

Kings Somborne.Animal Bone Report.

A total of 496 bones was recovered from the Roman site of Kings Somborne the paucity of animal bone precluded any interpretation of the relative importance of species, estimation of stature and butchery techniques.

The following species were present; Cattle (Bos sp) 79 fragments.

Cattle sized fragments 174.

Sheep (Ovis sp.) 55 fragments.

Sheep sized fragments 29.

Pig (Sus sp.) 5 fragments.

Horse (Equus sp) 4 fragments.

Dog (Canis sp.) 1 fragment.

Cat (Felis sp.) 1 fragment.

Unidentifiable fragments 148.

Most of the bone was recovered from ditch fills, and as the quantity was so small the bone from all the features is discussed as a whole. It was in generally poor condition and much fragmented as indicated on the frequency chart below which shows the high proportion of fragments which could at best only be attributed to a size range.

Methods.

Records were made directly on to computer punch tape, as with Little Somborne
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Frequency chart

	Cattle	Sheep	Pig	Horse	Dog	Cat
Skull	7	6	1	-	-	-
horncore	1	1	-	-	-	-
mandible	9	14	-	1	1	-
vertebrae	13	-	-	-	-	-
os coxae	2	-	-	-	-	-
humerus	5	4	1	-	-	-
radius	9	5	-	-	-	-
ulna	4	-	1	-	-	1
scapula	3	-	-	-	-	-
metacarpal	7	9	-	1	-	-
femur	1	1	-	-	-	-
fibula	-	-	-	-	-	-
tibia	5	8	2	1	-	-
metatarsal	4	6	-	1	-	-
calcaneum	2	-	-	-	-	-
1st phalanx	3	1	-	-	-	-
2nd phalanx	1	-	-	-	-	-
3rd phalanx	1	-	-	-	-	-
rib	-	-	-	-	-	-
total	79	55	5	4	1	1

Cattle sized fragments 174

Sheep sized fragments 29

Unidentifiable fragments 148

Total 496

Ageing

Most of the mandibles had full permanent dentition in wear and most of the long bones were fully fused. All cattle long bones were fused except a metatarsal that was unfused at both ends and still porous. One sheep mandible retained deciduous

premolars, and two long bones were unfused at their distal ends.

Of the 5 occurrences of pig two long bones were unfused, and one mandible retained deciduous dentition. Horse, dog and cat were all adult individuals.

Size

The fragmentary nature and small quantity of animal bone precluded any size estimations and comparison with other sites.

Butchery

A few examples of butchery were noted, two humeri and one cattle metacarpal showed chop marks and left radius of a sheep had knife marks.

A post hole fill produced nine burnt fragments of sheep size.