

**ASSESSMENT OF THE HAND-COLLECTED ANIMAL BONE FROM CROSSRAIL  
EASTERN TICKET HALL, 12 GOSLETT YARD, LONDON WC2, LONDON  
BOROUGH OF CAMDEN (TCG09)**

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*first draft*

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NB. This report is based on preliminary recording and analysis. Any conclusions may be modified in the light of further study. It should not be quoted without permission of the author or of the Head of Service.

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**1. Quantification and evaluation**

**1.1 Site archive: finds and environmental, quantification and description**

*Table 1 Finds and environmental archive general summary*

Animal bone	estimated 27 fragments. Total 0.550 kg.
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*Table 2 Contents of animal bone archive*

	Weight (g)	No. fragments	No. boxes
Animal bone (hand-collected)	550	27	1 standard archive box (boxed with finds)

*Table 3 Hand-collected animal bone from TCG09/summary (p:\camd\1144\TCG09\env\zoology\bontab01.xls)*

*Table 4 Hand-collected animal bone from TCG09/detailed summary (p:\camd\1144\TCG09\env\zoology\bontab02.xls)*

**1.2 Introduction/methodology**

This report identifies, quantifies and interprets the animal bone from contexts [59], [77], [129], [135] and [151] derived from TCG09. Hand-collected animal bone from each context group was recorded directly onto Excel spreadsheets in terms of weight (kg), estimated fragment count, species, carcase-part, fragmentation, preservation, modification, and the recovery of epiphyses, mandibular tooth rows, measurable bones, complete long bones, and sub-adult age groups. All identifications referred to the MOLA reference collection; and Schmid 1972. Fragments not identifiable to species or genus level were generally allocated to an approximate category, particularly; ‘ox-sized’ and ‘sheep-sized’, as appropriate.

Table 3 (p:\camd\1144\TCG09\env\zoology\bontab01.xls) gives a summary of the hand-collected context groups in terms of weight (kg), estimated fragment count, fragmentation, preservation, faunal composition, and the recovery of evidence for ageing and stature.

Table 4 (p:\camd\1144\TCG09\env\zoology\bontab02.xls) gives a detailed summary of the hand-collected context groups in terms of taxon, carcase-part, modification and the recovery of sub-adult age groups.

**1.3 Composition**

This assemblage provided 0.550 kg, estimated 27 fragments, of well-preserved hand-collected animal bone with a maximum fragment size generally between 25 and at least 75 mm.

The bulk of the hand-collected bone derived from adult and sub-adult ox *Bos taurus* and ‘ox-sized’ fragments of rib and long bone with fewer fragments of sheep/goat *Ovis aries/Capra hircus* and ‘sheep-sized’ and single fragments of pig ulna (lower fore-leg) from [77] and [129].

There was no recovery of fish, amphibians, poultry, wild ‘game’, commensal or scavenger species, or human bone.

There were no foetal, neonate or infant animals.

Cattle were represented by identifiable fragments of vertebra [77], rib, radius (lower fore-leg) [135] and toe [151] with unidentifiable fragments of 'ox-sized' vertebra [77], rib [77] and long bone [59] and [151], with most fragments derived from carcass areas of good or at least moderate, meat-bearing quality. The radius had been split down the mid-line, probably to allow removal of the marrow.

Sheep/goat were represented by a single fragment of tibia (shin bone) from [135] with a juvenile sheep-sized cervical (neck) vertebra from [129]; single fragments of pig ulna were recovered from [77] and [129]; again, areas of moderate and good meat-bearing quality, with no recovery of the head and feet. There was no recovery of ox or sheep/goat horn core. Clear evidence of butchery was seen on cattle bones from [77], [129] and [135]; and on a pig ulna from [77] only. There was no evidence for working, gnawing, burning, pathological change or any other modification.

The assemblage produced very limited evidence for age at death of the major domesticates with no mandibular tooth rows but seven epiphyses; there were no measurable bones or complete longbones.

#### **1.4 Assessment work outstanding**

There is no outstanding assessment work.

#### **1.5 Analysis of potential**

The hand-collected assemblage has only very limited potential for further study of the local beef, mutton/lamb and pork diet and pattern of waste disposal, with reference to carcass-part selection and age at death of the major domesticates; cattle, sheep/goat and pig, and butchery of cattle and pig.

In view of the lack of wet-sieved samples and consequent absence of small vertebrates, there is no potential for interpretation of local habitats.

#### **1.6 Significance of the data**

The hand-collected animal bone is of very limited local significance only, particularly in terms of meat diet, with emphasis on the skeletal representation and age-selection of cattle, sheep/goat and pig, and butchery of cattle and pig.

There is no wider significance or significance in terms of local habitats.

### **8. Revised research aims**

#### **8.10 Animal bone**

*RRA01 What are the characteristics of the local meat diet in terms of the selection of species, carcass-part and age-group?*

*RRA02 What butchery techniques were used to process cattle and pig carcasses?*

### **9. Method statement**

#### **9.10 Animal bone**

The assemblage should be recorded, as individual bones, directly onto the MoLA Oracle animal bone post-assessment database and then analysed as a discrete assemblage with reference to available stratigraphic data and to contemporary local sites.

Resource requirements are-

Task 1: Recording of assemblage onto database	0.25 pday
Task 2: Analysis of data/preparation of report/edit/archive	0.25 pday
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.50 pday</b>

## **10. Bibliography**

Schmid, E, 1972 *Atlas of animal bones for prehistorians, archaeologists and Quaternary geologists*  
London. Elsevier.

## **11. Tables**

*Table 2: Finds and environmental archive general summary*

*Table 2: Contents of animal bone archive*

*Table 3: Hand-collected animal bone from TCG09/summary (bontab01.xls)*

*Table 4: Hand-collected animal bone from TCG09/detailed summary (bontab02.xls)*