MAMMAL REMAINS FROM THE SCARBOROUGH FUTURIST THEATRE

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

A small assemblage of animal remains was recovered from excavations at the Scarborough Futurist Theatre both by hand and during sampling. These included both mammal and fish remains. This report describes the mammal remains, the fish remains are being reported one separately.

2.0 METHODS

The faunal remains were identified using published reference guides and the reference collection held at NAA. They were recorded using a diagnostic zone protocol, according to Bertini Vacca (2012) in a Microsoft Access database. Tooth wear was recorded according to Grant (1982) for cattle and pigs and Payne (1973) for sheep/goat.

3.0 RESULTS

There were 26 hand-collected (Table 1) countable specimens and three from sample (Table 2) across 13 contexts. Most of the assemblage displayed a medium or good level of surface preservation.

Sheep/goat was the most common species, followed by cattle and pig. Equid and canid remains were also present in small numbers. Ribs and vertebrae were not included in the overall count, but both large (cattle/equid sized) and medium (sheep/pig/dog sized) mammals were present across a number of contexts. For sheep/goat and cattle, elements are present from both the fore and hind-limb, but the sample is too small make more comments on body-part representation.

The majority of the remains (NISP 15 hand collected + 2 from sample) were recovered from pits thought to be probably Medieval in date (Tables 3 and 4), and a small number were from possible Post-Medieval contexts relating to a garden feature (NISP 3), the remainder of the remains were from unstratified rubble contexts. This included the context with the largest number of recorded specimens, context **526**.

The majority of bones recovered had fully fused epiphyses, where this information was available, indicating that most animals represented were mature. Just one cattle distal radius (context **526** - unstrat) and one sheep/goat proximal phalange (context **521**) were unfused.

Two mandibles with teeth were present; one cattle and one sheep/goat (Table 3). The cattle mandible (context **203**) contained its deciduous second, third and fourth premolars, and its first molar was not yet in wear, indicating that it belonged to a juvenile animal (using O'Connor 1988). The sheep/goat jaw (context **501**) was from a more mature animal, with its permanent teeth present and the wear on its fourth premolar and first molar indicating an animal between 2 and 4 years old (Payne's 1973 categories E or F).

Four specimens displayed butchery marks indicating that at least some of the recovred remains represent food waste. A sheep/goat tibia shaft (**context 404**) and a cattle distal radius (context **526**) both had chops marks, and a sheep/goat proximal humerus and a portion of tibia shaft were both sawn (both also from context **524**). Context **526** (unstrat) also contained three more specimens with chop marks.

4.0 DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The species represented are those most usually found across Britain during the Medieval and Post-Medieval periods. The butchery evidence suggests that at least some the remains represent food waste.

The assemblage is small and does not warrant further study unless more work is planned which will increase the sample size. As a result the material can be discarded, with perhaps some of the butchered remains of use for a handling collection.

5.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Payne, S., 1973. Kill-off patterns in sheep and goats: the mandibles from Asvan Kale. Anatolian Studies 23, 281–303.

6.0 TABLES

Table 1: Number of Identified Specimens (NISP) for each species, according to context in the hand-collected assemblage

TAXA	Cattle	Sheep	Sheep/Goat	Pig	Equid	Dog/Fox	Medium mammal	Total
Context	*Bos taurus*	*Ovis aries*	*Ovis/Capra*	*Sus domesticus*	*Equus sp.*	*Canis/vulpes*		
201			1					**1**
203	1							**1**
205			1					**1**
400					1			**1**
404		1	3					**4**
501	1		1	1				**3**
507							1	**1**
513	1							**1**
521			1			1		**2**
522			1					**1**
524	1							**1**
526	2		2	2	1			**7**
550			2					**2**
Total	**6**	**1**	**12**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**26**

Table 2: NISPs for each species by context from sample

TAXA	Sheep/Goat	Pig	Total
Context	*Ovis/Capra*	*Sus domesticus*	
501	1		**1**
521	1	1	**2**
Total	**2**	**1**	**3**

Table 3: Context descriptions and broad phasing for contexts with animal bone

Context	Context description	Broad phasing
201	Pit fill	?Medieval
203	Pit fill	?Medieval
205	Base fill of pit truncated by victorian foundations	?Medieval
400	Demolition rubble	unstrat
404	Pit fill	?Medieval
501	Pit fill	?Medieval
507	Pit fill	?Medieval
513	Manhole for victorian drain	?Medieval
521	Pit fill	?Medieval
522	Pit fill	?Medieval
524	Fill of garden feature	?Post-Med
526	Rubble layer	unstrat
550	Vertical flagstones (garden feature?)	?Post-Med

Table 4: NISPs for the handcollected remains by species and broad phase

TAXA	Unstrat	?Medieval	?Post-Medieval	Total
Cattle	2	3	1	**6**
Sheep	0	1	0	**1**
Sheep/goat	2	8	2	**12**
Pig	2	1	0	**3**
Equid	2	0	0	**2**
Dog/fox	0	1	0	**1**
Medium mammal	0	1	0	**1**
Total	**8**	**15**	**3**	**26**