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**Evaluation of the vertebrate remains from Crossgates Farm,
Seamer, North Yorkshire (site code: CG96)**

by

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Summary

The animal bones from a single ditch fill of Roman date were submitted for an evaluation of their potential.

The bones formed too small an assemblage for useful interpretation, and, further excavation is unlikely to yield an adequate quantity of bone for analysis.

Keywords: CROSSGATES FARM; SEAMER; NORTH YORKSHIRE; EVALUATION; VERTEBRATE REMAINS

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Introduction

Excavations were undertaken at Crossgates Farm, Seamer, North Yorkshire in October 1996 by MAP Archaeological Consultancy. The site included a rectangular enclosure, about 45 m in length, bounded by a ditch 3 m wide and 1.5 m deep. Although ten ditches were excavated, the fill of only one (Context 1068, dated to the Roman period) yielded any bone. One box (26 x 26 x 25 cm) of bone was submitted for an evaluation of its potential.

Methods

All the hand-collected bone was examined; subjective records were made of preservation, angularity (i.e. the nature of the broken surfaces) and colour, whilst quantities and identifications were noted where appropriate. All fragments not identified to species or species group were recorded as 'unidentified'. These included skull, vertebra, rib and shaft fragments and other elements where species identification was unclear.

Results

A small assemblage of hand-collected bone was recovered from Context 1068, amounting to 25 identifiable (1410 g) and 121 unidentifiable (925 g) fragments.

The preservation of the material was fair, but the broken surfaces were rather battered in appearance. Colour was consistently fawn. Fresh breakage was evident on 10-20 % of the fragments and 0-10 % were burnt.

Evidence of butchery was noted on a few fragments.

Cattle, caprovid and pig remains were identified. The unidentified fraction consisted mainly of large mammal vertebra, rib and cranium fragments. Table 1 shows the total number of fragments, together with numbers of measurable bones and numbers of mandibles with teeth *in situ*.

Statement of potential

The quantity of bone recovered was very small in comparison to the volume of the excavated deposits, which suggests that further work will not yield a large enough assemblage to warrant further analysis.

Recommendations

The vertebrate assemblage is of little interpretative value and no further analysis is recommended.

Archive

The material is currently stored at the Environmental Archaeology Unit, University of York, along with the paper and electronic records pertaining to the work described here.

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Table 1. Hand-collected vertebrate remains from Crossgates Farm, Seamer.

Taxon		No. fragments	No. measurable	No. mandibles	Weight (g)
<i>Bos f. domestic</i>	cattle	16	3	1	1346.4
Caprovid	sheep/goat	8	1	1	50.5
<i>Sus f. domestic</i>	pig	1	-	-	13.2
Sub-total		25	4	2	1410.1
Unidentified		121	-	-	924.6
Sub-total		121	-	-	924.6
Total		136	4	2	2334.7