HAND-COLLECTED AND WET-SIEVED ANIMAL BONE FROM CROSSRAIL-C261 STEPNEY GREEN (XRV10)

Alan Pipe

Osteology
Museum of London Archaeology

first draft
word count 1585 words

BONE/REP/01/2014

HAND-COLLECTED AND WET-SIEVED ANIMAL BONE FROM CROSSRAIL-C261 STEPNEYGREEN (XRV10)

Chronological narrative

Period 2: late medieval and Tudor

Open Area 2

Group 3

Subgroup 5

Ditch fill [283] produced small hand-collected and wet-sieved groups derived almost entirely from cattle and sheep/goat including fragments of rib and upper and lower fore- and hind-leg; areas indicating consumption of good quality beef and mutton.
Poultry were represented by a single fragment of goose, probably domestic goose *Anser anser domesticus* tibia ('drumstick').

Subgroup 6

Ditch fill [216] included a small bone group derived from areas of good and poor meat-bearing value; single fragments of adult cockerel metatarsal (foot); adult cattle mandible (lower jaw), atlas (first neck vertebra) and tibia (shin); and adult sheep/goat scapula (shoulder blade) and metacarpal (fore-foot). Game species were represented by a single bone; a complete metatarsal (hind-foot) of a large adult fallow deer *Dama dama* buck. Dental wear evidence from the cattle mandible indicates an adult animal in at least the fifth year of life.

Ditch fill [217] included a substantial group of hand-collected and wet-sieved animal bone derived mainly from juvenile and adult cattle and adult sheep/goat with only two fragments of pig; foetal or neonate tooth and innominate (pelvis). Cattle mainly comprised ribs and elements of the upper and lower fore- and hind-leg; areas of the best meat-quality with little recovery of areas of moderate (juvenile skull) and poor (foot) meat-bearing value. There were single fragments of infant calf femur (thigh bone) and metatarsal (hind-foot).
Sheep/goat produced fragments of mandible (lower jaw) and upper and lower fore- and hind-leg; areas of moderate and good meat-bearing quality, with particular emphasis on the lower fore- and hind-leg. Dental evidence from the mandibles indicates two adult animals; one aged between four and six years with another older animal aged between six and eight years.
Poultry comprised two fragments of goose, probably domestic goose *Anser anser domesticus* scapula (shoulder blade) and innominate (pelvis), areas of prime meat quality.
Non-consumed domesticates comprised a small group of adult dog lumbar (lower back) vertebra and upper and lower fore- and hind-leg elements, all probably derived from the same animal.
A small group of fish bone derived entirely from marine species; it included cod family Gadidae, plaice or founder Pleuronectidae and gurnard Triglidae; all commercially exploited from the outer Thames estuary. Game species comprised only fragments of juvenile rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus* sacrum (lower back), femur (thigh bone) and metapodial (foot).

Ditch fill [218] included a small group of cattle comprised of head, vertebra and radius (lower fore-leg) with single fragments of horse innominate (pelvis). Dental wear on a cattle third molar indicated an adult in at least the fourth year.

Group 4

Subgroup 11

Ditch fill [258] produced a large group derived mainly from cattle and sheep/goat with no recovery of pig. Cattle mainly included skull fragments and, particularly, elements of the upper fore- and hind-leg, respectively areas of moderate and prime meat-bearing value. Sheep/goat mainly included elements of the adult upper and low fore- and hind-leg representing consumption of mutton of moderate and prime quality.
Fish comprised only a single bone; a dermal spine, a 'buckler', of roker or thornback ray *Raja clavata*.
Poultry comprised a small group derived from radius (lower wing) and tibia ('drumstick') of at least two domestic fowl, juvenile and adult birds.
Other domesticate remains comprised only a single skull of an adult dog.
Game species were represented by a small group of rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus* derived from at least two animals; single fragments of juvenile humerus (upper fore-leg), radius (lower fore-leg) and juvenile and adult femur (upper hind-leg).

Ditch fill [276] produced a moderate group derived largely from adult cattle and sheep/goat with occasional recovery of infant calf and single recoveries of infant and juvenile sheep/goat. Both species show skeletal recovery concentrated on the vertebrae and ribs and the upper and lower fore- and hind-leg; areas of prime meat quality. This is particularly noticeable in sheep/goat where there is a predominance of elements of the upper and lower leg, particularly the lower hind-leg, suggesting preferred consumption of legs of mutton and lamb.
Pig remains comprised only single fragments of scapula (shoulder blade) and infant innominate (pelvis).
Poultry comprised single fragments of adult domestic fowl *Gallus gallus* humerus and ulna (upper and lower wing); and tibia ('drumstick') with a single metatarsal (foot) of an adult hen and a fragment of metatarsal of goose, probably domestic goose *Anser anser domesticus*.
Other domesticates comprised only a mandible (lower jaw) of an adult dog *Canis lupus familiaris.*
A small group of marine fish bone all derived from single fragments of cod family Gadidae; head elements of cod *Gadus morhua* and whiting *Merlangius merlangus*; and caudal (tail) vertebra of haddock *Melanogrammus aeglefinus*.
Game species comprised only single fragments of rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus* tibia (lower hind-leg) and metatarsal (hind-foot).

Subgroup 12

External dump [275] included a fragment of juvenile sheep/goat sacrum (pelvic region of the lower vertebral column).

Period 3: 17th-18th centuries
Building 1

Group 10

Subgroup 14

Cess-pit fill [250] produced a large hand-collected and wet-sieved group derived mainly from sheep/goat and cattle with smaller groups of poultry, pig and a diverse group of fish and game.
Cattle produced fragments of infant, juvenile and adult elements of vertebra, rib and upper and lower fore- and hind-leg; mainly elements of better meat-bearing vale. Sheep/goat produced similar skeletal elements but only from juveniles and adults with no recovery of infants. As with Period 2 Open Area 2 ditch fill [276], there was some numerical bias towards the lower hind-leg suggesting consumption of leg-of-lamb or-mutton joints. Pig produced only three bones; single fragments of scapula (shoulder blade), infant piglet mandible (lower jaw) and juvenile phalange (toe joint). Poultry included elements of adult chicken humerus and ulna (wing) and femur (thigh) and tibia ('drumstick'); carcase-parts of prime meat quality derived from at least two birds; with a metatarsal (foot) of an adult hen.
Game species included single fragments of adult wood pigeon *Columba palumbus* wing and leg, snipe *Gallinago gallinago* metatarsal (foot) with mandible (lower jaw) and fore- and hind-leg elements of at least two adult rabbits *Oryctolagus cuniculus*. Fish derived largely from marine species; particularly herring family Clupeidae, but with occasional fragments of roker or thornback ray *Raja clavata*, plaice or flounder Pleuronectidae, mackerel *Scomber scombrus*, red seabream *Pagellus bogaraveo* gurnard Triglidae and cod family Gadidae including haddock *Melanogrammus aeglefinus* and whiting *Merlangius merlangus*. Migratory species, particularly smelt *Osmerus eperlanus* but also salmon family Salmonidae, were also well represented. In contrast, freshwater species were represented only by a small group of carp family Cyprinidae bones, mainly vertebrae but with a single pharyngeal bone probably of dace *Leuciscus leuciscus*. This is typically a species of the middle reaches of rivers; although a popular anglers' fish, it is not exploited for food (Wheeler 1978, 126-8) and is likely to be represented in this context group as 'by-catch' during seasonal commercial fishing for smelt in the tidal Thames west of London (Wheeler 1979, 48).

Cess-pit fill [251] produced a substantial group derived mainly from cattle with much smaller groups of sheep/goat and game and only single fragments of adult chicken and juvenile pig femur (thigh); and plaice or flounder Pleuronectidae pre-opercular (gill area). The cattle group derived mainly from elements bearing prime-quality meat; particularly the humerus (upper fore-leg); innominate and femur (upper hind-leg), vertebra and rib from infant and juvenile calf and adult animals with single fragments of infant metapodial (foot).

Open Area 2

Group 15

Subgroup 19

Ditch fill [280] included a fragment of calf skull.

Subgroup 200

Ditch fill [205] included a fragment of horse innominate (pelvis).

Period 4: early 19th century

Building 8

Group 27

Subgroup 152

Make-up deposit [401] included fragments of sheep/goat rib with a single fragment of male cattle innominate (pelvis).

Period 5: late 19th-20th centuries

Open Area 4

Group 18

Subgroup 30

Well fill [199] included single fragments of calf tibia (lower hind-leg); sheep/goat rib and radius (lower fore-leg); pig femur (thigh); chicken femur (thigh) and three bones of adult mallard or domestic duck *Anas platyrhynchos*; skull and ulna and metacarpal (lower wing).

Well fill [203] included single fragments of adult chicken skull and adult hen metatarsal (foot), sheep/goat phalange (toe joint); infant pig skull an head and wing elements of adult mallard or domestic duck derived from at least two birds. Game species comprised a vertebra of hare, probably brown hare *Lepus europaeus*.

Well fill [204] included a distinctive group derived mainly from sheep/goat, poultry and game with limited recovery of fish and pig but no recovery of cattle. Sheep/goat produced single fragments of head, vertebra, rib and upper hind-leg. Pig produced only a single fragment, a maxilla (upper jaw) of a juvenile pig dated as very young first year animal by dental eruption.
Poultry comprised elements of adult chicken skull, vertebra, femur and fibula (thigh and 'drumstick') with head, wing and foot elements of mallard or domestic duck *Anas platyrhynchos* derived from a minimum of three adult birds.
Game comprised elements of the skull, mandible (lower jaw), vertebral column upper and lower fore-leg and lower hind-leg of hare, probably brown hare *Lepus europaeus*, all possibly from the same adult animal.

A very small group of fish bone comprised two cleithra (gill area fragments) of a migratory species, eel *Anguilla anguilla*, with a single abdominal vertebra of a marine fish of cod family Gadidae, probably *Gadus morhua*.

Open Area 6

Group 24

Subgroup 26

Cess-pit fill [262] included fragments of mandibular (lower jaw) tooth and vertebra of sheep/goat.