

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS OF THE CAS6 SKELETON

Moreland Development contract the ICRM to undertake salvage excavations of a skeleton that had been exposed by construction activity. The site had been previously excavated (Anderson 19xx), however no other human skeletal remains were observed during the course of those excavations. The site is tentatively dated to AD 1200 – AD 1400.

The human skeletal remains were located to the south of the previous excavations (fig. 1). The construction activity had exposed a nearby shell midden which is related to the burial. In addition, a bulldozer blade had removed parts of the cranium, the distal parts of the femur, the proximal parts of the tibia and fibulae, and right forearm. The rest of the skeleton appeared to be intact and the excavations were continued.

The Burial

The human skeleton was approximately 5 cm – 15 cm below the current surface, which is ± 40 cm below the top soil prior to the construction phase. A cursory survey of the area indicated that the left metatarsals and cranium were affected by the bulldozer activity. The bone was fairly well preserved, despite the acidity of the soil.

The skeleton appears to have been in at least a semi-reclining position, if not completely reclining on its back, with the head-feet facing northeast. The metatarsals (feet bones) were in a flat position, and above the level of the pelvis. This indicates that the burial was not in a sitting position.