



Figure 11. Left: Grave 12. Right: Close-up of the Grave 12 teeth.



Figure 12. Grave 13.



Figure 13. Grave 14.

its circumference it is possible to estimate with some confidence that the individual was an adult, i.e. older than 15 (Bass 1987).

Grave 14

The finds from this grave comprised an adult individual's skull; the postcranial bones included only a few long bone fragments. The skull was found at the

southeast side (Fig. 13). Since no indicative elements were found—such as teeth or complete skull bone components—it was not possible to determine the individual's sex or age. Even so, information about the skull's thickness and circumference made it possible to reliably determine that the individual was an adult, i.e. older than 15 years (Bass 1987).

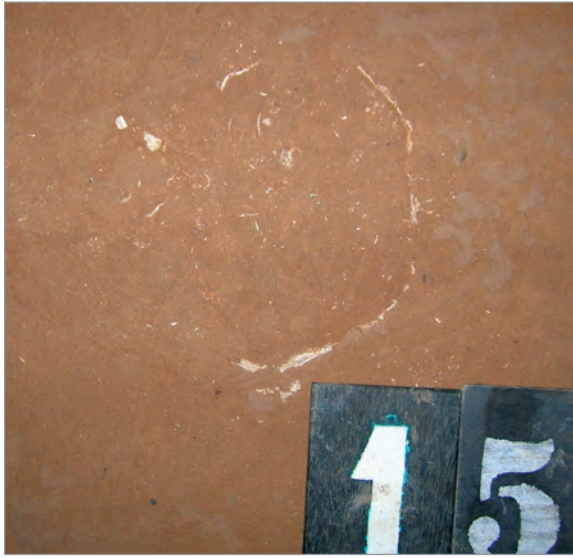


Figure 14. Grave 15. Teeth visible in the upper left.

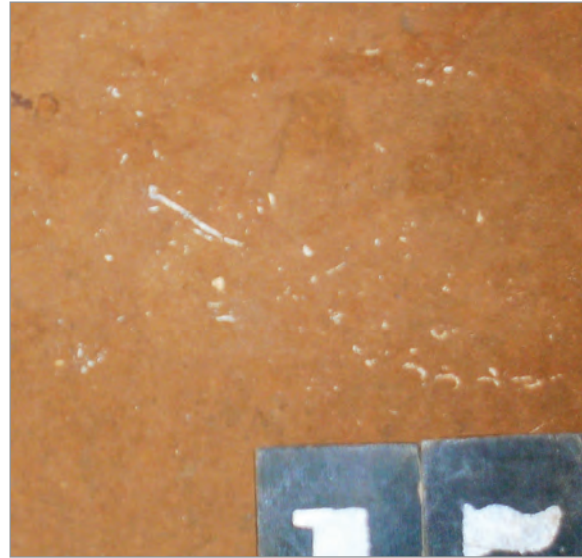


Figure 16. Grave 17. Ribs visible on the right side, part of a long bone in the upper left.



Figure 15. Grave 16. Teeth visible on the left side.

Grave 15

The finds from this grave comprised a child's skull; the postcranial bones were not preserved. The skull was found at the southwest side of the grave, facing

east as indicated by the teeth location (Fig. 14). From the degree of the tooth development we can estimate the child's age at about six years.³

Grave 16

The finds from this grave comprised a child's skull; the postcranial bones were not preserved. The skull was found at the grave's southwest side; the teeth location indicated that it faced east (Fig. 15). From the degree of the tooth development we can estimate the child's age to be about four years.⁴

Grave 17

The finds from this grave comprised the postcranial bones of a child; the skull was not preserved. Among the remains were found the thorax bones (Fig. 16). The individual was oriented northeast/southwest; from other graves we presume that the head lay in the southwest and the legs in the northeast. Judging by the long bones' size, we deduced an age at death of 3-10 years (Bass 1987).

3 This is based on an analysis of: the first bottom molar, which displayed a near-complete crown and root; the second upper molar, which incorporated a near-complete crown; and the second bottom molar, the crown of which had reached two thirds of full development (Ubelaker 1989).

4 This is indicated by the fixed canine, with a limited degree of development in the crown (Ubelaker 1989).

Grave 18

The finds from this grave comprised only postcranial bones; the skull was not preserved. The individual lay on their back, with a northeast/southwest orientation with the head presumably to the southwest. The size and thickness of the bones suggested an adult, i.e. older than 15 years (Bass 1987). The individual's sex was not determined.

and children were interred; sex and age statistics are presented in Table 1. The graves were probably part of a cemetery belonging to Early Islamic Ramla. Most of the individuals were oriented northeast/southwest, with heads to the southwest and facing east (Table 2). In the north side of the excavation area a number of child burials were found, several adjacent to one another; it appears that this part of the cemetery was designated for child burials. No accompanying objects—i.e. grave gifts—were found in or around the graves.

SUMMARY

In this excavation eighteen graves were exposed, each grave containing one individual. Both adults

Table 1. Age and sex of the interred.

	Adults (over 15)	Children (under 15)	Total
	13	5	18
Age division	2 aged 30-40	One each aged: 4, 6, 7 and 8 years. One aged 3-10 years.	
Sex division	One male		

Table 2. Bone preservation and burial orientation.

Grave	Bone preservation	Age	Direction	Head	Face
1	Only some postcranial bones.	Adult			
2	Only some postcranial bones.	Adult	Northeast/southwest	Southwest	
3	The skull and a few postcranial bones.	30-40	Northeast/southwest	Southwest	
4	The skull and some postcranial bones.	Adult	Northeast/southwest	Southwest	East
5	Only a few postcranial bones.	Adult			
6	Only the skull.	Child (8)		Southwest	East
7	Only a few postcranial bones.	Adult			
8	Only a few postcranial bones.	Adult			
9	Only a few postcranial bones.	Adult			
10	Only a few postcranial bones.	Adult	Northeast/southwest	Southwest	
11	Only the skull.	Child (7)		Southwest	East
12	The skull and a few postcranial bones.	30-40	Northeast/southwest	Southwest	East
13	Only the skull.	Adult		Southwest	
14	The skull and a few postcranial bones.	Adult		Southwest	
15	Only the skull.	Child (6)		Southwest	East
16	Only the skull.	Child (4)		Southwest	East
17	Only a few postcranial bones.	Child (3-10)	Northeast/southwest	Southwest	
18	Only a few postcranial bones.	Adult	Northeast/southwest	Southwest	

REFERENCES

- Bass, W.M. 1987. *Human Osteology. A Laboratory and Field Manual*. Columbia.
- Hillson, S. 1993. *Teeth*. Cambridge.
- Ubelaker, D.H. 1989. *Human Skeletal Remains: Excavation, Analysis, Interpretation*. Washington D.C.