



making sense of heritage

Site 7
A453 Widening Scheme
M1 Junction 24 to A52 Nottingham
Nottinghamshire

Animal Bone
By L. Higbee



A453 SITE 7

Animal Bone

L. Higbee

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The Middle Iron Age assemblage from Site 7 comprises just 63 fragments (or 33 grams) of animal bone. Bone preservation is extremely poor and only the most robust skeletal elements (i.e. teeth) survive in a recognisable form, indeed all of the post-cranial bones are too degraded and highly fragmented to identify even to skeletal element, let alone species.

Bone was recovered from roundhouse gully 7162 and enclosure ditch 7163. The only identifiable elements are fragments of cattle teeth, and only the outer enamel survives, the softer underlining tissues have disintegrated and this has resulted in fragmentation. Enamel is the most durable calcified tissue in the mammalian skeleton largely because it has a very low organic (i.e. H²O) content, which means that it is relatively stable in the burial environment. Burnt bone, of which there is a small quantity from ditch terminal 7033, is also more stable than un-burnt bone because the organic component is lost when bone is heated.



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