

**HAND-COLLECTED WORKED ANIMAL BONE FROM C257 CROSSRAIL
CENTRAL – BROADGATE TICKET HALL UTILITIES CORRIDOR NORTHERN
PILE LINE WATCHING BRIEF [888], [899], [900] AND [912] <290 - <307>,
LONDON EC2, CITY OF LONDON (XSM10)**

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HAND-COLLECTED WORKED ANIMAL BONE FROM C257 CROSSRAIL CENTRAL – BROADGATE TICKET HALL UTILITIES CORRIDOR NORTHERN PILE LINE WATCHING BRIEF [888], [899], [900] AND [912] <290 - <307>, LONDON EC2, CITY OF LONDON (XSM10)

1. Introduction and methodology

This report quantifies, identifies and interprets the worked animal bone recovered from hand-collected context groups [888], [899], [900] and [912] accession numbers <290> - <307>. 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 <290> - <307>/catalogue

2. The bone assemblage (Table 1)

A total of 43 fragments of well-preserved worked animal bone were recorded from hand-collected contexts [888], [899], [900] and [912]. Maximum fragment size generally lay in the 25-75 mm range with most bone in very good surface condition and all tool marks easily visible.

Context [888] included 28 fragments of worked bone; accession numbers <299>, <300>, <304>, <305>, <306>, <307>, all derived from sawn cattle *Bos taurus* metatarsal (hind-foot) proximal ends and mid-shaft fragments.

Context [899] included five fragments of sawn animal bone; a sawn and shaved fragment of unidentifiable 'cattle-sized' long bone mid-shaft <291>; sawn fragments of elephant Elephantidae ivory <290>, <292>, <297>; and a sawn mid-shaft of cattle metatarsal <293>.

Context [900] included three fragments of sawn animal bone; cattle metatarsal <294>, <296>; and elephant ivory <295>.

Context [912] included seven fragments of sawn animal bone; cattle metatarsal <298>, <301>, <302> (four fragments); and elephant ivory <303>.

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

In general, tool mark evidence from the cattle metatarsal mid-shafts indicates transverse sawing of sections of mid-shaft with subsequent accurate lathe-turning with relatively minor use of knives to reduce the wall thickness.

There was no evidence for butchery, burning, pathological change or gnawing by canines or rodents.

There was no recovery of any other species.

3. Interpretation

This small but very well-preserved assemblage includes bone-working waste from two sources; elephant ivory and cattle metatarsals, probably representing waste-pieces/off-cuts and damaged discards from skilled working of ivory and bone; they have definite potential for further study and interpretation by a finds analyst. No further faunal interpretation is required.

4. Bibliography

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

5. Table

Table 1: Hand-collected animal bone from XSM10 <290> - <307>/catalogue