

**Notes on the vertebrate remains from The Cockpit, Richmond Castle, Richmond,
North Yorkshire (site code CRC01)**

by

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Introduction

A watching brief was undertaken by Northern Archaeological Associates during landscaping of an area within Richmond Castle, known as the Cockpit (NGR NZ 1715 0070). Earlier evaluation excavation had identified a series of garden features of post-medieval and early modern date. Artefactual remains from the watching brief indicated that most of the deposits were of 18th to 20th century date. The features uncovered appeared to relate to or be continuations of garden walls and paths recorded during the evaluation excavation in 2000. A single deposit, Context 2, may be of medieval date.

Several bags of vertebrate remains (totalling 411 g) representing five contexts were submitted for evaluation of their bioarchaeological potential.

Methods

The vertebrate remains were recorded using the protocol outlined in Dobney *et al* (1999). Where possible, fragments were identified to species or species group, using the reference collection at the Environmental Archaeology Unit, University of York. Fragments not identifiable to species were grouped into categories: large mammal (assumed to be cattle, horse or large cervid) and medium-sized mammal (assumed to be caprovid, pig or small cervid). Notes were made of preservation, angularity (i.e. the nature of the broken surfaces) and colour. The total weight of bone was recorded for each context. Measurements were not taken because of the modern or uncertain date of the deposits.

Results

Most of the vertebrate remains were moderately well preserved and fawn in colour. Material from Context 1 was more varied in colour, whilst bones from Contexts 7 and 12 were rather battered in appearance. Dog gnawing was only noted on a few fragments, whilst fresh breakage damage was quite extensive.

This small assemblage amounted to only 28 fragments, most of which were of early modern date. Only two fragments were recovered from medieval deposit, Context 2. A typical range of domesticates was present and included the remains of cattle, caprovids and pig. A single dog radius was also identified. More detailed records of bones from individual contexts can be found in the appendix.

Discussion and statement of potential

Although mainly well preserved, this small assemblage is mostly of modern origin, and is therefore of little interpretative value. No further work is warranted on this material.

Retention and disposal

The vertebrate assemblage may be discarded.

Reference

Dobney, K. M., Jaques, S. D. and Johnstone, C. J. (1999). Protocol for recording vertebrate remains from archaeological sites. *Reports from the environmental Archaeology Unit, York* **99/15**.

Table 1. Hand-collected vertebrate remains from Friary Gardens, Richmond, North Yorkshire.

Species		Total fragments
<i>Canis</i> f. domestic	dog	1
<i>Sus</i> f. domestic	pig	2
<i>Bos</i> f. domestic	cow	1
Caprovid	sheep/goat	6
Unidentified		18
Total		28

Appendix 1

The Cockpit, Richmond Castle

Context 1

Preservation: good
Angularity: spiky
Colour: variable – fawn; brown; dark brown
Dog gnawing: None

Most fragments between 5-20 cm in dimension

Caprovid: 2 radii fragments and 1 distal tibia
Unidentified: 12 fragments, including medium-sized mammal shaft and vertebra fragments, also large mammal rib, mandible and tooth root fragments.

A number of medium-sized mammal fragments sawn and chopped across shaft.

Identified weight: 62.9g
Unidentified weight: 143.5g

Context 2

Preservation: good
Angularity: spiky
Colour: fawn

Caprovid: 1 scapula (measurable), and 1 mandible fragment (no teeth).

Fresh breakage noted.

Identified weight: 35.7g

Context 7

Preservation: fair
Angularity: battered
Colour: fawn

Pig: 2 metapodial fragments
Unidentified: Large mammal shaft and pelvis fragments, 1 juvenile bird shaft fragment.

Fresh breakage noted.

Identified weight: 10.8g
Unidentified weight: 69.9g

Context 12

Preservation: fair
Angularity: battered
Colour: brown

Cattle: 1 calcaneum
Unidentified: 1 large mammal vertebra, split longitudinally.

Identified weight: 43.3g
Unidentified weight: 28.8g

Context 14

Preservation: good
Angularity: spiky
Colour: fawn

Caprovid: 1 ulna, dog gnawed.
Dog: 1 radius fragment, representing small to medium-sized dog.

Identified weight: 13.5g