



Assessment of the Faunal Remains from UVS40, Archaeological Investigation of a "Moving Frontier" of Early Herding in Northern Tanzania Project, 2012

UVS40 Assemblage 2

This assessment covers the bones excavated through the shovel pit survey carried out at UVS40 as a part of the Archaeological Investigation of a "Moving Frontier" of Early Herding in Northern Tanzania project in 2012 (Figure 1). Faunal remains recovered from other sites excavated during the course of the 2012 field season (EBS43, EBS71, EBS72, MBS33, MBS7 & OTS4) will be covered in a separate report. A full description of the recording protocol used will also be provided in that report.

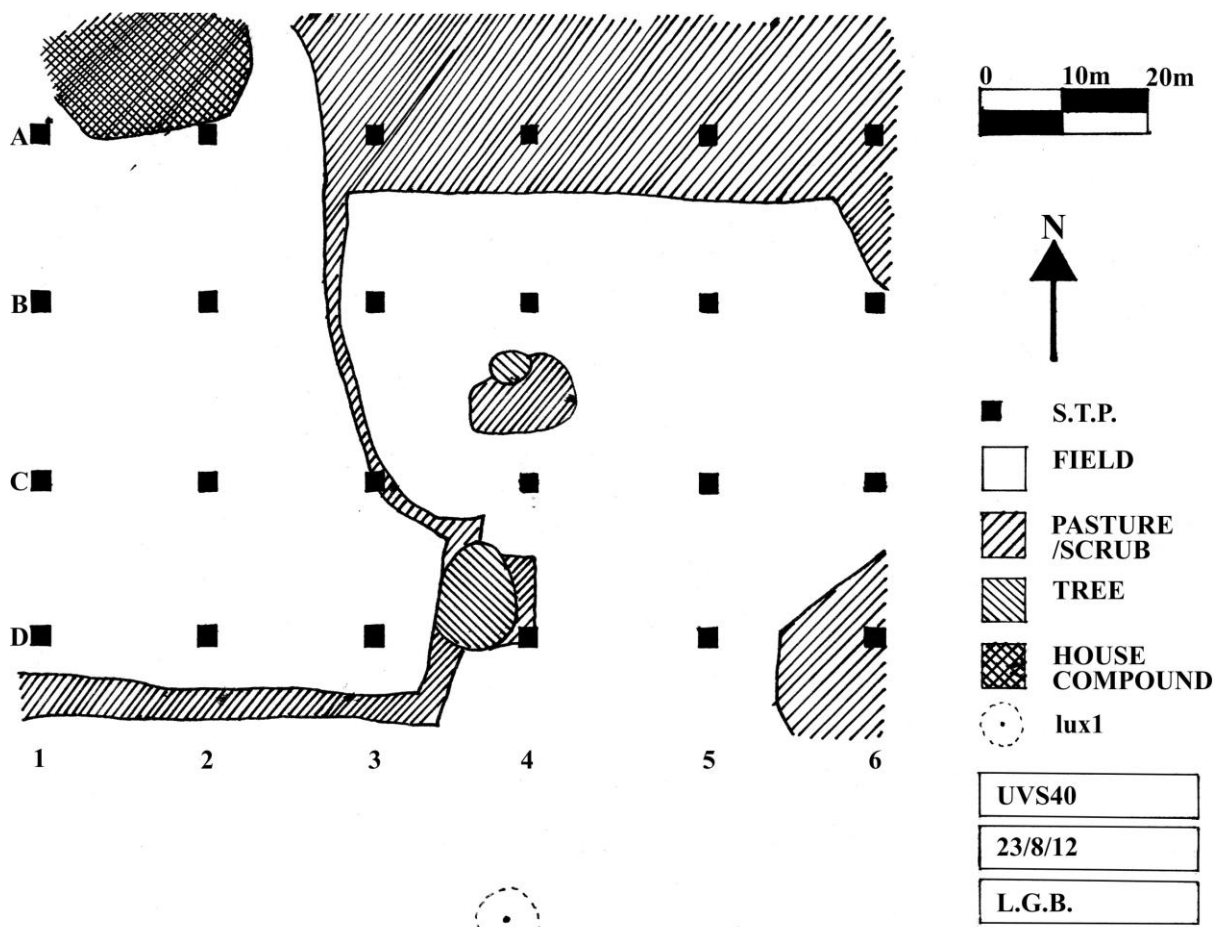


Figure 1: Plan of UVS40, showing Shovel Test Pit grid.

UVS40 Assemblage

A1								
	<i>Bos sp.</i>	<i>cf. Bos sp.</i>	Size 2 Bovid	Size 3 Bovid	Caprine	Total NISP	Indet.	Total NISP
#	0	0	2	1	0	3	312	315
%	0.00	0.00	0.63	0.32	0.00	0.95	99.05	100

A2								
	<i>Bos sp.</i>	<i>cf. Bos sp.</i>	Size 2 Bovid	Size 3 Bovid	Caprine	Total NISP	Indet.	Total NISP
#	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	11
%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100

A3								
	<i>Bos sp.</i>	<i>cf. Bos sp.</i>	Size 2 Bovid	Size 3 Bovid	Caprine	Total NISP	Indet.	Total NISP
#	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	8
%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100

A4								
	<i>Bos sp.</i>	<i>cf. Bos sp.</i>	Size 2 Bovid	Size 3 Bovid	Caprine	Total NISP	Indet.	Total NISP
#	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100

A6								
	<i>Bos sp.</i>	<i>cf. Bos sp.</i>	Size 2 Bovid	Size 3 Bovid	Caprine	Total NISP	Indet.	Total NISP
#	1	0	0	0	0	1	28	29
%	3.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.45	96.55	100

B1								
	<i>Bos sp.</i>	<i>cf. Bos sp.</i>	Size 2 Bovid	Size 3 Bovid	Caprine	Total NISP	Indet.	Total NISP
#	1	0	0	0	0	1	107	108
%	0.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.93	99.07	100

B3								
	<i>Bos sp.</i>	<i>cf. Bos sp.</i>	Size 2 Bovid	Size 3 Bovid	Caprine	Total NISP	Indet.	Total NISP
#	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	38
%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100

B4								
	<i>Bos sp.</i>	<i>cf. Bos sp.</i>	Size 2 Bovid	Size 3 Bovid	Caprine	Total NISP	Indet.	Total NISP
#	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100

B5								
	<i>Bos sp.</i>	<i>cf. Bos sp.</i>	Size 2 Bovid	Size 3 Bovid	Caprine	Total NISP	Indet.	Total NISP
#	0	0	1	0	0	1	175	176
%	0.00	0.00	0.57	0.00	0.00	0.57	99.43	100

B6								
	<i>Bos sp.</i>	<i>cf. Bos sp.</i>	Size 2 Bovid	Size 3 Bovid	Caprine	Total NISP	Indet.	Total NISP
#	0	0	0	0	0	0	83	83
%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100

C1								
	<i>Bos sp.</i>	<i>cf. Bos sp.</i>	Size 2 Bovid	Size 3 Bovid	Caprine	Total NISP	Indet.	Total NISP
#	0	0	0	0	3	3	141	144
%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.08	2.08	97.92	100

C3								
	<i>Bos sp.</i>	<i>cf. Bos sp.</i>	Size 2 Bovid	Size 3 Bovid	Caprine	Total NISP	Indet.	Total NISP
#	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100

C6								
	<i>Bos sp.</i>	<i>cf. Bos sp.</i>	Size 2 Bovid	Size 3 Bovid	Caprine	Total NISP	Indet.	Total NISP
#	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100

D1								
	<i>Bos sp.</i>	<i>cf. Bos sp.</i>	Size 2 Bovid	Size 3 Bovid	Caprine	Total NISP	Indet.	Total NISP
#	0	1	0	1	0	2	106	108
%	0.00	0.93	0.00	0.93	0.00	1.85	98.15	100

D2								
	<i>Bos sp.</i>	<i>cf. Bos sp.</i>	Size 2 Bovid	Size 3 Bovid	Caprine	Total NISP	Indet.	Total NISP
#	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	41
%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100

D3								
	<i>Bos sp.</i>	<i>cf. Bos sp.</i>	Size 2 Bovid	Size 3 Bovid	Caprine	Total NISP	Indet.	Total NISP
#	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	21
%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100

UVS40 Total Assemblage								
	<i>Bos sp.</i>	<i>cf. Bos sp.</i>	Size 2 Bovid	Size 3 Bovid	Caprine	Total NISP	Indet.	Total NISP
#	2	1	3	2	3	11	1078	1089
%	0.18	0.09	0.28	0.18	0.28	1.01	98.99	100

Overall, the survey returned a good number of fragments, with a notable tendency for these to increase towards the north and west of the area tested. Returns of just 1.01% identifiable specimens, however, indicate a high degree of fragmentation and bones which were in generally poor condition: concretion, burning, weathering and root-etching were all problems noted and these problems appeared to occur across the site. No single STP (Shovel Test Pit) contained a NISP (Number of Identified Specimens) of greater than three (STPs A1 & C1) or percentage NISP of greater than 3.45% (STP A6).

It was noted by the excavators that finds of ceramics in those STPs in the areas undisturbed by cultivation were restricted to c. the upper 5cm. For this reason and the mixed stratigraphy of those STPs in the area under cultivation direct dating is considered to be of high importance if any value is to be attached to the identification of faunal remains from the site, nevertheless, it is promising in light of the project's aims to have found both *Bos sp.* (cattle) and caprines amongst the assemblage, with no clear indication of any wild fauna.

With one exception (a size 2 bovid humerus) all identifications were made on teeth: four of these (three caprines and one *Bos sp.*) were in good enough condition to provide wear stages and, thus, an indication of age.

In conclusion, if the site can be attributed to the crucial economic transition of the Pastoral Neolithic then it is considered to show some promise as an open-air site: a site situation still poorly known and yet crucial for understanding everyday lifestyles and livelihoods in the period. If the site is shown to be of more recent origin though, then the high degree of fragmentation and poor condition of the assemblage mean that it is probably not worthy of study for comparison with better understood cultural and economic practices; as such, efforts should be focused on dating the site and its assemblages as a priority.