

ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY

REPORT

1571

SERIES/No	CONSULTAnt
AUTHOR	F A Turk March 1973
TITLE	Preliminary report of animals represented in Bone material from SAMSON, Isles of Scilly (1970/1)

199/00457 & 704/00
[Stamp]

Box 1

- LA. A16
- Ox
- Sheep
- Pig

BIRDS
Great Northern Diver
Sp. indet.

FISH
Bass
Trasse

Box 2

- LA. A13
- Ox
- Horse
- Sheep
- Pig

BIRDS
Sp. indet. ?Heron

FISH
?Bass
Sp. indet. - very large

Box 3

- LA. A16
- Ox
- Horse
- Sheep
- Pig
- Seal

BIRDS
Guillemot
Sp. indet.

FISH
Bass
John Dory

INVERTEBRATES
Crab

Lined Box

HUMAN REMAINS

R1 Fragment of proximal ulna (adult).
Part of 'head' of femur (very young
child). Fragment of os innominatum
of infant.

R2 R2 very worn (adult). Minute
fragments of calcined bone indet.

Labels

- B1 Ox
- B2 & B5 Sheep & Lamb
- B4 Fragments of ?Jetsean

FISH
?Bass

The faunal animal fauna of the Samson sites as compared with roughly contemporary faunas elsewhere in Scilly, is marked by the virtual absence of the Seal (one serotine fragment from 14th century) and by the much greater representation of the pig. The latter, although present in the 6th century increases its representation very markedly in the 9th century when it is co-dominant with the sheep, and only a little less so than the Ox. The excessive scarcity of the seal is shared with the post-Roman Dark Agesite on Team (2nd - 5th centuries A.D.). This contrasts with the extreme frequency of its occurrence at Iron Age sites in Scilly. It is perhaps significant that the few fragments of horse found on Samson may suggest that this species was more common there than elsewhere.

The bird bones were very fragmented but, apart from the Guillemot Dory,

