

Chapter 20. The Human Bones

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Three skeletons and a skull were recovered (burials 1-4). These consisted of two infants, an adult male and a portion of a calvarium. Sexing of the adult male was on morphological (pelvis) and metrical (femoral and humeral head) criteria. Ageing was on the os pubis changes (Katz and Suchey 1986). In juveniles, age estimation was based on epiphyseal fusion (Scheuer and Black 2000). Stature and robusticity calculations were not possible due to the incompleteness of the bones.

Additional to burials 1-4, a small quantity of redeposited, disarticulated human remains, mainly comprising long bone fragments, was recovered. Preservation is good to moderate, with some erosion and loss of surface detail. A number of long bones are complete, while some bear evidence of post-mortem fracturing. The assemblage is too fragmentary for estimations of sex to be determined. Several individuals are represented; none of their long bone shafts bear evidence for epiphyseal union, and most appear to be infants aged two years and under. Skeletal elements are summarised below (Table 20.1).

Phase	Group	Type	Description
0	49	-	Burial 1. Infant 1 year +/- 4 months. Almost complete skeleton. No pathology.
0	82	-	Burial 2. Adult, male, 30 years +. Almost complete skeleton. Pathology: slight lipping of the vertical bodies of T1-T11.
0.1	0.1	Natural interface	Cranial elements deriving from the frontal(?) region, humeri (distal ends), fibula (distal end), femur, indeterminate long bone diaphyses, rib and pelvis fragments (MNI: 1).
0.1	0.1	Topsoil	Radius
1	87	Pit	Indeterminate cranial elements, humerus, radii (proximal ends), fibula (distal end), femora (left and right), indeterminate long bone diaphyses, rib and pelvis fragments; phalanges from the hands and feet (MNI: 2).
2	1	Ditch	Cranial elements deriving from the frontal region
2	62	Occupation layer	Phalanx (hand) from proximal row
3	45	Enclosure ditch	Burial 4. Calva; older adult based on the obliteration of portions of three or more sutures. Female? Pathology: depression of the posterior portion of the sagittal suture and much of the lamboid suture. Inner table appears normal.
3	64	Gully	Burial 3. Neonate, birth +/- 2 months. Almost complete skeleton. No pathology.
3	78	Ditch	Indeterminate long bone shaft
4	8	Ditch	Indeterminate long bone shafts
4	69	Occupation layer	Humerus (distal end)
5	80	Pit	Left humerus
5	80	Robber trench	Ulna (proximal end)
Void	-	-	Tibia shaft
Void	-	-	Tibia (proximal end)

Table 20.1 Summary of human bone