

Preliminary Report on Human Remains Analysed in 2006

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INTRODUCTION

This year's work on human remains from Kaman-Kalehöyük focussed mainly on the analysis of the remaining material from a mass burial excavated in 1991, dated by pottery chronology to the Late Iron Age.

A start was made on this material in 2005. Individuals O (Skeleton no. 5, HS 91-01) and P (Skeleton no. 12, HS 91-12) were analysed. In addition, Individual J (Skeleton no. 1, HS 91-01) from the same assemblage was analysed in 2004, when it was unclear to the writer that the remains formed part of a multiple burial, with the analysis being published in Hunt 2005.

For ease of comparison, the results for Individuals J, O and P are re-presented here. Elements not included in their earlier respective element inventories, but which came to light during the 2006 analysis, have been added to their respective descriptions, as have any further observation(s) deemed necessary.

In addition to analysing the remaining individuals from the Late Iron Age mass burial, one individual excavated in 2002, two in 2005 and one in 2006 were also analysed.

OVERVIEW OF 1991 MATERIAL

The drawings made and photographs taken at the time of the excavation showed that parts of this assemblage appeared to be intermingled. Some individuals (especially towards the top of the pit) were more easily distinguished than others. Others, however, showed no clearly discernible articulation, especially in the middle and lower levels and around the periphery of the pit. Most of the crania were found around the outer edge of the assemblage, close to the edge of the pit.

Juvenile bones were generally more scattered than adult bones and tended also to be found towards edge.

Most of the individuals for whom it was possible to determine this had been deposited on their backs, with arms and legs left seemingly where they had come to rest, rather than in an orderly manner, giving an appearance of bodies that had been tossed into the pit, rather than deposited in a more orderly manner. This may have been related, perhaps, to the nature of the burial, be an indication of normal burial practice at the time, or may reflect space and/or time constraints during deposition. The occasionally interwoven position of some limbs sometimes made it difficult to understand the order in which the individuals might have been deposited.

It is possible that the burial had been disturbed, e.g. by interment of additional individuals, or by animal activity, and that some remains might have disappeared altogether, through taphonomic processes or human activity. The material in the middle of the assemblage, and around the edges of the pit make this theory more likely than do the remains at the top of the pile and at the bottom. It must therefore be stressed that the allocation of elements to each individual will, at times, be somewhat tentative. A large number of bones could not be securely allocated.

Some earlier work had been carried out on sorting individuals from each other, and a provisional count of skeletons had been made. In addition to the main individuals, each number also covered a multiple of bones from other individuals, sometimes more than one. Where this occurred, a brief listing of the relevant material is given, where available, following the respective individuals' descriptions.

The material was highly fragmented, dry and friable. Most of the damage was recent, most likely due

to prolonged exposure to direct sunlight and temperature/moisture fluctuations at night. Some recent animal damage was also seen. Due to the poor preservation and the resultant loss of articular surfaces and muscular development indicators, it was not possible to give a secure allocation-to-individual of several elements and fragments. The preservation also made it difficult to inspect bone surfaces for evidence of pathology and/or trauma. As much reconstruction as could feasibly be done at the time of inspection was carried out in order to facilitate assessment.

Some of the material had been consolidated without removing the adhering soil, and this substance had set hard. Due to time constraints it was judged best not to treat the bone chemically at this point in time in order to remove the consolidant.

The photographs and drawings of the assemblage showed a total of 11 individuals deposited in a disused storage pit. The earlier skeleton count had the count as 12 individuals, but two of the sets of remains were judged by the writer to belong together. A further individual, a neonate/very young infant, could not be seen either on drawings or in photos, bringing the total back up to 12. Their estimated ages ranged from neonate to older than 35 years of age, with one individual probably being middle-aged. Both sexes were represented. The breakdown in sex, age and maturity can be summarised as follows (?male and ?female have been included in the count):

Adult males: 3
 Adult females: 4
 Adult unsexed: 0
 Juvenile males: 0
 Juvenile females: 1
 Juvenile unsexed: 4

giving a total of 7 adults and 5 juveniles, which translates into 58.3% adults and 41.7% juveniles. There was no clearly dominant age group in the sample, either among the adults or the juveniles. Further intra-sample statistical analysis was not carried out, since it could not be securely determined that the individuals in the grave had all been interred at the same time, and there was no secure stratigraphy. Taking the assemblage as a whole, however, there did not seem to be any clear preference for orientation, burial position or spatial preference

related to age and/or sex. Where possible, the orientation for each individual has been given in the results. A clear link between crania and their respective post-crania was often missing, and in such cases no orientation has been given

Further study of this material may result in a distribution of some of the as yet unallocated remains. The results given below are therefore based purely on the elements that could be securely determined, and on the information provided by the photographs and drawings.

Where possible, the provisional skeleton count has been re-used in the HS listings.

METHODOLOGY

Analysis of human remains will always be influenced by the high degree of variation that exists between individuals. The main factors in such variation are sexual dimorphism, individual development and the influence of environmental factors such as nutrition, and of pathology. An individual is a product of all these, and each influences both overall development and that of more localised areas of the skeleton.

The skeleton is our primary source of information at most excavations. Because of the variation discussed above it is unlikely that we will be able to pinpoint a specific age for an individual based solely on his or her mortal remains. Likelihood of arriving at a narrow age span decreases with the amount of material available for analysis. This is also true if the state of preservation is poor, and if the individual being assessed is likely to be a mature adult. Given the relatively fragmented and often friable condition of much of the remains, the results of this primary analysis should be seen as provisional only. In many cases a more detailed analysis would be necessary to achieve a higher degree of certainty.

The following methodology was used for the primary analysis:

Number of Individuals

Main indicators used (each indicator applies to entire bones and teeth as well as to fragments):

- difference in levels of maturity between different bones or teeth that would normally exhibit the same degree of

- development if belonging to the same individual;
- morphological and/or size differences between antimeres (bones or teeth), taking into account the possible influence of pathology;
- presence of “extra” bones or teeth;
- acceptable/unacceptable levels of articulation between adjacent bones in joints;
- presence/absence of occlusion between upper and lower dentition;
- presence/absence of observed anomalies in fragments of the same element;
- state of closure/obliteration of cranial sutures;
- differences in secondary sexual traits;
- levels of dental wear;
- differences in preservation/colour.

It should be noted that differences in preservation/colour may not always be a reliable indicator. In some excavated material, even an entire bone may show different colours in different areas (e.g. in a cranium which had been partly buried, partly exposed to open air). Two fragments of the same bone may also show different colour if they were separated *post mortem* and subject to different taphonomic pressures. This indicator was therefore always used in conjunction with others.

Level of Maturity

1) Adult or juvenile

This report defines the term “adult” as an individual in whom

- the basi-occipital synchondrosis is complete (Warwick and Williams 1973);
- the 2nd molars are fully erupted and in occlusion, with the apex of the roots closed, and (where these exist) eruption of the 3rd molars is either complete or in progress (Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994);
- the epiphyseal union in paired long-bones other than the clavicle is advanced or completed (Brothwell 1981).

In most populations these events will have taken place in the late teens - early twenties.

“Juvenile” indicates an individual where one or more of these developmental stages has not been reached. If no assessment could be made, the report uses “?adult” or “?juvenile”, depending on which was deemed to be more likely.

2) Age

Following an assessment of maturity, the following indicators/traits were used to determine a likely age span at death:

A) adults

- dental development (Hillson 1996; Brown 1985)
- dental wear (Brothwell 1981)
- epiphyseal union (Warwick and Williams 1973; Brothwell 1981)
- age related changes in the auricular surface (Lovejoy *et al.* 1985), Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994)
- age related changes in the costo-condrial junction of the 4th rib (Angel *et al.* 1986)
- change in the pubic symphysis (Brooks and Suchey 1990)
- fusion in cranial sutures (Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994)
- presence/absence of vertebral osteophytes (Brothwell 1981)

It should be noted that all of these indicators provide a like age span only, and not a precise number of years. The fusion of cranial sutures and the presence of vertebral osteophytes are most useful as indicators of greater or lesser maturity rather than providing an age span.

B) juveniles

- dental development (Hillson 1996; Brown 1985)
- basi-occipital synchondrosis (Warwick and Williams 1973)
- epiphyseal union or lack thereof (Warwick and Williams 1973; Brothwell 1981)
- development of epiphyses (Warwick and Williams 1973; Bass 1995)
- union of the ilium, ischium and pubis (Warwick and Williams 1973, Brothwell 1981)
- length of long-bones without epiphyses (Bass 1995, after Trotter and Gleser 1952)

In addition, in foetal material or that of very young infants:

- measurements of individual bones (Fazekas and Costa 1978)
- presence/absence of open cranial fontanelles (Warwick and Williams 1973)
- fusion of the tympanic ring (Warwick and Williams 1973)

- fusion of other bones (Warwick and Williams 1973)

Determination of Sex

This cannot always be done with certainty, as the remains may not include an adequate number of the relevant parts of the skeleton, or the skeleton may not show sufficiently marked secondary sexual traits. These latter only develop from puberty onwards, and it is therefore not possible to determine the sex of juveniles with any degree of accuracy from the dry skeleton only. This report therefore uses “male”, “female”, “?male”, “?female” and “undetermined”, as appropriate.

The following traits were used in determining sex:

the pelvis:	ischio-pubic ramus, sub-pubic concavity, ventral arc, sub-pubic angle, morphology of the sciatic notch, sacroiliac articulation, presence/absence of pre-auricular sulcus, overall pelvic morphology (Phenice 1969, Washburn 1948, Bass 1995, Brothwell 1981)
the cranium:	prominence of brow-ridge, development of the nuchal lines, occipital protuberance and external occipital crest, development of the mastoid process and the zygomatic arch, angle and shape of the orbits, degree of incline in the frontal bone, relative size of the dentition (Brothwell 1881, Bass 1995, Scott and Turner 2000)
the mandible:	development of the gonial area, angle of the ascending ramus relative to the body of the mandible; development of the chin, the relative size of the dentition (references as for cranium);
general	development of muscular insertions points, overall robusticity, metric measurements e.g. length of long-bones, diameter of the femoral head (Bass 1995, using Trotter and Gleser 1952).

Except in individuals with marked dimorphic traits in the pelvic area or the cranium, assessment is often based on relative size and development. Dimorphism can vary between populations as well as between individuals. As

with indicators of maturity and age, therefore, as many of the sexual traits as possible were used in the analysis.

Other Observations

Dental pathology (Hillson 1996)

Osteological pathology (Roberts and Manchester 1995)

Stature (Bass 1995).

RESULTS OF PRIMARY ANALYSIS

Individual J (analysed in 2004)

Co-ordinates: KL 910816 North IX XXIX-55

Pit (P) 554

Multiple burial, Skeleton no. 1 HS 91-01

Adult male, c 18-23 years old

Skeletal elements present: Cranium (frontal bone, R and L parietal bone, occipital bone, R and L zygomatic bone, R and L nasal bone), almost complete mandible, upper dentition (16-18, 27-28), lower dentition (34, 35, 37, 38, 43-48,), hyoid, R and L scapula, L clavicle, sternum (manubrium and part of body), cervical, thoracic and lumbar vertebrae, sacrum, R and L innominate, R and L ribs, R and L humerus, L ulna, R and L femur, R patella, R and L tibia, L fibula (shaft and proximal end), R foot (calcaneus, talus, cuboid, navicular, 1st, 2nd and 3rd cuneiform, 1st - 4th and fragment of 5th metatarsal, 2nd - 5th proximal phalanges, 2nd - 4th medial phalanges and 2 sesamoid bones), L foot (talus, tarsal bones).

Observations: Although very fragmented, and in a very friable condition, the elements are well represented. The



Caption: Square 32 Pit 554 under excavation. The initial deposits, still covered by the remains of later additions, can be seen in the right-hand half of the photo,

larger cranial bones had survived better than the post-crania, and some refitting was possible (frontal, parietal and occipital bones).

Linear enamel hypoplasia seen in all teeth, ranging from faint to very deep). There was caries in 17, to distal. Calculus adhered to 34, 35, 38, 43 (where it covered most of the crown on the lingual side), 44, 45 and 48.

This individual was lying with its head towards North-East., facing North-West.

Individual AM

Co-ordinates: KL 910813 North IX XXIX-55 P 554

Multiple burial; Skeleton no. 2 HS 91-02

Adult female, aged > 25 years

Skeletal elements present: cranium (vault), mandible (L ascending ramus missing), lower dentition (36, 43-48), R clavicle (medial half only); R and L scapula, vertebrae (cervical, thoracic and lumbar, undetermined number), L sacrum (fragment of S1 only); L ilium, R and L ribs (undetermined number), R and L humerus (both proximal ends missing); R and L radius, R and L humerus (all epiphyses missing); L femur (shaft only); L patella, L tibia, L fibula.

Observations: All teeth had a deposit of calculus in both supra-gingival and sub-gingival position. Almost half of the crown of 36 had broken away.

This individual was lying with its head towards North-East. It is shown on the drawing as the centremost individual, and may have been deposited last.

Individual AN

Co-ordinates: KL 910807 North IX XXIX-55 P 554

Multiple burial, Skeleton no. 3 HS 91-03

Adult male, aged c. 20 - 25

Skeletal elements present: Cranium (calvaria and nasal bones only), R mandible (body only), lower dentition (47 and 48, *in situ*).

Observations: The mandibular fragment is not clearly visible on the photographs or the drawing. It has been assumed to belong to the cranium based on their having been boxed together, and on there being no factors that would indicate separate individuals.

Some refitting had been carried out prior to inspection.

No secure orientation could be determined, but East-

West is probably, with the cranium towards West.

Individual AO

Co-ordinates: KL 910811-21 (no specific date) North IX XXIX-55 P 554

Multiple burial, Skeleton no. 13 (allocated at analysis) HS 91-13

Juvenile (neonate-2 months old)

Skeletal elements present: Cranium (fragment of R frontal bone including superior orbital ridge, unisided fragment of parietal bone; fragment of ?sphenoid; basilar portion).

Observations: These fragments were found among those grouped under Skeleton no. 9. No orientation could be given.

Individual O (analysed in 2005)

Co-ordinates: KL 910809 North IX XXIX - 55 P 554

Multiple burial, Skeleton no. 5 HS 91-05

Adult female, 18-23 years old

Skeletal elements present: Cranium (frontal bone, R temporal bone, occipital bone, maxilla), mandible (L ascending ramus and fragment of L side of body), upper and lower dentition (11-13, 15-18, 21-28, 31-33, 35, 43-44 and 46-48; damaged roots), hyoid, R clavicle (lateral end only); fragments of undetermined number of cervical and thoracic vertebrae and ribs (medial fragments only).

Observations: Calculus and dirt under a layer of consolidant covered a number of teeth to approximately half-way up the crown, rendering observations about other dental health difficult. Linear enamel hypoplasia was, however, discernible close to the cemento-enamel junction in 27, 28, 47 and 48.

Three distinct roots were seen in tooth 47; the antimere was missing.

No orientation could be determined. The cranium was facing East.

Individual AP

Co-ordinates: KL 910808 North IX XXIX-55 P 554

Multiple burial, skeleton no. 6 HS 91-06

Juvenile aged c. 18-24 months, sex undetermined

Skeletal elements present: Cranium (R frontal bone, R and L parietal bones, R and L temporal bones (root of

zygoma), occipital bone, R and L maxilla, L mandible (almost complete), R mandible (medial body only), developing dentition (deciduous 51-55, 61-65, 71-75, 83 and 84; permanent 11, 16, 26, 31, 32 and 41), cervical vertebrae (1, 3-7), rib (R 1st), unsided 1st metacarpal, 2 unsided hand phalanges (probably medial).

Observations: The anterior fontanelle was still open when this infant died. Despite the young age, a well developed mental process and flared L gonion (R gonion missing) could be seen, which might indicate a male.

All first molars showed a Carbelli's cusp.

Elements from two, possibly three further individuals were found with this individuals (cranial fragments from an older juvenile or adult, adult maxillary fragment with 17 and 18 *in situ*, loose 18).

No orientation could be determined.

Individual AQ

Co-ordinates: KL 910814 KL IX XXIX-55 P 554

Multiple burial, Skeleton no. 7 HS 91-07

Adult female, aged > 35 years

Skeletal elements present: Cranium (frontal bone, R and L parietals, R temporal bone, occipital bone, maxilla (anterior fragment only), mandible (fragment of L body and L coronoid process), L clavicle, L scapula (acromion only), 1 cervical vertebra, lumbar and sacral vertebrae (no count possible), R and L innominate (including R pubic symphysis), R humerus, R radius (metaphysis only), R ulna, all R carpals except the pisiform, all L carpals, 2nd-5th R metacarpal, 2nd, 4th and 5th L metacarpal, 14 unsided hand phalanges, (7 proximal, 3 medial and 4 distal), R and L femur (metaphyses only), R and L patella, R and L tibia (L side metaphysis only), R and L fibula, R and L calcaneus, R and L talus, all R and L tarsal bones, all R metatarsals, proximal and distal R 1st phalanges, L 3rd metatarsal, 2 unsided sesamoid bones.

Observations: The following elements were also found under "Skeleton 7": humerus (distal epiphysis), proximal R ulna, R hand bones (hamate, capitate, 4th and 5th metacarpals, L hand bones (pisiform, 5th metacarpal), 3 R tibiae, R fibula, 2 distal L fibulae, 2 L calcanei, 2 L tali. All of these were adult bones, except the humeral epiphysis.

This individual was lying along an East-West axis, with the head to the East. The cranium was facing South.

Individual AR

Co-ordinates: KL 910820 North IX XXIX-55 P 554

Multiple burial, Skeleton no. 8 HS 91-08

Juvenile aged c. 5 years, sex undetermined

Skeletal elements present: Cranium (all vault bones represented, face represented by L maxilla), mandible, upper deciduous dentition (51, 53-55, 61-65), upper permanent dentition (11, 12, 16, 21, 23, 24, 26, 27; erupting and unerupted), lower deciduous dentition (73-76, 82-85), lower permanent dentition (31, 32, 36, 37, 46, 47; erupting and unerupted), R and L proximal clavicle, cervical, thoracic and lumbar vertebrae, sacrum (S1, S2 and ?S5); R and L ilium, R and L ischium, R and L ribs, L distal humerus, L radius, L ulna, L 2nd and 3rd metacarpals, R femur (proximal half), L tibia (proximal half), L fibula (metaphysis), L 1st-4th metatarsals.

Observations: Traces of calculus at alveolar margin in mandible. All three permanent incisors are shovel shaped; bipartite cingulum with pit in 23; double cingulum in 11 and 21, with a marked groove between the two halves. A less developed form of the latter can be seen in 12.

Remains of a second, older, juvenile were found under this number; possible age <14 years. Fragments of an adult ulna were also found.

No orientation could be determined. The cranium appeared to have been facing South.

Individual AS

Co-ordinates: KL 910821 KL XXIX-55 P 554

Multiple burial, Skeleton no. 9 HS 91-09

Mature adult, sex undetermined, probably middle-aged

Skeletal elements present: Cranium (fragments of all vault bones; face represented by R zygoma and fragment of anterior maxilla), mandible (body only), lower dentition (31 (root only), 33, 35, 41 (root only) 42, 43, 46), R and L clavicles (metaphysis only), unsided fragments of scapular blade, 2 cervical vertebrae (?C3-4), lumbar vertebra (L5), sacrum (S1-S4), unsided fragments of the ilia, R and L humerus, R femur, R tibia and fibula (metaphysis only).

Observations: Some secondary dentine seen in the teeth. All teeth were well worn. Caries was present in 46, which had lost almost 75% of its crown and some of the root, and in 31, where most of the crown was missing. It

is possible that 41 also had caries, but the evidence was less clear-cut. Traces of calculus were found on the teeth. Linear hypoplasia was seen in both canines, and, to a lesser extent in 42.

Teeth 11, 12, 21, 22, 36-38, 47 and 48 were all lost ante-mortem.

This number covered a number of elements clearly not part of the same individual. No definite list of this material was made. These elements belonged to at least one, possibly two adults and two juveniles, one of which is listed here as Individual AO.

No orientation could be given. The cranium appeared to be facing North-West.

Individual AT

Co-ordinates: KL 910817 Norht IX XXIX-55 P 554

Multiple burial, Skeleton no.10 HS 91-10

Adult ?female, aged >25 years

Skeletal elements present: Cranium (fragments of most vault bones, with the calotte best represented), L scapula (acromion and blade).

Observations: The interior cranial surface shows non-specific periostitis, possibly indicating an infectious disease. The exterior surface appears normal.

No orientation could be determined.

Individual AU

Co-ordinates: KL 910816 and 910807 Norht IX XXIX-55 P 554

Multiple burial, Skeletons no. 4 and 11 HS 91-04/11

Juvenile, sex undetermined, age c. 8 years

Skeletal elements present: Cranium (R and L parietal bones), mandible,

lower deciduous dentition (73-75), lower permanent dentition (31, 32, 36, 41-43, 46, 47; erupted, erupting and unerupted), R scapula (medial half only), R clavicle (medial only), cervical, thoracic and lumbar vertebrae, sacrum (S1-S3), R ilium, R and L ribs, R and L humerus (proximal ends missing), L radius (distal end missing), L ulna, L carpals, all L metacarpals, proximal epiphysis of L 1st digit, R and L femora (R proximal and both distal ends missing), L tibia (metaphysis only).

Observations: The dentition showed linear enamel hypoplasia in 31, 32, 41, 42 and 43.

Two adult sternal fragments (manubrium and body)

and a hand phalange from an older juvenile were found under this number.

This individual's torso and limbs were deposited on a South-West/North-East axis. Its cranium had been separated from the body and was found a little way away from the distal end of the R tibia (no feet were found).

Individual P (analysed in 2005)

Co-ordinates: KL 910820 North IX XXIX-55 P 554 HS 91-12

Multiple burial, Skeleton no. 12 HS 91-12

Juvenile female, c. 13-16 years old.

Skeletal elements present: Cranium (fragment of a petrous bone only); L clavicle (medial fragment only), L scapula (fragment of acromion and glenoid only), cervical and thoracic vertebrae (<10 very small fragments), sacrum, R innominate (epiphyses missing), R humerus, L radius (no epiphyses), R radius (with distal epiphysis), R ulna with distal epiphysis, *R and L hand (R and L metacarpals, R and L phalanges), L femur (including distal epiphysis)*, L patella, L tibia (distal epiphysis missing), L fibula (distal half, including epiphysis), R and L feet (L calcaneous (including epiphysis), R calcaneous (fragment), L talus, L 5th metatarsal, R 4th metatarsal).

Observations: No observations of osseous pathology or abnormality were made.

A number of elements, whole or fragmented, from much younger individuals were found with Individual P and had been grouped under skeleton number 12. These remains were deemed to belong to one, possibly two individuals. The elements were all post-cranial and comprised the shaft of a femur (young child or infant), the shaft of a tibia (infant), a fragment of a tarsal bone (probably infant), a fragment of a ?tibial epiphysis (young child or infant), the body of a cervical vertebrae (young child or infant), one other fragment (unidentified).

Two teeth and a frontal bone fragment of non-human origin were included with the human bones.

No orientation could be securely determined. The lower half of the skeleton was lying along a North-West/South-East axis.

Individual AV

Co-ordinates: KL 050920 North VIII XXXI-55
Provisional layer (PL) ⑨① Room (R) 390 HS 05-03
Adult male aged >40 years

Skeletal elements present: Cranium (2 fragments only), mandible, lower dentition (31-37, 41-47; 8's either lost ante-mortem or agenetic), 1 thoracic vertebra, fragment of R rib, L humerus, L ulna, R tibia.

Observations: Due to the good preservation of these elements it was possible to measure the length of all three longbones. Based on these measurements, this individual will have been c. 170-176 cm tall.

Caries was seen in 36 and 46 (mesial side). There were also traces of calculus, and all teeth had linear enamel hypoplasia.

Individual AW

Co-ordinates: KL 050920 North VIII XXXI-55 PL ⑨① R 390 HS 05-04

Juvenile, sex undetermined, aged <16 years.

Skeletal elements present: Cranium (R and L parietal bones, occipital bone, fragment of inferior L temporal bone).

Observations: None

Individual AX

Co-ordinates: KL 060808 North VIII XXXI-55 PL ⑨⑧ HS 06-01

Adult, sex undetermined, probably aged >35 years

Skeletal elements present: L femur only.

Observations: Measurements of the femoral length showed that this individual will have been c. 142-150 cm tall.

Individual AY

Co-ordinates: KL 020718 North XXVII XLVI-52 PL ⑤③ R 304

Adult, sex undetermined, aged 18-23 years.

Skeletal elements present: L mandible, lower dentition (34 (root only), 36, 37(*in situ*)).

Observations: This mandibular fragment was found in a bag of non-human bone undergoing analysis. No further human fragments were reported from these co-ordinates.

WORK BEGUN IN 2005

Individual AL (see Hunt 2006)

Co-ordinates: KL 0508 (no specific date), North VIII XXX-55 P2810

Adult, unsexed, un-aged

Skeletal material present: Cranium (fragment of a maxilla), sternum (body only)

Observations: No further material were reported found at these co-ordinates.

CONCLUSION

An preliminary analysis has been given here of the material found in Square 32, pit 554. An interesting (if problematic), varied and un-homogenous assembly was discussed. No common traits were found in the burial orientation, neither in terms of maturity nor sex. Juvenile individuals appeared to have been put towards the edge of the pit, perhaps to fill in available space with smaller bodies.

Some remains were deposited fully extended, others with knees bent, the latter possibly because of space constraints.

The material may have been interred all at the same time, or, as is more likely in the view of the writer, at more than one stage. It is also possible that the remains had been disturbed, and several elements had been displaced from the rest of the skeleton, especially in the lower deposits. It is likely that the grave was disturbed at some point, possibly before the interment of the top individuals, although this cannot be confirmed.

Further studies of remains dated to the same period will be investigated in the 2007 season, which will hopefully shed further light on this period's burial customs.

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