

ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY

REPORT

1891

SERIES/No

ENVIRONMENTAL

18/75

AUTHOR

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TITLE

CALLIS FOLD

Human bone

CALLIS WOLD - Human bone report

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Bag A contained bones described as coming from 'around the southern post pit'. They were all fragmentary and in generally poor condition, showing much erosion of the surface. Bones represented include the atlas, axis and at least one other cervical vertebrae; a tiny skull fragment; long bone shaft fragments, probably mainly from the humeri but also including the proximal part of a radius; a humerus head; one carpal, two metacarpals, two first and one second phalanges from the hands; a patella and three tarsal bones.

These bones probably all belonged to the same individual with the exception of one metacarpal and one first phalanx, which were far better preserved and larger than the others, and the humerus head which also belonged to a larger individual. On the basis of size the main individual was possibly female. No traces of arthritis were noted so the age would be in the 17-30 range. The larger individual was also a young adult.

Mixed with these bones was a fragment of animal bone from a small mammal which showed definite cut marks.

The bones in bag B (and that in bag C) are described as 'bones on the lias slab in the southern post pit'. The bones included the shaft and distal end of the left humerus and a humerus head smaller than that in bag A; shaft fragments from a pair of radii; the shaft and distal end of a tibia; other long bone shaft fragments and a scapula fragment.

These bones could all have belonged to the main adult represented by the bones in bag A. They represent a young and gracile adult.

Bag C contained only the proximal two-thirds of the left femur. Again it was that of a young and gracile adult.

Taking all the bones together they would seem to belong to a young adult who was probably female. The three bones from bag A noted as being from a different individual belong to another young adult of rather more robust build.