LITTLE HOYLE CAVE, TENBY, PEMBROKESHIRE: STEPHEN ALDHOUSE-GREEN'S EXCAVATIONS 1984–1990

APPENDIX 6: HUMAN REMAINS
DETAILED DISCUSSION OF THE MANDIBULAR FRAGMENTS

by

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1983:2376/7

Fragment of right juvenile mandible including the RdM_2 in socket. The crown of an adult premolar was visible underneath and RM_1 has erupted with ¾ formed roots. There was another crown visible in the crypt but without x-ray it was not possible to determine which tooth this was. A tentative assessment placed it as RM_2.

Sex was undetermined due to juvenile remains lacking biological markers.

Age: 7 years ± 24 months

1983:2435/9

Fragment of left juvenile mandible. The crown of an adult tooth was visible in the crypt but without x-ray it was not possible to determine which tooth this was. While this fragment did not directly refit with 1983:2376/7 there was no overlap and therefore could have originated from the same individual.

There was no other dentition present and therefore an age assessment was not possible, previous assessment by L. Wilkinson had placed the age at approximately 10 years old but it is unclear how this had been determined.

Sex was undetermined due to juvenile remains lacking biological markers.

Sampled for radiocarbon dating (OxA-3306 4880 ± 90 BP)

Age: Juvenile (undetermined).

1983:2435/11

Fragment of juvenile mandible including the mental eminence and left body. There was no dentition present and therefore an age assessment was not possible. The size and development suggest this is a juvenile of a similar age to 1983:2376/7 and 1983:2435/9.

The fragment did not refit with 1983:2376/7 or 1983:2435/9 and overlap of regions shows that the fragment originated from a separate individual.

Sex was undetermined due to juvenile remains lacking biological markers.

Age: Juvenile (undetermined).

1983:2376/6

Fragment of left mandible from the molar region of the body. LM1 was present in the socket and fully erupted. Attrition score based on Scott (1979) was nine for all four quadrants (36). No caries or calculus was evident due to the level of attrition. An age assessment of 48 years + was estimated based on Miles (1962).

Due to an absence of overlap with 1983:2376/12 and 1983:2435/4 it is possible that the three fragments originated from the same individual.

Sex was undetermined due to a lack of biological markers.

Age: > 48 years

1983:2376/4

Fragment of mandible from the mental region. The mental eminence had been damaged. There were no teeth present. Age and sex were undetermined. Due to an absence of overlap with 1983:2376/6 and 1983:2435/12 it is possible that the three fragments originated from the same individual.

Age: Undetermined

Sex: Undetermined

1983:2435/12

Fragment of a right condylar process. Due to an absence of overlap with 1983:2376/6 and 1983:2435/4 it is possible that the three fragments originated from the same individual.

Age: Undetermined

Sex: Undetermined

1983:2376/1

Fragmented mandible including left and right sides up to M_3 region. RM_1, RM_2, LI_2, LM_1 and LM_2 were all present.
Attrition (Scott, 1979) was scored as follows:

RM_1: 19 RM_2: 17
LI_2: 6 LM_1: 20 LM_2: 17

Calculus was present on all teeth but no caries noted. An age estimation of >24 years was made based on molar attrition (Miles, 1969). The mental eminence was scored between two and three, giving a sex estimation of probable female.

Age: >24 years

Sex: probable Female

1983:2376/2

Fragmented right portion of mandible including mental eminence and part of the ramus. RM_2 and RM_3 were present. RM_3 was badly damaged to the point of near destruction. There was lightness in colour to this suggesting that some of the damage may have been recent. RM_2 was cracked on the buccal surface. An age estimation of >50 years was made based on molar attrition (Miles, 1969). The mental eminence was scored between three and four, giving a sex estimation of probable male. Due to an absence of overlap with 1983:2345/40 it is possible that they originated from the same individual.

Attrition (Scott, 1979) was scored as 39 for RM_2

Sex: probable Male

Sampled for radiocarbon dating (OxA-3304 4930 ± 80 BP)

Age: >50 years

1983:2345/40

Fragmented right condylar process. Due to an absence of overlap with 1983:2376/2 it is possible that they originated from the same individual.

Age: Undetermined

Sex: Undetermined

1983:2376/8

Fragmented left portion of mandible including mental eminence, body and part of the ramus. LM_1 and LM_2 were present, with very little wear. Calculus was evident on the lingual surface of both teeth. There is a small carie on the buccal surface of LM_1. An age estimation of >18 years was made based on molar attrition (Miles, 1969). The mental eminence was scored between two and three, giving a sex estimation of probable female.

Attrition (Scott, 1979) was scored as follows:
LM_1: 10 LM_2: 8

Age: >18 years

Sex: probable Female

1983:2376/11

Fragmented left portion of mandible including a small portion of the body, ramus and coronoid process. A lower molar was present, but position was difficult to ascertain due to damage to surrounding sockets. Attrition (Scott, 1979) was scored as 37. Attrition puts the age estimation at

>42 years, determination of tooth position may increase this estimation (Miles, 1969). The gonial angle suggests probable male.

Sampled for radiocarbon dating (OxA-3305 4750 ± 75 BP)

Age: >42 years

Sex: Male

1983:2435/10

Fragmented of mandible consisting of the mental protuberance and portion of body. No teeth present. The mental eminence was scored at four, giving a sex estimation of male. A refit with 1983:2435:13 cannot be ruled out, meaning it is possible they originated from the same individual.

Age: undetermined

Sex: Male

1983:2435/13

Fragmented mandible (ramus). No teeth present to provide an age assessment but size and robusticity suggest adult. There are no biological sex markers. A refit with 1983:2435:10 cannot be ruled out, meaning it is possible they originated from the same individual.

Age: undetermined

Sex: undetermined

1983:2380/1

Fragmented mandible consisting of the mental protuberance, portion of right body and ramus. RC_1 and RM_1 were present. Calculus was present on RM_1. Attrition puts the age estimation at >42 years (Miles, 1969). The mental eminence was scored at four, giving a sex estimation of male.

Attrition (Scott, 1979) was scored as follows:

RC_1: 3 RM_1: 36

Age: >42 years

Sex: Male

1983:2375/10

Fragmented mandible consisting of the mental protuberance, portion of left and right body and ramus. LP4, RM1 and LM1 were present. The sockets for the third molars were evident. Attrition puts the age estimation at >48 years (Miles, 1969). The mandible is very small and gracile, suggesting probable female.

Attrition (Scott, 1979) was scored as follows:

RP_4: 6 RM_1: 40
LM_1: 38

Age: >48 years

Sex: probable Female

1983:2375/5

Fragmented mandible consisting of the left body and portion of ramus LM_1 and LM_2 were present. The sockets for the third molars were evident. Previous assessment by L. Wilkinson placed the age estimation as 45 years + and the sex as female. It is unclear how this was determined. The attrition, coupled with evidence of third molar eruptions means that it is only possible to estimate an age of older than 17 years. There are no biological sex markers present to make a confident assessment.

Attrition (Scott, 1979) was scored as follows:

LM_1: 12 LM_2: 12

Sampled for radiocarbon dating (OxA-3303 4660 ± 80 BP)

Age: >17 years

Sex: undetermined

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