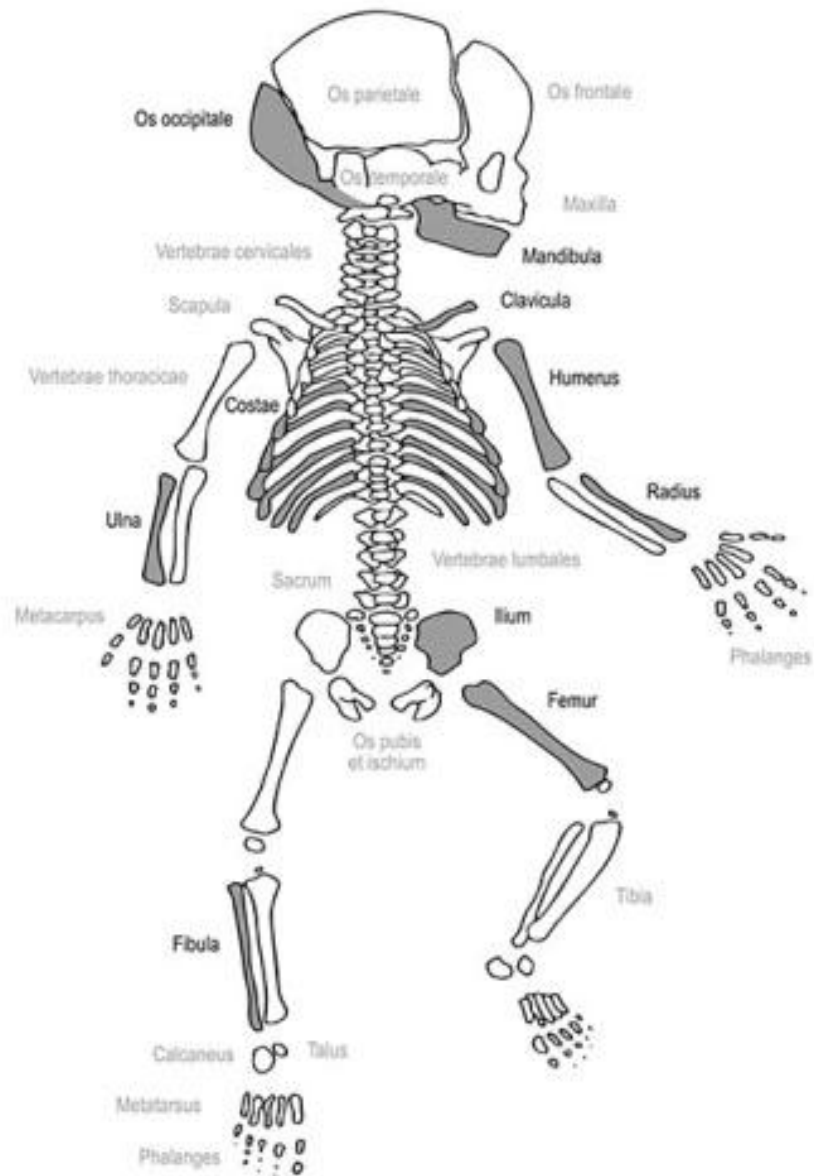


INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

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# Diagram of the Neonatal Skeleton

17 Weeks Gestation (15 foetal weeks)



Direct evidence that foetal remains can survive the cremation process and that skeletal elements are recognisable from as early as 17 weeks gestation (15 conceptual weeks), was obtained from two private crematoria, Seafield and Warriston, currently operating in Edinburgh.

There follows an analysis of photographic images from the crematoria (Images 1 to 6 below) provided by Claire Soper from the Mortonhall Inquiry team. They comprise three photographs from Seafield showing the cremated bones of fetuses aged 17 weeks gestation, 20 weeks gestation and full term, and three photographs from Warriston showing the cremated bones of fetuses aged 19 weeks gestation, 22 weeks gestation and full term. Following each image there is a list of the bones which are identifiable in that picture.

Bones identifiable on the image include the femur, humerus, mandible, ilium (pelvic bone), the pars lateralis and possibly basilaris of the occipital bone (skull), radius, ulna, clavicle and a minimum number of 12 ribs. It is likely that the fibula is also present but it is difficult to distinguish clearly.

*Citation: Report of Julie Ann Roberts Cellmark Forensic Services, Lab Ref: CFS/917413/13 / Mortonhall Crematorium Investigation.*

#### **Terminology Relating to Age of Baby**

**Embryo:** The first 8 weeks of intra-uterine life

**Foetus:** From week 9 to birth

**Perinatal:** Around the time of birth, from 22 weeks gestation to 7 post-natal days

**Neonatal:** From birth to 28 days

**Infant:** From birth to 1 year

**Pre-term:** from < 37 weeks (258 days) gestation

**Full-term:** from 37-42 weeks (259-293 days) gestation

**Post-term:** > 42 weeks (294 days) gestation

**Stillbirth:** Infant born after gestational period of 22 weeks who shows no signs of life

**Gestational age:** The number of days or weeks that have passed since the first day of mothers last menstrual period

**Conceptional age:** The number of days or weeks that have passed since conception i.e. fertilization of the egg.