
Animals in pits: A case study from the Middle-Bronze Age ‘Megaron’ in Marathon, Greece

Dimitris Filioglou*^{1,2}

¹Groningen Institute of Archaeology, University of Groningen – Netherlands

²Department of Archaeology, University of Athens – Greece

Abstract

In 2018 the University of Athens excavated a Middle Bronze Age ‘Megaron’ in Plasi, Marathon. A pit of animal bones was recovered inside this structure, close to its entrance. In this poster, I present the zooarchaeological remains from this pit. Parts of three sheep were rapidly deposited in a single burial episode, after building’s abandonment, according to excavators and they were never been disturbed. The in situ articulated units and the presence of cut marks on bones in combination with the context of the animal remains constitute this structured deposition special. This pit requires close attention, as human burials were found under the ‘Megaron’ floor. Current research is investigating the correlation between these inhumations and the pit with the potential to assist with data interpretation. Furthermore, the analysis of other Bronze Age faunal assemblages in Greece has indicated that sheep was the most abundant taxon, highlighting its importance for human subsistence and social life. Finally, other similar cases in the wider context of the Aegean and the South Western Asia are investigated as well.

Keywords: MBA, Greece, pit, structured, sheep

*Speaker