

**HAND-COLLECTED ANIMAL BONE FROM CONTEXTS [326], [327], [329], [335],
[336] AND [338] AT C257 FARRINGDON CHARTERHOUSE SQUARE, LONDON
EC1, CITY OF LONDON (XTE12)**

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HAND-COLLECTED ANIMAL BONE FROM CONTEXTS [326], [327], [329], [335], [336] AND [338] AT C257 FARRINGDON CHARTERHOUSE SQUARE, LONDON EC1, CITY OF LONDON (XTE12)

1. Introduction and methodology

This report quantifies, identifies and interprets the animal bone recovered from hand-collected context groups [326], [327], [329], [335], [336] and [338] at XTE12. All recovered animal bones were washed, air-dried and then bagged and labelled as context groups.

Animal bone from each context was then described and recorded directly onto the MOLA Oracle animal bone assessment database in terms of faunal composition, epiphyses, mandibular tooth rows, measurable and complete bones; and recovery of evidence for butchery, working, gnawing, burning and pathological change. Species and skeletal element were determined using the MOLA animal bone reference collection together with Schmid 1972. Unidentifiable rib and long bone fragments were assigned to the approximate category 'large mammal' and 'medium mammal' 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 with.

Table 1: Hand-collected animal bone from XTE12 contexts [326], [327], [329], [335], [336] and [338]/summary

2. Preservation and quantification

A total of 9.500 kg/682 fragments in six standard archive boxes, of well-preserved hand-collected animal bone were recorded from six contexts; [326], [327], [329], [335], [336] and [338]. Context groups ranged from 0.1 kg/six fragments [326] to 6.15 kg/514 fragments [329]. Maximum fragment size generally exceeded 75mm, with most bone in very good surface condition, and all modification, fusion lines and measurement points easily visible.

3. The fauna

The identifiable faunal assemblage derived mainly from cattle *Bos taurus*, sheep/goat *Ovis aries/Capra hircus* and pig *Sus scrofa* with occasional recovery of fish, non-consumed domesticates and game, but no recovery of amphibians, wild birds or very small wild mammals.

A small group of fish comprised five fragments of cod *Gadus morhua* from Period 7 Open Area 11 Group 103 ditch fill [329]. Poultry comprised domestic fowl (chicken), goose, probably domestic goose *Anser anser domesticus*, and mallard or domestic duck *Anas platyrhynchos* from Period 7 Open Area 11 Group 103 ditch fill [329]; and chicken from Period 3 Open Area 4 Group 88 external metalling [336].

Non-consumed domesticates comprised occasional fragments of horse *Equus caballus* from Period 3 Open Area 4 Group 88 external metalling [336]; dog *Canis lupus familiaris* from Period 3 Open Area 4 Group 88 make-up [338] and Period 7 Open Area 11 Group 103 ditch fill [329]; and cat *Felis catus* from Period 3 Open Area 4 Group 88 external metalling [336]. Game species comprised only three fragments of rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus* from Period 7 Open Area 11 Group 103 ditch fill [329].

All identifiable fragments derived from sub-adult and adult animals with no recovery of foetal, neonate or infant animals.

The assemblage has some potential for further study; of age at death of the major domesticates with 16 mandibular (lower jaw) tooth rows and 143 epiphyses; and for metrical analysis with 21 measurable bones including nine complete limb long bones. Tool mark evidence for butchery was abundant with at least 85 fragments showing clear cleaver chops and/or knife cuts; there was no tool mark evidence for working of bone or horn from any context group. A single fragment from Period 7 Open Area 11 Group 103 ditch fill [329] showed evidence of pathological change. There was no evidence of burning, gnawing or any other modification.

3. The groups

Period 3: late medieval landscape, ditch formation, barrels

Open Area 3

Group 99

Rubbish pit fill [327] produced 0.65 kg, 25 fragments, derived from cattle sheep/goat and pig including two mandibular tooth rows and ten epiphyses. Five fragments showed butchery marks.

Open Area 4

Group 88

External metalling [336] produced 1.00 kg, 88 fragments, derived from cattle, sheep/goat and pig with two fragments of chicken and cat and a single fragment of horse. There were four mandibular tooth rows and 15 epiphyses. Five fragments showed butchery marks.

Make-up deposit [338] produced 0.90 kg, 35 fragments, derived from cattle, sheep/goat and pig with two fragments of dog. There were three mandibular tooth rows, including one of lamb, and 15 epiphyses. Ten fragments showed butchery; and there was one measurable bone.

Period 4: ditch neglect and backfill with localised rubbish disposal and ground levelling

Open Area 6

Group 89

External surface deposit [335] produced 0.70 kg, 14 fragments, derived from cattle and sheep/goat. There was a single mandibular tooth row with six epiphyses. Five fragments showed butchery marks.

Period 7: Metropolitan line construction and later development

Open Area 11

Group 103

Ditch fill [329] produced the largest group from this assemblage; 6.15 kg, 514 fragments, derived mainly from cattle, sheep/goat and pig with occasional recovery of fish, poultry, dog and game. Fish comprised five fragments of cod; poultry comprised 11 fragments of chicken, goose and mallard or domestic duck. Game comprised only three fragments of rabbit.

There were six mandibular tooth rows and 95 epiphyses; metrical evidence comprised 20 measurable bones including nine complete limb long bones. Modification mainly comprised butchery with 60 fragments showing butchery marks; one fragment showed pathological change. There was no evidence for working, burning or gnawing.

Group 104

Make-up deposit [326] produced 0.10 kg, six fragments, derived from cattle, sheep/goat and pig including two epiphyses.

4. Interpretation

This tiny but well-preserved assemblage includes waste probably derived from two sources; both of these components of the assemblage have potential for further analysis and interpretation with respect to full stratigraphic data and feature descriptions, would allow additional comment.

1. Contexts [326], [327], [329], [335], [336] and [338] derived from butchery and post-consumption waste associated with consumption of good quality beef and mutton with considerable evidence for consumption of lamb and pork, and occasional evidence for consumption of fish, poultry and rabbit, mainly from ditch fill [329] with one fragment of chicken from external metalling [336]. Although there are clear butchery marks, there is no evidence for working of bone or horn.

2. To a more limited extent, there was also some evidence for disposal of carcasses of non-consumed domesticates; horse from external metalling [336]; dog from ditch fill [329] and make-up [338]; and cat from external metalling [336].
There was no tool mark evidence from these species.

5. 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 XTE12 [326], [327], [329], [335], [336] and [338]/summary