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

by

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**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

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## **Evaluation of vertebrate remains from excavations at Davygate, York (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-excavation 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.

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Table 1. Archive of the animal bone from Davygate, York

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