

Vasey's , Carlisle .

A note on the animal remains recovered .

The bone remains from the site were few and so widely distributed through time (^{see} table) that no period offered a sufficiently large sample upon which to base discussion . Although marked changes in the faunal percentages occur in the periods represented , since these are based upon samples of less than one hundred identified fragments they cannot be considered as reliable indications of change , dietary or otherwise .

The condition of the bones was variable , but the majority were poorly preserved , although intact , and often covered in hard concretions and impregnated with iron salts , making cleaning , measuring and identification difficult or impossible in a number of cases . Approximately 39% of the individual fragments were identified to a species and the remainder catalogued under the other categories listed in the table .

The disturbed nature of the top levels on the site throws some doubt on the homogeneity of the bones in the mediaeval and modern contexts and only the Roman layers may contain an uncontaminated group . In the disturbed mediaeval layers of Trench IV two finds of human left tibia were made and since a shaft fragment of a human humerus was recovered from an early mediaeval layer in the same trench there may have been a burial site or cemetery adjacent to the excavation site .

Antler of both red and roe deer , and the horn cores of cattle

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Table

	Post-Med.	Mediacval		Roman		
		Disturbed		Early	Late/Post	
Man		2		1		
Cattle	33	16	17	2	3	40
Horse		1	1			
Pig	13	3	7		2	16
Sheep or Goat	22	6	15			10
Goat	2					
Dog		1				41
Cat	4					
Fowl	6		2			
Goose	2		3			
Red deer	1		1			2
Roe deer	3					5
Rat cf. Brown	1					
Fish	1		2			
Large ungulate	48	10	20	1	3	24
Large animal	46	18	26	2	1	48
Medium animal	35	5	13		2	39
Small ungulate	18	7	10	1	2	8
Small animal	3	1	1		1	2

Oyster

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and goat were found but not in numbers to suggest any industrial activities . Most of the red and roe deer remains were ~~the~~ limb bones and indicate the actual consumption of deer meat . Apart from the bones of cat and dog , the remainder of the bones are certainly dietary ; a number exhibited signs of butchery

Only two finds of juvenile cattle and three of sheep (or goat) were made from the whole site although the evidence suggests that most of the pigs may have been slaughtered at a stage of maturity equivalent to that of a modern three year old animal .

A bone 'handle' manufactured from a long bone of an ox-sized animal was recovered from the post-mediaeval levels and also from these layers , an ox ~~bone~~ metacarpal bone 'fashioned' in the form of a skate (MacGregor , 197) but the wear on the anterior surface is extremely slight and there is little evidence of its actual use as a skate .

Three of the bones from Roman levels had pathological features ; a tibia of a roe deer ~~or sheep (or goat)~~ with periostitis around the shaft just proximal to the distal epiphysis ; a sheep (or goat) mandible with the molar roots exposed ; and a maxillary molar of an ox with uneven wear on the posterior cusps producing a very high posterior edge to the cusps , possibly caused by the breakage of the corresponding molar of the mandible .

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