HAND-COLLECTED ANIMAL BONE FROM CONTEXT [30] 8 MOORFIELDS AND 87 MOORGATE, LONDON EC2, CITY OF LONDON (XSP10)

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1. Introduction and methodology

This report quantifies, identifies and interprets the animal bone recovered from hand-collected context group [30] 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). Each bone fragment was assigned to species and skeletal element and recorded as an individual database entry. 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 animal bone from XSP10 [30]/catalogue

2. Preservation and quantification

A total of 0.350 kg/two hand-collected fragments in one standard archive box, of well-preserved animal bone were recorded from context [30]. Maximum hand-collected fragment size exceeded 75mm, with the bone in very good surface condition, and all modification and fusion lines easily visible.

3. The assemblage

The identifiable faunal assemblage included ox (cattle) *Bos taurus* and horse *Equus caballus* with no recovery of poultry, sheep/goat, pig, fish, amphibians, birds, non-consumed domesticates or small wild vertebrates. There were no measurable bones.
Cattle were represented by a fragment of metatarsal (hind-foot) from an animal in at least the third year of life. This bone had been sawn through the mid-shaft and snapped, probably during primary carcase processing (removal of the feet), perhaps incorporating removal of the hide. This carcase area is of poor meat-bearing value.
Horse produced a fragment of adult femur (thigh bone) derived from an adult animal in at least the fourth year of life. The bone is from a prime meat-bearing area of the skeleton; it had been transversely chopped at the distal (knee) articulation which would have disarticulated the leg at that joint, probably during preparation of the carcase for consumption by humans or dogs. Indeed, tooth marks on the bone suggest canine gnawing.
In general, carcase-part representation suggests that the group represents a combination of waste derived from primary butchery of a cattle hind-leg; and butchery of an adult horse hind-leg.
There was no evidence for rodent gnawing, working, burning or pathological change.

4. Bibliography

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

6. Table

Table 1: Hand-collected animal bone from XSP10 [30]/catalogue