HAND-COLLECTED AND WET-SIEVED ANIMAL BONE FROM C257 CROSSRAIL PIT 11 [978], [979] AND [979] {31}, LONDON EC2, CITY OF LONDON (XSM10)

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1. Introduction and methodology

This report quantifies, identifies and interprets the animal bone recovered from hand-collected contexts [978] and [979]; and from wet-sieved sample [979] {31}. 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 the MOLA animal bone post-assessment database and is shown as an Excel table (Table 1), in terms of species, skeletal element, body side, age, fragment count and modification, for future reference and analysis with respect to available stratigraphic data. Fragments too severely fragmented for definite identification were assigned to the approximate categories 'unidentified bird', 'cattle-sized' or 'sheep-sized' as appropriate.

Table 1: Hand-collected and wet-sieved animal bone from XSM10 pit 11/catalogue

2. The bone assemblage (Table 1)

A total of 32 fragments of well-preserved animal bone were recorded from hand-collected and wet-sieved contexts. Hand-collected contexts [978] and [979] produced 18 fragments; wet-sieved sample [979] {31} produced 15 fragments. Maximum fragment size generally exceeded 75 mm, with most bone in very good surface condition and all tool marks easily visible.

Context [978] produced only two bones; an atlas vertebra of adult horse *Equus caballus* and a worn mandibular (lower jaw) canine tooth of an adult female pig *Sus scrofa*. There was no evidence for modification.

Context [979] produced 15 fragments; derived mainly from cattle *Bos taurus* with fewer fragments of the other major domesticates; sheep/goat (including sheep *Ovis aries*) and pig *Sus scrofa*. Cattle produced rib fragments with single fragments of juvenile horn core, premaxilla (skull), scapula (shoulder blade) and foetal or neonate (newborn) calf radius (lower fore-leg). Sheep/goat produced a fragment of adult male innominate (pelvis) and an adult sheep *Ovis aries* metatarsal (hind-foot). Pig *Sus scrofa* produced single fragments of skull, juvenile radius (lower fore-leg) and chopped adult innominate (pelvis).
Poultry were represented only by a single complete, butchered femur (thigh bone) of adult chicken *Gallus gallus*. Game species were represented by a single complete, butchered, radius (lower fore-leg) of adult roe deer *Capreolus capreolus*.
Wet-sieved sample [979] {31} produced 15 fragments of animal bone derived almost entirely from the major domesticates; cattle, sheep/goat and pig. In addition to small numbers of 'cattle-sized' and 'sheep-sized' rib and long bone fragments, the sample included single examples of adult cattle innominate (pelvis), 'sheep-sized' vertebra and pig mandibular (lower jaw) tooth. A fragment of 'sheep-sized' long bone had been calcined white indicating a combustion temperature of at least degrees Celsius (Lyman 1994, 386).
Although clear evidence of butchery was noted on chicken, cattle, sheep/goat, pig and roe deer, there was no indication of working, pathological change or gnawing by canines or rodents.

3. Interpretation

This small but very well-preserved assemblage derives mainly from primary processing and post-consumption waste associated mainly with consumption of beef and, to a lesser extent, veal, mutton and pork, with some evidence for poultry (chicken) and game (roe deer). In addition, a single vertebra of adult horse suggests some disposal of non-consumed domesticates. Further analysis of the assemblage will allow very limited comment on local meat diet in terms of selection of species, carcase-part and age-group.
The complete absence of small wild vertebrates prevents any interpretation of local ecology or conditions.

4. Bibliography

Lyman, R L, 1994 *Vertebrate taphonomy*
Cambridge University Press

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

5. Table

Table 1: Hand-collected and wet-sieved animal bone from XSM10 pit 11/catalogue