

**HAND-COLLECTED AND WET-SIEVED ANIMAL BONE FROM CONTEXTS [2],  
[3], [5], [9], [10] AND [14] AT 8 MOORFIELDS AND 87 MOORGATE, LONDON  
EC2, CITY OF LONDON (XSP10)**

**Alan Pipe**

**Osteology  
Museum of London Archaeology**

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# **HAND-COLLECTED AND WET-SIEVED ANIMAL BONE FROM CONTEXTS [2], [3], [5], [9], [10] AND [14] AT 8 MOORFIELDS AND 87 MOORGATE, LONDON EC2, CITY OF LONDON (XSP10)**

## **1. Introduction and methodology**

This report quantifies, identifies and interprets the animal bone recovered from hand-collected context groups [2], [3], [5] and [10]; and wet-sieved bulk samples [9] {5} and [14] {9} at XSP10. All recovered animal bones were washed, air-dried and then bagged and labelled as context and sample groups.

Animal bone from each context was then described and recorded directly onto the MOLA animal bone post-assessment Oracle database in terms of species, skeletal element, body side, age, epiphysial fusion, dental eruption and wear, sex, fragmentation, modification and measurement of complete bones. Species and skeletal element were determined using the MOLA animal bone reference collection together with Schmid 1972. Evidence for age at death was derived from epiphysial fusion (Schmid 1972). As far as possible, each bone fragment was assigned to species and skeletal element and recorded as an individual database entry. Unidentifiable rib and long bone fragments were assigned to the approximate category 'cattle-sized' as appropriate. The complete assemblage record is held on the Oracle database for future reference and analysis with respect to available stratigraphic data; all data are available for consultation on request.

Table 1 shows the assemblage summary in terms of weight (kg), fragment count, fragmentation, preservation, species, skeletal element, age and modification.

*Table 1: Hand-collected and wet-sieved animal bone from XSP10 [2], [3], [5], [9], [10] and [14]/catalogue*

## **2. Preservation and quantification**

A total of 0.330 kg/eight fragments in one standard archive box, of well-preserved animal bone were recorded from hand-collected and wet-sieved contexts. Maximum hand-collected fragment size generally exceeded 75mm, with most bone in very good surface condition, and all modification and fusion lines easily visible.

## **3. The fauna**

The identifiable faunal assemblage included ox (cattle) *Bos taurus*, pig *Sus scrofa* and horse *Equus caballus* with no recovery of poultry, sheep/goat, fish, amphibians, birds, non-consumed domesticates, small wild vertebrates or human bones. There were no measurable bones.

Cattle were represented by single fragments of rib [2]; humerus [5] and innominate (pelvis) [14], upper fore- and hind-leg; skeletal areas of prime meat-bearing value. The pig bones, single fragments of lumbar (lower back) vertebra [9] and humerus (upper fore-leg) [3] similarly indicate areas of prime quality. Horse produced single fragments of mandible (lower jaw) and ulna (lower fore-leg) from [2]. Epiphysial fusion evidence from cattle in [5] and pig in [9] indicates sub-adult or young adult animals in the first few years of life; there was no recovery of foetal, neonate, infant or juvenile animals.

In general, carcase-part representation suggests that the groups represent a combination of waste derived from butchery and consumption of good quality beef and pork, with disposal of a horse carcase in [2].

Clear evidence of butchery was indicated by a transverse chop mark on a pig humerus mid-shaft [3] only, with no obvious use of knives or saws. There was no tool-mark evidence for bone- or horn-working.

A fragment of cattle innominate (pelvis) from [14] {9} showed slight canine gnawing. There was no evidence for rodent gnawing, burning or pathological change.

Hand-collected context groups ranged between 0.010 kg-0.08 kg/fragment counts 1-3; wet-sieved sample groups included single fragments only, 0.02-0.05 kg

### **3. The groups**

Context [2] produced single fragments of cattle-sized rib; horse mandible (lower jaw) and ulna (lower fore-leg).

Context [3] produced a single pig humerus (upper fore-leg). This bone had been chopped transversely at the mid-shaft, indicating sub-division of the fore-leg at the 'elbow'.

Context [5] produced a sub-adult cattle humerus (upper fore-leg) showing a transverse chop through the mid-shaft, perhaps during preparation of a

Sample [9] {5} produced a lumbar (lower back) vertebra of sub-adult pig.

Context [10] produced a fragment of 'cattle-sized' long bone mid-shaft.

Sample [14] {9} produced a fragment of cattle innominate (pelvis) showing some evidence of canine gnawing.

### **4. Interpretation**

This tiny but well-preserved assemblage includes waste probably derived from two sources; neither of these components of the assemblage has potential for further analysis and interpretation although full stratigraphic data and feature descriptions, would allow additional comment.

1. Contexts [2], [3], [5], [9], [10] and [14] derived from butchery and post-consumption waste associated with consumption of good quality beef and pork. There is no evidence for working of bone or horn.

2. Context [2] also included single fragments of horse mandible (lower jaw) and ulna (lower fore-leg) probably representing disposal of a carcase of an adult animal. There was no tool mark evidence.

### **5. Bibliography**

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

### **6. Table**

*Table 1: Hand-collected and wet-sieved animal bone from XSP10 [2], [3], [5], [9], [10] and [14]/catalogue*

