

Justine Bayley
A.M. Lab.

Estimates of age are based mainly on the eruption of teeth and fusion of epiphyses for immature individuals and on molar wear for adults. In some cases the appearance of the pubic symphysis was also considered.

Stature is calculated using the formulae of Trotter & Gleser.

Site F produced the remains of two adults, two juveniles and two infants. The burials are thought to be of late Romano-British date (4-5th Century AD).

This was the skeleton of a juvenile aged 10-12 years old. All the milk teeth had been lost and the permanent dentition was complete except for the second molars which were erupting and the third molars which were unerupted. None of the long bone epiphyses had fused.

Most of the teeth showed very slight hypoplasia and the lower incisors had a medium deposit of calculus on them. No trauma or skeletal anomalies were noted.

This individual was aged 15-17 years old, and was probably female, although the lightness of certain features might just be due to immaturity. The permanent teeth were all present, except for the third molars which were erupting. There were slight calculus deposits on the incisors and medium to heavy deposits on the right premolars and molars. The upper right molars were most severely affected with heavy deposits even on the occlusal surfaces.

The right side of the skull vault was missing but in the part that remained 6 Wormian bones were present in the lambdoid suture.

The remains were fragmentary and showed a moderate degree of surface erosion. The individual was a female aged about 17-25.

The dental formula was:-

87 | 123
12345678
A NP

MC = mesial caries

DC = distal "

La C = Labial "

Li C = Lingual "

There was slight hypoplasia on the upper incisors and lower premolars and medium calculus deposits. 7 has an enamel pearl on the neck of the tooth with a caries cavity behind it. The upper anterior teeth show an unexpected degree of wear when compared with the molars.

The maximum height of the individual was 160 cm (5'3").

Burial 4

The remains were very fragmentary but little eroded, except at the articulations.

There were slight traces of degenerative joint disease (osteo-arthritis) on the long bone articulations and feet, and fairly extreme destruction and pitting of the articulations on 3 of the 4 vertebrae present. This would indicate an adult individual of at least 30. From the robustness of the bones it is possible that they were those of a male.

Bag 404 (1) K25

These were the fairly well preserved remains of an infant. No teeth were present but on the basis of size it probably died sometime in the first few months after birth.

Bag 386 PIIA (1)

These were the fragmentary remains of a birth sized infant.

Site H

The burials are thought to be of late Romano-British date (4-5th Century AD).

Burial 5

These were the fragmentary remains of an adult female. No accurate age estimate can be made but around 30 would be a reasonable figure.

Most parts of the body are represented and almost all show slight signs of osteo-arthritis. The stature was 160 cm (5'3").

The dental formula is:-

							E		E		DC	
							DC	A	MC	DC		
=====	6	X	X	3	2	1	1	2	X	4	5	6
=====	6	5	4	3	2	1	1	2	3	4	5	6
	A	A										
		E										

Burial 6

These were the well preserved remains of an individual aged 18-25 years and probably female.

The teeth and jaws were healthy with no caries or abscesses. There were slight calculus deposits on the anterior teeth. All the permanent teeth were fully erupted.

There was an ossicle at lambda and one other Wormian bone in the lambdoid suture.

Two of the cervical vertebrae had double foramina transversaria; one on the left and one on the right side.

The right femur has a well defined pit 7 mm x 15 mm x 3 mm deep, towards the lateral side of the medial condyle. Its surface is rough and porous. This is similar to those pits present in osteo chondritis dissecans, but is probably due to a less specific cartilage disorder.

The height of this individual was 158 cm (5'2").

Site I

This site produced three burials, presumed to be pagan Romano-British.

Burial 8

These were the fragmentary remains of an adult male aged 35-45. Most parts of the body are represented and indicate a robust individual.

The vertebral articulations show medium to severe osteo-arthritis.

The dental formula is:-

8	7	6	^E 5	^E 4	3	2	1	1	2	3	X	X	^E 6	X	8
8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	1	2	3	4	5	X	7	8

8 has a large enamel pearl on the meso-labial side. The molar wear, which would give an age estimate of 25-35, is less than normal due to the widespread infection and decay in those teeth. The anterior teeth show correspondingly more wear as they had to do most of the chewing. This uneven wear when taken together with the well advanced osteo arthritis leads to the age estimate given.

Burial 9

This burial was represented by only a few fragments. The left humerus appeared far more robust than the right.

Two mandible fragments were present together with some of the teeth. These were quite worn, leading to an age estimate of at least 30 and probably older. The sex was indeterminable.

Dental formula:-

X	5	4	3	2	1								X	X	

Burial 10

Most parts of the body are represented but the bones are rather fragmented with the long bone articulations and vertebrae much eroded.

The bones appear to be those of a male but the skull, although masculine in feature, is very thin; the frontal is in the range 3-5 mm and the parietal varies from 2 mm at the sides to 3-4 mm near the mid line.

As can be seen from the dental formula below the oral health of this individual was very poor. All the lower molars were lost ante mortem so extra wear was experienced by the remaining teeth.

										1	X	X	X				
X	X	X	X	4	X	X	X	X	X	X	2	X	X	4	5	X	X
E										A		A					

Because of the irregular dental wear the age was estimated as 25-35 from the appearance of the pubic symphyses.

Both femora have irregular pits on the lateral side of the medial condyle. These are similar to that in Burial 6 but less well defined. They are probably due to some form of cartilage disorder in the knee joint.

Site J

Burial F 82

The remains of this extended burial were well preserved but the long bones were much fragmented. The individual was a female aged 18-25.

The dental formula is:-

										DC		MC		LiC		OC	
OC	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
OC											OC		OC		OC		
												LaC		LiC		E	

The first upper left premolar is not present being either lost ante mortem or congenitally missing. Because of this the adjacent premolar, which is abnormal, having a bent root, has moved to partly fill the gap.

One mid thoracic vertebra has an irregular depression on the upper side due to slight herniation of the intervertebral disc material.

The right clavicle was distorted but X-ray examination failed to find any trace of a healed fracture.

Preservation was fairly good but only the legs and fragments of scapula and radii remained. The individual was probably male, judging by the size of the bones. Stature would have been 176 cm (5'9"). The patella and femur heads showed a medium degree of osteo-arthritis suggesting an age of at least 30.

These were the fragmentary remains of a female in her thirties.

Most parts of the body show slight osteo-arthritis and some of the vertebrae are affected to a medium to severe degree. A few of the vertebrae show Schmorl nodes, a normal degeneration of the intervertebral disc material.

Most parts of the body were represented. The individual was probably male. Slight to medium osteo-arthritis was present at the wrist and elbow joints and on the hands and pelvis. Severe osteo-arthritis was visible on some of the vertebrae and ribs and on the clavicles. This would indicate an age of at least 30.

~~8~~ ~~7~~ ~~6~~ ~~5~~ ~~4~~ LaC | ~~1~~ ~~2~~ ~~3~~ ~~4~~ ~~5~~ ~~6~~ ~~7~~ ~~8~~ OC

These were the remains of a juvenile aged 7[±] 1 yrs. The bones were fairly well preserved.

(4) (3) (2) 1 | 7 (2) c d e 6 (7)

(3)

○ = erupting
 \ = unerupted

The skull is well preserved and the rest of the body fairly good but the long bone articulations are much eroded. The remains are those of a woman probably in her late thirties but possibly older.

The dental formula is:-

												MC
												E
												A
												E
												A
8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		1	2	3	4
												5
												6
												7
												8

The skeleton shows osteo arthritis on the feet and patellae to a medium degree, and in the spine to a very severe degree with most of the cervical and lumbar vertebrae showing extensive periostitic pitting of the articular surfaces. The intervertebral disc between the second and third lumbar vertebrae is extensively herniated. There are Schmorl nodes on the lumbar and two of the mid-thoracic vertebrae. There is some ossification of costal cartilage.

Together with this skeleton was the distal part of the left femur of an infant of about birth size.

Site K

Burial 220 x 35

This contracted burial, thought to be possibly late Neolithic in date, was in a very poor condition. The bones were all very fragmentary and eroded. (Most parts of the body were represented.)

The remains were probably those of a male aged 25-35.

8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
—	7	6	e	4	3	2	4		—	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

It can be seen from the dental formula that the lower second premolars are congenitally absent, leading to retention of the second milk molar on the right hand side. That on the left side is not present but may have been lost post mortem. The lower third molars would also appear to be congenitally absent, a much commoner abnormality.

Burial 300 x 498

This was a cremation, probably dating from the 1st century AD. The bone was poorly calcined and in fairly small fragments, the largest being 5 cm long. The average fragment size was under 1 cm. There was no evidence of more than one individual being present. The remains were probably those of a youngish adult.

Site M

Burial 220 x 30

These were the remains of a contracted burial probably of late Neolithic date. The preservation was very poor, the remaining bones being very fragmentary and eroded.

The individual was an adult aged 17-25. The dental formula was:-

	1	2	3		6	7	
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
							NP

The lower third molar was congenitally absent.

References

BROTHWELL, D. R. (1972) Digging up bones.

LOCKHART, R. D. et al (1959) Anatomy of the human body p 142-3

TROTTER, M. & GLESER, G. C. (1958) Amer. J. Phys. Anthropol 15,
79-123