'Atiqot 77, 2014

The Skeletal Remains from Bet She'an (Youth Hostel)

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Skeletal remains in a very poor state of preservation were unearthed at the site of the youth hostel at Bet She'an. The bones were retriered from contexts dated to the Byzantine, Early Islamic and Mamluk periods (see Sion, this volume). They were examined on site and then taken for reburial.

The fragmentary nature of the remains and their inadequate dating did not allow for a comprehensive study of the skeletal population. Age estimations were based upon tooth attrition stages (Hillson 1993:176–201), and sex estimations were based upon long bone measurements (diameter of the proximal head of the humerus; Bass 1987:150–151). The results are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. The Skeletal Remains

Area	Locus	Context	Individual Skeletal Remains	Sex and Age
A	85, 86	Burial Cave, Byzantine period Stratum VII	Postcranial fragments, tooth	At least one adult (20–30 y)
A	100	Byzantine–Early Islamic periods, Strata VI–IV	Few skull fragments	Adult
A	49	Ayyubid–Ottoman periods, Strata II–I	Postcranial fragments, teeth	Adult female (18–21 y)
B	509, 518	Early Islamic–Ottoman periods, Strata III–I	Cranial and postcranial fragments, lower jaw	Male (25–35 y), female (35–45 y) and child (10–11 y)
C	2017	Byzantine–Early Islamic periods, Strata VI–IV	Postcranial fragments	Adult female
E	1557	Byzantine–Early Islamic periods, Strata VI–IV	Postcranial fragments	Subadult

References

Bass W.M. 1987. *Human Osteology: A Laboratory and Field Manual* (Missouri Archaeological Society Special Publications 2). Columbia, Mo.

Hillson S. 1993. *Teeth*. Cambridge.

Sion O. This volume. Building Remains and a 'Burial Enclosure' from the Byzantine to the Mamluk Periods at Bet She'an (Youth Hostel).