# Ancient Monuments Laboratory Report 101/89 <br> THE HUMAN BONE FROM ST PETER'S STREET, IPSWICH, SUFFOLK. 

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Summary

Ten burials ( 2 male adults, 4 female adults, 3 unsexable adults and 1 female adolescent) of late Anglo-Saxon date were excavated from the site at St Peter's Street, Ipswich. The burials showed a high frequency of vertebral anomalies.

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## THE HUMAN BONE FROM St. PETER'S STREET, IPSWICH. SUFFOLK (EXCAVATED 1986-7) <br> Introduction to the site <br> During the course of excavations in 1986 and 4987. 10 Anglo-Saxon burials of late 9th-early 10th century date were found at St. Peter's Street, Ipswich. They represent interments in gardens behind dwellings.

The human remains
1- Age. sex and bone preservation
Preservation was scored as good, moderate or poor on the basis of visual inspection of the remains.
Sex was determined using the morphology of the pelvis and skull, together with the general size and robusticity of the skeleton.
For juveniles (for the purposes of the present report those aged under 18 years) and young adults epiphysial fusion was used to estimate age, with reference to the chart of Ubelaker (1978: Fig. 62). For older adults dental attrition (Brothwell 1981) was the principal technique used, but cranial suture closure (Perizonius 1984) and the morphology of the pubic symphyses (McKern \& Stewart 1957; Gilbert \& McKern 1973) were also taken

Table 1: The preservation and demographic composition of the sample

| Context | Sex Age |  | Preservation | Competeness |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 0295 | Female | $22-35$ | Moderate | About $60-80 \%$ |
| 0314 | Unsexable | Adult | Moderate | $<20 \%$ (lower leg and <br> foot bones only) |
| 0339 | Female | $16-18$ | Moderate | About $60-80 \%$ |
| 0375 | Unsexable | Adult | Moderate | $<20 \%$ (foot bones only) |
| 0400 | Male | Adult | Good | About 20-40\% (no skull or |
| 0408 | Female. | $25-35$ | Good | mandible)About $80 \%+$ <br> $0415 / 0417$ <br> Male |
| 0425 | Ansexable | $17-20$ | About 25 | Good |

Many of the bones are stained black

A skeletal element was scored as present if it was represented by a .complete or incomplete bone. Some of the burials contained a few stray human bones; these are not included in Table 2.
Table 2: Representation of skeletal elements

| Skeletal element | Number represented |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Skull | 6 |  |
| Mandible | 6 |  |
| Cervical vertebrae | 32 |  |
| Thoracic vertebrae | 60 |  |
| Lumbar vertebrae | 26 |  |
| Sacrum | 7 |  |
| Sternum | 5 |  |
| L ribs | 43 |  |
| R ribs | 52 |  |
| L clavicle | 4 |  |
| R clavicle | 5 |  |
| L scapula | 6 |  |
| R scapula | 6 |  |
| L humerus | 6 |  |
| R humerus | 7 |  |
| L radius | 5 |  |
| R radius | 6 |  |
| L ulna | 5 |  |
| R ulna | 6 |  |
| L carpals | 21 |  |
| R carpals | 14 |  |
| L metacarpals | 21 |  |
| Rmetacarpals | 23 |  |
| L hand phalanges | 19 |  |
| R hand phalanges | 19 |  |
| U hand phalanges | 21 |  |
| L pelvis | 7 |  |
| R pelvis | 7 |  |
| L F emur | 7 |  |
| R femur | 7 |  |
| L patella | 5 |  |
| R patella | 4 |  |
| L tibia | 8 |  |
| R tibia | 8 |  |
| L fibula | 7 |  |
| R fibula | 8 |  |
| L calcaneus | 6 |  |
| L calcaneus | 7 |  |
| L talus | 6 |  |
| R talus | 7 |  |
| L tarsals* | 17 |  |
| R tarsals* | 26 |  |
| L metatarsals | 35 |  |
| R metatarsals | 38 |  |
| L foot phalanges | 10 |  |
| R foot phalanges | 7 |  |
| U foot phalanges | 17 |  |
| $\mathrm{L}=$ left $\mathrm{R}=$ right | *eexcluding talus | d calcaneus |

## 2. Metric variation

(a) Stature

Adult stature was estimated from longbone measurements using the formulae of Trotter \& Gleser (1952, 1958, reproduced in Brothwell 1981 Table 5). The results are shown below.

Table 3: Stature

| Individual | Sex | Stature $(\mathrm{cm})$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 0295 | F | 167 |
| 0400 | M | 166 |
| 0408 | F | 154 |
| $0415 / 0417$ | M | 172 |
| 0578 | F | 160 |
| 0634 | F | 173 |

## (b) Meric and cnemic indices

The meric index is a measure of the anterior-posterior flattening of the sub-trochanteric area of the femoral diaphysis; the cnemic index expresses the transverse flattening of the tibia at the level of the nutrient foramen. The significance of these indices is uncertain although they may be explicable in terms of adaptation of the bones to mechanical stresses. Brothwell (1981:88, 89), and the results are shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Meric and cnemic indices

Individual
0295
0339
0408
0415/0417
0425
0578
0634

| Meric | index |
| :--- | :--- |
| L | R |
| 82.7 | 83.2 |
| 74.1 | 74.7 |
| 61.7 | 70.5 |
| 79.8 | 80.0 |
| 79.3 | 77.4 |
| 79.5 | 79.8 |
| 78.6 | - |

A few other post-cranial and cranial measurements were taken; these can he found in the list of burials.

## 3. Non-metric variation

Non-metric traits take the form of minor variations in skeletal form such as presence or absence of bony spurs or foramina. For at least some of these variants there is evidence that they are to some extent inherited, although the causes of many remain obscure.
31 cranial and 20 post-cranial traits were scored on a presence-absence basis; those with the scope for bilateral
expression were scored separately for left and right sides.
Trait definitions were taken mainly from Berry \& Berry (1967) and Finnegan (1978).
Table 5: Cranial and non-metric traits

| Metopic suture: | $\begin{aligned} & 1: 0339 \\ & 0: 0295,0400,0425,0578 \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| Ossicle at Lambda: | $\begin{aligned} & 1: 0408 \\ & 0: 0295,0425,0578 \end{aligned}$ |
| Lambdoid ossicle: | $\begin{aligned} & 1: 0408,0578 \\ & 0: 0295,0425 \end{aligned}$ |
| Inca bone: | 0: $0295,01339,0408,0425,0578$ |
| Saggital ossicle: | 0: 0295, 0408 |
| Ossicle at bregma: | 0: 0295, 0339.0408, 0425, 0578 |
| Coronal ossicle: | 0: 0339, 0578 |
| Fronto-temporal articulation: | 0/0: 0578 |
| Epipteric bone: | 0/0: 0578 |
| Squamo-parietal ossicle: | $\begin{aligned} & 0 /-: 0408 \\ & 0 / 0: 0425,0570 \end{aligned}$ |
| Parietal notch bone: | $\begin{aligned} & 1 / 0: 0573 \\ & 0 / 0: 0408,0425 \end{aligned}$ |
| Auditory torus: | $\begin{aligned} & -/ 0: 0295 \\ & 0 / 0: 0339,0408,0425,0578 \end{aligned}$ |
| Foramen of Hushke: | $\begin{aligned} & 1 / 0: 0408 \\ & 0 / 1: 0339 \\ & -/ 0: 0295 \\ & 0 / 0: 0425,0578 \end{aligned}$ |
| Ossicle at asterion: | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 0/-: } 0425 \\ & 0 / 0: 02108,0578 \end{aligned}$ |
| Palatine torus: <br> Maxillary torus: <br> Mastoid foramen extra-sutural: | $\begin{aligned} & 0: 0339,0408,0578 \\ & 0: 0408,0578 \\ & 0 / 1: 0425 \\ & \text {-/0: } 0295 \\ & 0 / 0: 0339,0408,0578 \end{aligned}$ |
| Mastoid foramen absent: | $\begin{aligned} & 0 / 1: 0339 \\ & -/ 0: 0295 \\ & 0 / 0: 0408,0425,0578 \end{aligned}$ |


| Double condylar facet on occipital: | -/0: 0570: |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | 0/-: 0425 |
|  | 0/0: 0295, 0339, 0408 |
| Parietal foramen: | 1/1: 0408 |
|  | 1/0: 0339 |
|  | 0/1: 0295, 0425 |
|  | 0/0: 0578 |
| Accessory infra-orbital foramen: | -/0: 0425 |
|  | 0/-: 0408 |
|  | 0/0: 0570 |
| Zygomatic-facial foramen: | 1/-: 0425 |
|  | 0/1:0339 |
|  | -/1: 0408, 0578 |
|  | 0/-: 0295 |
| Divided hypoglossal canal: | 1/0: 0425 |
|  | 0/1: 0339 |
|  | -/0: 0295, 0578 |
|  | 0/0: 0408 |
| Posterior condylar canal patent: | 1/0: 0408 |
|  | 1/-: 0425 |
|  | -/1: 0578 |
|  | -/0: 0295 |
| Precondylar tubercle: | -/0: 0578 |
|  | 0/0: 0339, 0408 |
| Foramen ovale incomplete: | 0/-: 0408 |
|  | 0/0: 0578 |
| Supra-orbital foramen complete: | 1/1:0400 |
|  | 1/0: 0339, 0578 |
|  | 0/-: 0295 |
|  | 0/0: 0425 |
| Maxillary M3 absent; | -/0: 0339 |
|  | 0/0: 0408, 0578 |
| Mandibular M3 absent: | 0/0: 0339, 0408, 0425, 0578 |
| Mandibular torus: | 0: 0339, 0408, 0578 |
| Mylohyoid bridging: | -/1: 0295 |
|  | 0/-: 0425 |
|  | 0/0: 0339, 0408, 0578 |

Table 6: Post-cranial non-metric traits

| Fossa of Allen: | $\begin{aligned} & 1 / 1: 0339,0425,0578 \\ & 0 / 1: 0415 / 0417,0408 \\ & 0 / 0: 0295 \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| Plaque formation: | $\begin{aligned} & 0 / 1: 0415 / 0417 \\ & 0 / 0: 0295,0408,0425,0578 \end{aligned}$ |
| Exostosis in trochanteric fossa: | $\begin{aligned} & 1 / 0: 0408 \\ & 1 /-: 0425,0634 \\ & \text { 0/0: } 0295,0415 / 0417,0578 \end{aligned}$ |
| Supra-condyloid process: | $\begin{aligned} & \text {-/0: } 0295 \\ & \text { 0/-: } 0400 \\ & 0 / 0: 0339,0408,0415 / 0417,0425,0578 \end{aligned}$ |
| Septal aperture: | $\begin{aligned} & \text {-/0: } 0295 \\ & 0 /-: 0400,0425 \\ & 0 / 0: 0339,0408,0415 / 0417,0578 \end{aligned}$ |
| Acetabular crease: | $\begin{aligned} & 1 / 1: 0339 \\ & -/ 0: 0295 \\ & 0 /-: 0634 \\ & 0 / 0: 0408,0415 / 0417,0578 \end{aligned}$ |
| Accessory sacral facets on ilium: | $\begin{aligned} & -/ 0: 0295,0408 \\ & 0 / 0: 0339,0415 / 0417,0578 \end{aligned}$ |
| Sacral spina bifida occulta: | $\begin{aligned} & 1: 0415 / 0417,0425,0578 \\ & 0: 0295,0408 \end{aligned}$ |
| Sixth sacral segment: | 0: 0295, 0409, 0415/0417, 0578(4 segments) |
| Acromial articular facet: | $\begin{aligned} & \text {-/0: } 0295,0400,0578 \\ & 0 / 0: 0339 \end{aligned}$ |
| Os acromiale: | $\begin{aligned} & -/ 0: 0295,0400,0578 \\ & 0 / 0: 0339 \end{aligned}$ |
| Supra-scapular foramen | $\begin{aligned} & -/ 0: 0578 \\ & 0 /-: 0408,0415 / 0417 \\ & 0 / 0: 0400 \end{aligned}$ |
| Vastus notch | $\begin{aligned} & 1 / 1: 0408 \\ & 1 / 0: 0634 \\ & 0 / 1: 0578 \\ & 0 /-0295 \\ & 0 / 0: 0415 / 0417 \end{aligned}$ |
| Vastus Fossa | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 0/-: } 0295 \\ & \text { 0/0: } 0408,0415 / 0417,0578,0674 \end{aligned}$ |
| Emarginate patella | $\begin{aligned} & 0 /-: 0295 \\ & 0 / 0: 0408,0415 / 0417,0578,0634 \end{aligned}$ |



Several spinal anomalies (in addition to sacral spina bifida occulta) were present in the sample. Burial 0578 , which showed complete sacral spina bifida, had only 4 sacral segments. This did not appear to be as a result of lumbarisation of the first sacral vertebra, but rather of a failure of fusion of the fifth sacral segment to the main body of the sacrum. Variations of this type at the sacro-coccygeal transition are not uncommon but have received little study since they are of no great clinical significance (Schmorl \& Junghanns 1971: 66-67). The sacrum also lacks its normal anterior curvature. A section of the arch of the fifth lumbar vertebra is missing or detached (ante-mortem) between the right pars interarticularis and the midline. Clefts at the pars interarticularis are termed spondylolysis. The roughened appearance of the right pars interarticularis is typical of cases of spondylolysis, where a narrow cleft in the bone is bridged in life by fibrous tissue. The cleft at the midline has a smooth border, typical of cases of spina bifida.
In cases of spondylolysis trauma may rupture the fibrous tissue across the cleft between the posterior part of the neural arch and the rest of the vertebra, leading to forward slippage of the vertebral body (termed spondylolisthesis). This does not appear to have occurred in the present case. Presumably the fact that the cleft was only unilateral would have helped prevent spondylolisthesis. In life the defect was probably symptomless.
Burial 0408 shows several anomalies of the atlas: a bridge of bone connects the left transverse process with the posterior arch; there is an incomplete bridge on the right side. The left foramen transversarium is incomplete and the vertebra shows spina bifida.
Spina bifida is most common at the sacral, lower lumbar and atlas vertebrae (Schmorl \& Junghanns 1971: 83). In spina bifida occulta the defect is bridged in life by fibrous tissue and causes no symptoms.

There is strong evidence that spina bifida and spondylolysis are inherited and are linked genetically (Wiltse 1962); furthermore "spondylolysis is frequently associated with simultaneous occurrence of spinous process cleavage involving the same vertebra" (Schmore \& Junghanns 1971: 87), as occurred in 0578. It is likely that variations in the numbers of vertebrae in the various areas of the spine also inherited (op.cit.:56), but it does not appear that variations in the number of sacral vertebrae are genetically linked to spondylolysis (Eisenstein 1978).
The frequency of sacral spina bifida occulta at St Peter's Street is rather high (3 cases out of 5 for which observations could be made). This compares with a frequency of 1 case out of 17 in the AngloSaxon cemetery at School Street, Ipswich; the difference in frequency between the two sites is statistically significant ( $\mathfrak{p}=0.024$-Fisher's exact test). The higher frequency in the St Peter's Street material may indicate that they were drawn from a different population from that which used the school Street cemetery or, more probably, that the burials at St Peter's Street were of individuals closely related to one another genetically.

## 4. Pathology

(a) Dental pathology
(i)Dental caries. Dental caries was scored as present or absent in each tooth, and as present or absent in individuals with one or more fully erupted teeth available for study.
Of the 5 individuals for whom caries could be scored 3 were found to have one or more caries cavities. The results with respect to individual teeth are shown in Table 7.

Table 7: Distraction of the carious permanent teeth

| Maxilla |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | M3 | M2 | M1 | PM2 | PM1 |  | 12 | Il | Il | 12 | C | PM1 | PM2 | M1 | M2 | M3 |
| Tooth | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 |  | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| Carious | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Teeth | 3 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 |  | 4 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Carious | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  | 0 | - | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Mandible |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Dental caries is a multifactorial disease but many studies of non-industrial population have shown a strong correlation between caries rates and consumption of carbohydrate.
(ii) Ante-mortem tooth loss. This was scored on a presence-absence basis for each erupted tooth position, and as present or absent in individuals with one or more tooth positions available for study. Of 6 individuals for whom observations could be made two displayed evidence for ante-mortem tooth loss. The results with respect to individual tooth positions are shown in Table 8.

Table 8\% Distribution of ante-mortem tooth loss

## MAXILLA

|  | M3 | M2 | M1 | PM2 PM1 | C | 12 | Il | Il | 12 | C | PM1 PM2 | M1 | M2 M3 |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Tooth posits. | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| A-m loss | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Tooth posits. | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| A-m loss | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | I |

## MANDIBLE

Of a total of 112 tooth positions 9 showed evidence for ante-mortem tooth loss.
Dental caries and diseases of the periodontal tissues are major causes of tooth loss.
(iii) Alveolar abscesses. Of the 6 individuals with one or more observable tooth positions 2 displayed alveolar abscess cavities: 0408 had an abscess cavity at the socket of the left maxillary second premolar and 0425 had a cavity at the socket of the right mandibular first molar. in both cases the abscesses were at the apices of teeth whose crowns had been destroyed by caries, suggesting that their cause was infection of the jaw via the pulp cavity of the tooth when the latter became exposed to the oral environment as a result of caries.
(iv) Dental calculus. This takes the form of a concretion on the teeth consisting mainly of calcium salts and, in life, organic material in which flourish numerous bacteria. It may be considered as mineralised dental plaque, and is associated with aoor oral hygiene. Of 5 individuals for whom calculus could be scored 4 showed evidence for it 3 (burials 0339,0425 and 0578 ) to grade I and 1 (burial 0408) to grade II, on the scale defined ay Dobney \& Brothwell (1987).

## (b) Arthropathies

(i) Degenerative joint disease. This is generally divided into two categories: that affecting the vertebral bodies is termed osteophytosis and that affecting the other joints is termed osteoarthritis (Collins 1949). Both human and animal studies have shown that mechanical stress is an important factor in the aetiology of degenerative joint disease. The most usual cause seems to be repeated minor traumata, as might result from day to day activities (although it may follow acute traumatic injury to
a joint - see below); this leads to dgeneration of the intervertebral disc or joint cartilage with subsequent macroscopic bony changes, including marginal lipping and joint surface irregularities. Degenerative joint disease is associated with general 'wear and tear' to the joints and as such its prevalence varies with individual age and with the amount of physical stress to the joints in life. Degenerative joint disease is distinguished from other arthropathies using criteria described by Steinbock (1976), Ortner \& Putschar (1905) and Rogers et al. (1987).
Osteaphytosis and osteoarthritis are scored as grade I, II or III with reference to the scheme of Sager (1969, reproduced in Brothwell 1981: Fig. 6.9). The results (adult burials only) are quantified with respect to individuals for whom observations could be made and with respect to vertebrae or diarthroidal joint surfaces. The results are shown in -Tables 9-11.

Table 9: steqphytosis: maximum severity by individuals

| Maximum |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :--- |
| 0 | 1 | II |  |
| 0 | III |  |  |
| 1 | 4 | 1 | 0 |

Table 10: asteophytosis: prevalence by vertebrae


Table 11: Osteoarthritis: maximum severity by individuals
Maximum severity

| 0 | 1 | II | III |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 |

Table 12: Osteoarthritis

|  | Severity |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Skeletal element | 0 | I | II | III |
| L mandibular condyle | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| R mandibular condyle | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cervical vertebrae | 24 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Thoracic vertebrae | 27 | 9 | 2 | 2 |
| Lumbar vertebrae | 18 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| L ribs | 32 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| R ribs | 34 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| L medial clavicle | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| L lateral clavicle | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| R medial clavicle | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| R lateral clavicle | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| L glenoid cavity | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| R glenoid cavity |  | 0 | 0 | 0 |



The distal left ulna and radius of burial $0415 / 0417$ show extensive bony proliferation at the joint margins, together with some irregularity of the joint surfaces; similar changes are present in 3 of the 7 left carpals present for this individual.

Bony proliferation is particularly marked on the distal ulna where it has completely obscured the styloid process. These lesions represent grade II osteoarthritis. The lunate and the hamate carpal bones show small irregular exostoses (not originating from the joint surfaces or margins). A few vertebrae show grade I osteoarthritis, as does the right first metacarpal. The right radius and ulna are normal as are the 3 right carpals present. It seems probable that the lesions at the left wrist represent osteoarthritis sequential to trauma. No evidence of fracture was found on X-ray.
(ii) Osteochondritis dissecans. Burial 0634 showed lesions suggestive of osteochondritis dissecans on the right patella and the distal joint surfaces of both femora. All these joint surfaces also show grade I osteoarthritis. On the lateral condyle of the right femur there is an irregular raised area (approximately 7 mm diameter) of sclerotic bone; medial to this lies a smaller area of pitting. The right patella has a pitted erosion 7 mm in diameter on the lateral part of the joint surface. The left femur shows an irregular pitted erosion on the joint surface in the depression between the condyles. A little bone from this pitted area rises proud of the joint surface. There is an area of raised, irregular bone on the medial condyle. The left patella is normal (except for grade I osteoarthritis).
It is probable that these lesions represent osteochondritis dissecans. This is an avascular, aseptic necrosis occurring in the subchondral bone of a joint. As the disease progresses the necrotic fragment cleaves away leaving a pit in the joint surface. Some cases exhibit healing which, as seems to have occurred in 0634, manifests itself in skeletal remains as a localised overgrowth of bone.
Modern data show that the overwhelming majority of cases of osteochondritis dissecans occur at the knee, and when multiple lesions occur they tend to be symmetrical. The precise aetiology is uncertain, but trauma seems to play a major role (Jacobs 1976).
There is a small pit in the proximal joint surface of a left hallucial first phalanx present as an intrusive bone with burial 0415/0417. This too probably represents osteochondritis dissecans.
(c) Trauma
(i) Fractures. The prevalence of fractures with respect to total number of bones (calculated a described for Table 2) is $2 / 675$ identifiable bones. Both these fractures were found in burial 0578 . This individual showed healed fractures of the right radius and ulna. The radius fracture is in the midshaft region; there is marked callus formation, the surface of which is porous, and slight angulation at the break. The ulna fracture is $5-7 \mathrm{~cm}$ from the distal end and is firmly united. Callus is less abundant and appears to be rather more remodelled than that at the radius fracture. In neither the radius or the ulna did gross or radiographic examination show significant shortening of the bone due to over-riding of the broken ends.

The lateral surface of the left humerus of this burial bears an irregular exostosis, about 2 cm long, approximately 6 cm from the distal end of the bone. This probably represents a case of traumatic myositis ossificans. Traumatic myositis ossificans is a calcification of a haematoma; this may result in the formation of a calcified fragment within soft tissue or as in the present case, it can become part of existing bone tissue. It follows trauma causing deep bruising; if this is sufficient to traumatise the periosteum and cause haemorrhage beneath it then the haemorrhage may calcify, giving rise to a bony exostosis. It is particularly common in the elbow region (Skajaa 1958).
(ii) Schmorl's nodes. An intervertebral disc consists of a tough outer layer (the annulus fibrosus) surrounding a core (the nucleus pulposus) which, until early adulthood, is composed of semigelatinous material. In younger individuals excessive compression of the spine (such as might occur due to heavy lifting) may result in extrusion of material from the nucleus pulposus into the adjacent vertebral body. The bony manifestation of this is a depression or cleft - the Schmorl's node. In some individuals congenital weaknesses in the cartilage plate of the vertebral body may increase the likelihood of the formation of Schmorl's nodes, but there is no doubt that a single trauma may rupture a healthy disc (Schmorl \& junghanns 1971; 158-168).

Table 13; Distribution of Schmorl's nodes

| Individual | No of affected <br> vertebrae | No of nodes $\quad$(i=inferior, <br> $\mathrm{s}=$ superior surface $)$ <br> 3295 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 7 thoracic | $10(6 \mathrm{i}, 4 \mathrm{~s})$ |  |
|  | 1 lumbar | $1(\mathrm{~s})$ |
| 0408 | 2 thoracic | $2(\mathrm{li} 1 \mathrm{~s})$, |
| $0415 / 0417$ | 5 thoracic | $8(5 \mathrm{i}, 3 \mathrm{~s})$ |
|  | 1 lumbar | $1(\mathrm{~s})$ |

Prevalence of Schmorl's nodes with respect to individuals and with respect to vertebrae can be obtained using the totals from the osteophytosis scores (Tables 9 and 10).

## (d) Cribra orbitalia

Cribra orbitalia takes the form of small pits or perforations in the orbital roofs. Of the 5 individuals who could be scored for the condition 2 ( $0297 \& 0339$ ) showed lesions, both of the cribriotic (Brothwell 1981: Fig. 6.17) type.
Cribra orbitalia seems to be associated with iron deficiency anaemia (Hengen 1971; Stuart-Macadam 1987). In addition to deficient dietary intake of iron, anaemias may be caused by gut parasites - these were no doubt common in the unhygienic conditions prevailing in antiquity.

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Location of archive: HBMC, London.
Location of bones: Suffolk Archaeological Unit.

## CATALOGUE OF BURIALS

Key.
All measurements are in millimetres unless stated. Entries left blank or - denote missing data. C, T, L and S refer to cervical, thoracic, lumbar and sacral vertebrae respectively.

CONTEXT: 0295

PRESERVATION: Moderate, skeleton 60-80\% complete
SEX: Female
AGE: 22-35
STATURE: 167 cm
DENTAL FORMULA:

| $*$ | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 8 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | $X$ | $X$ | $*$ | $*$ | $*$ | $*$ |

LEFT
RIGHT

Key: .=tooth present in socket $\mathrm{X}=$ tooth lost post-mortem *=tooth lost ante-mortem $-=$ socket missing or damaged $\mathrm{T}=$ socket missing or damaged but loose tooth present $0=$ congenital absence of tooth $\mathrm{U}=$ unerupted $\mathrm{E}=$ erupting $\mathrm{C}=$ caries cavity $\mathrm{A}=$ abscess at root $\mathrm{d}=$ deciduous tooth present

CRIBRA ORBITALIA: Cribriotic type
DENTAL CALCULUS: -
DENTAL ENAMEL HYPOPLASIA: -
DEGENERATIVE JOINT DISEASE:
SPINE: OSTEOARTHRITIS: C 0/7 T 3/10GrI L 0/5
OSTEOPHYTOSIS: C 3/6GrI T 1/12GrI L 2/5GrI
OTHER JOINTS: Osteophytosis GrI on S1

CRANIAL MEASUREMENTS: Bregma-lambda chord=106.4 Lambda-opisthion chord=95.5

POST CRANIAL MEASUREMENTS: Meric index L=82.7 R=83.2 Cnemic index L=70.8 R=72.5 Femoral head diameter $\mathrm{L}=44.0 \mathrm{R}=44.0$ Humerus maximum length $\mathrm{R}=327$ Radius maximum length $R=237$ Ulna Maximum length $R=258$

REMARKS: Three thoracic vertebrae show Schmorl's nodes on both their superior and inferior surfaces, 3 have nodes on their inferior surfaces only and one on its superior surface only. A lumbar vertebra has a large Schmorl's node on its superior surface.
Bones stained black.

## CONTEXT: 0314

PRESERVATION: Moderate, skeleton $<20 \%$ complete
SEX: Unsexable
AGE: Adult

## STATURE:

DENTAL FORMULA:

| 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |

LEFT
RIGHT

Key: .=tooth present in socket $\mathrm{X}=$ tooth lost post-mortem $*=$ tooth lost ante-mortem $-=$ socket missing or damaged $\mathrm{T}=$ socket missing or damaged but loose tooth present $0=$ congenital absence of tooth $\mathrm{U}=$ unerupted $\mathrm{E}=$ erupting $\mathrm{C}=$ caries cavity $\mathrm{A}=$ abscess at root $\mathrm{d}=$ deciduous tooth present

## CRIBRA ORBITALIA:

DENTAL CALCULUS:
DENTAL ENAMEL HYPOPLASIA:
DEGENERATIVE JOINT DISEASE:
SPINE: OSTEOARTHRITIS: C T
OSTEOPHYTOSIS: C T

OTHER JOINTS:

CRANIAL MEASUREMENTS:

POST CRANIAL MEASUREMENTS:
Remarks: Lower leg and foot bones only

CONTEXT: 0339

PRESERVATION: Moderate, skeleton 60-80\% complete
SEX: Probably female
AGE: 16-18
STATURE:
DENTAL. FORMULA:


Key: .=tooth present in socket X-tooth lost post-mortem *=tooth lost ante-mortem $*=$ tooth lost ante - mortem $-=$ socket missing or damaged $\mathrm{T}=$ socket missing or damaged but loose tooth present $\mathrm{O}=$ congenital absence of tooth $\mathrm{U}=$ unerupted $\mathrm{E}=$ erupting $\mathrm{C}=$ caries cavity $\mathrm{A}=$ abscess at root $\mathrm{d}=$ deciduous tooth present

CRIBRA ORBITALTA:Cribriotic type
DENTAL CALCULUS GrI
DENTAL ENAMEL HYPOPLASIA: 0
DEGENERATIVE JOINT DISEASE:
SPINE: OSTEOARTHRITIS:

OSTEOPHYTOSIS: C T
OTHER JOINTS:
CRANIAL MEASUREMENTS:
POST CRANIAL MEASUREMENTS: Meric index $\mathrm{L}=74.1 \mathrm{R}=74.7$ Cnemic index $\mathrm{L}=72.0$ Femoral maximum length $L=345$ Tibia total length $L=287 R=284$ Fibula maximum length $R=268$ (all longbone lenghts without epiphyses)
REMARKS: Bones from the hands downwards stained black.

CONTEXT: 0375
PRESERVATION: Moderate, skeleton $<20 \%$ complete
SEX: Unsexable
AGE: Adult
STATURE: -

DENTAL FORMULA:

| 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |

LEFT

## RIGHT

Key: .=tooth present in socket X-tooth lost post-mortem *=tooth lost ante-mortem *= tooth lost ante - mortem -= socket missing or damaged $\mathrm{T}=$ socket missing or damaged but loose tooth present $\mathrm{O}=$ congenital absence of tooth $\mathrm{U}=$ unerupted $\mathrm{E}=$ erupting $\mathrm{C}=$ caries cavity $\mathrm{A}=$ abscess at root $\mathrm{d}=$ decicuous tooth present

CRIBRA ORBITALIA:
DENTAL CALCULUS:
DENTAL ENAMEL HYPOPL ASIA:

DEGENERATIVE JOINT DISEASE:
SPINE: OSTEOARTHRITIS: $\quad$ C $\quad$ T OSTEOPHYTOSIS:

C
T
L
OTHER JOINTS:
CRANIAL MEASUREMENTS:
POST CRANIAL MEASUREMENT6

REMARKS: Foot bones only

CONTEXT: 0400

PRESERVATION: Good, skeleton 20-40\% complete
SEX: Male
AGE: Adult
STATURE: 166 cm
DENTAL FORMULA:

| 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |

LEFT
RIGHT
Key: .=tooth present in socket X-tooth lost post-mortem *=tooth lost ante-mortem $*=$ tooth lost ante - mortem $-=$ socket missing or damaged $\mathrm{T}=$ socket missing or damaged but loose tooth present $\mathrm{O}=$ congenital absence of tooth $\mathrm{U}=$ unerupted $\mathrm{E}=$ erupting $\mathrm{C}=$ caries cavity $\mathrm{A}=$ abscess at root $\mathrm{d}=$ decicuous tooth present

## CRIBRA ORBITALIA:

DENTAL CALCULUS:
DENTAL ENAMEL HYPOPLASIA:
DEGENERATIVE JOINT DISEASE:
SPINE: OSTEOARTHRITIS C 2/5GrI T 3/6GrI L-
OSTEOPHYTOSIS: C $1 / 4 \mathrm{GrI}$ T $2 / 7 \mathrm{GrI}$ L-

OTHER JOINTS: GR I: 1R rib
CRANIAL MEASUREMENTS:
POST CRANIAL MEASUREMENTS: Humerus maximum length L=310 Radius maximum length $\mathrm{R}=231$ Ulna maximum length $\mathrm{R}=269$

REMARKS: Some bones stained black

Context: 0408
Preservation: Good, skeleton $>80 \%$ complete
Sex: Female
Age:25-35
STATURE: 154 cm
DENTAL FORMULA:


Key: .=tooth present in socket X-tooth lost post-mortem *=tooth lost ante-mortem *= tooth lost ante - mortem $-=$ socket missing or damaged $\mathrm{T}=$ socket missing or damaged but loose tooth present $\mathrm{O}=$ congenital absence of tooth $U=$ unerupted $E=$ erupting $C=$ caries cavity $A=$ abscess at root $d=$ decicuous tooth present

CRIBRA ORBITALIA: 0
DENTAL CALCULUS: Gr II
DENTAL ENAMEL HYPOPLAS1A: -
DEGENERATIVE JOINT DISEASE:

| SPINE: OSTEOARTHRITIS: | C $0 / 7$ | T $0 / 9$ | L $0 / 5$ |
| :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| OSTEOPHYTOSIS: | C $0 / 6$ | T $0 / 12$ | L $0 / 5$ |

OTHER JOINTS:
CRANIAL MEASUREMENTS: Mastoid height L=29.0
POST CRANIAL MEASUREMENTS: Meric index $\mathrm{L}=61.7 \mathrm{R}=70.5$ Cnemic index $\mathrm{L}=76.7 \mathrm{R}=68.8$ Femoral head diameter $L=40.7$ Femoral bicondylar width $R=73.4$ Femur maximum length $L=403$ $\mathrm{R}=407$ Tibia total length $\mathrm{L}=317 \mathrm{R}=319$ Radius maxumum length $\mathrm{L}=217 \mathrm{R}=218$ Ulna maximum length $\mathrm{L}=232$

REMARKS: Atlas anomalies: there is a failure of fusion of the posterior arch of the atlas at the midline (spina bifida). A bony bridge runs from the left transverse process to the posterior arch and there is an incomplete bridge on the right hand side. The left foramen transversarium is incomplete.
The proximal end of the left femur is twisted about 60 degrees from its normal position so that the head projects anteriorly instead of medially. No pathology is apparent in this bone, however. Two thoracic vertebrae bear Schmorl's nodes, one on its superior, one on its inferior surface.

CONTEXT: 0415/0417
PRESERVATION: Good, skeleton 40-60: complete
SEX: Male
AGE: About 25

STATURE: 172 cm

DENTAL FORMULA:


Key: .=tooth present in socket X-tooth lost post-mortem *=tooth lost ante-mortem *= tooth lost ante - mortem $-=$ socket missing or damaged $\mathrm{T}=$ socket missing or damaged but loose tooth present $\mathrm{O}=$ congenital absence of tooth $\mathrm{U}=$ unerupted $\mathrm{E}=$ erupting $\mathrm{C}=$ caries cavity $\mathrm{A}=$ abscess at root $\mathrm{d}=$ decicuous tooth present

CRIBRA ORBITALIA: -
DENTAL CALCULUS: 0
DENTAL ENAMEL HYPOPLASIA: 0
DEGENERATIVE JOINT DISEASE:
SPINE: OSTEOARTHRITIS: C- T 0/4 L 0/5
OSTEOPHYTOSIS: C T 3/5GrI L 2/5GrI
OTHER JOINTS: GrII: distal L ulna and radius, 3 L carpals GrI: distal end of R 1st metacarpal
CRANIAL MEASUREMENTS:
POST CRANIAL MEASUREMENTS: Meric index L=79.8 R=80.0 Cnemic index L=77.1 R=76.1 Femoral head diameter $\mathrm{L}=47.9 \mathrm{R}=48.5$ Femoral bicondylar width $\mathrm{L}=80.8$ Femur maximum length $\mathrm{L}=460$ Tibia total length $\mathrm{L}=390 \mathrm{R}=392$ Radius maximum length $\mathrm{L}=250$ Ulna maximum length $\mathrm{L}=270$ (radi2a3lna lengths are inclusive of osteophytes around distal joint surfaces)

REMARKS: Bones from the distal femurs upwards are stained black.
The GrII osteoarthritis of the left wrist is probably due to trauma. There are exostoses on the hamate and lunate bones and exuberant osteophytes, particularly on the distal joint surface of the ulna. X-ray revealed no evidence for fracture.
Three thoracic vertebrae show Schmorl's nodes on both their inferior and superior surfaces, 2 have nodes on their inferior surfaces only and a lumbar vertebra has a node on its superior surface.

CONTEXT: 0425

PRESERVATION: Poor, skeleton 20-40\% complete
SEX: Unsexable
AGE: 17-20
STATURE:
DENTAL FORMULA:

| 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|  | X | - | - | - | - | - | X | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | X |

## LEFT

RIGHT

## LEFT RIGHT

Key: .=tooth present in socket $\mathrm{X}=$ tooth lost post-mortem $*=$ tooth lost ante-mortem $-=$ socket missing or damaged $\mathrm{T}=$ socket missing or damaged but loosCRIBRAh present $0=$ congenital absence of tooth $\mathrm{U}=$ unerupted $\mathrm{E}=$ erupting $\mathrm{C}=$ caries cavity $\mathrm{A}=$ abscess at root $\mathrm{d}=$ decicuous tooth present

CRIBRA ORBITALIA: -
DENTAL CALCULUS: GrI
DENTAL ENAMEL HYPOPLASIA: 0
DEGENERATIVE JOINT DISEASE:
SPINE: OSTEOARTHRITIS: C- 0/1 T- L -
OSTEOPHYTOSIS: C- T - L-

OTHER JOINTS:
CRANIAL MEASUREMENTS: Mastoid height L=32.5

POST CRANIAL MEASUREMENTS: Meric index $\mathrm{L}=79.3 \mathrm{R}=77.4$ Cnemic index $\mathrm{L}=71.1 \mathrm{R}-73.8$ Tibia total length $\mathrm{L}=365 \mathrm{R}=359$

REMARKS: Lower leg bones stained black. No hand or foot bones.

CONTEXT: 0578
PRESERVATION: Good, skeleton $>80 \%$ complete
SEX: Female
AGE: 35-45
STATURE: 160 cm

DENTAL FORMULA:

| . | . | . | . | . | . | . | . | $X$ | . | . | . | . |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 8 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| . | . | . | . | . | . | . | $X$ | $X$ | . | . | . |  |  |  |  |

## LEFT

RIGHT
Key: .=tooth present in socket X=tooth lost post-mortem *=tooth lost ante-mortem $-=$ socket missing or damaged $\mathrm{T}=$ socket missing or damaged but loose tooth present $0=$ congenital absence of tooth U=unerupted $\mathrm{E}=$ erupting $\mathrm{C}=$ caries cavity $\mathrm{A}=$ abscess at root $\mathrm{d}=$ decicuous tooth present

CRIBRA ORBITALIA: 0
DENTAL CALCULUS: GPI
DENTAL ENAMEL HYPOPLASIA: 0

DEGENERATIVE JOINT DISEASE:
SPINE: OSTEOARTHRITIS:

| OSTEOARTHRITIS: | C $0 / 6$ | T $2 / 11 \mathrm{GrIII}$ | L $1 / 5 \mathrm{GrIII}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $2 / 11 \mathrm{GrII}$ | $1 / 5 \mathrm{GrII}$ |
| OSTEOPHYTOSIS: |  | C $1 / 3 \mathrm{GrI}$ | $\mathrm{T} 4 / 11 \mathrm{GrI}$ |
| $1 / 5 \mathrm{GrI}$ | $\mathrm{L} 4 / 5 \mathrm{GrI}$ |  |  |

OTHER JOINTS: GrI: Distal joint surface L metatarsal, 1L, 5R ribs
CRANIAL MEASUREMENTS: Nasion-Bregma chord=108.3 Mastoid height R=28.9 Bifrontal breadth=92.0 Bregma-Lambda chord=108.5

POST CRANIAL MEASUREMENTS: Meric index L=79.5 R=79.8 Cnemic index L=70.7 R=70.7 Femoral head diameter $\mathrm{L}=43.8 \mathrm{R}=43.5$ Femoral bicondylar width $\mathrm{L}=75.2 \mathrm{R}=73.9$ Femur maximum length $\mathrm{L}=423 \mathrm{R}=416$ Tibia total length $\mathrm{L}=344 \mathrm{R}=345$ Humerus maximum length $\mathrm{R}=308$ Radius maximum length $\mathrm{L}=232 \mathrm{R}=234$

REMARKS: The sacrum has only 4 segments and displays complete spina, bifida. In addition it does not display its normal anterior curvature, but is almost staight.
The fifth lumbar vertebra shows a neural arch defect: the R side of the neural arch is missing from the pars interarticularis the midline.
The R ulna and radius both show a healed fracture. That on the radius is at the midshaft and shows abundant, porotic callus. There is slight angulation at the break. The ulna fracture is $5-7 \mathrm{~cm}$ from the distal end and is firmly united, showing much less callus than the radius. X-ray reveals no evidence for shortening of either bone due to overriding of the broken ends - the right ulna and radius are in fact 6 mm and 2 mm longer respectively than their (normal) counterparts in the left forearm.
On the lateral surface of the left humerus, about 6 cm from the distal end, there is an irregular exostosis about 2 cm long. This is probably traumatic myositis ossificans.

CONTEXT: 0634

PRESERVATION: Moderate, skeleton 20-40\% complete
SEX: Female
AGE: Adult
STATURE: 173 cm

DENTAL FORMULA:


Key: .=tooth present in socket $\mathrm{X}=$ tooth lost post-mortem $*=$ tooth lost ante-mortem $-=$ socket missing or damaged $\mathrm{T}=$ socket missing or damaged but loose tooth present $0=$ congenital absence of tooth $\mathrm{U}=$ unerupted $\mathrm{E}=$ erupting $\mathrm{C}=$ caries cavity $\mathrm{A}=$ abscess at root $\mathrm{d}=$ decicuous tooth present

## CRIBRA ORBITALIA:

DENTAL CALCULUS:

## DENTAL ENAMEL HYPOPLASIA:

DEGENERATIVE JOINT DISEASE:
SPINE: OSTEOARTHRITIS:
C - T -
L 0/1
OSTEOPHYTOSIS:
C - T-
L 1/1Gr1

OTHER JOINTS: Osteophytosis: GrII on Si Osteoarthritis: GrIII: distal joint surface of R 1st metatarsal GrI: both distal femora \& patellae. proximal L tibia. L medial cuneiform

## CRANIAL MEASUREMENTS:

POST CRANIAL MEASUREMENTS: Meric index L=78.6 Cnemic index $\mathrm{L}=62.9 \mathrm{R}=65.2$ Femoral head diameter $\mathrm{L}=45.1$ Femur maximum length $\mathrm{L}=457 \mathrm{R}-385$

REMARKS: There is an irregular, raised area approximately 7 mm diameter, of sclerotic bone on the lateral condyle of the right femur. Just medial to this there is a smaller area of pitted bone. The right patella shows a pitted, sclerotic area on the lateral part of the joint surface. The left femur shows an irregular, pitted eroded area on its distal joint surface in the depression between $m$ condyles. A little bone from this pitted area rises proud of the joint surface. The lesion is about 7 mm diameter. There is a similar area of raised, irregular bone on the medial condyle.
These lessions probably represent osteochrondritis dissecans, the areas with bone rising proud of the joint surface being healed lesions.

