

A.1 Animal Bones

Lee G. Broderick

A total of 35 animal bones were recovered from the site, mostly associated with contexts dated to the seventeenth century (Table 1). All of the material was hand-collected.

The specimens were in moderate condition and belonged mostly to caprines (sheep – *Ovis aries* and goats – *Capra hircus*) (27.1% of NISP), followed by domestic cattle (*Bos taurus taurus*) (12.5% of NISP). It was possible to identify one of the caprine specimens (a mandible) as being specifically a sheep. Unfortunately, this was among the material recovered from undated deposits but the animal was between 2 and 5 months old at death (Greenfield & Arnold, 2008). Also from a young animal, the domestic cattle metatarsal from context (2) was unfused distally and so came from an animal under 20 months of age at death (Silver, 1969).

Ten of the specimens (17.9% of NSP) showed some evidence of butchery. Although four of these were cut marks there was also evidence of more heavy butchery, associated with more industrial processes – a caprine radius from context (3) was chopped through at the distal end and an undated cattle femur and four large mammal vertebrae were sawn through axially, suggesting that the carcass had been divided in two at the abattoir. Three of the specimens had also been gnawed by scavengers or pets – two by a dog (one from context (17) and one from context (2), dated AD1600-1675, and one by a cat (also from context (2)).

The most interesting deposit was context (3), the most recent of all the deposits, dated to AD1650-1700. In addition to the cattle and sheep found throughout the assemblage, this pit fill also contained single specimens of juvenile domestic fowl (most likely *Gallus gallus*, but there is a small possibility that the specimen is in fact from a guinea fowl [*Numida* sp.] or pheasant [*Phasianus colchicus*]), a woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*), a pigeon (*Columba* sp.) and a turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo* although, similarly to the domestic fowl specimen, the possibility that the specimen in fact comes from a peafowl [*Pavo cristatus*] must be acknowledged). Both the domestic fowl and the pigeon specimens were tarsometatarsi from juvenile individuals, perhaps suggesting that they were bred specifically for the table. The most significant of these finds though is undoubtedly the turkey bone, a tibiotarsus.

Corpus Christi becomes just the 55th site in Britain on which a specimen of this bird has been found. As might be expected of a bird introduced to the British Isles from the New World in the 16th century AD, many of these sites are high status and are often near major ports (Fothergill, 2014). Of particular relevance to this discussion, one of the other 55 sites is also in Oxford and also dated to the seventeenth century AD (Wilson, 1984). This find thus gives further support for the period at which this novelty became available in Oxford and, more widely, in the country, and, in combination with the other bird bones recovered, suggests that the diners in seventeenth century Corpus Christi were quite wealthy. It may or may not be coincidence that all of the bird bones recovered were leg bones – the turkey bone, in particular, representing what today would be associated with a ‘turkey drumstick’.

The domestic cattle metacarpal from context (3) exhibited a lesion on the proximal articular surface consistent with osteochondrosis, which has been linked to more rapid growth and, thus, to the ‘improvements’ made to cattle in the Early Modern period (Sewell, 2010).

Although no further information can be gained from such a small sample of bones it is highly recommended that if further excavations take place on the site, the bones should be

included in the full excavation report. Studies of Post-Medieval animal bones are poorly published at present (Broderick, 2014) despite the fact that significant changes in livestock, human –animal relations and husbandry practices all occurred at this time. The turkey bone identified here is a useful indicator of at least one of those changes.

Bibliography

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Table 1: Total NISP and NSP figures per period from the site.

				AD 1480-1550	AD 1580-1650	AD 1600-1675	AD 1650-1700	Undated
Mammalia			small mammals*			1		
Mammalia			medium mammals*				6	
Mammalia			large mammals*	2	1	3	11	
Mammalia	Lagomorpha	Leporidae	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>			1		
Mammalia	Artiodactyla	Bovidae	<i>Bos taurus taurus</i>		2	1	1	2
Mammalia	Artiodactyla	Bovidae	<i>Ovis aries/Capra hircus</i>			6	6	
Mammalia	Artiodactyla	Bovidae	<i>Ovis aries</i>					1
Total Mammal				2	3	12	24	3
Aves								
Aves	Galliformes	Numididae/Phasianidae	<i>Gallus sp./Numida sp./Phasianus sp.</i>				1	
Aves	Galliformes	Phasianidae	cf. <i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>				1	
Aves	Columbiformes	Columbidae	cf. <i>Columba sp.</i>				1	
Aves	Charadriiformes	Scolopacidae	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>				1	
Total Birds				0	0	0	4	0
Total NISP				2	3	12	28	3
Total NSP				2	3	12	36	3