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The Human Skeletal Remains - Swanage (PM5), Dorset.

Ancient Monuments Lab. No.810540

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The skeletal remains of three individuals were presented for examination in the Laboratory. Unfortunately bone preservation was extremely poor and the material in a very fragmentary state which precluded any detailed investigation of the bones. However it was possible both to confirm that the remains were those of three adult individuals and to make a tentative attribution of sex and estimate of age in each case. The results are summarized in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Results for the Estimation of Age and Sex

| Burial No. | Sex | Age(in years) |
|------------|--------|---------------|
| 1 | Female | 25-35 |
| 2 | Female | 35-45 |
| 3 | Male | 35-45 |

Attribution of sex was based on the skulls and a generalised assessment of the degree of skeletal robusticity. This method is subjective and in view of the poor bone condition involved it must be emphasized that the above results for sexing must not be considered as other than tentative.

Estimation of age was taken from three mandibular fragments all of which still contained teeth. Dental wear was

assessed using Brothwell's chart (Brothwell 1981). As with sex the estimates were liable to error owing to the paucity of evidence available but it is possible to say with a reasonable degree of certainty that all of the individuals can be aged somewhere between 25-50 years.

It was not possible to make any observations on these remains for stature, bone morphology and metrics and pathology.

Bibliography

Brothwell D.R.: Digging Up Bones. British Museum (Natural History). 3rd ed. 1981.