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S1.7 | The faunal assemblage from the Ateneu Artístico Vilafranquense site, Vila Franca de Xira (15th-16th centuries) (P)

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The archaeological intervention in the Ateneu Artístico Vilafranquense site in 2007, in the context of preventive archaeology, revealed data about the urban center of Vila Franca de Xira during the Late Middle Ages and Early Modern Age.

This site consists of various negative structures filled with materials whose analysis allowed us to define several occupation phases situated between the town's founding in the 13th century and the present.

The study of the entire set of materials from the intervention, made up of ceramics, faunal remains, glass, metals and lithic materials, allowed us to infer the domestic nature of this context formed by the urban population's consumption remains.

We present the final results of the faunal assemblage analysis, composed by a total of 1070 remains mostly associated with 15th and 16th century levels. The study of these materials denotes the predominance of mammals, mainly cattle and sheep/goat, which would have been the most important sources of meat for this population. Their subsistence would have been complemented by birds, fishes and mollusks, beyond other mammals like suids, leporids and, possibly, cervids. Although most identified species belong to domestic animals, the presence of wild species was detected, marking the practice of hunting and fishing. Other domestic species are associated with the population's daily life, namely the cat and the horse. In the marine species, the presence of sardine can be highlighted in the fish assemblage, while the mollusks are mainly represented by cockle and mussels. Chicken and ducks makeup most of the avian assemblage.

These results can be compared to others obtained in Lisbon and Santarém.

Keywords: Urban Archaeology, Zooarchaeology, 15th-16th centuries, Vila Franca de Xira.