

FAUNAL REMAINS UNIT  
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ANIMAL BONES FROM NEWBURY, BERKSHIRE

1. Excavations in 140 Bartholomew Street, 1974

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## ANIMAL BONES FROM NEWBURY

This is the first of three reports from Newbury, two for material from Bartholomew Street and one from Cheap Street. Because of the closeness of the sites and the similarity of the material the bones have been studied in the same manner and some of the results are reviewed as a whole in the last of the three reports.

### 140 Bartholomew Street

This very small collection was initially identified by students of the Department of Archaeology along with some of the bones from the 1979 excavations in Bartholomew Street before it became a part of the Faunal Remains Unit's programme. Unlike the later material there seems to have been no sieving programme but the material is so well-preserved and interesting that details are given in this separate report. The dating information was given to me by Alan Vince in 1979.

The bones were from three pits and were associated with pottery phased as follows:

Pit Z1 (marked RP-Z1 'large pit under G') earlier than pit Z, pottery late 12th Century.

Pit Y (bone marked B74-PY but box marked Pit JN) early 13th Century.

Pit Z late 13th to 14th Century, Edward I coin from sealing layer.

### Pit Z1

This produced only 89 bones. Most were of the common domesticates, horse, cattle, sheep, goat and pig and the anatomical elements of these species are in Table 1. The bones only identified to 'sheep or goat' are classified as 'sheep' in the Tables. Other mammalian remains were two sawn antler fragments of red deer, Cervus elaphus, and a cat skull.

There was a single long bone each of the domestic fowl and the domestic goose.

A distinctive fragment of horseshoe from the bone bags has been sent to the Trust for Wessex Archaeology.

### Pit Y

This contained 305 bones and 2 upper valves of the common oyster, Ostrea edulis.

The major mammalian bones are shown in Table 2. The two horses represented were approximately 17 and 19 years of age

according to incisor wear and molar depth. Cattle horn cores attached to skull fragments bore marks similar to those described for medieval horn core collections at Reading (Coy n.d.) and had probably been associated with some exploitation process - skinning or horn-working. Bones of both calf and lamb are present. Midline splitting of the carcass occurred in cattle, sheep and pig.

Wild mammals are represented by three fragments of antler of the red deer, and a pelvis fragment and tibia of a mature hare, probably the brown hare, Lepus capensis. All three of the antler fragments were sawn - one was a tine and the others were both crowns of large antlers from a three-pointer and at least a four-pointer. The stags that produced these antlers would have been at least 5 years of age.

The very few bones of birds, shown in Table 3, included the domestic fowl and goose, and a duck which matched mallard, Anas platyrhynchos, well but on balance is thought to have been domestic.

#### Pit Z

The 350 bones from this pit were better preserved as can be seen by the higher proportion which were identifiable to species. The usual domestic species were represented (Table 4). Again there were cattle horn cores but this time too fragmentary to deduce utilisation. Calf was represented. The cattle butchery showed midline splitting but some of it was somewhat off-centre. The detailed butchery results which might aid dating of these deposits will be, like the measurements, combined with those from the other Newbury sites.

The sheep produced a useful small collection of jaws with ageing data which will be added to that from the larger sites. Such sheep skull evidence as there was suggested animals with either no horns or very tiny ones.

Domestic fowl and goose were represented by one fragment each. According to Vince this Pit also contained a large amount of oyster shell.

#### Reference

Coy J P (no date) A preliminary study of the animal bones from Sites A, B, and C, Reading Abbey (WAC Site 12, 1981). Unpublished report to the Ancient Monuments Laboratory No. 4067

## ARCHIVES AND CONVENTIONS

All correspondence, notebooks, and computer printouts are available at the Faunal Remains Unit, University of Southampton.

Trust for Wessex Archaeology has copies of CONMET catalogues  
TABLE 1s

The computer files are available at FRU and with the writer and the following conventions are used:

Context no. 1 = PIT Y	SITE CODE = NBS
2 = Pit Z	
3 = Pit Z1	

original data files	NBS1.JPC, NBS2.JPC etc
total data	NBS74SPE
total data by pit	NPITYSPE, NPITZSPE, NPITZ1SP,
this text	NBSTXT
tables	NBSTAB1 etc

TABLE 1 COMMON DOMESTIC UNGULATES PIT #1

	horse	cattle	sheep	goat	pig	C-size	S-size	TOTAL
horn core	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	4
cranium	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	4
hyoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
maxilla	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
mandible	-	1	2	-	2	-	-	5
vertebra	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	5
rib	-	4	1	-	-	-	16	21
sternum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
scapula	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	3
humerus	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2
radius	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
ulna	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	3
pelvis	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	6
femur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
patella	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
tibia	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
fibula	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
carpal/tarsal	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2
metapodial	-	-	6	1	-	-	-	7
phalanx	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
loose teeth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
l.b.fragments	-	-	-	-	-	10	7	17
fragments	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
TOTAL	1	15	22	5	5	13	23	84

TABLE 2 COMMON DOMESTIC UNGULATES PIT Y

	horse	cattle	sheep	goat	pig	C-size	S-size	TOTAL
horn core	-	8	-	1	-	-	-	9
cranium	-	7	-	-	-	-	5	12
hyoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
maxilla	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	3
mandible	2	5	1	-	4	-	-	12
vertebra	1	6	8	-	1	-	-	16
rib	-	16	2	-	1	18	34	71
sternum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
scapula	-	3	3	-	-	1	-	7
humerus	-	1	6	-	2	-	-	9
radius	1	1	9	-	-	-	5	16
ulna	-	2	2	-	1	-	-	5
pelvis	-	2	2	-	1	1	-	6
femur	1	2	2	-	3	-	-	8
patella	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
tibia	-	2	3	-	3	-	-	8
fibula	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
carpal/tarsal	-	11	1	-	2	-	-	14
metapodial	-	2	11	-	6	-	-	19
phalanx	-	6	1	-	-	-	-	7
loose teeth	-	3	7	-	1	-	-	11
l.b.fragments	-	-	-	-	-	21	21	42
fragments	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
TOTAL	5	78	60	1	25	45	65	279

TABLE 3

## BIRD BONES PIT Y

	FOWL	GOOSE	DUCK	OTHER	TOTAL
skull	-	1	-	-	1
vertebra	-	-	-	-	0
sternum	1	-	-	-	1
furcula	-	-	-	-	0
scapula	1	-	-	-	1
coracoid	-	-	-	-	0
humerus	-	3	-	-	3
radius	-	-	-	-	0
ulna	2	-	-	-	2
pelvis	-	1	-	-	1
femur	2	-	2	-	4
tib-tar	-	2	-	-	2
carp-met	-	1	-	-	1
tar-met	1	2	-	-	3
phalanx	-	-	-	-	0
l.b.fragment	-	-	-	2	2
TOTALS	7	10	2	2	21

TABLE 4

## COMMON DOMESTIC UNGULATES PIT Z

	horse	cattle	sheep	goat	pig	c-size	s-size	TOTAL
horn core	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	10
cranium	-	5	8	-	-	-	-	13
hyoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
maxilla	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
mandible	-	8	21	-	4	-	-	33
vertebra	-	12	11	-	1	1	4	29
rib	-	29	-	-	-	6	22	57
sternum	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
scapula	-	6	15	1	-	3	-	25
humerus	-	4	9	-	1	-	-	14
radius	-	4	4	-	-	-	-	8
ulna	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
pelvis	-	6	6	-	1	-	-	13
femur	-	2	4	-	1	-	-	7
patella	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
tibia	-	8	11	-	2	-	-	21
fibula	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
carpal/tarsal	-	2	1	-	1	-	-	4
metapodial	-	2	9	-	4	-	2	17
phalanx	1	6	-	-	1	-	-	8
loose teeth	1	7	4	-	1	-	-	13
l.b.fragments	-	-	-	-	-	29	17	46
fragments	-	-	-	-	-	6	15	21
TOTAL	2	114	105	1	18	45	60	345