

Bone pins and needles from 16-22 Coppergate

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This report lists raw material identifications of 249 osseous artefacts described as pins and needles from the site at 16-22 Coppergate, York. Some raw material identifications have already been made for artefacts from this site. These are given in Ancient Monuments Laboratory Report no. 4264.

A large proportion of these artefacts, in particular the larger needles with transversely bored ends, were manufactured from pig fibulae. In most cases the distal half to two-thirds of the bone had been used, being sharpened at the proximal end and bored through the flattened triangular distal end. Many of these fibulae were clearly immature: of the remainder none was definitely adult. Of the pins and needles not made from pig fibulae, most had been cut from a single piece of compact mammalian bone. Identification of the source of this compact bone is, for most specimens, an educated guess, as few of the artefacts retained any identifying features of the original bone from which they were cut. However, given the likely availability of bones of different species, and the need for straight pieces of thick compacta, it seems likely that the majority were made from pieces of cattle tibia or metatarsal, particularly the latter. A third category

of artefacts is composed of pins and needles made from neither of these two materials.

In the list which follows, the finds number and context numbers of the artefacts are given, subdivided first by the typological groups into which the artefacts were sorted, and second by the raw materials of which they were made. Further information is provided in the case of specimens not made from pig fibulae or compact bone thought to be from cattle limb bones, or to note specimens of particular intrinsic interest.

In this list, the entry '-----' indicates that the context number was not given with the object, and 'U/S' indicates that the object was unstratified.

PERFORATED NEEDLES/PINS

FIND NO. CONTEXT NO.

Pig fibulae

44	2179
2328	5673
2505	5238
2802	3462
2803	3462
3862	14297
4014	15176
4049	7812
4415	11638
4595	14495
4712	14576
4930	U/S
4964	14435
5029	16870
5569	8760
6053	16612
6213	6835
6572	11963
6725	6774
6766	11973
6781	19310
6907	19320
7163	20810
7176	20819
7503	22268
7599	23080
7654	22233
7851	22560
7874	23749
7947	22679
8019	22815
8076	23828
8082	22806
8093	22590
8517	25341
8576	26019
9324	19625
9672	26996
9721	27413
9844	27296

10192	30000
10541	21903
10625	30157
10832	30000
11160	28819
12794	32289
13034	34424
13320	19739
13377	27852
13648	34389
13821	25598
14023	19739
14226	35483

compact bone

1546	5321	
4009	15131	
11469	31061	
11473	31061	
13040	29878	
13729	32573	small ungulate * probably sheep or pig

others

7582	22306	domestic fowl rib punctured transversely near articulation
8983	26171	compact antler, probably red deer
9622	25808	compact antler, probably red deer
9624	25808	compact antler, probably red deer

FINS ROUNDED AT TOP

FIND NO. CONTEXT NO.

pig fibulae

4149	-----
4864	2080
7562	22384
7574	22306
8845	26581
9692	21681
13468	36010

compact bone

7054	18417
14138	35560

others

9623	25808	compact antler, probably red deer
10213	21796	charred compact bone, attribution uncertain

PINS - RATHER NARROWER HEADS

FIND NO. CONTEXT NO.

pig fibulae

6910 19320

8808 21482

compact bone

12499 19644

others

13476 32708 compact antler (tine), probably red deer

NEEDLES/PINS WITH LARGE HEADS (EXPANDING)

FIND NO. CONTEXT NO.

pig fibulae

compact bone

1229	8253
11461	31061
11462	31061
11462	31061
11463	31061
11464	31061
11465	31061
11466	31061
11468	31061
11474	31061

others

SHAPED EXPANDED SHOULDERED HEADS

FIND NO. CONTEXT NO.

pig fibulae

2207	5589
1398	9277
1425	5231
2990	9224
3840	13147
4412	15530
6478	20131
7439	16734
12791	32289

compact bone

2229	1363
3830	7805
7659	22447

others

LARGER PINS

FIND NO. CONTEXT NO.

pig fibulae

6611	19188
10060	29100
10590	30039
13015	29844
14003	36256
13942	13095

compact bone

108	2307
1188	2445
10524	28432

others

SWELLING SHANKS

FIND NO. CONTEXT NO.

pig fibulae

461 1473

7449 22204 swelling appears to be a healed fracture callus,
not a deliberate modification

compact bone

6649 19825 probably sheep tibia

others

PERFORATED PINS/NEEDLES - DECORATED (HEADLESS)

FIND NO. CONTEXT NO.

pig fibulae

compact bone

4581	15744
467E	15313
9313	25630
12748	32189

others

8980	26419	compact antler (tine), probably red deer
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PINS WITH SPATULATE/EXPANDING HEADS (NOT PERFORATED)

FIND NO. CONTEXT NO.

pig fibulae

4096	13949
4406	14541
6149	6789
6225	16763
6359	14925
6444	20205
6627	20132
6630	20132
7750	22590
10275	27762
10999	22843
11948	25748
13830	32871
13981	29582
14190	36116

compact bone

3814	9797
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others

3878	14297	cattle or pig rib, split lengthways medullary surface has been rubbed smooth, and the cortex roughly cut to shape
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PARTICULARLY LONG PINS

FIND NO. CONTEXT NO.

Fig fibulae

compact bone

2958	5976
4051	15131

others

4126	15189	ossified costal cartilage of sheep - UNMODIFIED
9786	25860	compact antler (?tine), probably red deer unusually thick and highly polished

PINS WITH FLAT HEADS

FIND NO. CONTEXT NO.

pig fibulae

compact bone

2679	6198
8222	25149
8782	21472
10455	-----
13875	36268

others

PINS WITH POINTED OR ELONGATED HEADS

FIND NO. CONTEXT NO.

pig fibulae

compact bone

3174	U/S
4863	15410
9543	27199
9565	18991

others

PINS - ROUND HEADS

FIND NO. CONTEXT NO.

pig fibulae

compact bone

1808	8598
1439	9224
5573	-----
9527	27184
10296	27373
11966	31683
11996	30751
12470	30973
12933	30982
13086	32463
13342	34813
13480	32746
13740	32573
13988	36383
13999	36371
14051	32901
15634	21025

others

7963	22750	compact antler, probably red deer
10747	28541	compact antler, probably red deer

PINS WITH DECORATIVE HEADS

FIND NO. CONTEXT NO.

pig fibulae

compact bone

4142	12671
12119	31722
12204	31773
14032	36380

others

14052	36377	compact antler, probably red deer
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PIN FRAGMENTS

FIND NO. CONTEXT NO.

pig fibulae

3789 14184

compact bone

14093 36483

4658 15313

12353 30904

12301 31815

5191 6284

12780 31013

11644 27775

6720 6932

7019 20411

14036 36380

12318 28964

12199 28963

9605 26247

6814 19320

6521 14787

charred

others

12240 28966 compact antler, probably red deer

PINS WITH LARGE (THICK) SHANKS

FIND NO. CONTEXT NO.

pig fibulae

compact bone

10021	37369
12508	30983
7094	21018

others

6641	19285	compact antler, probably red deer
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BODKIN TYPE PINS

FIND NO. CONTEXT NO.

pig fibulae

compact bone

626	4448	
1174	1473	
6839	20345	small ungulate, probably sheep or pig
9918	-----	

others

2633	10641	compact antler (tine), probably red deer
13624	32742	compact antler (tine), probably red deer
14100	35524	compact antler (tine), probably red deer

LARGE BODKIN-TYPE PERFORATED PINS/NEEDLES

FIND NO. CONTEXT NO.

pig fibulae

compact bone

4853	2078
5627	14704
1618	7296

others

6217	14928	compact antler (tine), red deer
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PINS

FIND NO. CONTEXT NO.

Pig fibulae

4404	13887
12986	32406
8737	24566
918	4915

compact bone

14047	32993
6274	20050
8161	25024
6600	19289
6706	14575
11681	28005
11890	30710
2327	8499
12433	31760
1427	7377
5945	14851
6270	20186
12523	30957
12350	30936
13118	34663
12960	29877
2874	11723

charred

UNMODIFIED - but ID uncertain

others

10482	20230
14504	35673

compact antler, probably red deer
antler - appear to be broken-off comp. teeth

ROUGH WORKED PINS/TOOLS

FIND NO. CONTEXT NO.

pig fibulae

compact bone

1810	7480	
5361	17786	
12838	33114	
10047	23125	
9475	21033	
7456	22166	piece of cattle metatarsal

others

2249	3256	compact antler (tine), probably red deer
5216	18666	antler, probably tine from red deer
6350	11023	UNMODIFIED - horse left 4th metatarsal

UNSPECIFIED

FIND NO. CONTEXT NO.

pig fibulae

11064	35447
8099	24110
4933	18413
13291	32573
5912	20059

compact bone

12779	34186
13792	32923
13954	36362
7291	20877
13723	U/S
10729	29263
11472	31061
11471	31061
8812	26576

others

12051	31718	compact antler, probably red deer
4509	15494	rib cortex, probably cattle
4188	13128	unidentified calcified tissue