group clearly suggests that the faunal material recovered from them and possibly also the pieces from the non-sites are the result of human exploitation of the animal world, one must proceed with caution in identifying the actual processes of carcass-treatment employed by the Acheulian groups. This caution is called for especially in view of certain recent studies which express doubts about the direct human origin of faunal remains found at some of the early sites in East Africa including the Olduvai Gorge localities (for a review study of the different criteria used so far for detecting human interference with bones from Early Man sites, see Shipman and Rose 1983). Summarizing his views arising from detailed analyses, Binford (1981: 281-282) writes thus:

> The large, highly publicized sites as currently analyzed carry little specific information about hominid behaviour. It might be possible, using detailed studies of breakage morphology and association, to isolate those clusters of material referable to hominid behaviour on a floor such as *Zinj*; however, given its demonstrably low integrity and resolution, arguments about base camps, hominid hunting, sharing of food, and so forth are certainly premature and most likely widely inaccurate. The only clear picture obtained is that of a hominid scavenging the kills and death sites of other predator-scavengers for abandoned anatomical parts of low food utility, primarily for purposes of extracting bone marrow. Some removal of marrow bones from kills is indicated, but there is no evidence of 'carrying food home.' Transport of the scavenged parts away from the kill site to more protected locations in a manner identical to that of all other scavengers is all that one need imagine to account for the unambiguous facts preserved in Olduvai.

However that be, it is worth mentioning that some of the pieces in the present collections do appear to bear marks of primary and/or secondary butchering. There is, for instance, a metapodial extremity (of *Bos* sp.) showing an inverted V-like fracture resulting from two clean oblique blows delivered with a sharp-edged instrument, possibly for disarticulating the extremity from the shaft in the course of marrow extraction (Fig. 5); one other alternative is that the piece was intended to serve as a chisel-edged artifact. Fracture features of this type will receive due attention in the detailed study of the material.

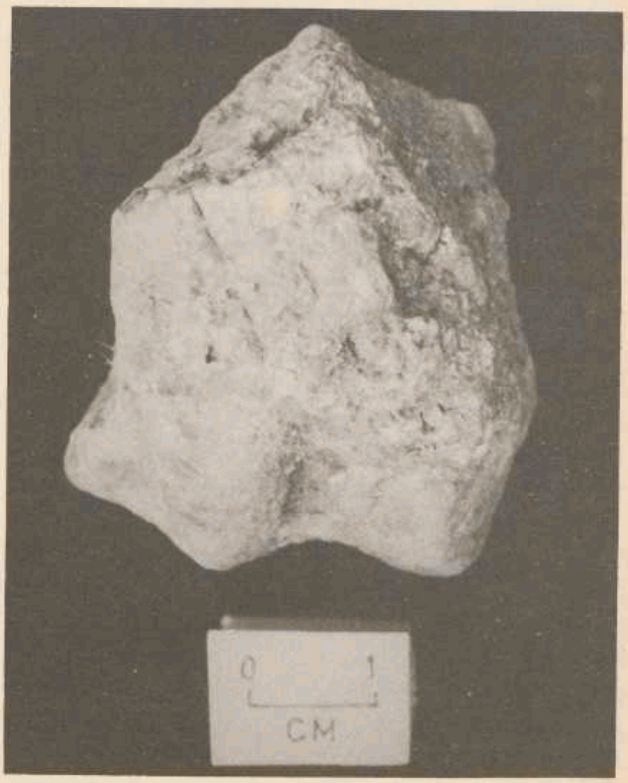

Fig.5: Metapodial extremity of *Bos* sp. with inverted V-like fracture, probably resulting from two oblique blows given with a heavy, sharp-edged tool. The piece is from the Acheulian occupation site at Hebbal Buzurg (Locality II).

In short, the significance of the fossil fauna from the Hunsgi-Baichbal valleys lies in the fact that it serves to correct the long-standing pessimism among workers in India that, on account of unfavourable soil conditions, organic remains may not be expected on the Stone Age sites in the country (for an extended discussion of this view, see Kennedy 1977). The present discoveries once again show that this pessimism is uncalled for; studies tending to view the sub-