

**Notes on the vertebrate remains from Scarborough castle, North Yorkshire
(site code OSA:99:EV04)**

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Introduction

An excavation was undertaken by On-Site Archaeology within the inner bailey of Scarborough Castle during April/May 1999. Buildings were discovered which were thought to be a brew/cook house of civil war date, these were left intact. In addition, a sondage was dug through a medieval dump which yielded the vertebrate remains discussed here. Context 1012 is of medieval date whilst the other three contexts (1000, 1001, 1004) are all 19th century in date.

Results

Vertebrate material from four contexts was presented for examination. A total of 30 fragments (weighing 452.7 g) were recovered, of which eight were identified to species. Overall preservation was fair and colour was described as fawn. Angularity (appearance of broken surfaces) was described as variable, with most fragments recorded as spiky and a few as rounded. A small quantity (less than 10%) of fragments showed butchery and fresh breakage. No dog gnawing or burning were evident.

Context 1000

1 horse upper cheektooth
1 pig lower 2nd molar
1 caprovid pelvis
5 unidentified large mammal fragments
3 unidentified medium-sized mammal fragments
Weight = 173.6 g

Context 1001

1 cow scapula
1 caprovid femur
1 caprovid humerus
1 unidentified large mammal fragment
1 unidentified medium-sized mammal fragment
Weight = 143.9 g

Context 1004

1 medium-sized mammal rib
Weight = 2.1 g

Context 1012

1 pig tibia
1 ?cod (cf. *Gadus morhua* L.) quadrate
2 fish fragments
4 unidentified large mammal fragments
5 unidentified large mammal fragments
Weight = 133.1 g

Discussion and statement of potential

The vertebrate remains recovered from Scarborough Castle amounted to a very small assemblage, with few fragments of use in further analysis. Hence, the material has no potential for further work. Very few bone assemblages from castles have been studied or published, therefore if further excavation were to take place and a larger vertebrate assemblage recovered, the material would potentially be of use in studying sites of this type.