

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE
HUMAN SKELETAL MATERIAL FROM
LATE FIRST AND EARLY SECOND MILLENNIUM
SITES IN THE NORTH-EAST OF ENGLAND

by

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A thesis submitted for the degree of Master of Philosophy
in the University of Durham, Department of Archaeology,
1989.

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ABSTRACT

Seven cemetery populations from the North-East of England, ranging in date from the Anglian to the Late Medieval periods, were studied. Aspects of ageing, sexing, physical appearance, continuous traits and odontology were considered. Age, sex and stature distributions were found to differ very little between the populations, but groupings based on cranial metric and non-metric traits could be made. A study of dental pathologies showed an increase in caries, abscesses and tooth loss through time. Slight differences in the populations were discussed in relation to their temporal and spatial distributions. Pathological study of most of the sites is unfortunately incomplete at present, and the reader is referred to case studies by Calvin Wells on some of the more interesting cases from two sites (Jarrow and Monkwearmouth). The work should add a physical dimension to the archaeological interpretations of the sites which could otherwise only take into account social and cultural aspects of daily life.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank my supervisors, Professor Rosemary Cramp and Dr. David Birkett of Durham University Department of Archaeology for their help and encouragement during the past three years, and particularly Dr. Birkett for passing on some of his knowledge of skeletal pathology. I am also very grateful to my unofficial guide and mentor, Ms. Mandy Marlow of the Anthropology Department for her advice on human skeletal analysis and recording, and for providing me with financial support by finding contracts when all else had failed. Others who have helped me and to whom I owe sincere thanks are the Archaeological Units at Newcastle and Middlesbrough who provided skeletal material for analysis, Susan Topping and Pam Lowther who helped me with archaeological problems concerning Jarrow and Monkwearmouth cemeteries, and the staff of the Calvin Wells Laboratory at Bradford University who provided the opportunity to follow a three week course on Palaeopathology at just the right time. Thanks are also due to two Dutch colleagues, Tjeerd Pot and Wilbert Bouts, for giving up some of their valuable time to teach me their computerised dental recording technique and to show me part of the Zwolle collection of skulls. In connection with this, the University Council Fund must also be acknowledged for providing me with a grant towards the costs of my visit to The Netherlands. To Mum and to John: you know what you have done to help me, and I thank you both.

DECLARATION

The material in this thesis is the result of research carried out in the Department of Archaeology, University of Durham, between December 1986 and December 1989. It has not been submitted for any other degree, and is the author's own work, except where acknowledged by reference.

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