Evaluation of vertebrate remains from excavations at Davygate, York (site code: 1996.85)

by

Michael Issitt and Frances Large

Summary

A single box of animal bone, containing material from four contexts, was submitted for evaluation. Most of the material consisted of unidentifiable fragments, and the remaining, very small, assemblage was uninterpretable.

It is not recommended that any further work is done on this material but if larger quantities of bones are exposed by further excavation then every effort should be made to recover and investigate them.

Keywords: Davygate, York, Evaluation, Medieval; Vertebrate Remains

Authors' address:

Environmental Archaeology Unit
University of York
Heslington
York
YO1 5DD

Telephone: (01904) 433843/51
Fax: (01904) 433850

Prepared for:

York Archaeological Trust
Piccadilly House
55 Piccadilly
York
YO1 1PL

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(site code: 1996.85)

Introduction

Excavations were carried out by York Archaeological Trust at Davygate, York during 1996. One standard-sized box (31 x 31 x 22 cm) of hand-collected animal bone was recovered from deposits dating to the Medieval period.

Methods

All of the bone was examined, identifications made where possible, and records made of preservation and quantities.

Results

The very small collection of animal bones represented material from four separate contexts. A total of only 28 fragments was recovered, most of them not being identifiable even to genus (see Table 1). Preservation of the material was fair, with most of the material being fawn or brown in colour.

Statement of Potential

The very small size of the animal bone assemblage precludes any further detailed recording or interpretation.

Recommendations

If larger quantities of bone are exposed by further excavation every effort should be made for their recovery. Any destruction of these deposits should be accompanied by a systematic sampling strategy, with appropriate provision for a post-exca vat ion programme of assessment and detailed analysis.

Retention and disposal

The hand-collected bone assemblage should be retained for the present.

Archive

The vertebrate remains are currently stored in the Environmental Archaeology Unit, University of York, along with paper and electronic records pertaining to the work described here.

Acknowledgements

The authors are grateful to Dave Evans of York Archaeological Trust for providing the material and archaeological information.
Table 1. Archive of the animal bone from Darrogate, York

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context number</th>
<th>Context type</th>
<th>No. Fragments</th>
<th>Taxon</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>build-up deposit</td>
<td>1</td>
<td><em>Sus</em></td>
<td>left side of pelvis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>backfill</td>
<td>1</td>
<td><em>Sus</em></td>
<td>left lower mandible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Unidentified</td>
<td>cow-sized and pig-sized fragments of rib and shaft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>levelling deposit</td>
<td>1</td>
<td><em>Sus</em></td>
<td>left ulna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Unidentified</td>
<td>fragment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>build-up deposit</td>
<td>1</td>
<td><em>Bov.</em></td>
<td>right lower mandible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td><em>Equus</em></td>
<td>atlas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td><em>Capra</em></td>
<td>right horn core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td><em>Sus</em></td>
<td>right ulna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Unidentified</td>
<td>cow-sized (mostly fragments of shaft and a few rib fragments)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>