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IRTON MOOR 1973

A.M. Lab.

Human Bone Report.

Fifteen small groups of cremated bones were submitted for study. Five of these (31, 33, 40, 32, and 34) consist of only a few long bone fragments, and cannot be definitely identified as human.

There is little variation in the general appearance of the bones. They are well calcined and light in colour, but there is little fissuring and distortion. This would seem to indicate that no very high temperatures were reached during cremation, although burning was very thorough. The average size of the fragments is about 10 - 20 mms. square. In most cases (particularly in 39 and 40) the broken edges are worn and eroded.

Most groups consist <sup>mainly</sup> ~~mostly~~ of long bone shaft fragments and some skull vault fragments. The cranial sutures are open in all cases, except in 40 (in which some are closed), but the thickness of the bone is comparable with that of adult individuals. In the following groups, other parts of the body are also represented:-

- 3 Fragments of rib and orbital margin.
- 35 Frags of left jaw condyle, right zygomatic bone, and zygomatic arch.
- 37 5 tooth roots (permanent teeth).
- 40 Frags of orbital margin, humerus/femur head, 1 tooth root.
- 42 Frags of rib, vertebra, jaw condyle (right)?, middle hand phalanx, tooth root.
- 43 Frags of rib, mandible.
- 44 Chin part of mandible.

The amount of bone submitted for study (total weight approx. 690 gms.) is no more than might originate from a single cremated individual. In fact, there is no evidence to suggest that the fragments represent more than one individual.

It is not possible to estimate the age or sex of the individual (or individuals) present on the scanty evidence available. However, it is apparent that at least one adult individual is present, and there is no evidence that any immature individuals are represented.