal, fragment maxilla, various upper and lower molars. Seal Phalange. Birds Goose (but I cannot, from these remains, be certain of the species) ulna head of humerus, Guillemot, right and left femur. Puffin, various bone fragments. Fish Probably Haddock but not sufficient remains to be certain.
- 63 B. OX distal fragment of metatarsal, rib fragment. Seal fragment of squamosal with glenoid cavity, rib fragment. ??Deer fragment of shaft of a long bone of dense heavy texture and probably a metapodial but the furrow is very shallow for this animal. Bird various fragments of a very large bird (?? Goose) not so far identified but kept for re-study in the light of possible further discoveries). Mollusca Limpet (Patella vulgata)
- 64 B. HORSE !!! first upper pre-molar Whale fragment of a vertebra but impossible to identify to species. Seal tooth. Bird fibula probably of large wader.
- 65 B. OX radius Seal dorsal vertebra and proximal part of tibia Mollusca Limpet (Patella vulgata)
- 66 B. OX first lumbar vertebra, scapho-cuboid, upper molar. Sheep astragalus, small horncore, lower pre-molar. HORSE !! second lower molar. Seal phalanges
- Unnumbered white envelope numerous fragments of at least two small birds, retained for further study in the light of possible later finds.

NOTES

Usually no attempt is made in the above to detail right and left bones of the non-axial skeleton because it is felt that in this context the least number of animals present has little or no meaning. Thus two lambs when so counted may - and almost certainly, on occasion, do - represent perhaps four animals when slight differences of probable measurement between right and left sides are taken into account as well as the state and texture of the bone. Almost all bones are very fragmented and worn.

The similarity between this bone material and that excavated by Miss D. Dudley is shown by the presence of much the same species and the obvious dominance of the sheep and seal at almost all sites.

The chief difference between the finds from the earlier and later excavations is to be found in the absence of Pig in this year's material and the Presence of horse.

The two molars by which the species is here represented are, to my knowledge, the first evidence of horse in a pre-historic context in Scilly.

All bones listed as sheep - or almost all - are really those of a sheep/goat lumpus but there is a very strong probability that the great majority are, in reality, sheep. The goat however is positively identifiable in 20 B. The rarity of remains of this animal is in keeping with ~~the~~ its representation in the material excavated by Miss Dudley.

The very scanty remains of whale (Porpoise and Risso's Dolphin - both fairly common today in the surrounding waters) suggest that the animal was probably cut up (and ~~the~~ boiled ??) on the seashore.

More bones of the skulls of seals - all from the hinderpart^(occupant) - are found in this material than in the former excavation's recoveries. Since some of the bullae show signs of burning it is fairly certain that the ~~posterior~~ part of the head was sometimes cooked for some reason.

OF THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE IS THE PRESENCE OF THE DOMESTIC HEN. THIS WILL BE TREATED AT SOME LENGTH IN THE PUBLISHED REPORT ON THESE FINDS. There is no evidence, so far, to decide whether the goose was the domestic species or a wild species. The latter are sometimes recorded from Scilly today. All other birds are also species that one might expect since all occur at Scilly in most years of the last two decades .

The zoological importance of the vole remains will be dealt with in a separate and later paper.

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WORKS.

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