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REPORT

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FISH BONES FROM HYDE STREET, WINCHESTER

Jennie Coy

A black ware dish found during excavations of Roman levels in Hyde Street, Winchester, contained a number of articulated bones. The contents of the dish were treated with polyvinyl acetate before removal in order that photographs could be taken.

The bones were identified as the first and second phalanges of a pig (a third of the bones in a pig's trotter) lying over partially articulated bones of at least three flounders.

The flounder bones were well-preserved and included one dentary bone enabling specific identification to be made. They represent fish about 200mm long (weighing about 200g each).

The flounder, Platichthyes flesus (L), is a common fish in the Itchen and its bones have been found in the excavations of Saxon Hamwih in Southampton. Although a marine and estuarine species it is sufficiently tolerant of fresh water to come as far up river as Winchester and could have been caught locally rather than brought from further South.