

**PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF THE HAND-COLLECTED AND WET-SIEVED  
ANIMAL BONE FROM C257 CROSSRAIL FARRINGDON EASTERN TICKET HALL  
AREAS A, B AND C (excavation and watching briefs)**

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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 5575 fragments. Total 65.00 kg
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**1.1.1 Animal bone**

*Table 2 Contents of animal bone archive*

	Weight (g)	Fragments	Boxes
Animal bone (hand-collected)	63000	5400	36 standard archive boxes 1 large archive box
Animal bone (wet-sieved)	2000	175	1 standard archive box

**1.1.1.1 Introduction/methodology**

This report identifies, quantifies and interprets the animal bone from 37 archive boxes of hand-collected context groups and one standard archive box of wet-sieved sample groups. The hand-collected and wet-sieved assemblages were assessed in terms of preservation, weight (kg) and estimated fragment count and species. The assemblage was not recorded as individual fragments or identified to skeletal element. 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 unidentified fish, 'cattle-sized mammal' and, 'sheep-sized mammal' as appropriate.

**1.1.1.2 The assemblage**

This assemblage provided an estimated 65.000 kg, estimated maximum count of 5575 fragments, of well-preserved hand-collected and wet-sieved animal bone in good surface condition, with a maximum fragment size generally between 25 and at least 75 mm. The hand-collected bone produced 63.000 kg, estimated 5400 fragments; the wet-sieved assemblage produced 2.000 kg, estimated 175 fragments.

The bulk of the hand-collected bone derived from adult and juvenile cattle *Bos taurus*, sheep/goat *Ovis aries*/*Capra hircus* and pig *Sus scrofa* including substantial components of 'cattle- and sheep-sized' vertebra, rib and long bone fragments, with smaller quantities of adult horse *Equus caballus* and adult and juvenile dog *Canis lupus familiaris*.

Wet-sieved samples produced small fragment counts of fish, but no obvious recovery of other wild species such as 'game', scavengers, small mammals or amphibians. No human bone was noted on preliminary inspection.

There was no significant recovery of foetal, neonate or infant animals.

Clear evidence of butchery was seen on the major domesticates, but there was no significant recovery of evidence for working, burning, gnawing, pathological change or any other modification.

#### *1.1.1.3 Assessment work outstanding*

This assemblage has not been recorded onto the MOLA Oracle animal bone assessment database and has not been assessed with regard to detailed quantification, carcass-part, age-representation or modification.

#### *1.1.1.4 Analysis of potential*

The hand-collected and wet-sieved assemblage has some definite potential for further study of the local meat diet and patterns of waste disposal, particularly with reference to carcass-part selection, age at death and butchery of the major domesticates; cattle, sheep/goat and pig; and disposal of horse and dog carcasses. A small assemblage of fish from the wet-sieved samples has limited potential for analysis of species, size and skeletal representation.

In view of the apparent absence of amphibians and small mammals from the samples, there is no potential for interpretation of local habitats or conditions.

#### *1.1.1.5 Significance of the data*

The hand-collected and wet-sieved animal bone assemblage is of local significance, particularly in terms of meat diet and waste disposal, with emphasis on the skeletal representation and age-selection of cattle, sheep/goat, pig, and, to a much lesser extent, fish and non-consumed domesticates; horse and dog.

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

#### *1.1.1.6 Research aims*

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

#### *1.1.1.7 Method statements*

More detailed insight into the composition and potential of the assemblage could be produced by a fuller assessment based on recording onto the MOLA Oracle animal bone assessment database. The estimates below give resource requirements for assessment or alternatively, post-assessment study without an interim stage.

The material 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 for full assessment are-

Task 1: Recording of assemblage onto database	3.00 pdays
Task 2: Analysis of data/preparation of report	2.00 pdays
Task 3: Edit/archive	0.50 pday

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5.50 pdays</b>
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Resource requirements for full post-assessment study are-

Task 1: Recording of assemblage onto database	10.00 pdays
Task 2: Analysis of data/preparation of report	08.00 pdays
Task 3: Edit/archive	0.50 pday

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18.50 pdays</b>
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## 11. Tables

*Table 2: Finds and environmental archive general summary*

*Table 2: Contents of animal bone archive*