

**HAND-COLLECTED ANIMAL BONE FROM C257 CROSSRAIL CENTRAL –  
BROADGATE TICKET HALL – PIT 4 EXCAVATION, LONDON EC2, CITY OF  
LONDON (XSM10)**

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# HAND-COLLECTED ANIMAL BONE FROM C257 CROSSRAIL CENTRAL – BROADGATE TICKET HALL – PIT 4 EXCAVATION, LONDON EC2, CITY OF LONDON (XSM10)

## 1. Introduction and methodology

This report quantifies, identifies and interprets the animal bone recovered from hand-collected context groups [732] and [733] including worked bone artefacts; accession numbers <246> - <271> at XSM10 pit 4. All recovered animal bones were washed, air-dried and then bagged and labelled as context groups. An un-worked fragment of human bone was 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, body side and skeletal element were determined using the MOLA animal bone reference collection together with Schmid 1972. The complete assemblage was recorded onto an Excel table (Table 1), in terms of species, accession number, skeletal element, body side, age, fragment count and modification, for future reference and analysis with respect to available stratigraphic data.

*Table 1: Hand-collected animal bone from XSM10 (pit 4 excavation)/catalogue*

## 2. The bone assemblage (Table 1)

A total of 27 fragments of well-preserved human and animal bone were recorded from hand-collected contexts [732] and [733]. Minimum fragment size generally lay in the 25-75 mm range with most bone in very good surface condition and all tool marks easily visible.

The identifiable faunal assemblage included a fragment of human infant fibula (shin) from [732] and 26 fragments of worked bone from contexts [732] and [733].

Context [732] included 14 fragments of worked bone derived from two sawn fragments of elephant tusk base <246> and <247>; and 12 sawn fragments of cattle *Bos taurus* metapodial (foot) mid-shaft, mainly of metatarsal (hind-foot) with single fragments of metacarpal (fore-foot) from <250> and <252>.

Context [733] included 12 fragments of worked bone derived from a sawn fragment of elephant tusk base <248> and 11 sawn fragments of cattle *Bos taurus* metapodial (foot) mid-shaft, probably all of metatarsal (hind-foot) <249> - <271>.

There was no recovery of any other species.

Tool mark evidence from the elephant ivory suggests that they are waste pieces or off-cuts from preparation of strips and blocks from the basal end of tusks.

In general, tool mark evidence from the cattle metapodial mid-shafts indicates sawing and accurate lathe-turning with relatively minor use of knives to reduce the wall thickness g, butchery and consumption.

There was no evidence for canine or rodent gnawing, burning or pathological change.

## 3. Interpretation

This small but very well-preserved assemblage includes waste from two sources; a human bone fragment from [732] and a group of 26 fragments of worked bone from [732] and [733]; accession numbers <246> - <271>. The elephant ivory and cattle metapodials probably represent waste-pieces/off-cuts and damaged discards from skilled working of ivory and bone; they have definite potential for further analysis and

interpretation. All worked bone has been transferred to the appropriate finds specialist, together with the p drive locations for this report and Table 1. No further faunal interpretation is required.

## **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 XSM10 (pit 4 excavation)/catalogue*