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To Frances Pritchard, Finds Section, D.U.A.

From: Philip L. Armitage, Archaeological Scientist to D.U.A.

IDENTIFICATIONS OF MAMMALIAN BONE FROM ROMAN LEVELS, ST. BARTHOLOMEWS HOSPITAL SITE (BAR 79), CITY OF LONDON

For convenience, I have grouped the bone according to the three categories of deposit: 1. Cemetery soil; 2. Fills to graves; 3. Pits.

Unless otherwise stated, all animal and human bone is adult.

Identifications: 1. Human - Barbara West; 2. Animal - Philip L. Armitage

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GROUP 1. CEMETERY SOIL

Context 177      Animal bone:-

Domestic ox	1 distal end of metacarpal bone 1 humerus, fragment of shaft 2 humerus, distal end & part of shaft, both right. One specimen chopped & cracked open for marrow 1 humerus, fragment of proximal end, gnawed by dog 2 rib fragments, both chopped 1 upper molar tooth, fragment 1 phalanx 2 1 thoracic vertebra, fragment 1 atlas, fragment. Calf
Domestic sheep/ goat	1 metacarpal bone 1 tibia, shaft fragment. Lamb <sup>or</sup> /kid
Domestic pig	1 scapula, fragment of blade 1 humerus, shaft of sucking pig
Unidentified	22 bone fragments

Human bone:-

2 innominate bone, fragments  
6 scapula, fragments  
1 skull, fragment  
2 rib, fragment  
2 tarsal bone, complete  
1 metatarsal I, complete

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GROUP 2. FILLS TO GRAVES

Context 165      Animal bone:-

Domestic horse	1 metapodial bone, fragment of distal end
Domestic ox	1 upper molar tooth 1 calcaneum, complete
Unidentified	3 bone fragments

Human bone:-      no human bone

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Context 167      Animal bone:-

Domestic ox	1 radius, fragment 1 metatarsal bone, fragment of shaft 1 rib, fragment
Domestic sheep/ goat	1 metatarsal bone, fragment of shaft
Domestic sheep or pig	1 femur, small fragment of shaft 1 rib, fragment
Domestic pig	1 fibula, fragment 1 humerus, fragment of shaft of sucking pig
Unidentified	5 bone fragments

Human bone:-      no human bone

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Context 181      Animal bone:-

Domestic ox	1 phalanx 1, fragment
Unidentified	1 bone fragment

Human bone:-      1 fragment of zygomatic (skull)

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Context 182      Animal bone:-

Domestic ox	1 rib, fragment 1 humerus, shaft of young animal
Domestic sheep/ goat	1 tibia, fragment of shaft 1 rib, fragment
Unidentified	2 bone fragments

Human bone:-      1 humerus, shaft  
2 skull, fragments

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Context 184      Animal bone:-

Domestic pig      1 tibia, proximal epiphysis (unfused).  
Immature animal

Unidentified      1 bone fragment

Human bone:-      no human bone

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Context 185      Animal bone:-

Domestic ox      1 phalanx 1, complete. Chopped on posterior  
side just below proximal epiphysis  
1 phalanx 2, complete  
1 phalanx 2, complete. Proximal articular  
surface deformed (plough oxen ?)

Unidentified      1 bone fragment

Human bone:-      no human bone

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Context 272      Animal bone:-

Domestic horse      1 carpal bone, complete

Domestic ox      1 horn core, fragment

Domestic sheep/  
goat      1 horn core, fragment

Domestic pig      2 metacarpal bones (fore-foot) 1 complete,  
other broken

Unidentified      2 bone fragments

Human bone:-      1 phalanx 1 (pes)  
3 unidentified fragments of bone

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Context 275      Animal bone:-

Domestic ox      1 phalanx 1, complete

Domestic pig      1 upper molar tooth (2nd molar)

Unidentified      1 bone fragment

Human bone:-      4 sacrum, fragment of one juvenile  
1 phalanx 1 (pes)  
1 phalanx 3 (manus)  
6 unidentified bone fragments

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Context 342

Animal bone:-

Domestic horse 1 phalanx 2, complete, chopped across distal end --- possibly indicates removal of hoof (glue manufacture ??)

Domestic ox 1 rib, fragment  
1 axis, chopped  
1 thoracic vertebra, fragment

Domestic dog 1 metapodial bone

Unidentified 7 bone fragments

Human bone:-

1 metacarpal bone, distal epiphysis unfused  
1 phalanx 1 (manus) proximal epiphysis unfused  
1 rib, fragment  
1 ulna, shaft fragment

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Context 353

Animal bone:-

Domestic pig 1 canine tooth (lower tusk) probably from male animal. Shiny surface with green staining

Human bone:-

1 metatarsal I. Pathological, with additional facet articulating with metatarsal II

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Context 358

Animal bone:-

Domestic ox 1 rib, fragment

Unidentified 5 bone fragments

Human bone:-

2 rib, fragments  
1 zygomatic (skull) fragment  
1 rib, from foetus  
1 femur from foetus  
1 metatarsal bone  
1 phalanx 1 (pes)  
1 tarsal bone

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GROUP 3. PITS

Context 308

Animal bone:-

Domestic ox 1 metacarpal bone, prox. end & part of shaft, left  
1 scapula, fragment of blade  
1 phalanx 1, fragment

Domestic sheep/  
goat

1 tibia, fragment, proximal shaft  
1 upper molar tooth

Human bone:-

1 premolar tooth  
6 innominate fragments (one individual ?)  
1 phalanx 2 (manus)

Unidentified bone:-

16 bone fragments (human & animal combined)

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Context 309

Animal bone:-

Domestic ox	1 metacarpal bone, distal epiphysis & part of shaft 1 phalanx 1, fragment 1 phalanx 2, complete 1 metacarpal bone, proximal epiphysis & part of shaft 1 rib, fragment 1 lumbar vertebra, fragment
Domestic sheep/ goat	(p4) 1 deciduous premolar from lamb or kid 1 metacarpal bone, fragment of shaft
Domestic pig	1 metapodial bone, immature
Unidentified wild bird	1 tibia, fragment
Unidentified	9 bone fragments
<u>Human bone:-</u>	1 phalanx 1 (pes) 3 rib, fragments

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Context 352

Animal bone:-

Domestic horse	1 upper molar tooth, right 2nd premolar from animal aged approx. 2 years
Domestic ox	1 horn core, fragment. Flattened, common form seen in Iron age & Romano-British cattle 1 metacarpal bone, fragment of distal end 2 phalanx 1, one large & one smaller specimen 1 phalanx 2, complete 1 mandibular ramus, fragment of horizontal ramus 1 innominate bone, fragment, chopped many times 2 rib, fragments, one chopped 1 atlas, fragment 1 cervical vertebra, fragment 1 femur, fragment of shaft, right
Domestic pig	1 lower canine tooth, female or castrate?
Unidentified	12 bone fragments
<u>Human bone:-</u>	1 femur, distal & part shaft 1 rib, fragment 1 phalanx 1 (manus) 2 humerus, fragments, foetus 2 rib, fragments, foetus

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Animal bone:-

1 vertebra, fragment  
1 mandibular ramus, fragment of diastema  
1 scapula, fragment

1 metatarsal bone, fragment of shaft of  
lamb or kid

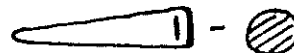
4 bone fragments

.7 skull, fragments of one foetus

Animal bone:-

1 tine from antler, sawn across near the base

1 rib, fragment  
1 fibula, fragment of shaft



1) Animal bone:

All the animal bone is in a very poor state of preservation, and much of it has been broken (in antiquity) into very small, abraded pieces - only the more robust bone elements (eg phalanx 1 of ox) have survived relatively intact. The collection represents discarded debris from household & slaughteryard and has the appearance of having been redeposited -- i.e. it has at one time been buried elsewhere in the City and subsequently dug up and dumped onto the site. An alternative explanation is that, for some of the contexts, the material accumulated in situ over a prolonged period during which it was fragmented and abraded by various activities taking place on the site (digging, ploughing etc.).

Represents redeposited material from disturbed burials nearby.