

## APPENDIX

## NOTES ON THE INFANT INHUMATION

by Calvin Wells

This consists of the well-preserved skeletal remains of a single infant. Identifiable are: about three dozen fragments of cranial vault; parts of the orbital margins; both petrous temporal bones; the sphenoid and a few other cranial elements including damaged jaw fragments. Post-cranial remains include: about ten vertebral fragments; some pelvic elements; about 30 pieces of rib; damaged humeri and forearm bones; L. and R. femora, tibiae, and fibular fragments; a few small splinters of hand and foot bones.

There is little that can be said about these remains. The femoral and tibial (diaphyseal) lengths are 78.2mm and 69.9mm respectively. These measurements would be appropriate for a newborn infant or even for one which had been born up to about three weeks prematurely. On balance, however, the likelihood would be that this was a small, full-time baby, either stillborn or one which had died within a few days of delivery.

There is no evidence as to what caused death. The cranial vault is fragmented but no evidence exists to suggest that this is the result of 'battered baby syndrome'. There is no evidence that fracture of a humerus or dislocation of its epiphysis had occurred. This is sometimes seen as a result of forcible delivery in cases of breech presentation of the foetus – which might account for a stillbirth.

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## Abbreviations

- Asciburgium* Bechert, T., 1973. *Funde aus Asciburgium Heft 1 – Römische Fibeln des 1 und 2 Jahrhunderts n. chr.*, Duisberg und Rheinhausen.
- Bagendon* Clifford, E. M., 1961. *Bagendon: a Belgic oppidum*. Cambridge.
- B.M.C.* British Museum. *Catalogue of coins of the Roman Empire*. London.
- Brixworth* Woods, P. J., 1971. *Brixworth excavations, vol. I, part I*. Northampton.
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- Novaesium* Nissen, H., et. al., 1904. Novaesium, *Bonner Jahrbucher*, III/III2.
- O.R.L.* *Der Obergermanisch-Raetische Limes des Romerreiches*.
- Rheingönheim* Ulbert, G., 1969. *Das Frührömische Kastell Rheingönheim*. Berlin.
- Richborough II* Bushe-Fox, J.P., 1928. *Second report on the excavation of the Roman fort at Richborough, Kent*, Society of Antiquaries research report, vii. London.
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EXCAVATIONS IN ROMAN LONG MELFORD

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- Usk* Greene, K. T., 1973. The Pottery from Usk, in Detsicas, A. P., Current research in Romano-British coarse pottery, *Counc. Brit. Archaeol. Res. Rep.*, 10, 25-37. London.
- Verulamium* Frere, S. S., 1972. *Verulamium excavations, volume I*, Society of Antiquaries research report, xxviii. London.
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