Maltbyfest 2019, Summer PZG Meeting

5&6th July 2019 at Bournemouth University

This PZG embraced the theme of Animals in Human Society/Social Zooarchaeology and combined it with a celebration of Professor Mark Maltby (Maltbyfest 2019) on the occasion of his retirement as full-time academic at Bournemouth University (BU). The event was organised by Ellen Hambleton, Polydora Baker, Julia Best, James Morris and Fay Worley

The PZG/Maltbyfest opened on Friday evening with welcome talk by Ellen Hambleton highlighting Mark Maltby's impact on students and colleagues at BU, followed by keynote from Terry O'Connor who charted Mark's formative contributions to zooarchaeology. Over 50 people attended including friends and colleagues from BU, PZG membership and the wider world of zooarchaeology. There was food, wine and an amazing cake! 'Maltbyfest 2019' wristbands, and USB keys celebrating Mark's work with PDFs of his many English Heritage (now Historic England) research reports and links to his academic output were handed out to all attendees.

Day two was the core PZG meeting with over 25 attendees. Papers were presented on a wide range of topics addressing the theme of Animals in Human Society. Notes on the papers were compiled by Meghan French and are provided below. After the papers, there were practical workshops in BU Zooarchaeology lab. A reconstruction of a dog burial from and Iron Age pit, and chicken skeletons from a Roman site were used to trial Historic England animal burial recording sheets and discuss zooarchaeological approaches to Associated Bone Groups (ABGs) from discovery through to interpretation and reporting. A 'make your own special deposit' activity provided a light-hearted counterpoint.

AOB and close by Fay Worley and Polydora Baker:

Announcement of forthcoming advertisement of zooarchaeologist post at Historic England to cover Fay Worley's maternity leave (Congratulations and best wishes to Fay!).

Announcement of new HE publication Baker and Worley 2019 *Animal Bones and Archaeology: Recovery to Archive*. Available as free download https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/animal-bones-and-archaeology/ . PZG attendees able to purchase paper copy at discount.

Historic England Open Collections Days announced: 2nd Wednesday each month, July 10th, Aug 14th and so on

Foetal atlas. In talks with photographers, with start planned for Autumn 2019

Invitation for suggestions of topics and venues for next PZG meeting – in particular hosts from commercial zooarchaeology sector warmly encouraged.

PZG 6th July Notes (by Meghan French):

Welcome

Ellen Hambleton

Hello and Thank You.
Presenters were all former students or colleagues of Mark over his tenure.
Mark received a bone-handled magnifying glass made by Sheila Hamilton-Dyer.
Each speaker read out a message for Mark from former students and colleagues unable to attend in person, and all attendees were invited to write their own messages in a book of dedications for Mark.

Hunting in the Roman frontier of central Britain: animal bones, mausoleums, jet bear amulets, soldiers' writing tablets, shot cattle skulls, altars, posh mosaics & Samian pottery, religion and philosophy… It does make a coherent picture, honestly!

Sue Stallibrass

Shared her work looking at hunting practices on the Roman frontier of central Britain. Highlighting key sites such as: Carlisle, York, Lancaster, Corbridge, Vindolanda and the Antonine Wall.

Looked at the difference between fight vs. flight animals and their representation in both zooarchaeological remains and other mediums (e.g. writings, artefacts etc.).

Hunting was associated with the Elite landowners as well as military elite.

Social structure was touched upon how some animals had more rites than non-roman citizens (who had no rites).

Hunting could only be undertaken with permission (from officers, gods etc.) and was not just economic.

Seems to be a higher concentration of wild species on the frontier than other parts of the roman empire. Could be linked to a display of power.

More than food; evidence for different breeds and cockfighting in Gallus gallus bones from Medieval and Post-Medieval Norway.

Sam Walker

Chickens came to Norway later than Denmark and Sweden. A few from the Viking age (1 or 2) but became more common during the early Medieval.

Very few juveniles have been found. Sex ratios: 50:50.

Some of the male spurs have been chopped off in towns in the late to post-medieval period.

Possible link to cock fighting – no historical connection in Scandinavia. No archaeological evidence to back this yet (no fake spurs e.g. slashers).

Evidence of different breeds being utilised, but more evidence is needed - at least 2 breeds evidenced in the Medieval period with a shift in the post-medieval (size increase?) (more evidence needed).

Could have been utilised for egg production, cockfighting etc.
Don't know why chickens came later to Norway.
Possible Vandal influence?
Lots of males: prized? Display? Colourful and noisy.

The curious case of the horse in the lime kiln.

Matilda Holmes

Lime has been used from Roman Period onwards for buildings, agriculture, industry etc. A kiln with temperatures of 900C+ is needed to make lime. These kilns are often built against hill sides away from settlements due to toxic fumes but close enough to use the lime.

Not often found archaeologically.

Brackley Sawmills: 2 kilns, animal bone spread around. MNI 2 (horse), highly fragmented, some butchery of phalanges and metapodial – similar patterns to ovicaprids and cattle.

Baghill House, Pontefract: kiln & barrel. Small assemblage. Horse ABG butchered – skin processing? Cattle and goat horn.

Lime kilns often surveyed but not dug. In north Yorkshire – 2 out of 11 identified had disarticulated horse remains. Front end of horse (no butchery and no pathology) – picture looks like a tibia.

Stoke hole removed and placed in after use (the horse) deliberate burial. Likes the idea of symbolic and spiritual event. – closure deposits? Not quite what Matilda was finding.

Eilan Donan, 16th Century: lime kiln, no horses (initial report) 16 cattle from the zygomatic arch. Partial skeletons? Lots of skulls. – Watch this space.

Lime kilns and skin processing?

Why?

- **Fuel?** – No evidence, not contemporary, no burnt bones (calcified)
- **Closure deposits** – dangerous, hot smell job (lime), offering/kudos (Irish libations of holy water?), apart from Yorkshire dales: not typical votive offerings
- **Skin processing?** – use of lime in the process

Why not make more than one use from these horses? Almost logical.

Important to look at the whole assemblage to explore the story of the start. (Talk to each other!)

Most of it from somewhere else? What are you actually looking at? – how did it get there?

Bones:

10,000 fragments, few ABGS (chickens and a pig) vast majority from one period (out of 11 phases). Degree of residuality in the ceramics can't trust most of it.

Dating of material in one period can be sub-divided (slim slice of time). Sudden activity around 75 – metalled surface (making a grid system) NW side: beam slots on SE side of road: industrial features. Clear separation in types of activity.

Roman rubbish on the wild west frontier – bones from 1st century Bath

Clare Randall.

Site located just off the link road towards NE of Bath. Looking initial phase.
Bit of a shanty town.
Most of metal work from early phase has military associations – not really a surprise. (who be establishing roads etc.)

Metalled surfaces, roadway, timber framed buildings. Also an industrial phase as well.

Not an enormous site (urban development).

No young cattle – sheepy assemblage (no young). Looking very meaty.

Pigs meaty and male.

Clear difference in species body part representation: cattle: meaty elements. All lacking the peripheral elements. Heavy cuts of cattle elements – chopping around neck of scapula, bone shafts, ribs. Very little evidence of splitting long bones, piercing etc. Elements had chop marks but not specialist – learning on the job?

Random dog & horse.

Chickens – males and juveniles (Birds = 6% of total assemblage)

This case study highlights the importance of context to tell a complete story. Its not cut and dry. Can use the zooarchaeological remains to create a focused snapshot in time.

No bones about it: the revenge of the were-chicken

Mike Fieder

Iconography of chickens (part of the chicken project). How are they viewing these animals into material culture.

Chichester cock bronze (Iron Age coin), chicken or a man? (the werechicken).
Lots of similar French coins – some very stylised, with chickens upon them.

Chickens on coins are not unusual.

First: Belgic: all from temple sites in mid-1st century BC. Are these coins represent money or another type of token? Why are these coins at these temple sites?

Why the chicken?

- Drug induced? (shamanic/ trance state) – see sound?
- Solar connection
- Combat? (cock fighting) can lose well.

Do these ideas link with other sense e.g. sound?

Chickens are noisy.

Dating the coins: Romans in Gaul during1st century BC.
New type of chicken on the coins. Lost a battle but went down well? – like the chicken?
Waves linked to a specific speech etc.? Revenge chicken.

Why are they in Britain? (in Britain only lone finds)

- Commius/commios – representing this person or political figure
- Ally
- Enemy
- Moved to Britain
- Frenemy?

Coin imagery can tell a story – it might not be the right story however.

The chicken is still used as iconography today on the modern euro.

<u>The social lives of small mammals</u>

Michelle Feider

Micro-faunal remains (animals that weighed less than 2kg in life) can aid understanding in activities observed onsite. Paleo-reconstruction. Local ecology, human activity (abandonment, urbanisation), human impact etc.

These animals likely to be prey – need to check taphonomic process.

Catalhoyuk, Turkey:

Neolithic East Mound – quite early.

Densely populated.

Have found macrofaunal remains in various areas of the site – in low levels across the site with clusters.

1 mouse show. Up to 96% house mouse, few shrews and weasels.
Bones and charred mouse pelts have been found in the storage bins.

Largest single unit – 1l heavy residue, 4500 fragments, earlier levels. Oven: foundation deposit. MNI 200+ (mouse) – scatts, MNI 6 (shrews) Carnivore gnawing. Possible foundation deposit as found in association with other remains – auroch?, shells.

Burials: over 800 burials found at this site but only 3 which had high levels of micro fauna.
Burial 516, building 6: MNI per litre: 195m over 90% house mouse. Densely packed over the torso. Highly unlikely to be an open grave. Digestion and gnawing was noted on the remains – not owls. No slumping or burrowing – backfilled quickly – deliberately included. Weasel remains were found in another burial.

2 other burials – 1 came from the same building (also had red orche as well)

All stratigraphically linked.

The 'Jumper': HR put in the primary fill of the building (not buried). Thrown in during the infill – unlike all the others. Only HR that has perimortem injuries (so far). Large concentrations of micro remains around it. High level of micro fauna around the body.

Musings:

- Oven: utilitarian – tempering?
- Burials: pets?, pest control?
- The jumper: deliberate, accidental?, intrusion of HR?
- Infestation

Where is the significance? With the predator? The scats? OR the small mammals?

<u>Thirteen polecats in a well</u>

James Morris

Oakridge Well, South of Silchester.

Excavated in the 1960's.

26m deep. Lots of pottery, human remains, animal bone groups etc.

Contrasting animal burials and NISP, difference in proportions. Lots of dogs, polecats etc. as ABG's.

Interpretation: rubbish, butchery waste, puppy's down the well.

Pole cats came in quite late. – did they fall in? But they're smart! Who knows?!

Châine opératoire: human actions make the archaeology. The life history. To think about the 'above ground actions' which resulted in what we see in the ground. How many people were involved?

Putting the people back into the archaeology.

Winnall Down: how many people would it take to put a horse in a pit.

Have to apply some assumptions. E.g. slumping as organic material rots.

Looked at the *châine opératoire* of Oakridge well and summarised the different stages:

- Late 1st century: 1 person?
  Small scale activity. Well still in use OR just coming out of use. Flagon, bit of cattle.

- Late 2nd – 4th century:
  Well out of use. Filling events. Whole series of different events happening. Multi-person events? Large scale events? Lots of deposition activity. Cow in the well.

- 4th century:
  Events rarer more spread. Small scale (1 or 2 people)
  Few bits wild remains. Smaller domesticated species, some human remains co-mingled. Not getting cows.

- Late 4th century:
  Complex very large-scale events. Large domesticated mammals (roe deer, dogs, cattle etc.). Co-mingled with human remains. Some evidence of gnawing – 'fresh' quick deposition? Only a tiny bit of gnawing. Is it purposeful depositon or is it a useful hole for throwing things in.

- Post Roman (4th – 7th century):
  More wild and smaller scale activity, natural? Mainly wild animals. Very few domesticated animals.

Not sure if this works, but thinking more how this could accumulate, how many people etc.

The well has a life history as well as the contents.

Context is key and is very important!

Urban Provisioning at Early Medieval (8th – 11th century CE) Antwerp: New Zooarchaeological Data

Pam Crabtree

Antwerp, Belgium

Origins and development of Early medieval Antwerp (multi discipline).

Exploring the foundation radiocarbon dated to 8th – 10th century CE (what became Early Medieval Antwerp). Some later material looked at to demonstrate urban change through time.

10th century wall – a lot has been taken out. Some excavated in the 1950's. Faunal remains find it you keep it (choice parts).

What does this tell us of the process of urbanisation?

Burcht site: great preservation (the best!), most is cattle and pig (some is wild pig). Nice sheep to goat ratio. Cats, dogs, beaver, hare, ducks, red deer, roe deer. Species ratio: looks very contemporary with the material she found in Ipswich.

Cattle: mostly adult, very few young. Getting some traction pathology. Some skates from metacarpals and metatarsals).

Ovicaprids: whole skeleton representation. 2-year range (not many old or young).

Pigs: Are wild boar! Very clearly. Evans et al. 2014: molar third measurements. In the upper molars and other post-cranial elements can see this.

Woodland signatures in the beetle data also, small amounts of other wild mammals e.g. red and roe deer.

Gorterstraat, bit later in time. 11th century

The number of pigs are almost identical, however, the wild is gone and is only domesticated.
Significant increase in the amount of sheep. Substantial decrease in the amount of cow.

Decrease in amount of red deer, roe deer (disappear), beaver (disappear).

Get rats for the first time and increase in chickens.

Handful of wild birds.

Fish: the material pre – Fish event horizon: cod family.

Post fish event horizon four times the amount of fish! Not confident in the fish species – not been looked at yet.

Changes in the age patterns of the ovicaprids in the later material – not sure how to interpret.

Some bits of whale bone – similar to the Hamwic material (Southampton).

What is the process of urbanisation here?

<u>Feeding king and court: the Llangorse crannog remains</u>

Julia Best

Royal site first mentioned in historic documents in 1188.

From dendrochronology built 889-893. Burnt down in 916 by the Saxons.

Exposed and excavated due to erosion and lowering water levels.

Excellent perseveration influenced by Irish building techniques.

Both land and water excavation. Fabulous waterlogged material. Lots of underwater searches.

Over 40,000 fragments of animal bone were discovered at this site.

Unusual for wales – not often much bone.

High status? Consumer site? What was going on? – Julia inherited it.

Most of our evidence of medieval wales comes from historical documentation. Though it may date to later medieval rather than this time period. It covers everything. Good to combine with the animals remains to compare.

Pig heavy site, cattle abundant but very fragmented in comparison to the sheep and the pigs.

Pigs dominate.

Red deer, small number of fish (intrusive) – only four fish came from land- and birds were also found.

Fish are rare on secular crannog sites compared with those in Ireland. Most common species was pike – most dominate today. Ignored the fish.

Pigs: elite, also most easy animals to feed and make fat. Not many wild boars – a couple maybe? Range of pigs at this site. Some quite big. Prime large sized animals are selected/ consumed at this potentially royal site?

Food renders? – There is an adult bias with very few juveniles/ neonates.

5-8 years+ Cattle. Some evidence of neonates/ juveniles. Most in the elderly category.

Ovicaprids: bit more spread between sub-adult and adult. No elderly. 3-4 years.

Bone fusion: correlate strongly with the teeth data: **Pigs**: 3-4 years. Very few lived beyond 4th year. Unlikely to be breeding onsite.

Lots of female pigs (nearly all 94%). Cows female dominate – pelvic measurements.

In the historic documents, talks about the food renders a lot. Some came once a year, some twice a year. Lots of different versions.

Age of sex required is given sometimes, the pigs fit this pattern. The cattle: guidelines stretchable, older stock – females in prime till 9. Fits with the wider historical sources. But are applicable to this assemblage.

Some wethers in the mix.

Body part representation:

Cattle: lack of heads and toes. Good range of fore and hind limbs. Brought in partially processed? Joints? Differential processing?

Not whole site was sieved to the same degree (underwater excavation).

Pigs: pattern: lots of heads and less hind limbs – given away as prime joint.

Lots of bones bashed about in the water – loss of data.

Red deer: so many hind limbs! Few head bits, 3 bits of antler, not much extremities. Specific processing here. NISP 7% of assemblage. Hunting elite? Focus on the red deer not roe deer. Suitable for hunting and larger groups of deer. Local availability. Some of the biggest deer come from wales. Larger populations? Law codes: depict antlered males – stags. ¼ of the animal went to whoever owned the land, unless it was owned by the king. Not described in all texts, when it is it's the hind quarter. Given to this site for consumption?

Sows present: element of seasonality – winter.

Don't have the first royal corgi – post dates 100 years after it burnt down.

Not a consumer site, not self-sufficient, reliant on food renders. The important social relations surrounding these animals. Need to look harder at unique context. The bones support an elite site if not royal.