

## **FWP62a**

### **The Beaker Skeletons from Overton Down Juliet Rogers & (the late) R F Everton**

Skeletons from three individuals were examined; two adults and a child. The child and an adult male were nearly complete but the skeleton of the other adult, which was probably a female, was represented by the lower legs and feet only.

Burial 1 comprised a skeleton in which the majority of bones were represented, although many including the skull were broken and too distorted by earth pressure for reconstruction. The face, five cervical vertebrae and five dorsal vertebrae were missing. The state of epiphyseal fusion, the lengths of the long bones and the eruption of teeth all suggest an age of about seven years (Brothwell 1972, Genores 1969). There were no abnormalities or pathological conditions.

Burial 1B was a complete male skeleton aged between 22 and 30, although many of the bones were fragmented. However, the maximum lengths of the femora and tibiae could be measured, allowing a stature estimation of 1679 mm (Trotter & Gleser 1958). The lamboid suture contained multiple ossicles. The third and seventh to eleventh thoracic vertebrae exhibited a slight degree of osteophytic lipping on their upper and lower margins. The only other abnormalities apparent were dental; there were two maxillary diastemas, one of 6mm, between the right first molar and second premolar; and one of 4mm between the left premolars. In the left side of the mandible was an especially large mental foramen measuring 6 x 4mm, although no underlying abnormality was seen in an X-ray of the area.

Burial 2 was only represented by the lower legs and feet of an adult skeleton which was probably female. Assuming that the skeleton was correctly sexed the stature was estimated as 1568mm using the maximum length of the fibula. There were no abnormalities or pathological conditions.

The small number of skeletons examined from this site makes comparison with other groups of a similar date unreliable. However, the observations that were made show that they do not differ in any marked respect from the groups at Cassington or Eynsham (Leeds 1934 & 1938) or previously excavated skeletons from Overton (Smith & Simpson 1966).

### **References**

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