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Project title: The application of geometric morphometrics to zooarchaeological specimens.

To date, few studies have attempted to apply geometric morphometrics to zooarchaeological remains. Only extremely limited work has been done in Ireland to investigate Irish zooarchaeological material using these techniques. This provides an opportunity to address Irish research questions regarding agricultural economies and husbandry from the Early Medieval through to the Post-Medieval periods.

The proposed research will utilise theoretical and analytical approaches for characterisation of predominantly cattle bones, with some work on deer bones. The aims of this study include:

1. To investigate aspects of cattle breed development and introduction using both a modern reference collection and zooarchaeological specimens.
2. To investigate aspects of sexual dimorphism using both a modern reference collection and zooarchaeological specimens.
3. To investigate aspects of the population diversity of fallow deer.

