

Reports from the Environmental Archaeology Unit, York 98/5, 5 pp.

**Assessment of vertebrate remains from excavations at West Street,
Gargrave (site code: WS97)**

by

Keith Dobney

Summary

Three large plastic bags of animal bones from deposits revealed by excavations at West Street, Gargrave, were submitted for an assessment of their potential for further analysis.

A small and variably preserved assemblage of animal bones, representing the medieval, post-medieval and modern periods, was present. No further work on the remains is recommended.

Keywords: WEST STREET; GARGRAVE; NORTH YORKSHIRE; ASSESSMENT; MEDIEVAL; POST-MEDIEVAL; VERTEBRATE REMAINS.

Author's address:

Environmental Archaeology Unit
University of York
Heslington
York YO1 5DD

Telephone: (01904) 434474/433844
Answerphone: 433846
Fax: 433850

Prepared for:

MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd
39 Greengate
Malton
N. Yorkshire
YO17 0EL

10 February 1998

Assessment of vertebrate remains from excavations at West Street, Gargrave (site code: WS97)

Introduction

Excavations were undertaken at West Street, Gargrave during May 1997 by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. Deposits from three trenches produced a very small assemblage of vertebrate remains, amounting to approximately 20 litres of bone. The pottery assemblage indicates that the material can be dated to the medieval, post-medieval and early modern periods. Of the 30 bone bearing contexts, deposits from 13 were either only dated to broad periods (i.e medieval or post-medieval), or produced no dating information at all. Deposits from the remaining 17 well-dated contexts produced material of 12th/13th (a total of five contexts), 13th/14th (two contexts), 15th (three contexts), 17th/18th (four contexts), 19th (two contexts) and 20th (one context) century date.

This report assesses the potential of the extant vertebrate assemblage.

Methods

Material from all well dated bone-bearing contexts was recorded.

Notes were made for each context regarding the state of preservation, colour, and the appearance of broken surfaces ('angularity'), whilst quantities and identifications of bone were noted where appropriate.

Results

The range of identified species recovered from the excavation is shown in Tables 1-5. The small size of the assemblage precludes detailed analysis of species quantification.

Overall, preservation, colour and angularity were recorded as 'variable' and dog gnawing was noted on many of the large mammal remains. This may suggest a significant component of reworked or redeposited material present in the assemblage.

Statement of potential

The small size of the recovered bone assemblage and the limited number of bones which can be used to obtain age-at-death and biometrical information preclude any further detailed recording and interpretation of the extant assemblage.

Recommendations

No further work on the recovered material is recommended.

Retention and disposal

The bones from well dated deposits should

be retained.

Archive

All 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 author is grateful to MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd for providing the material and archaeological information and to English Heritage for supporting technical assistance.

Table 1. Vertebrate remains from 12th/13th century deposits, West Street, Gargrave. (Key: Frags-number of fragments, Meas-measurable, Mand-mandibles with teeth, Iso-isolated teeth).

Species		Frag s	Meas	Mand	Iso
<i>Canis</i> f. domestic	dog	1		1	-
<i>Equus</i> f. domestic	horse	2	1	-	-
<i>Capreolus capreolus</i> (L.)	roe deer	1	1	-	-
<i>Sus</i> f. domestic	pig	*	*	*	*
<i>Bos</i> f. domestic	cow	12	2	-	-
Caprovid	sheep/goat	3	-	-	-

*Complete juvenile pig skeleton

Table 2. Vertebrate remains from 13th/14th century deposits, West Street, Gargrave. (Key: Frags-number of fragments, Meas-measurable, Mand-mandibles with teeth, Iso-isolated teeth).

Species		Frag	Meas	Mand	Iso
<i>Bos f. domestic</i>	cow	2	1	-	-
Caprovid	sheep/goat	1	-	-	-

Table 3. Vertebrate remains from 15th century deposits, West Street, Gargrave. (Key: Frags-number of fragments, Meas-measurable, Mand-mandibles with teeth, Iso-isolated teeth).

Species		Frag	Meas	Mand	Iso
<i>Canis f. domestic</i>	dog	2	1	-	-
<i>Bos f. domestic</i>	cow	6	-	-	4
Caprovid	sheep/goat	1	-	-	-

Table 4. Vertebrate remains from 17th/18th century deposits, West Street, Gargrave. (Key: Frags-number of fragments, Meas-measurable, Mand-mandibles with teeth, Iso-isolated teeth).

Species		Frag	Meas	Mand	Iso
<i>Felis f. domestic</i>	cat	1	-	-	-
<i>Canis f. domestic</i>	dog	6	1	-	1
<i>Equus f. domestic</i>	horse	4	-	-	-
<i>Sus f. domestic</i>	pig	1	-	-	-
<i>Bos f. domestic</i>	cow	3	1	-	-
Caprovid	sheep/goat	2	-	-	-

Table 5. Vertebrate remains from 19th century deposits, West Street, Gargrave. (Key:

Frag-number of fragments, *Meas*-measurable, *Mand*-mandibles with teeth, *Iso*-isolated teeth).

Species	Frag	Meas	Mand	Iso
<i>Bos</i> f. domestic cow	16	1	-	-