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TITLE   A note on animal bones from SOU 27, (Northam Railway Bridge/British Rail Triangle) Saxon Southampton. Identified by J Bourdillon, J Driver and S Hamilton-Dyer

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A NOTE ON ANIMAL BONES FROM SOU 27 (NORTHAM RAILWAY
BRIDGE/BRITISH RAIL TRIANGLE), SAXON SOUTHAMPTON
(HAMWIC), IDENTIFIED BY J. BOURDILLON, J. DRIVER
AND S. HAMILTON-DYER

A note on animal bones from Sou 27 (Northam Railway Bridge/ British Rail Triangle), Saxon Southampton (Hamwic)

Identified by J. Bourdillon, J. Driver and S. Hamilton-Dyer
(formerly of Southampton Archaeological Research Committee)

Compiled by S.M. Colley, Faunal Remains Unit,
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Animal remains were recovered by hand from a series of pits, several of which were closely related stratigraphically. Retrieval of animal bones was given low priority during the excavations and the samples can only be assigned to pits, or pit groups, and not to particular layers within pits. 167 bone fragments were examined from the site.

Bone samples from the following pits were identified by J. Driver, J. Bourdillon and S. Hamilton-Dyer: F1; FF7,8,9 (taken together); F2; FF1-6 (taken together). The species and skeletal elements for these contexts are listed in Tables 1-4. Table 5 lists species and skeletal elements for the site as a whole, and the relative representation of species (fragments expressed as a percentage of total fragments). Cattle bones predominated, followed by sheep and then pig. Two pieces of red deer antler, two goose bones (ulna and tibia) and a single domestic fowl femur were also found.

Fusion data was recorded and is presented in Tables 6-8, for cattle, sheep and pig. Measurements were taken. These all fell within the range of measurements taken on bones from Melbourne Street (SARC 1977) with two exceptions. The goose ulna had a proximal width of 14.3mm, and the domestic fowl femur had a total length of 85.7mm.

The Sou 27 animal bone data does not merit further analysis because of the very small sample sizes involved, and the unsystematic way in which bone was recovered during excavation. Identifications, fusion data and measurements are available on hand written raw score data sheets currently stored at Southampton City Museum (God's House Tower).

Acknowledgement

A.D. Morton provided information about stratigraphy and the excavation methods used at Sou 27.

Reference

SARC (1977) Statistical Appendix to accompany the animal bone report on material from Melbourne Street (Sites I, IV, V, VI and XX) excavated by the Southampton Archaeological Research Committee between 1971 and 1976. By J. Bourdillon and J. Coy (now available from Southampton City Museums Service, God's House Tower Museum, Southampton).

Table 1. Sou 27 F1 Species and skeletal element representation

	cattle	c-sized	sheep	pig	deer	goose	TOTAL
Antler					1		1
Horn core			1				1
Maxilla	1						1
Vertebrae	2	✓		1			3
Humerus	1						1
Radius			1				1
Ulna						1	1
Femur	1			1			2
Metatarsus	1						1
Phalanx	1						1
Ribs	5		1	1			7
Sesamoid	1						1
Fragment		5					5
TOTAL	13	5	3	3	1	1	26

Table 2. Sou 27 FF7,8.9 Species and skeletal element representation

	cattle	c-sized	sheep	pig	TOTAL
Horn core	1				1
Cranial	3		1		4
Mandible	1		1	1	3
Upp. tooth			1		1
Vertebra	10		2		12
Scapula			1		1
Humerus	1		1		2
Radius	3			1	4
Ulna	2			3	5
Pelvis	3		1		4
Femur				2	2
Tibia	1		2		3
Calcaneum	1				1
Metacarpus			1	1	2
Metatarsus	1		3		4
Phalanx	1				1
Ribs	6		6		12
Hyoid	1				1
Fibula				1	1
Fragments		7			7
TOTAL	35	7	20	9	71

Table 3. Sou 27 F2 Species and skeletal element representation

	cattle	c-sized	sheep	goose	TOTAL
Vertebrae	1		\		1
Radius	1				1
Ulna	1				1
Pelvis	1	⁄			1
Tibia			1	1	2
Metatarsus			1		1
Phalanx	2				2
Ribs	2				2
Fragments		5			5
TOTAL	8	5	2	1	16

Table 4. Sou 27 FF1-6 Species and skeletal element representation

	cattle	c-sized	sheep	pig	deer	domestic fowl	TOTAL
Antler					1		1
Horn core	1						1
Maxilla	1						1
Mandible	2		1				3
Vertebrae	3		2				5
Scapula	1		3				4
Radius				1			1
Ulna	1						1
Femur	2					1	3
Tibia	1		2	1			4
Metacarpus	2						2
Metatarsus	1						1
Ribs	8		6	2			16
Fragments		11					11
TOTAL	23	11	14	4	1	1	54

Table 5. Sou 27 Whole site species and skeletal element representation

	cattle	c-sized	sheep	pig	deer	domestic fowl	goose	TOTAL
Cranial	3		1					4
Antler		✓			2			2
Horn core	2		1					3
Maxilla	2							2
Mandible	3		2	1				6
Upp. tooth			1					1
Vertebrae	16		4	1				21
Scapula	1		4					5
Humerus	2		1					3
Radius	4		1	2				7
Ulna	4			3			1	8
Pelvis	4		1					5
Femur	3			3		1		7
Tibia	2		5	1			1	9
Calcaneum	1							1
Metacarpus	2		1	1				4
Metatarsus	3		4					7
Phalanx	4							4
Ribs	21		13	3				37
Sesamoid	1							1
Hyoid	1							1
Fibula				1				1
Fragments		28						28
Total	79	28	39	16	2	1	2	167

Relative representation of species (% total fragments)

cattle	sheep	pig	deer	domestic fowl	goose
64.1	23.3	9.6	1.2	0.6	1.2

Table 6. Sou 27 Cattle fusion data

Modern fusion age	Bone	U	F
(7-10m) 1½ yrs	Scapula Humerus dl Radius px Phal I Phal II		 2 3 4
2½-3 yrs	Metacarpus Tibia dl Metatarsus	 1	2 1
3½-4 yrs	Humerus px Radius dl Ulna Femur px Femur dl Tibia px Calcaneum	 1 1 	1 1

U = Unfused

F = Fused

Table 7. Sou 27 Sheep fusion data

Modern fusion age	Bone	U	F
6-8m 10m	Scapula Humerus dl Radius px		1 1 1
1½-2½ yrs	Metacarpus Tibia dl Metatarsus Ulna	4	1
3-3½ yrs	Humerus px Radius dl Femur px Femur dl Tibia px Calcaneum		1

U = Unfused

F = Fused

Table 8. Sou 27 Pig fusion data

Modern fusion age	Bone	U	F
1 yr	Scapula Humerus dl Radius px Phalanx 2		1 1
2-2½ yrs	Tibia dl Phalanx 1 Metapodia Calcaneum	 1	
3½ yrs	Humerus px Radius dl Ulna Femur px Femur dl Tibia px	 2 3 1 1	

U = Unfused

F = Fused