

5. **FEATURE 30**

a) *Skeletal Inventory and Condition*

The skull and mandible are complete and in very good condition for an infant. The right parietal, right frontal, petrous portions of both temporal bones, occipital, right zygomatic bone, and both sides of the mandible are present. The crowns of two upper central deciduous incisors are present. The crowns of the two lower central deciduous incisors are visible in the mandible.

The centers of ossification for the cervical, thoracic, and lumbar vertebrae appear to be present. In all cases, the vertebral arch is made up of two separate centers of ossification and the vertebral body is a third.

Ten right and eleven left rib fragments are present.

The central portion of the iliac blades (including the apex of the sciatic notch) are present in very poor condition.

The diaphyseal shafts of both femora and both tibiae are present in poor condition. The fibulae are absent. No tarsals, metatarsals, or phalanges were preserved.

The clavicles are both present and well preserved. The blades of the scapulae, including the bases of the scapular spines, are preserved. Both humeral diaphyseal shafts are present in poor condition. No radii, ulnae, carpals, metacarpals, or phalanges were preserved.

b) *General Description and Pathology*

1) *Cranium*

This is the skull of a very young infant. The bone is very thin and individual centers of ossification were separated (see Plate 34). No teeth had erupted but the crowns of the upper and lower central incisors had already begun to form. The lower central incisors are visible through the alveolus and the crowns of the upper incisors are isolated (the maxilla was not preserved) (see Plate 35). This suggests that the individual was between birth and six months old. No sign of pathology is visible.

2) *Postcrania*

The postcranial skeleton is thin and gracile as expected for an infant. The stage of ossification and fusion of epiphyseal centers is consistent with the age of birth to six months as determined from the dental eruption status.

c) *Sex*

Sex cannot be determined for an infant of this age.

d) *Age*

This individual was between birth and six months old at the time of death. This evaluation is based on the dental eruption status and is corroborated by the state of fusion of the bones of the cranial and postcranial skeleton.

e) *Cultural Modifications*

Green staining, presumably from a shroud pin, is present on the right parietal in two regions: just lateral to the sagittal suture and at the central portion of the parietal. In addition, there is diffuse green staining on the back of the right side of the mandible just below the condyle. There are faint green stains on the upper lumbar vertebrae and on the proximal end of the left clavicle.

f) *Population Affinity*

It is not possible to determine population affinity for an individual of such a young chronological age.

g) *Summary*

This skeleton represents the remains of an infant who died at birth or within the first six months of life following birth.