

The Inhumations from Polhill

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Four burials were examined in the laboratory; the minimum number of individuals was estimated as five as Burial 1 contained two individuals, one from the north and one from the south.

The bones were examined for demography (age, sex and stature), anthropology (metrical and morphological variables) and pathology. The results by individual for bone preservation, sex, age, stature and pathology are given in the catalogue (attached) with the methods which produced them. No anthropology was noted in this population sample. The results are summarised in Table 1.

Demographic Results

In this population sample there was one individual of 18-20 years, two of 35-45 years and two adults who could not be aged more precisely.

There was one ?male, but the sexes of the other individuals could not be determined as the relevant criteria was not present.

No estimations of stature could be made.

Pathological Results

Dental

There was a large carious cavity on the occlusal, mesial and distal surfaces of a loose molar from Burial 3 (35-45 years).

Burial 4 (?male, 35-45 years) had slight deposition of calculus, medium periodontal disease and enamel hypoplasia.

Skeletal

There was slight trabecular cribra orbitalia on the right orbit of Burial 3. The left orbit was not present.

Also on Burial 3 there was a small schmorls node on the superior body of a thoracic vertebra.

There was slight development of osteophytes at the margins of the left femur head and the right acetabulum of Burial 4 (?male, 35-45 years) and also there was slight new bone formation on the head of the left femur probably due to degenerative joint disease.

No other pathological conditions were observed.

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<u>Burial no.</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u> (in years)	<u>Pathology</u>
1(North)	-	18-20	-
1(South)	-	adult	-
2	-	adult	-
3	-	35-45	✓
4	?male	35-45	✓

Table 1 The results for the inhumations from Polhill.

The Catalogue of Inhumations from Polhill

Burial 1(North)

Bone preservation: very poor, most of the skeleton was represented

Sex: -

Age: 18-20 years, based on epiphyseal fusion (Brothwell 1981)

Stature: -

Pathology: -

Burial 1 (South)

Bone preservation: very poor, most of the skeleton was represented

Sex: -

Age: adult, based on epiphyseal fusion (Brothwell 1981)

Stature: -

Pathology: -

Burial 2

Bone preservation: very poor, most of the skeleton was represented

Sex: -

Age: adult, based on epiphyseal fusion (Brothwell 1981)

Stature: -

Pathology: -

Burial 3

Bone preservation: very poor, most of the skeleton was represented

Sex: -

Age: 35-45 years, based on molar attrition (Brothwell 1981)

Stature: -

Pathology: Dental

There was a large carious cavity on the occlusal, mesial and distal surfaces of a loose molar tooth.

Skeletal

There was slight trabecular cribra orbitalia on the right orbit of the skull. The left orbit was not present.

Burial 4

Bone preservation: very poor, most of the skeleton was represented

Sex: ?male, based on the skull morphology and long bone metrics

Age: 35-45 years, based on molar attrition (Brothwell 1981)

Stature: -

Pathology: Dental

There was slight deposition of calculus, medium periodontal disease,

and enamel hypoplasia.

Skeletal

There was slight development of osteophytes at the margins of the left femur head and the right acetabulum. There was slight new bone growth on the left femur head probably due to degenerative joint disease.

References

Brothwell, D.R. Digging up Bones. British Museum(Natural History)
Third Edition, 1981.