

Species	Number of bone fragments	
	Medieval to Dissolution	Post-medieval
Pig	3	41
Ovicaprid	2	62
Ovicaprid/pig	7	56
Cattle	7	186
Horse	1	54
Cattle/horse	16	177
Indeterminate	72	441
Total	108	1017

FIGURE 5.9

Large mammals. Numbers of fragments by species present

Species	Bone fragments
Domestic fowl	9
Greylag goose (<i>Anser anser</i>)	2
Woodcock (<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>)	2
Jackdaw (<i>Corvus monedula</i>)	5
Song thrush (<i>Turdus philomelos</i>)	1
Pigeon (<i>Columba</i> sp)	4
Starling (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>)	1
Indeterminate	7

FIGURE 5.10

Bird bones. Number of fragments for species present (post-medieval)

species. Of the ovicaprids only sheep have been identified definitely but this does not rule out the presence of some goats. Though no bones of dog (*Canis*) were found in the assemblage, it must have been present on the site judging from the large number of dog-gnawed specimens. The assemblage is too small to attempt useful quantitative studies, but cattle is by far the commonest species in the assemblage.

Age and sex of animals

The assemblage is far too small to examine age and sex structures but the inventory of bones (in the site archive) gives indications of age ranges and sex of animal where this is possible. The only sexable fragments in this assemblage were the canine teeth of pigs, all of which were male (the sample size is very small).

Butchery

Cut marks, chop marks and saw marks are all noted in the inventory. There are no unusual butchery patterns. The only thing of note is that most of the vertebrae have been split or sawn dorso-ventrally (in other words, the animal has been split long-ways down the back into sides). The cutting of animals into sides like this tends to first become common in the post-medieval period. This was shown to be the case in extensive studies in Exeter (Maltby 1979), however the practice is found as early as the mid 11th century in York (Davis 1987).

Animal size

The sample is too small to examine metrical data. However, it should be noted that some of the ovicaprids are particularly large, for example the sheep humerus (88BD 1009 sf 11152), the ovicaprid pelvis (90BG 171) and the ovicaprid metatarsus (90BD 502 sf 1197). These large specimens most probably represent improved stock dating to the post-medieval period, probably after the agricultural revolution (Davis 1987).

Pathology

Only one specimen had pathologies worthy of note. Two lumbar vertebrae of a horse (89BH 1300; modern) had fused together. This is probably the result of the animal being a work animal with its back under constant strain (L Gidney pers comm). The articulations of the more caudal of the two vertebrae (that would articulate with the sacrum) were arthritic, showing articular wear, grooving and exostosis.

Bird bones

The assemblage consisted of 32 bird bones which have been identified as far as possible to element, species and side (Figure 5.10). Only one bone came from a medieval context, a domestic fowl deposited at the Dissolution. A full catalogue of mammal and bird bones is in the site archive.